

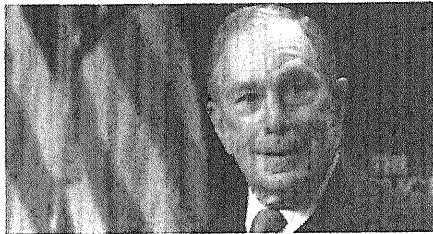
THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

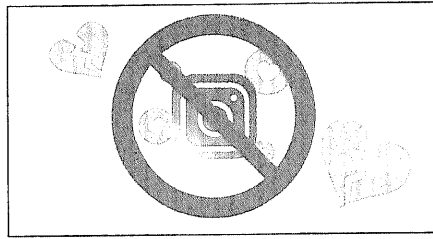
Established 1993

January 15, 2020

Issue #7



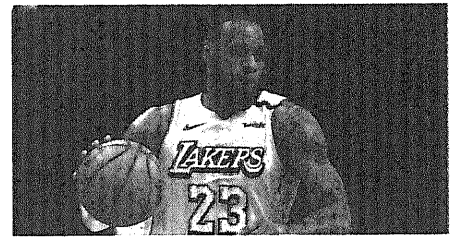
"Bloomberg Enters Race" pg 3



"Hidden 'Likes'" pg 6



"Grammys" pg 8



"Lebron James" pg 12

Fin-Night Madness Spreads Dolphin Pride Second Year In a Row

Fin-Night Blew School Spirit out of the Water

BY: JOSEPH TITTA

Returning for another year, CSI's head basketball coach T.J Tibbs organized and produced the second consecutive pep rally to prepare for the men and women's basketball seasons.

"We want to try and give these guys the atmosphere they would walk in to at a big name university," said Coach Tibbs. "When athletes from all of our sports come out

with some of our fans, we feel that the culture I've tried to create here shows."

A night filled with dolphin pride and competitions among athletes has truly introduced a new-found culture to CSI's athletic program. Coaches and student athletes went head-to-head in events like the three-point shootout, a game of knockout, and horse--all followed by the grand finale of the night, the dunk contest.

In the midst of all the competition, each team selected a few athletes to participate in the Lip Sync battle. At first, the men's soccer team gave quite the performance singing their way back into the stands to 'Mo Bamba'.

The swim team danced like it was the 1990's again to 'The Backstreet Boys', and the men's basketball team sang and danced



Photo Credit: Joseph Titta

The dunk contests was a hit again, crowning "Spiderman" as the two-time champ.

their way to the top of the leader boards with their performance to Hannah Montana's 'Hoe Down Throw Down.'

The battle couldn't continue, the DJ hired out of staff here at CSI encountered one huge problem; blowing out the

school's \$20,000 speaker that hangs in the main gym. It is the speaker used for every event held in the gym for basketball, volleyball, and events like Fin-Night. After the mishap, the rest of the teams weren't able to perform their selected songs.

Amidst all of the confusion and chattering, Athletic Director Charles Gomes started to call, text, and email right away in an attempt to figure out what to do.

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"Leaders In Law" Panel Paves Way For Students

Panel of Four Provides A Crash Course On Law School

Photo Credit: Salvatore Cento



Pictured from Left to Right: Michael Paris, Alex Fumelli, Irini Bekhit, Rebecca Rosenfeld

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

As a student in his senior year hoping to get his feet wet in just about anything that CSI has to offer, the Leaders In Law Panel was an event that I did not consider immediately.

However, after reading the mass-email, I was intrigued. As someone considering to join the Pre-Law Society next semester, I marked the email as important and asked others about it.

Being an outsider to events here at the college, nothing sounded too elaborate or fancy. But at the end of it all, I was glad that I went.

Hosted by the Pre-Law Society as well as being cosponsored by the Legal Studies Institute, the panel was moderated and commandeered by Mr. Michael Paris and featured Alex Fumelli, Irini Bekhit and Rebecca Rosenfeld.

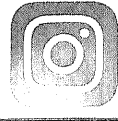
With a rather star studded panel, Mr.

Paris directs CSI's Legal Studies Institute among other things. Mr. Fumelli is an Assistant District Attorney for Richmond County. Ms. Bekhit is an Associate Court Attorney at Richmond County Surrogate's Court. Last but certainly not least, Ms. Rosenfeld is a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of New York.

Not only did these prolific guests talk about what they do and why they do what they do, but they also made the prospect known of answering any and all questions that came their way later on.

There were questions that would help any student who is thinking about getting into law find their way. The LSAT. The Bar Exam. Tuition for law school. The environment within law school. If you can still have a social life while you're in law school. What made you gather an interest in law in the first place.

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BANNER POLITICS

Who Supports Who in The Democratic Primary?

Which Coalition is Backing Each Major Candidate?

BY: DEJON VIRGO

The question of who will win the Democratic nomination is still up in the air with many polls showing former Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and Sen. Bernie Sanders leading nationally and Mayor Pete Buttigieg rising in early state polls like Iowa and New Hampshire.

One way to judge candidates is to see their supporters and coalitions. Candidates like Sanders and Biden tend to have multi-racial working class coalitions that are committed while other candidates have mostly white upper-class coalitions that are not as committed.

One should also look at the media moments of former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, Sen. Kamala Harris, Warren, and Buttigieg. All of them had a bump in the polls and a media moment.

O'Rourke had a tight loss to Ted Cruz in Texas for the Senate. Harris caused some controversy after her smack down of Biden on race at the first debate.

Warren, after her positive media coverage and good debate performances, plus Buttigieg's media coverage after his somewhat impressive four debates.

Right now Buttigieg is rising in Iowa and New Hampshire while Warren is los-

ing half of her support in these states. Nationally, this shows that the white liberal base still has not picked a candidate to get behind.

They first got behind Beto, then Kamala, then Warren, and now Buttigieg.

The media plays a big role in making these types of candidates. It's hard to be-

to the American people.

A good question to ask is why do Sanders and Biden have similar coalitions, yet vast differences in policies?

The answer is simple: voters don't vote based on policy or ideology- they vote based on feeling and emotion. Sanders plays to the emotion of anger at the es-

Warren are fighting for the same coalitions even though they have different ideologies.

Another reason for Biden and Sanders' similar coalitions is that they both play to class politics with a generational gap. Sanders represents a new path for the Democratic Party with more leftist policies which are popular with the working class and younger voters.

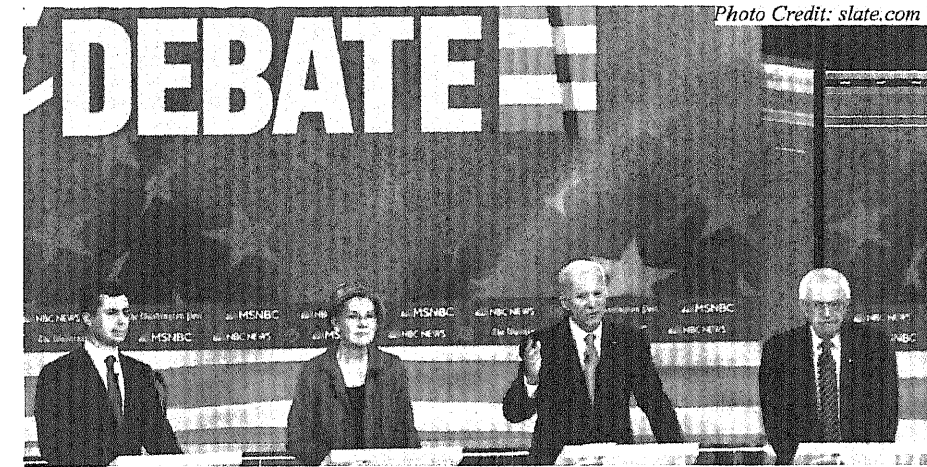
Biden represents a status quo for the party and the neo-corporate policies of the past 30 years, which are popular with the well-off working class and older voters.

Sanders has been fighting for the same policies for about 40 years, which shows that he's consistent and will enact the plans he announces.

Meanwhile, Biden ties himself to the most popular politician in the Democratic Party, Barack Obama, which is why lots of African Americans in South Carolina support Biden.

African American support is mostly broken down on generational grounds with Biden doing best with the older and Sanders doing well with the younger.

The multi-racial working class could be the coalition that will need to turn out if any Democrat wants to beat Trump in 2020.



The four top polling candidates at the fifth Democratic debate in Atlanta.

lieve that any of these candidates would be rising with positive coverage from the mainstream media who typically prefer established candidates.

The media even tries to emphasize Sen. Amy Klobuchar but it seems like voters are not buying the same old neo-corporate policies that Klobuchar is trying to sell

establishment that has let the working class people of this country down.

Biden plays to nostalgia going back to America before Donald Trump took office and continuing the Obama-era policies that many in the Democratic Party believe are good.

This also explains why Buttigieg and

Michael Bloomberg Enters 2020 Presidential Race

Former NYC Mayor Files for Primary

BY: OLIVIA FRASCA

CEO of Bloomberg L.P. and former NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced his run for president on November 24. He filed for the Arkansas Democratic primary on November 12.

"Defeating Trump and rebuilding America is the most urgent and important fight of our lives," according to a statement on his campaign website. "And I'm going all in."

Like most Democrats running for the nomination, Bloomberg supports common sense gun control and climate change reform. He is also a proponent of universal healthcare.

Bloomberg's company has partnered with an environmental organization, the Sierra Club, for almost a decade with a mission to shut down the country's coal plants and replace them with sustainable energy.

The CEO's website promotes his middle-class roots. He grew up outside of Boston and was the son of a bookkeeper and a secretary.

Bloomberg worked his way through Johns Hopkins University and Harvard Business School. Laid off at a finance firm in 1981, he began Bloomberg L.P.

Bloomberg served as the mayor of New York City from 2001 through 2013.

Before he announced his run for the presidential election, he apologized for "stop-and-frisk," a controversial policy during his mayoralty.

This policing program targeted black and Latino communities. He visited the Christian Cultural Center, a black megachurch in Brooklyn, on November 17.

A New York Times article about stop-and-frisk concluded that "Only 14 out of every 10,000 stops conducted during the Bloomberg era turned up a gun, and just 1,200 out of every 10,000 ended with a fine, an arrest or the seizure of an illegal weapon, according to police data analyzed by the New York Civil Liberties Union."

Although Bloomberg began his campaign late and missed the Democratic debates, he is making up for lost time with extensive advertising. He has outspent many of his competitors since joining the race.

Critics have accused him of trying to buy the 2020 election. His self-financed advertisements have put him in fourth place out of 15 Democratic candidates in the polls, according to Reuters.

He is not accepting any campaign contributions which disqualifies him from the debates.

In 2001, Bloomberg switched his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican in order to run for mayor on the Republican ticket.

The candidate returned to the Democratic party in 2018. Earlier this year, he announced he would not be joining the race but would support his party.

City Council narrowly approved a measure that allowed Bloomberg to run for

reelection in 2008. The consecutive two-term limit for a mayor was lifted in light of the recession.

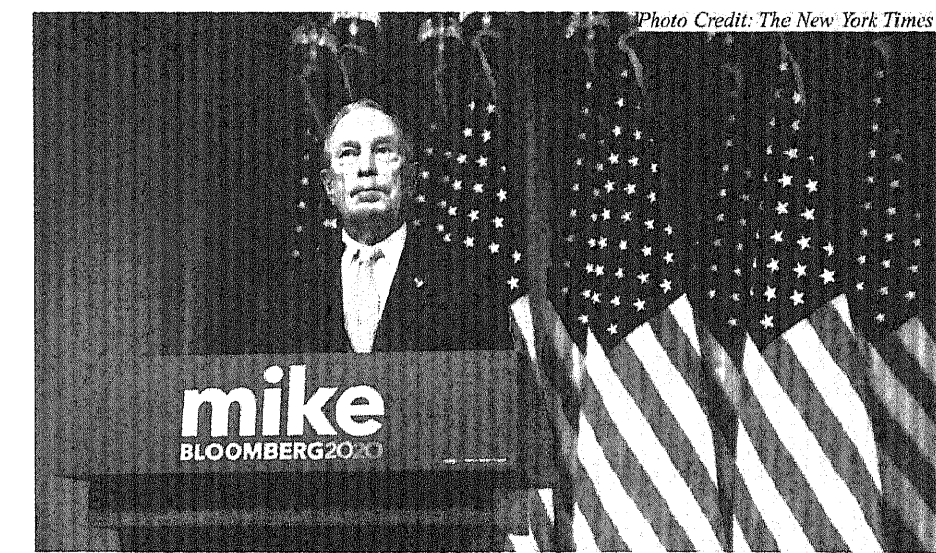
"Some people accused the wealthy Mr. Bloomberg as being out of touch with everyday residents in a city where the Occupy Wall Street movement erupted in 2011 to protest the widening divide between rich and poor," mentions the Wall Street Journal.

Bloomberg was often considered distant from the public, as he owned a billion-dollar corporation and did not live at

charter schools, clashed with unions, and attempted to ban sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces.

He also led major redevelopment projects that transformed public spaces in Midtown and the Financial District following 9/11.

The billionaire has contributed a significant portion of his income to causes he is passionate about, such as student financial aid. He donated \$1.8 billion to his alma mater, Johns Hopkins University, in 2018 for this purpose.



The Democratic candidate's campaign is entirely self-financed as of now.

Gracie Mansion like past mayors.

He made major changes to education and public health programs during his three terms. He supported the expansion of

Bloomberg's corporate background, public service, and current philanthropy makes him a moderate candidate for the Democratic nomination.

"Fin Night Madness"
Continued from Front Page

Photo Credit: csidolphins.com

ATHLETICS PROMOTIONAL CALENDAR

AUGUST
8.30 MINI BALL GIVEAWAY

SEPTEMBER
9.11 FIN HAT MADNESS

OCTOBER
10.2 SDS NIGHT
10.7 SCARF NIGHT
10.19 MEN'S & WOMEN'S SOCCER SENIOR NIGHT

NOVEMBER
11.17 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CUP GIVEAWAY
11.23 MEN'S BASKETBALL PHONE WALLET GIVEAWAY

DECEMBER
12.3 MEN'S & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SPORTS SCIENCE LAB NIGHT
12.8 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BEANIE GIVEAWAY
12.14 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AGS CATERING NIGHT FAMILY DAY
12.27-12.28 MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT OF HEROES

CSI's Athletic Calendar.

"He just blew out a \$20,000 speaker so I'm trying to figure out what this is gonna cost me right now," said Gomes. "I'm not in the best mood right now, Titta."

The speaker was done, but Fin-Night wasn't over just yet. Coach Tibbs got the crowd to settle down and resume the scheduled events of the night, this time just without music.

They held the three-point shootout with the crown being taken home by head baseball coach Mike Mauro. After a disappointing performance last year where he made two three's, Coach Mauro was seen getting shots up a few days before the event, looking to recapture his dignity.

"It felt good to see a few go in the basket for once," joked Mauro. "It's really just about bringing everyone together for one night to celebrate what we've done here."

Coach Mauro, along with the other coaches had recruits for the future attend the event, hoping to sway them, showing them a welcoming atmosphere where athletics are held to the highest standard.

The dunk contest, which was held in silence, put quite the exclamation mark on such an up-and-down night. CSI's own

Rigaud Destime was crowned dunk champion after his high flying slam dressed as Spiderman, leaping over Coach Tibbs for an emphatic two-handed flush.

At the end of the night, Coach Tibbs gathered everyone in attendance onto the gym floor. Without a microphone, coach shouted and whistled grabbing everyone's attention.

"Listen, I wanna thank everyone for making tonight possible," said Tibbs. "I know

it didn't all go how we wanted, but I wanna thank you all for hanging with us to make the best out of it."

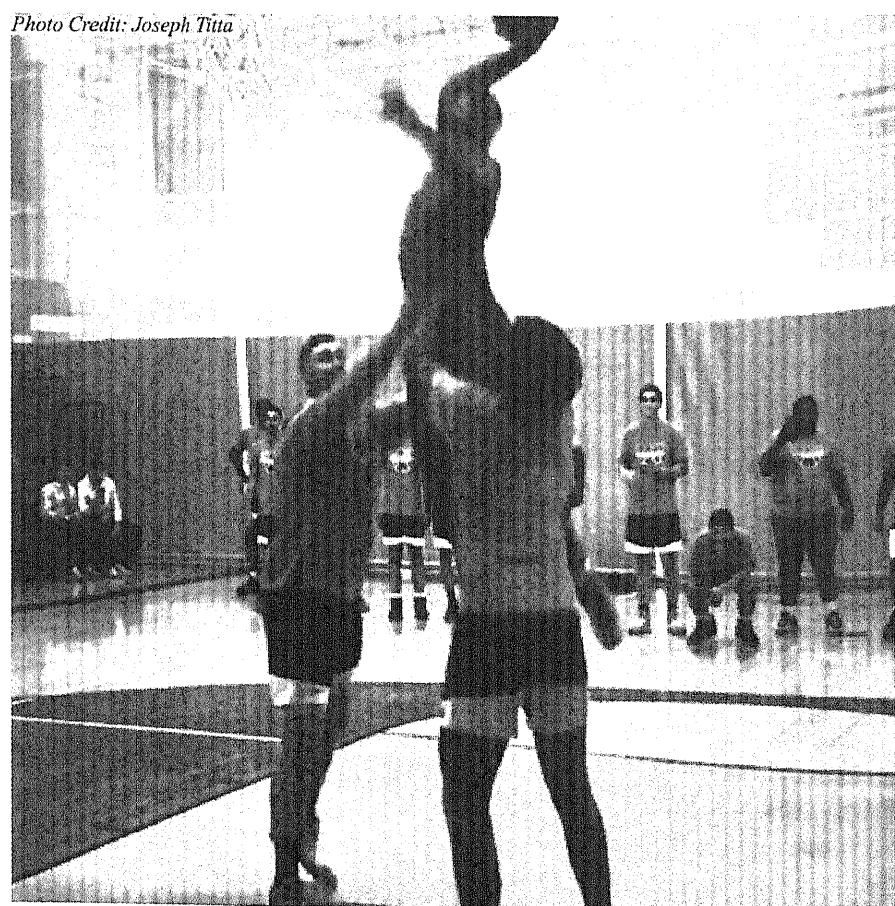
List of Competitions and Winners
Dunk Contest- Rigaud Destime

Three Point Shoot-Out-Coach Mauro, Briana Robitsky

Musical Chairs- Coach Tibbs

Lip Sync Battle- Men's Soccer

Photo Credit: Joseph Tita



The dunk contests was a hit again, crowning "Spiderman" as the two-time champ.

"Law Panel"
Continued from Front Page

Answers that showed a genuine interest in the next generation. Fumelli told the crowd that even though he studied harder when he took the LSAT for the second time, he still got the same score. Bekhit told all of those in attendance that hopefully when she reaches 10 years of service, she could receive law school loan forgiveness.

Fumelli jokingly told the crowd that since he found himself free on Fridays, he would stare at a sculpture for hours on end outside of the law school he was attending. Bekhit said that she garnered a love for the field from her father as well as from the hit show, *The Practice*.

As well as talking in personal terms, the guests of honor did not even try to cut corners when talking about the hardships concerning the subject.

Fumelli and Rosenfeld both agreed that first year law students are always competing with each other in some way to see who knows more and thus, who will achieve more in the long run. Rosenfeld

also hit the point home when she gave a theoretical statistic about what it should be like inside of a law school student. 1% inspiration and 99% motivation.

All in all, I came out of the Leaders In Law Panel Event with a lot more information than what I went in with.

The guests were personal, but yet professional at the same time, giving all of those who took time out of their college schedules important information that could help them find out if this is a profession that they would seriously consider looking into.

Via the Department of Political Science and Global Affairs:

The department offers a baccalaureate degrees in Political Science and Geography. An interdisciplinary baccalaureate major is offered jointly with the Department of Philosophy in Philosophy and Political Science. Minors are offered in Geography, Legal Studies, Political Science, and Public Administration. Courses meet the needs of students in a variety of pro-

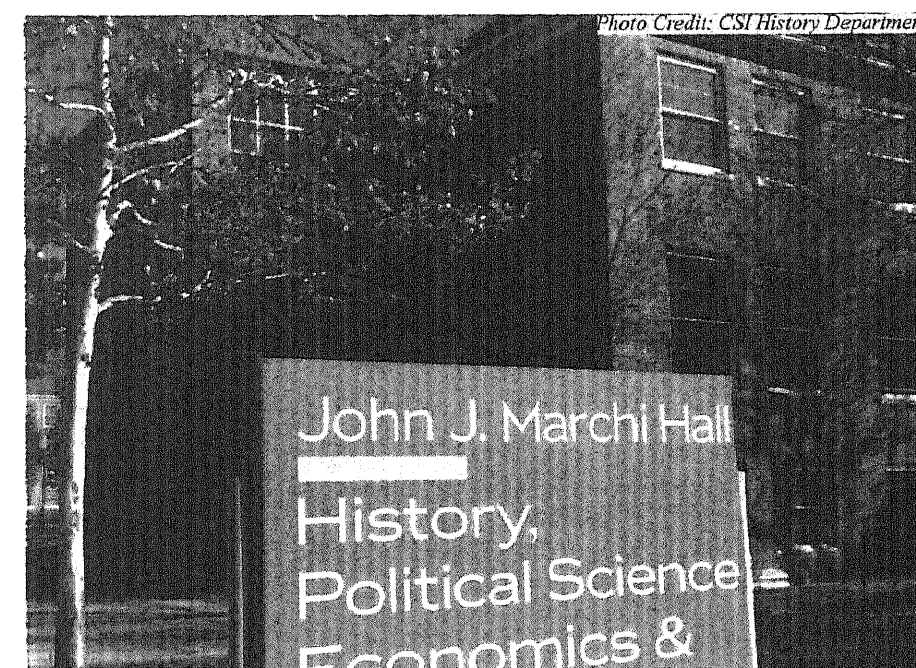


Photo Credit: CSI History Department

John J. Marchi Hall at CSI.

grams in the liberal arts and sciences, and the department's programs provide a solid background for a number of careers as well as for graduate or professional school. As-

sociate Professor Michael Paris is the advisor to students planning to apply to law school, and is the coordinator of the Legal Studies program.



Building 2N is home to History, Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy studies.

Photo Credit: csi.cuny.edu

LIFESTYLES

There's Nothing Wrong With Looking for Help--I Did

Counseling Services Available on CSI Campus

BY: MYRIAM BONILLA

I was diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder, at the age of 12. I remember how I somehow felt ashamed of it, like it was this secret that no one should know. I refused to acknowledge I needed to see a therapist for years.

Once I got older, I finally spoke to a professional and I realized that there's no reason to feel upset, or embarrassed.

Although, I finally understood and debunked the notion that a mental disorder is not shameful. Many people also feel the need to ignore symptoms like I did for fear of judgement.

I truly believe that there shouldn't be a stigma about any type of mental disorder. I feel that many students don't seek help for fear of judgement or that they will be seen as weak.

This is completely false, reaching out can really help with the daily stresses. If anyone ever feels like they've lost control of their lives, stressed, or unhappy there are places that can help you.

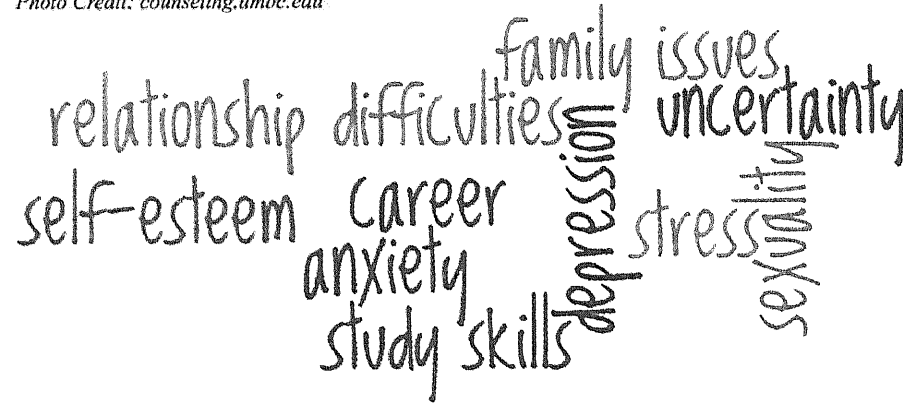
CSI has facilities to help any students with different mental disorders like anxiety and depression. Even students that just need someone to talk about their issues with outside of their personal friends and

family.

Located in the building 1A in Room 109, the center provides people with the tools needed to live a mentally healthy life.

One student, Sarah Peart, started to visit the Counseling Center. "Going to counseling has been a great experience,"

Photo Credit: counseling.umbc.edu



Dealing with mental disorders is a journey that does not have to be travelled alone.

said Peart. "It's helped me tremendously."

It's a great outlet to express your feelings free of judgement.

Even if it does sound cliché, there's no reason to suffer in silence, you don't need to go through this plight alone. I guarantee therapy can help you the way it helped me and countless others.

For more information, here are fre-

quently asked questions from the csi.cuny.edu website:

What services does the Counseling Center provide? The Counseling Center provides free individual and group counseling for students of the College of Staten Island.

seling Center in order to address personal and educational issues.

We assist people in managing personal crises, including stress, relationship conflicts, emotional difficulties, and questions about one's identity.

A significant portion of our work is also devoted to helping students with academic problems, such as developing time management skills. In addition, we regularly meet with students who want to seek readmission or withdraw from the university.

Who works at the Counseling Center? We have a diverse staff of well-qualified and talented professionals, including Master's and licensed psychologists. Please visit Counseling Center Staff to see personal profiles of our counselors. Our support staff is also very warm and welcoming.

If you are looking to go to the Counseling Center, the schedule is: Fall and Spring Semesters: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Wednesday and Thursday night until 7:00 pm; Summer Semester Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 5:30 pm, CLOSED Friday.

If you have any further questions, the Counseling Center can be reached by phone at 718-982-2391 or e-mail at counseling@csi.cuny.edu.

We offer help regarding personal and academic issues. In addition to counseling, we teach courses related to student life. Regularly, we conduct workshops on topics designed to help CSI students, such as money management, relaxation, and coping with test anxiety.

Why would someone go to the Counseling Center? Students come to the Counseling Center to see the Counseling

Full Time Student, Part Time Santa's Helper

Want to Volunteer for a Cause but Unsure of Where to Start?

BY: AMANDA BENGARD

'Tis the season for dozens of Amazon orders and frantic holiday shopping. Everyone is busy brainstorming the perfect gift ideas and the Staten Island mall experiences foot traffic resembling Time Square.

With incessant Peloton and SUV commercials on loop throughout day and nighttime television, it's easy to feel like the best gift has to cost hundreds and thousands of dollars.

Amongst festive chaos, the holidays are a time where many Islanders count their blessings and want to give back instead of receiving in abundance. Volunteer work during the seasonal months and beyond could help bring joy and happiness to those less fortunate.

College students are likely to apply for volunteer positions this year for the benefit of their resume, career paths, and a greater

sense of self. Volunteer work also relieves stress, as you spend a few hours each week focusing on others.

Instead of exchanging expensive items, grab a friend or a family member and bond through generous acts of kindness! Getting started requires some research and outreach but after deciding the right way to begin, it becomes second nature when implementing giving back in day to day living.

Most volunteer opportunities fit into a busy schedule, and can be managed as they are mainly part-time. Students may also find that balancing volunteer work can also help gain time management skills by fitting this helpful activity into class time and studying.

Students may also benefit from helping others as it shows the initiative to go the extra mile, and to professors and employers, these students will stand out in a positive way. After a few good reasons as

to why one should involve themselves in the giving process this holiday season, the next feat is how?

From simple things someone can do on their own to volunteering for an organization, there are hundreds of ways to get involved during all the seasonal splendor. If students are interested in contributing on a large scale, New York City has plenty of organizations to choose from.

For over 30 years the Food Bank of NYC has been the city's biggest hunger-relief organization, working relentlessly to end hunger within the five boroughs. From distributing food to organizing efforts to spreading the word, the Food Bank is one way to help out this year.

If feeding people is not your niche, Coalition for the Homeless is the nation's oldest advocacy and direct organization that helps homeless persons. Starting December 15th, Coalition for the Homeless holds an annual toy drive for homeless children.

Aside from hosting a toy drive locally at school or work, buying a toy and dropping it off at the organization shows how simple volunteering can be. In 2017, Operation Santa reached its 105th anniversary lead by the U.S. Postal Service.

Since children are likely to write a letter to Santa prior to Christmas, as a result they work to provide a written response in order to promote writing and literacy. In select Post Offices the public is welcome to "adopt" Santa letters that the public is welcome to "adopt" Santa letters making it possible for individuals to send responses and gifts in Santa's place.

Easy ways to help the community never go out of season, such as orchestrating

a yard sale offering the proceeds to a local charity. Not only will you recycle unused items to those who may utilize them like new, but the donations can make a large impact when it comes to helping underprivileged families and persons.

Other ideas include, visiting a homeless shelter, coaching a local youth team, tutoring a student, paying for someone's coffee, participating in a run for a good cause, donating previously read books and returning a lost item. Volunteer work helps make the world feel connected by spreading joy and generosity.

The community can use citizen's efforts, but remember to start in the most convenient place: home. Be sure to spread the love wherever you go this season.

Below is a list of five local charities that can use volunteers this holiday!

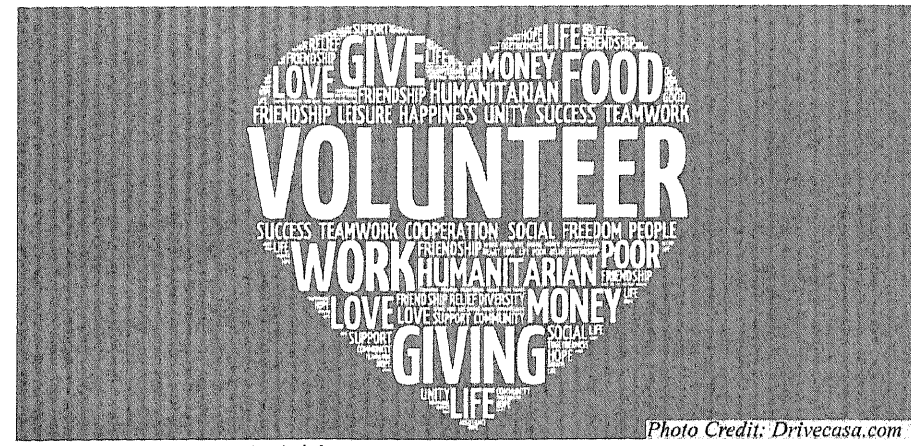
Food Bank NYC, foodbanknyc.org, (212) 566-785, 39 Broadway, New York, NY 10006

Where To Turn Volunteer Programs Including Snow Shoveling for Seniors, www.where-to-turn.org, info@where-to-turn.org, (718) 966-653, 150-L Greaves Lane #312, 10308

Project Hospitality, projecthospitality.org, (718) 273-6737, 514 Bay Street, 10304

SIMHS, School Reading Volunteer Program, simhs.org, (718) 442-2225, 669 Castleton Ave, 10301

Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC), (212) 788-4000, nycacc.org/get-involved/volunteer, nycacc.org/get-involved/foster, nycacc.org/get-involved/communitykids



Find what is in your heart this holiday season.

Photo Credit: Drivecasa.com

LIFESTYLES

Instagram's "No-Likes" Policy Causes Uncertainty

Will Removing "Hearts" on IG be Worthwhile, or a Ludicrous Mistake?

BY: AMIR GARCIA

Let's face it: a good number of us use social media practically every day. This is far from a bad thing though, as it can be used to communicate with people, find the latest news on topics, or simply to find a way to spend your free time.

While there are several of them, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat, the one that's currently the most controversial is Instagram.

Out of all the social media apps, Instagram by far seems to be the most...questionable, for lack of a better term. In fact, out of all of the social media apps, it by far seems the most fickle, as there's usually no telling what will happen with it.

One of the reasons for this is due to IG making changes in the past that no one asked, such as making DMs much more limited, having posts no longer show up in feeds in chronological order, or no longer having the ability to see what posts your followers like/comment on.

However, one current change that has some individuals fretting about is the removal of likes. Likes on a photo show how much engagement it's getting, as it illustrates how many people see or enjoy that particular post.

Yet Instagram is now deciding to do away with the feature like its old news. However, it won't be gone entirely, since you'll still be able to see your like on your own posts. Just not on others.

What's most surprising is that this isn't even a new policy when it comes to IG. Being that the app has already removed

likes in Canada, Italy, Japan and New Zealand, and has just now begun to test it in the U.S.

Of course, one might not think that this change is that big to begin with. After all, all it will do is cause an arbitrary number to no longer pop within your feed, right? If only it were that simple.

The thing is that removing likes on Instagram will harm the influencers who use it the most, such as celebrities, YouTubers or content creators, who require this form of engagement and visibility in order to get the attention of brands.

An article from PBS.org from Jamie Leventhal puts it best, which states: "Influencers likes as a mean of attracting advertisers, and now they will have to recalibrate how they do business."

To give an analogy, it would be like a marketing a new product, except the amount of people who purchased the product would only be visible to you and no one else. Without being able to share these analytics, how would a company know if investing in this product is beneficial for them?

As you can see, this change seems to be more trouble than it's worth. After all, wouldn't it be better and more convenient for influencers to leave things as they are now instead?

Unfortunately, IG does not seem to share this mindset. The CEO of Instagram, Adam Mosseri, has stated that this change was done in order to tone down the anxiety and social pressure for youths when it comes to being fixated on likes.

For an everyday teenager who checks their feed daily, one could somewhat see this form of reasoning. Yet this does nothing to quell influencers' fears, especially when there seems to be no plans for an alternative to replace those rosy hearts.

Some influencers such as Nicki Minaj have even threatened to leave the platform



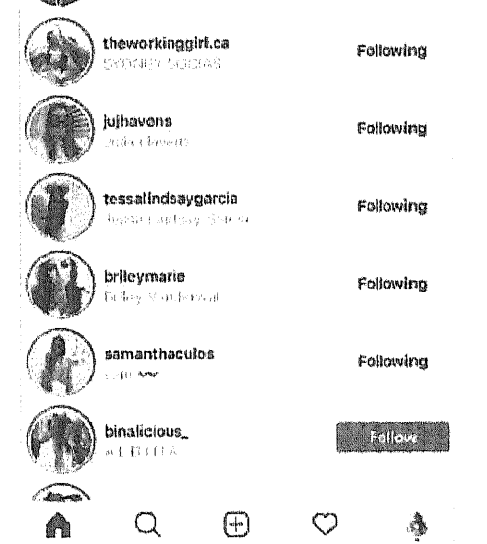
Hidden Likes on Instagram

altogether and stick to Twitter instead, while the rapper Rico Nasty stated that Instagram would eventually become as dead as MySpace with this change.

Of course, this does not mean that all influencers are doom and gloom about this change. One Instagram influencer known as @StyleFeen has a more optimistic outlook, stating:

"As an influencer, this hopefully should not affect you getting paid work. Brands have backend data to let them know influencers engagement and impressions." ~@StyleFeen

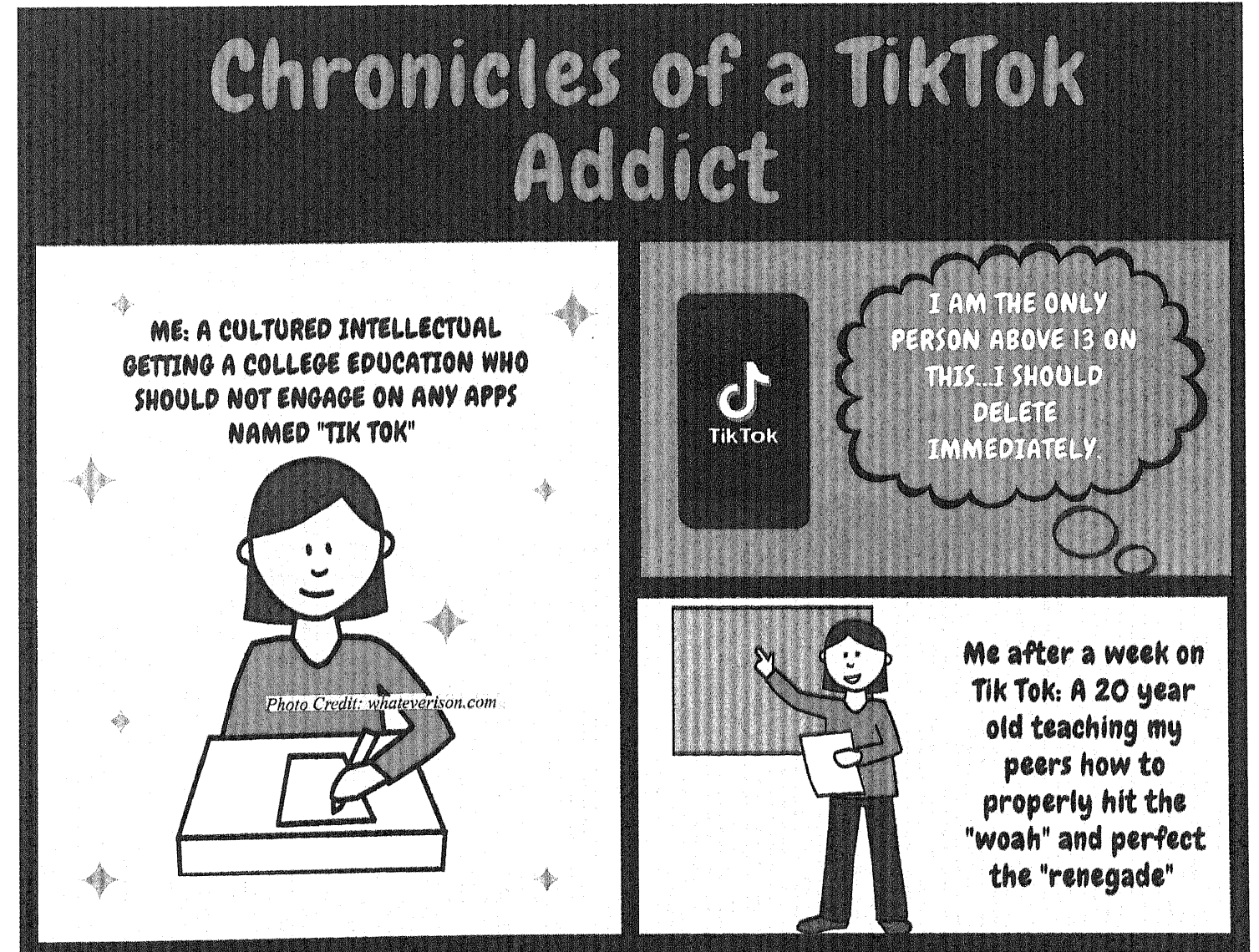
Kim Kardashian has even gone as far as to call this a favorable decision, stating "As far as mental health, I mean it's some- Photo Credit: Tati.com"



thing that taking that aspect away from it would be really beneficial for people."

So will removing likes on Instagram be yet another unwelcome change, or will it actually benefit the platform in the long-run? At the moment, no one can tell. Since this decision seems to be set in stone, however, the best that people can do now is watch and wait.

Comic by Veronica Pistek



BANNER ARTS

What's In a Nomination For Lizzo, Billie Eilish, and Lil Nas X?

The 2020 Grammy nominations were announced on November 20, 2019

BY: SIDNEY MANSUETO

Awards season in the world of arts and entertainment is an exciting and busy time period. It is a time where pop culture's biggest highlights are honored and recognized during an extravagantly glamorous celebration.

The Grammys are no different.

The 62nd Annual Grammy Awards are set to take place on January 26, 2020 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California and will air live on CBS. Known as music's biggest night, the 2020 ceremony will honor musical achievements and milestones from 2019.

Pop artists Billie Eilish and Lizzo, and country rapper Lil Nas X snagged the most nominations. A vast array of musical genres will be honored at the upcoming awards show, including the major categories in pop, country & western, rap, and R&B.

Only time will tell who is going to earn the biggest award of the night for Record of the Year. A music fan's equivalent to the Super Bowl, the Grammy Awards are a major event to audiences of all backgrounds.

Taking a look at the Grammys from a numerical view, R&B/pop artist Lizzo leads the pack with 8 nominations. Lizzo is best known for her smash hit "Truth Hurts", a breakup anthem from her album "Cuz I Love You", which is nominated for Album of the Year. "Truth Hurts" is nominated for Record of the Year and Best Pop Solo Performance, in the area of major award categories.

Seventeen-year old singer Billie Eilish is nominated for six awards, making her tied with "Old Town Road" rapper Lil Nas X, who also received six nominations.

Scoring 5 nominations was pop star Ariana Grande, who took the entertainment world by storm with hit songs of

2019 such as "7 Rings" and "Thank U, Next." Not to mention Grande's highly publicized romance with comedian Pete Davidson, which kept people glued to the starlet's drama on and off the stage.

Most audiences can assume that the breakup was a huge influence on the pop project's overall commercial success. A Florida native, Grande is nominated in major categories including Album of the Year ("Thank U, Next"), Record of the Year



Lizzo, Billie Eilish and Lil Nas X are among many nominated at the Grammys.

("7 Rings"), Best Pop Solo Performance ("7 Rings"), Best Pop Duo/Group Performance ("Boyfriend"), a collaboration with Social House), and Best Pop Vocal Album ("Thank U, Next").

The eligibility period for the 2020 ceremony ran from October 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019. There are specific rules for eligibility, and for Song of the Year, the rule is "A song is eligible if it was first released, or if it first achieved prominence during the Eligibility Year".

When Lizzo's "Truth Hurts" was nominated for Song of the Year, many were confused as to how and why a song from 2017 managed to be nominated. Released in 2017 as a single, "Truth Hurts" failed

to chart or make any radio and streaming impact. The song eventually caught on to Billboard in April of 2019, and many cite the usage of the song in the Netflix movie "Something Great" for the song's success, two years after its release.

After reaching top status on Billboard in September, the song was eyed by audiences and Grammy administrators everywhere. How did the song score a significant nomination? It was later learned that

Her first album in 17 years, "While I'm Livin'," is also nominated for Best Country Album. Country-Pop duo. Dan + Shay are nominated for Best Country Duo/Group Performance and Best Country Song for their hit "Speechless." Country superstar Blake Shelton is nominated for Best Country Solo Performance with the prideful and patriotic hit "God's Country." Other nominees across the country categories include Brothers Osborne, Thomas Rhett, Miranda Lambert, and Eric Church.

As rap and hip hop continue to peak across the charts, so does their Grammy nominations. Tyler, The Creator's critically-acclaimed album "Igor" is one of five albums up for Best Rap Album. The album's aesthetic and artistic feel made the album a modern favorite among rap fans.

The album's subliminal themes of romance, sexuality, being trapped in a love triangle, and good versus evil showcase Tyler. The Creator's talent and bring out a gothic, dark romantic side of the musician. This is strengthened by his metaphorical use of the character Igor, who serves as a representation of a distraught and misunderstood Tyler.

The rapper mentions the character in two songs, "Igor's Theme" and "What's Good." Alongside Tyler, the Creator are other hip hop front runners, J. Cole and SoundCloud rapper DaBaby. As the official voters cast their ballots, music fans everywhere can support the nominees and their talents and cheer on from now until the big night in January. Honoring pop culture is a form of giving back to the things that make us smile, laugh, and cry.

The Grammys are an awards show that connect artists and fans through performances and achievements.

To Infinity and Disney Plus

Disney Plus has us all Smiling These Days, but can it Take one Show to Save a Franchise?

BY: LORENZO R. MARTINEZ

It has been a long time coming but Disney Plus is finally here. Although it has launched without the new Marvel shows they were raving about all year, Disney Plus still has amazing content.

Like every one of us growing up, we have had dozens of Disney movies that had a special bond and connection to our

hearts, and that is where the magic of Disney Plus takes over. We are able to go back to our magical moment and relive it over and over again from movies like "Cinderella," "Toy Story," and shows such as "The Simpsons" and "Mickey Mouse."

However, the most anticipated show many have been looking forward to as it launched had to be "The Mandalorian."

The recent efforts of the Disney/Lucasfilm behemoth to free the Star Wars universe from the shackles of its own story have been met with mixed results, and that is just putting it mildly. Standalone films "Rogue One" and "Solo" billed themselves as "A Star Wars Story" in an effort to break out of the trilogy-of-trilogies while retaining the essence of the franchise, whatever that might mean.

Both features, however, failed to mesmerize the true Star Wars fans. The spinoffs burden with nearness to the earlier films' perspective asserting all the ways in which these expansions connect to or, even worse, explain the magic of George Lucas's creation weighed them down and held them back from full independence.

"The Mandalorian," an addition to the canon and the marquee release for the emerging Disney Plus streaming platform, largely evades this craziness of the current films that believe it or not have flopped.

Besides the great episodes of the Clone Wars series, this represents the first successful attempt to reconcile the distance between being an addition of a popular

knowledgeable property and being its own work. The writer, Jon Favreau sets his latest effort apart by assuming the cinematic language of the classic western, a genre that looks and feels sufficiently different from what has come before.

Not to mention that, Baby Yoda has taken the internet by storm. The second I saw baby Yoda, I knew he was going to be a sensation and I'm totally in love with the design.

All of the episodes that are out have some incredibly cute moments, like the Mando picking up the child by the scruff of his cloak and a shot of the Razor Crest's dashboard through the baby's fuzz.

Baby Yoda is here to stay, and Pedro Pascal sells the budding partnership masterfully. He conveys a perfect balance between irritable and tough, more tired and prickly than hard-boiled.

The Mandalorian is absolutely a great show and it only keeps getting better. With that said, I hope the magic of Disney continues to mesmerize audiences like myself and many other newcomers to the brand that rules the world.



Photo Credit: CBR.com

The Mandalorian and baby Yoda are magical together.

BANNER ARTS

The Piano Guys: One Hit Wonder

Classical Crossover, Amazing Music

BY: CARLOS GLICK

What do you get when you mix the song "Secrets" with the classical works of Beethoven or perhaps "Let it Go" from the Disney hit "Frozen" with the classical works of Vivaldi? This is exactly what The Piano Guys do for a living.

They would take a classical song like "Swan Lake" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and mix it with a song from today, such as "In My Blood" by Shawn Mendez. The Piano Guys even do covers of original songs such as "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi.

The Piano Guys consist of four members which include pianist Jon Schmidt, cellist Steven Sharp Nelson, music producer/songwriter Al Van Der Beek, and videographer Paul Anderson. All four members reside in the state of Utah and their studio is located in the small town of St. George, Utah.

Knowing that the band is from Utah, you may automatically think of the term "Mormon." All four members of The Piano Guys are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and have thus served missions for the church; Anderson, in Washington State, Schmidt, in Norway, and Van Der Beek and Nelson both served in separate missions in Korea.

Back in February 2017, The Piano Guys were invited and performed at Don-

ald Trump's Inauguration. When introduced, the announcer said that "they became a world-wide internet sensation with one of the most viewed YouTube channels on the planet."

That is true. Since 2008, The Piano Guys have over 6 million subscribers and 1.4 billion views on YouTube.

The Piano Guys have released over 100 songs and thus far have seven main albums, two of those seven are Christmas albums. These albums include "The Piano Guys," "The Piano Guys 2," "The Piano Guys: A Family Christmas," "The Piano Guys: Wonders," "The Piano Guys: Uncharted," "The Piano Guys: Christmas Together" and their latest "The Piano Guys: Limitless."

According to blog.musicstaste.com, their most viewed video is Christina Perri's "A Thousand Years." Just that one video alone has 121 million views on YouTube. That's huge!

The story of how The Piano Guys came to be is quite remarkable. It all started in a piano store, coincidentally named "The Piano Guys" in St. George.

Anderson, the store's owner was looking for a new unconventional way to market pianos. He embarked on a self-guided study of social marketing and started a YouTube Channel along with a Facebook page. When he saw his videos go viral, that was when he stepped up his game.



Photo Credit: mymusicstaste.com

Left to right: Al van der Beek, Jon Schmidt, Steven Sharp Nelson, Paul Anderson. In walks Schmidt, who had built a career in solo piano performances and had a concert in the St. George area. He asked Anderson if he could practice on one of the store's pianos in preparation for his gig that night.

Anderson explained his idea to Schmidt and then asked if he would be in a video, not only promoting the store, but also promoting Schmidt's music. Schmidt accepted the invitation and things were starting to roll into business.

When Nelson was 15 years old, he met Schmidt and the two of them instantly had this amazing connection with each other.

Nelson started joining Schmidt at more and more of his concerts.

Not only did they eventually have a great friendship, but they also developed a strong a stage chemistry that made audiences in tears.

The Piano Guys do covers of songs that are very inspirational. From artists like Adele to One Direction and even movies like "Star Wars" or "Indiana Jones," they do it all.

The Piano Guys keep on making hits that make you have an upbeat and warm feeling, make you want to cry or even just ponder.

"Bless the Harts" is a New Relatable Family Sitcom

The Show Brings Heart and Comedy to the Craziest of Situations

BY: BROOKE PRICE

A new animated family sitcom, called "Bless the Harts" was recently created. It centers on a working class family living in North Carolina.

Jenny lives with her boyfriend Wayne, daughter Violet, and her mother Betty. Jenny waitresses at a restaurant called "The Last Supper" as she tries to support her family.

The name of the show is based on the Southern phrase "bless your heart."

Emiley Spivey, the show's creator and executive producer, grew up in High Point, North Carolina and was able to incorporate her experiences she had while growing up, into the show. Spivey also provides the voice for Louise, Jenny's boss.

In an interview with The News & Observer, Emily Spivey, the show's creator discussed her influence for "Bless the Harts," having grown up in North Carolina herself. "One of the things I wanted to do with ("Bless the Harts") was to show real, authentic Southern people, and a sort of amalgam of people I grew up with and make it as authentic as possible — that's my hope."

Spivey drew inspiration for characters from people she knew growing up. "They're really just mixtures of people that I knew growing up and the personali-

ties I observed growing up..." (The News & Observer).

Christopher Miller, an executive producer for "Bless the Harts" said that Spivey is "the first female showrunner of a FOX animated show. That perspective is one thing that's missing on that lineup."

The cast is also jam-packed with celebrities. Kristen Wiig voices Jenny who puts in long hours to support her family and Ike Barinholtz voices Wayne, who has good intentions but can be a bit ditzzy at times.

Maya Rudolph voices Betty, Jenny's widowed mother and Jillian Bell voices Violet, Jenny's artistic daughter.

Kumail Nanjiani voices Jesus Christ, who appears as part of Jenny's imagination when she works at "The Last Supper" when she needs someone to confide in or some guidance. Fortune Feimster voices Brenda, Jenny's coworker who works at "The Last Supper" with her.

Throughout the show, Jenny tries to support her family by working endless hours and Wayne tries to build bonds with Violet as he tries to become a father figure to her.

The show also has some comedic moments such as when Wayne tries to help his family's financial situation and buys ostriches with the hope that they'll produce large eggs which he can sell for a

hefty price, only to find out that they're male and don't lay eggs. He can't sell the ostriches back, so he tries to tame them and have them do tricks, which aren't very successful.

Another instance was when a controversial statue is put up in town and Jenny

maneuvering through swarms of people to get the items they desired on the crazy holiday. However, Violet wanted to have a more traditional Thanksgiving celebration. The episode also focused on how Jenny and Wayne met.

"Bless the Harts" premiered on FOX



Photo Credit: decider.com

The star-studded cast gives light to a new animated sitcom.

tries to make extra tips by favoring both sides of the argument depending on if certain customers agree or disagree whether or not the statue should be displayed.

The Thanksgiving episode focused on the Black Friday tradition the Harts had of bagging up their Thanksgiving meal and

on September 29th and has been renewed for a second season. The show has good intentions and is another heart-warming animated sitcom.

We can't wait to see what new situations the Harts will get themselves into in the episodes to follow next season.

BANNER OPINIONS

Scientists Were Wrong About the Severity of Climate Change

Consequences of Climate Change Start Now

BY: ROSEANNE CASSAR

As we live in an ever-increasing digital age, the impact of climate change has become a focus of our attention. While it may seem like light years away until we face climatic destruction, it is actually occurring as we speak.

In the past, scientists have mentioned that humans won't presently notice any of the global change, but the effects will be felt after ten generations have passed. Boy, were these scientists off.

Well, it looks like the effects of climate change began sooner than anticipated. According to The New York Times opinions writer Eugene Linden, "In 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, The United Nations group of thousands of scientists representing 195 countries, said in its first report that climate change would arrive at a stately pace, that the methane-laden Arctic permafrost was not in danger of thawing, and that the Antarctic ice sheets were stable."

These statements made by scientists were completely inaccurate. It definitely feels like they have underestimated how much the earth is warming. Now, with much more press surrounding the devastating natural disasters around the world, our hopes should be that the government take this seriously.

In addition to feeling the climatic effects, there are other harmful effects on each individual's wellbeing. For instance, global warming can cause the ozone layer to deplete, potentially causing more harm with deadly diseases such as cancer. Cancer is considered the number one disease out there destroying people's livelihoods.

Overall our atmosphere has a hole in the ozone layer, causing the UV rays from the sun to heat up the Earth two to three times hotter than average. As pollution becomes stronger, the layer of protection in the atmosphere becomes weaker, too.

Moreover, the melting of polar ice caps is causing the sea levels to rise at a rapid rate that us humans were not prepared for. Thus, protesters around the world are not wrong for being angry with how the government is running the show with the oil and gas industries.

Oh well, life goes on trying to figure out how to reverse the damage that has been done all these years. Now us humans should be worried about the severity of the damage that is contributed between the industries and the natural disasters that is caused by Mother Nature.

We need to start accepting the fact that all life here on planet earth in some way is in trouble.

As Linden states, "By 2014, a number of scientists had concluded that an

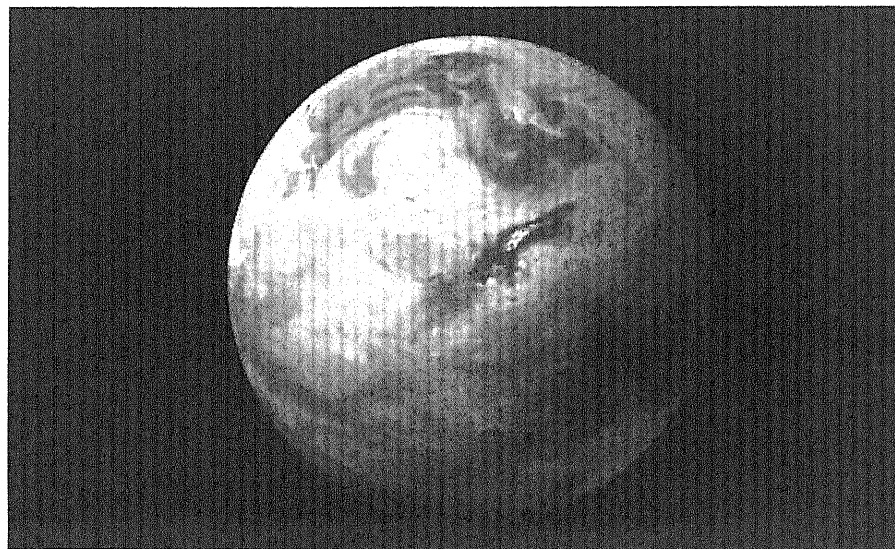
irreversible collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet had already begun, and computer modeling in 2016 indicated that its disintegration in concert with other melting could raise sea levels up to six feet by 2100, about twice the increase described as a possible worst-case scenario just three years earlier. At that pace, some of the world's great coastal cities, including New York, London and Hong Kong, would become inundated." The truth finally comes out - scientists finally admit that the earth is in severe trouble.

What is even more frightening is that according to the scientists, we cannot re-

verse or fix the damage that has already been done.

So...how do we control the earth from heating up too much and causing ice caps to melt? How do we control Mother Nature's rage when she decides to throw disasters at us? These questions you would think would be worrisome to the government--but honestly, it seems like the government doesn't care how it's going to affect us down the line.

If you would like to read the article cited go to: www.nytimes.com/2019/11/08/opinions/sunday/science-climate-change.html



Humans are causing the planet to have a meltdown.

Blowing Out Staten Island's Wetlands For a BJ's

Once Again, Removing Peaceful Nature for Parking Spaces

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

According to a report from the Public Archaeology Laboratory, "Nearly 80 percent of Staten Island is paved, built, filled, or otherwise altered by urban development."

As high as that rate is, the number certainly does not scare off those who are looking to bring, among other properties, a BJ's Wholesale Club, a gas station and 838 parking spaces to a site in Graniteville.

Specifically speaking, what would be demolished in fact, is 18 long acres of wetlands in Mariners Harbor. Skunks, possum, deer and many other types of animals live there, including a diversity of birds. All of these species that reside there would be left scurrying for a new home.

The area is already doused with enough noise as well. Newark Airport. The Staten Island Expressway. Now to pile on top of that ridiculous soundtrack, Graniteville will have constant delivery trucks roaring in and out of that space with constant cars starting up their engines and chatter.

The oncoming congestion would make the car traffic even worse than it is already. South Avenue, Forest Avenue, and Lisk Avenue are already busy enough intersections as they stand. On any given day, long lines of vehicles come to a stop for those red lights. With this project moving forward, 838 new vehicles are being asked to

come right on in.

Speaking of congestants, noise and traffic aren't the only factors that would be filled to capacity. Carbon Dioxide pollution on the North Shore is a problem that nobody seems to want to fix.

Photo Credit: ny.curbed.com



All this island seems to do is sell out.

Again, Newark Airport, Again, The Staten Island Expressway. An estimated 1,700 trees will be cut down and plenty of CO2 sources will be introduced.

When actions have spoken louder than words for so long concerning green, renewable energy and making the world

a cleaner place, why is that when money is involved and supposed profit margins come into the mix, Staten Island seems to always bow down before those who just want to build, build and build?

The people who live here on this is-

land usually don't have a voice until the wheels are already turning and by then it's too late to do practically anything.

The most important factor for the populous in that neighborhood would be the removal of the protection that the wetlands bring to their homes. When Hurricane San-

dy roared through the island, not only did people die but many homes and businesses were destroyed. The swamps and salt marshes absorbed a great deal of Sandy's rising waters in that area.

If the above reasons didn't catch your interest, put those aside for a moment while I indulge in the one question that could sway anyone's mind. Why do we need this? For grocery needs?

First of all, Shoprite is 15 minutes away. Western Beef is 10 minutes away. Key Food is 10 minutes away.

For entertainment needs? A very nice movie theater is 14 minutes away. Kohl's, Lowe's and Home Depot are 8 minutes away. These are all calculations made through Google Maps.

Even so, more than enough buses make their way to the Staten Island Mall. There are 194 stores in that complex. Oh, and there's a Costco right there as well.

There is no need for a such a place being built because as you can see - food, entertainment, and clothing are minutes away. There is absolutely no need, with all that's already available for the consumer, to build on the 20% of natural land we have left.

The sacrifice is not worth it. Shame on BJ's Wholesale Club. Shame on the New York Department of Environment Conservation. Shame to those who go and give this place their hard earned money.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

Hey, Are You An Artist's Muse?

The Relationship Between A Muse and An Artist

BY: KYLE FORBES

A male poet will have an inspirational "main chick." A "main chick" is another way of describing their muse.

Poets will not always want to give up their interest towards their romantic muse. At some point, in a real relationship, a male poet will put their interest for their muse first.

A muse, as a noun, means a person who is a source of artistic inspiration. A muse can be a source of "inspiring fluid" required to inspire the poet to make later work.

The artist will want to learn everything there is to know about their chosen muse.

The artist desires to know everything about their muse.

Most muse/artist relationships involve a sexual connection. Such a connection can keep the relationship between the muse and artist together.

A muse can allow an artist to focus and to have a stable inspirational relationship. The relationship can possibly last forever.

Or the relationship can lead to miscommunication, gossip, jealousy, or even envy. On the other hand, the relationship can continue its course as if nothing happened.

A male poet can be the lover of a fe-

male poet. The two can be together for three years and the male poet can write about the female poet for three years.

The female poet can be dealing with self-esteem issues and an addiction to work. Such a self-esteem issue and an addiction to work can occur while being with the male poet.

The male poet can leave the female poet for another lover and muse. That previous lover and muse can suddenly deal with boredom and depression.

Being a muse towards a poet/artist can be a "health-scare" since the muse can be replaced.

According to rebellesociety.com, the muse doesn't come to a male writer when he is thinking of her or wanting her. The muse doesn't want the attention from anyone then.

The muse comes to the male writer when the male writer is busy loving someone else.

One foul word can send your muse leaving. The muse can then go to another artist who is ready to fully care for her.

The muse won't let the male artist love for her leave.

They demands the artist's childhood moments and feelings. The muse wants to know and experience seeing the male artist truths.



Photo Credit: vibe.com

Was A Music Artist A Muse for Your Previous Artwork or Work of Literature?

The muse wants the experience of really knowing the male artist. When the male artist and his soul are together, the muse can interrupt.

When the connection between the muse and the writer begin, the writer can experience being alive and the feeling of love.

According to a 1999 study on PubMed, the experience of love can cause the bodies levels of serotonin to drop. Serotonin allows the person to experience a calmer, focused, and clearly thought out mind.

Being in love with your muse can provide the artist the creativity needed to complete a project.

According to a study from the University of Amsterdam, love can allow a person to develop a global, big-picture mentality. Such an experience after loving a muse can allow the male artist to experience an actual, long-term attachment to a woman.

The same experience can allow the artist to think in a more creative, unusual way. A muse can make it easier to complete a work of art.

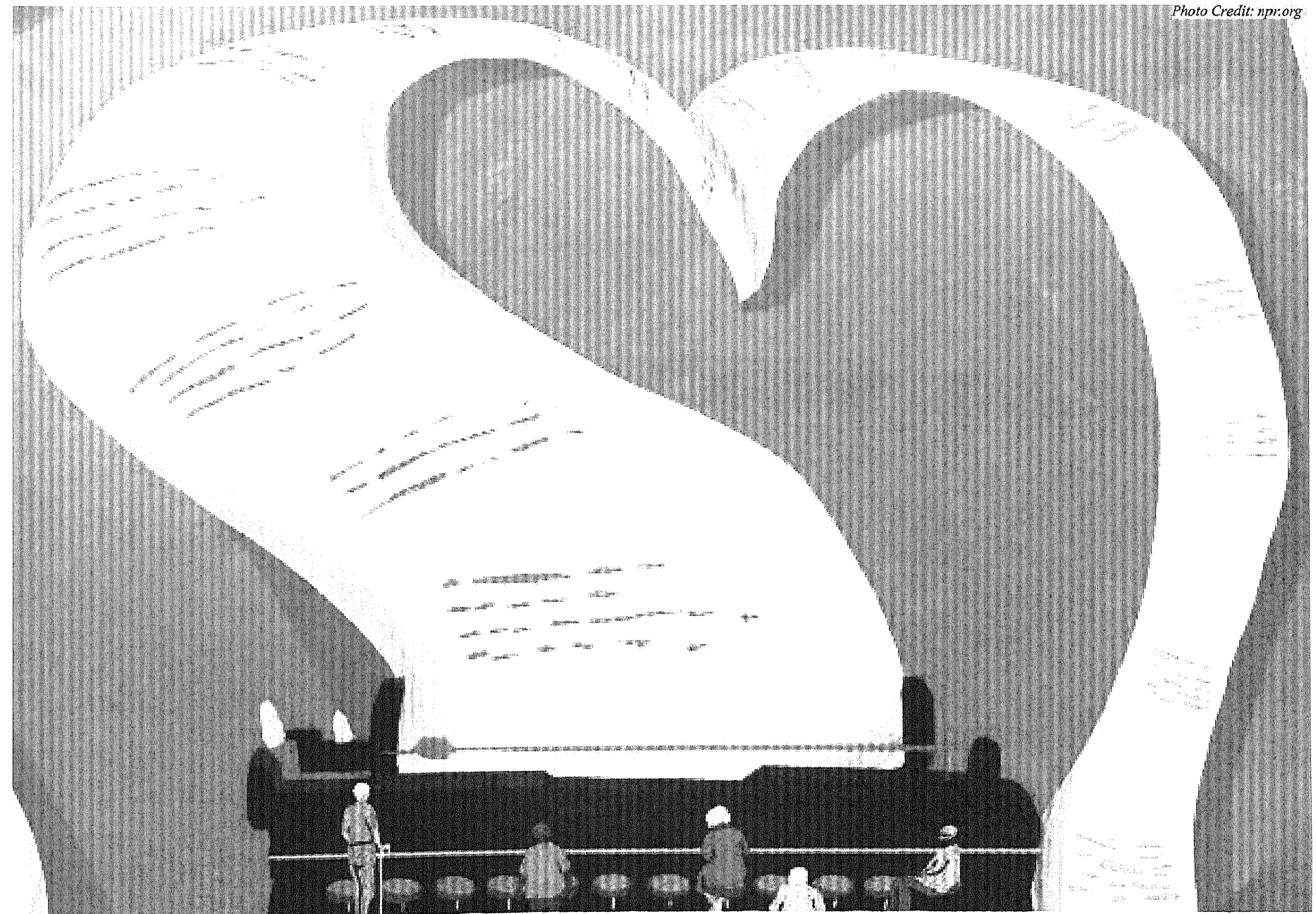


Photo Credit: npr.org

SPORTS

Is Load Management Good or Bad for the NBA?

This Term has been the Recent Controversial Topic in the NBA

BY: DANNY CACACE

Load management is a term that's been thrown around the NBA for the past year now. Some people are not big fans of players sitting out games due to this term.

According to NBA.com, one writer states the term means "an approach, a self-discipline by teams in rationing out a player's usage to maximize his availability by, limiting his availability."

The term has been controversial due to reasons such as a player sitting out a game when they're deemed to be healthy just so they can rest that night. A player such as NBA superstar Kawhi Leonard would not play in the second game of a back-to-back game setting because the team is trying to keep them healthy and ready as possible for the postseason.

I don't necessarily agree with that notion because if a player is healthy and can actually play basketball without hurting his team to win the game, then they should play.

These players get paid millions of dollars to play all 82 games in the regular season, only of course if they are healthy to do so should they play. I understand if they want to rest one night because they played about 30 games in a row, and they need to take the night off; however, if it becomes a constant action where a player does not play the second game of a back-to-back just to rest that night, I find that absolutely ridiculous.

I understand it's for the benefit of the player's health which I am all for, but what I am not for is sitting out due to rest. In that case, the league should make the regular season shorter to about 65 games which I feel is a good number to go about so that way less players sit out because of this term.

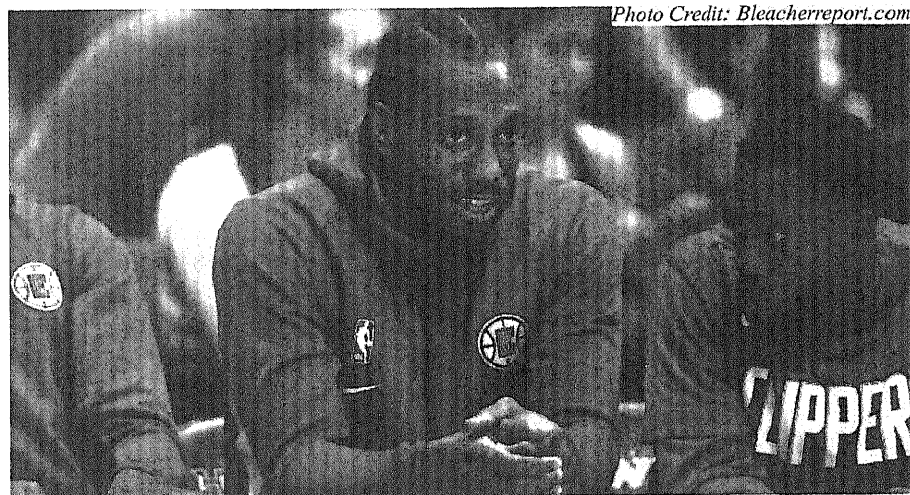
"If I'm not hurt, I'm playing." NBA superstar LeBron James has said recently to ESPN about load management.

Some people might blame Kawhi Leonard for starting this recent trend in the NBA, but some people might also blame somebody who probably inspired this whole trend to begin with. This person goes by the name of Gregg Popovich and he is the head coach of the San Antonio Spurs.

He has coached that team for about the past 20 years now, and has coached players such as Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili, and Tim Duncan whom are all retired soon-to-be hall of famers.

Coach Popovich, back when he had those three players on his team and they were nearing the end of their careers, would sit them out and give them the DNP for the night which means 'Did Not Play'. This was because they were veteran players and he wanted them to be ready and healthy for the postseason.

Although, he never used the term 'Load management' for the reason he sat out his players those nights, that was basi-



Seated in the middle, NBA superstar Kawhi Leonard is on the bench likely due to load management.

cally what he was doing back then. I find this as a more valid excuse to sit out players towards the end of their careers as opposed to sitting out a player in their prime.

I believe that when they are really young because they are more fit to play than the older players are which makes sense unless you're somebody like LeBron James where you just never age with the way you play on the basketball court no matter how old you get.

"All the time in Chicago when I was coming back, load management wasn't a term then," Detroit Pistons starting point guard Derrick Rose told NBA.com recently. "Back then, it was, 'He's [expletive] being lazy.'"

Rose suffered a torn ACL in the first

round of the NBA playoffs back in 2012 which changed his career drastically. As of the past three to four years, he's shown that he can still play really well, but not as great as when he was in his MVP days back in the 2010-11 season.

If he was playing in the start of his career right now in this new era of basketball where load management exists, and he never tore his ACL, it makes you wonder if he would've been the same player he was back when he was an MVP of the league if he got to sit out games due to load management.

Should load management stay or should it go? That's up to commissioner Adam Silver of the NBA to decide, but it is definitely a debatable topic for sure.

A King's Legacy Questioned

Is LeBron James's Reign Atop the Mountain Over? Think Again.

BY: LORENZO R. MARTINEZ

It is now year seventeen for Superstar athlete LeBron James in the NBA. Rewriting the history books in year seventeen is something that may not ever be done again, and yet LeBron James is doing it with ease.

Coming out of high school, everyone in the media world, and even early fans like myself knew this young sensation was going to be a star. If you would have told them he would not only become one of the greatest players ever, but in the conversation of being the greatest player of all time, they would probably have laughed to the ground.

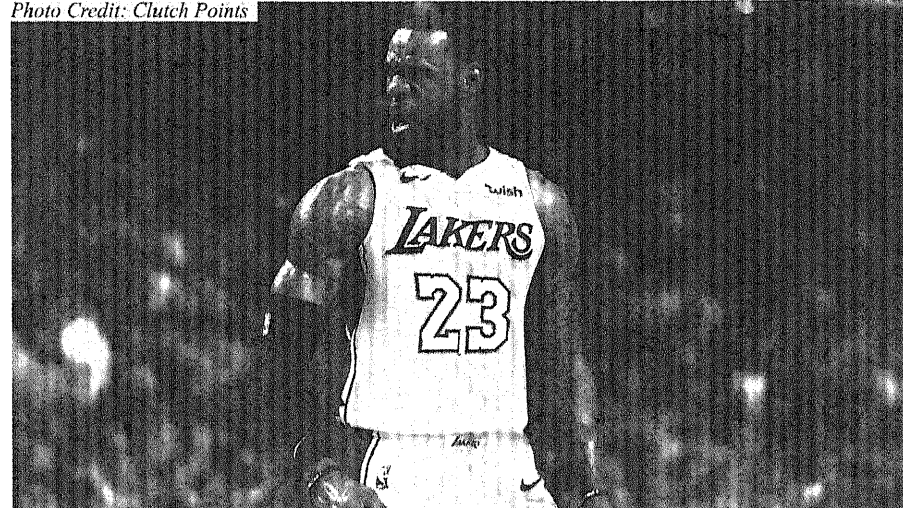
So here we are today...If I have not said it yet, if you have not heard it yet, let me be the first of a select group to say it out loud, "LeBron James is the greatest player of all time." Forget the fact that the overall statistical numbers will surpass everyone in history.

Forget the fact that he is the only player with the most points, assists, rebounds, steals, and blocks in a lengthy playoff series of both teams. Forget the fact that he is the only player to lead his team to an NBA championship from being down 3-1 to an all-time record setting rival team.

I am saying this because of the simple "eye test."

Many people will always have Michael Jordan as their G.O.A.T (greatest of all time), and understandably so. I get the fact that the "media-era" grew up idolizing MJ, so they will forever have that loyalty of never dethroning their childhood idol. Well so did I.

Photo Credit: Clutch Points



He is still King.

The difference between them and myself is simple though. I take everything into account when I compare the 2 GOATS of the basketball world.

The thing that most LeBron biases go for, is the six unblemished championships that Michael has over LeBron's three. But

the game is not just measured in championships.

In MJ's era, the game was much slower, and filled with far lesser talent, so this made an athletic God made talent like MJ dominate like we have never seen before. And believe me, it was a magical thing to

watch.

But watching LeBron these current 17 years dominate like only he has, watch him succeed from his failures, and succeed in a league that has a super-star in almost every team, has been beyond fascinating.

I believe what makes it that much

more special is that he is doing it in year seventeen still. Most athletes that have survived this long are either bench players, or on their way out of the league. For him to be doing what he does on the level he is doing it in, is a testament to his greatness.

He is on pace to becoming the NBA's Most Valuable Player for the fifth time in his career. If that were to happen, he would be the first to ever do it in a seventeenth season.

With every game he becomes closer and closer to surpassing the great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in the all-time leading points record. We are truly watching history being written each time he touches the floor.

LeBron James is also an icon outside of the NBA. The things he does for his youth and his society as a cultural icon is beyond anything most have done in sports history, joining the likes of athletes like Muhammad Ali and Jim Brown, that have fought for social justice being the greatest of athletes in their time.

LeBron James is a man that every kid should aspire to be. Instead of people using their outlets to quickly dethrone him, or complain about why he will never be as good as Michael Jordan, they should just sit back, and enjoy the greatest show that we will ever see in the modern era of basketball. And possibly, ever.