

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

## Pell Grants Face Cuts In Budget Proposal

LEEOR BRONIS

The recent passage of budget bill House Resolution 1, by the House of Representatives suggests reducing the maximum award given to Pell Grant recipients by \$845, as well as cutting several other financial aid programs for college students.

More than 127,000 undergraduates from The City University of New York received Pell Grants last year. According to Philippe Marius, CSI's Director of Financial Aid, five to six thousand of those students attended CSI. "Financial Aid is linked to this college in a real way," Marius said. "CSI has one of the best track records in graduating Pell Grant recipients."

H.R.1, cuts Pell funding from \$5,550 to \$4,705 for the 2011-2012 academic year. Aside from the House Proposal, President Obama's Fiscal 2012 budget proposal addresses cutting the 2nd Pell scheduled award in an academic year, eliminating the Stafford loan, which subsidizes loans for graduate and professional students, and raising the Perkins loan program to a 6.8 interest rate, which would gain an estimated \$6.8 billion in budget savings that would be used to fund Pell Grants.

According to an Obama administration source, the savings from these program cuts would be \$8 billion dollars next year and \$60 billion dollars over 10 years.

"In education, we invest very seriously to make sure that 9 million students can go to college using Pell Grant, ...but we also have cutbacks," Jacob Lew, U.S. Director of the Office of Management and Budget said in a recent interview on CNN's State of the Union.

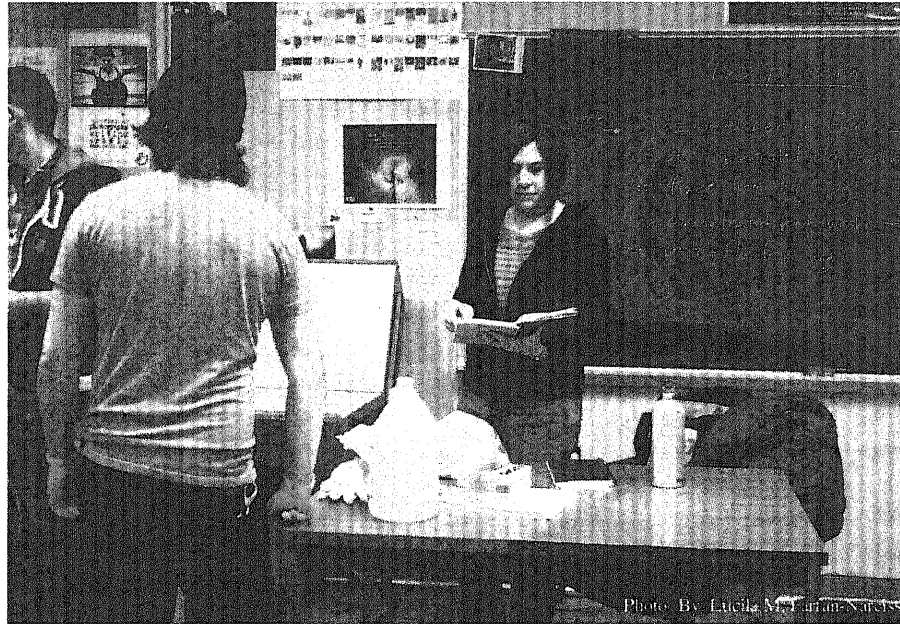
According to SupportCuny.org, the U.S. Senate has amended the House of Representatives budget reduction bill in order to restore the maximum annual Pell Grant award back to its original \$5,550 for college students. CUNY Chancellor Mathew Goldstein "applauded" The Senates actions in a recent statement he made on CUNY's website.

"Across the country, as states' financial difficulties have forced deep cuts to universities' operating budgets and tuition increases, Pell Grants are an increasingly critical resource for students," Goldstein stated. "The Pell program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate students, typically those from families earning less than \$40,000 a year,"

According to Marius, President Morales has since written a letter to Congressional

Continued on page 4

## What Once Was Old Becomes New Again



Professor Nichole Frocheur preparing to guide and instruct her students.

*18th century photographic processes provide a new and creative outlook for photography students*

LUCILA M. FARFAN-NARCISSE

Making old, new again. Adjunct Assistant Professor Nichole Frocheur has been teaching photography in the Department of Performing and Creative Arts since 2006. Her Historical and Alternative Processes class is a blast from the past as students learn, study and implement historical photographic processes such as pinhole, wet plate collodion, cyanotypes and liquid light.

Frocheur began working with wet collo-

dion processes around 13 years ago while she was still in school. She has always believed that photography is a hands-on process and enjoys being involved in a tactile way. Professor Frocheur has had a long time fascination with family, history and the past; which have been dominant themes in her own personal work. She has discovered that working with these alternative processes is a direct reference and link to the past.

Frocheur believes you teach what you love. "It is nearest to my heart," she said. "I love these processes."

"It is rare to have knowledge of these

Continued on page 4

## An Amazing Professor Who Loves Teaching Math

*Understanding such a hard subject, professor Yousef strives for nothing but the best.*

NICOLE MARESCA

It all began at the age six for Professor Yousef. Since Mr. Yousef started learning numbers like the back of his hand at such a young age, he found math and numbers fascinating. He loved math because he used it in his everyday life.

Professor Yousef has been teaching for about forty years. He started his journey at N.Y.U. for three years and then started teaching math at C.S.I for the rest. He thinks that math is definitely not easy; math takes a lot of work and is very time consuming, but Professor Yousef enjoys teaching it. While interviewing the Professor and discussing all the different equations that go

along with math, he began to say that there are two lessons he loves to teach his students. One of them is the fundamentals of math. Professor Yousef said "It's the math most students are missing". It's very hard to make a progression if they don't know the fundamentals of it all. Fundamentals are a review of high school. It's the entire beginning steps. The second thing professor Yousef thinks is very important is slope. When asking why it's so important professor Yousef started by saying "streets and driving directions are all slopes, these are used in everyday life". When using slope, it can get you from point A to point B which is very important. He thinks when students understand this they understand the purpose of math. While discussing his methods of teaching, Mr. Yousef pointed out that he prefers small

Continued on page 4

## Life After The Military

MICHELLE MACDOUGALL

Thanks to the passing of the post 9/11 GI bill veterans are able to go to school with full tuition paid. However one thing David Colon is determined to do, along with the president of CSI, Tomas D. Morales, are in the process of getting all the veterans at CSI equality. Colon has been active in the coast guard for the past eight years. Colon was educated and trained as a mechanical technician. "My job was to assess, repair and reassemble boat engines" Colon said.

When Colon joined the Coast guard he got the chance to travel throughout the United States. Colon has been stationed in New Jersey, Virginia, Florida and California. While in Florida, his job was to stop drug trafficking and safety patrol on the east coast.

While pursuing his second bachelor's degree at CSI, Colon was asked if he wanted to work for the Veteran's Educational Transition Service center. He accepted immediately. Colon's job title is college assistant. His duties are broad ranging from helping other veterans in the program register for classes to advisement and everyday questions they may have. "One of the things I love about working for this program is I have the ability to call out of work because I need to study, what job will let you do that and not give you a hassle?" Colon said.

Currently Veterans attending CSI get a monthly allowance of \$2100 and \$1000 for books yearly. Students in other boroughs get \$2800. "We get New Jersey jurisdiction with New York taxes," Colon said.

This gives vets the opportunity to have complete focus on their studies. This monthly amount is non-taxable. "This gives us the opportunity to take 18 credits and not worry about working or how our bills will get paid," Colon said.

The Veterans educational transition service center also has meetings every other Wednesday. At these meetings Colon, along with other staff members, give the veterans a place of comfort. This is a safe place for other veterans to come and speak to other people who know first-hand what they're going through. CSI has also set up CORE 100 for veterans only. A benefit of this class is that new student veterans can meet and build friendships with other veterans on campus.

Colon thinks the program has come a long way. He believes the program is set and running for success. However, he would change how involved they are in the veterans

Continued on page 4

## New York State Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

ALI ALASKARI

As governors across the country prepare their budget proposals for the coming year, they continue to face daunting fiscal challenges. The worst recession since the 1930s has caused the steepest decline in state tax receipts on record. State tax collections, adjusted for inflation, are now 12 percent below per-recession levels, while the need for state-funded services has not declined. As a result, even after making very deep spending cuts over the last several years, states continue to face large budget gaps.

New York's Fiscal Year 2012 begins on April 1, 2011, and the budget deficit for that year is currently at \$10 billion. Unfortunately, that number is expected to rise, growing to nearly \$13.5 billion in 2012-13 and almost \$15.6 billion in 2013-14.

On February 1st Gov. Andrew Cuomo presented his proposed budget for the fiscal year 2010 to the state legislature. If the legislature approves the budget, it would reduce New York State spending by 2.7% and be the first spending decrease since nearly two decades.

His proposed budget is based on \$132.9 billion spending plan, which will eliminate the state's expected \$10 billion deficit without any new taxes. The governor said he plans to reduce the cost of state government by cutting

10% from state agencies and working with employee labor unions to achieve cost savings. He threatened, however, that if an agreement isn't reached, nearly 10,000 state workers will face layoffs.

The proposed budget calls for a 7.3% cut in state aid to schools. He is also calling for a roughly 3% cut in Medicaid spending. Gov. Cuomo's plan to cut New York's budget is meeting resistance from fellow Democrats who want to spend more and pay for it by keeping higher income-tax rates set to expire at year-end. Gov. Cuomo's budget proposes cutting \$1.5 billion education and \$1 billion Medicaid to close a \$10 billion deficit. He proposed no new or increased taxes.

According to Governor Cuomo, he suggested that in order to get the budget under control he would freeze salary increases for state employees and cap state spending as well as consolidate the number of state agencies, commissions and authorities to save 20%.

Cuomo said contracts for 96% of the state workforce are up for renegotiation on April 1, the first day of fiscal year 2012, and he intended to keep them at their current levels. Cuomo said he planned to save \$450 million in state employee contracts and that if he was unable to do so, he would then

have to consider laying off up to 9,800 workers. State contracts with the Public Employees Federation and the Civil Service Employees Association expire at the end of March.

Cuomo also said he would cut his \$179,000 salary by 5% and that he intended to reduce other salaries of the governor's staff, including the governor's secretary, counsel, counselor, director of state operations, and chief of staff.

Additionally Cuomo declared that he would not support increases in personal, corporate or sales taxes despite the state's large deficit. There were two minor fee increases expected to raise \$19.5 million. Cuomo proposed a horse racing purse surcharge of 2.75 percent and an increase in an unexplained "clearance registrar fee," to \$60 from \$5. These measures are expected to raise \$19.5 million.

Moreover, the New York State Budget will also have a significant impact on the City University of New York. According to the Governor Cuomo's website, "The 2011-2012 Executive Budget proposes a devastating cut of 10 percent to CUNY, which is already reeling from three straight years of budget reductions. If enacted, the budget proposal would jeopardize academic quality and access to higher education, and would wreak havoc on already-underfunded campuses."

Moreover, according to the article "Governor Cuomo's 2011-12 Executive Budget Provides Transformation Plan for a

New York" from Governor Cuomo's website:

"The 2011-12 Executive Budget will continue to bleed CUNY. CUNY's senior colleges are cut by \$70 million on a State Fiscal Year basis, which increases to \$83.2 million when applied on an academic year basis. In addition, an \$11.9 million cut that carries over from the state's current-year deficit reduction is proposed for a total state aid impact on CUNY's senior colleges of \$91.5 million."

The budget cut to CUNY and community colleges across the State is estimated at \$46.3 million on a fiscal year basis, which increases to \$62 million on an academic year basis. This represents a \$226 cut per full-time equivalent student lowering the level of state base aid funding from \$2,260 per student to \$2,034 per student.

While there is no doubt that our state continues to face enormous fiscal challenges, our higher education affiliates are deeply concerned over the continuous deep cuts to public higher education that are proposed in the 2011-12 Executive Budget.

It is obvious that everyone must sacrifice their fair share to enable the State to get through this economic crisis. However, when you look at the numbers, public higher education has paid more than its fair share during the last three years and in fact, has

Continued on page 5

# STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF:  
BRIAN GONZALEZ

CO-MANAGING EDITORS:  
THOMAS BRIGANDI, RAMSES MARTINEZ, & JUSTIN SARACHIK

BUSINESS EDITOR:  
THOMAS BRIGANDI

COPY EDITOR:  
SABINA MAMEDOVA

LIFESTYLES EDITOR:  
LEEOR BRONIS

OPINION EDITOR:  
MICHAEL MILEY

PHOTO EDITOR:  
SUNDAS NAZIR

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR:  
ANDREW DILORENZO

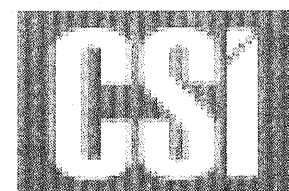
SPORTS EDITORS:  
JAMES KINGSLEY & MARISSA PESSOLANO

SOCIAL MEDIA &  
TECHNOLOGIES MANAGER:  
VINCENT BALESTRIERE

CONTRIBUTORS:  
ALBERT G., VLADISLAV GRACH,  
MICHELLE MACDOUGALL, NICOLE  
MARESCA, LUCILA M. FARFAN-NAR-  
CISSE

STAFF:  
ALI ALASKARI, DALE  
FIORDBOTTEN, JAMES MARDIKOS

FACULTY ADVISOR:  
FREDERICK KAUFMAN



THE BANNER IS PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. ALL WORKS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THE PROPERTY OF THEIR CREATORS, AND ARE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW. NO MATERIALS WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRINTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN ANY FORM, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE EDITORS.

OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 2800 VICTORY BLVD., BUILDING 1C, ROOM 228, STATEN ISLAND, NY, 10314. OUR NEWS BUREAU CAN BE REACHED AT (718) 982-3116 OR BY E-MAILING OUR EDITOR (The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com) OR BY FAXING US AT 718 982-3087.

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION DIAL 718 982-3116.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY SHARED BY THE BANNER STAFF OR THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. THE BANNER IS NOT A PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND AND THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE BANNER.

Find Us On The Web:



@thebannercsi



thebannercsi.wordpress.com

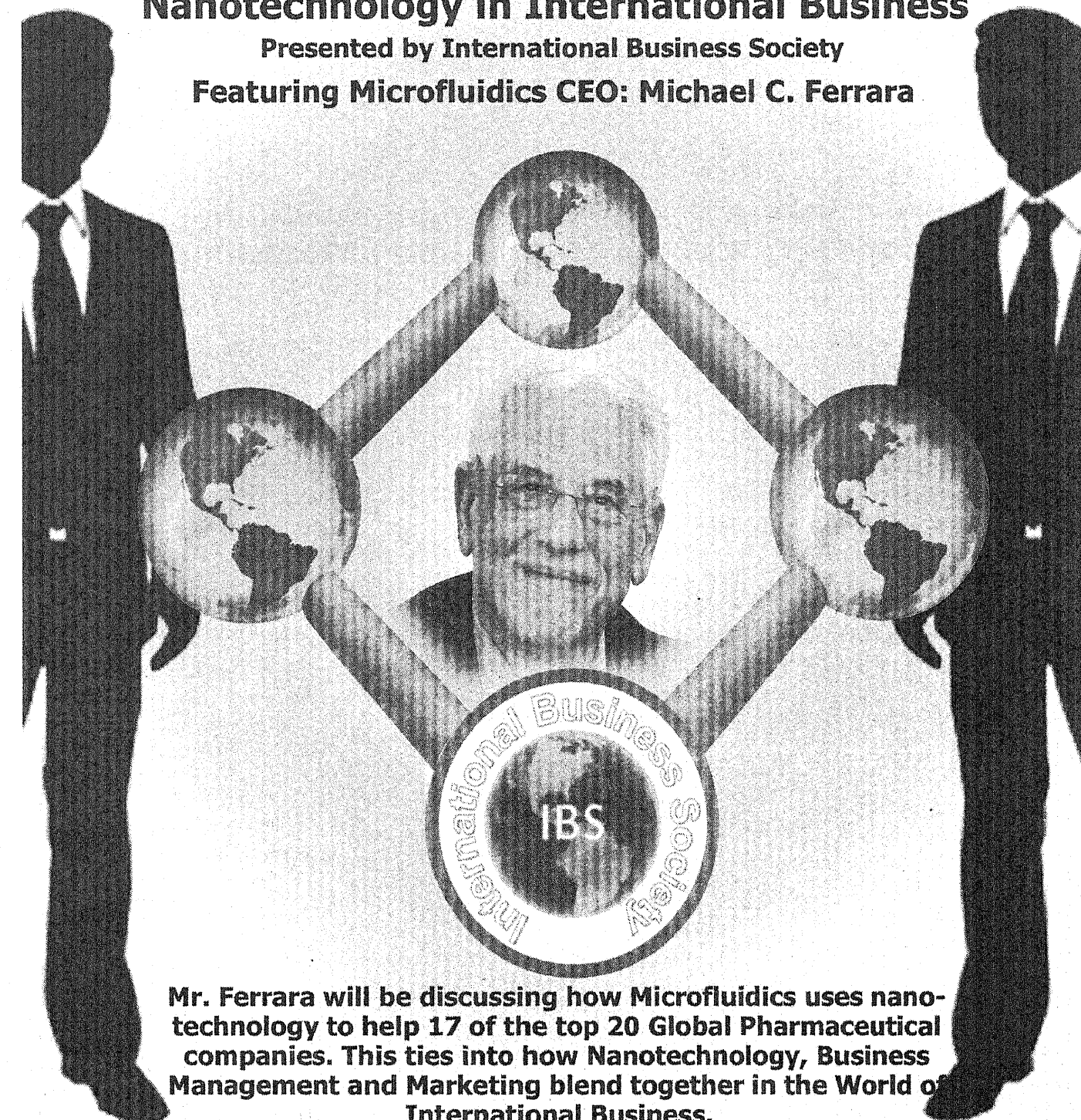
Public Service Announcement

# HIDDEN SCIENCE

## Nanotechnology in International Business

Presented by International Business Society

Featuring Microfluidics CEO: Michael C. Ferrara



Mr. Ferrara will be discussing how Microfluidics uses nanotechnology to help 17 of the top 20 Global Pharmaceutical companies. This ties into how Nanotechnology, Business Management and Marketing blend together in the World of International Business.

March 30th  
Room 3N-221 6pm to 8 pm  
Clue Certified

FUNDED BY STUDENT  
ACTIVITY  
FEES ★★

CSI CUNY

## Libya's Bloody Revolution

JAMES KINGSLEY

When one thinks of revolutions, people think of the American and French revolutions of the past. Now there are multiple major revolutions going on in the Middle East and North Africa, in countries such as: Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen and Bahrain. Yet there are also revolts/protests in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Jordan, Morocco and even Turkey. What does this all mean? It means that there is great change going on in the world and the only question remains, is it good or bad for the West?

The most troubling is the one in Libya as protestors call for the end of longtime Libyan dictator Khadafy's decade's long oppressive rule. In recent days the Libyan dictator has in some people's opinions declared war on his own people. He has ordered the military to shoot protesters that are challenging his rule, even going as far as to shoot them during a funeral. He's threatened to bomb the protesters using the air force and to blow up the oil reserves to keep his people from using them. By threatening the reserves he has already effected the markets in the United States in the midst of a weak economy. Oil prices are now heading towards \$100 a barrel however Saudi Arabia, one of the worlds largest oil

producers, has already pledged to increase production to offset Libya's lack of production. College student Joseph Monchik stated, "It's good that Saudi Arabia is helping, but if something like what's going on in Egypt and everywhere else in the Mideast happens to the Saudis, we are going to be looking at \$120-150 barrels of oil which will kill us cause then everything will go up higher than it already is."

There has been an outcry from the international community, namely NATO and the United Nations to help end the bloodshed by the use of force if necessary. While the calls for action by the international community and for Khadafy to step down peacefully is loud and clear, others have their views on the situation, Pittsburgh alum and history major Ryan B added his opinion, "Even if the United Nations, NATO and the United States get any resolution and decision for action in some way through the UN security council will deal with opposition from Russia and China because of their own crimes against humanity, but they also have oil deals with Libya." The fear is not only oil prices sky rocketing, but for the safety and well being of the Libyan people. "Just sucks really, we are living in tough times and this has to happen. We are going through tough times as it is. This crazy

Arab bastard just made it worse gas is going up, possibly another war and mad people are dying. It is a shame and scary the world we live in," student Justin Ragazzino explained. Many others feel for the Libyan people and call for some type of military action or no fly zones can be put in place in a nation, that has lost much of its government to defections and loss of control of the country due to Khadafy's actions and iron clad grip on it. Even Libya's fellow Muslim, African and Arab nations have condemned the actions of the nation's brutal dictator. The ever defiant Khadafy has blamed Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda for starting the protests. Nicholas Reyes explained his views on the matter, "The ongoing political unrest in Libya is having a tremendous effect on the stability of the North African region and could potentially drive further escalation between the civilian and tribal populations and the government. Libya, although only the 9th largest OPEC oil producing country, has seen a drastic reduction in oil production since the onset of the conflict. Due to diminished output, their close proximity to the Suez Canal, and the instability of the region, the conflict has had a tremendous affect on global oil prices. Despite the recent normalized relations between the U.S. and Libya, U.S. officials should support the overthrow of the current government and provide resources to develop a new democratic government for the Libyan people. By supporting a new democratic Libyan government,

the U.S. can gain a new ally in a very contentious region, further ensuring the elimination of known terrorist groups previously harbored by Libya." While no one really knows for sure the outcome of how any of these historical events will unfold. The one hope is that it is for the better and a safer world. Thankfully, the United Nation's and the United States has placed sanctions, arms embargo, frozen assets and travel bans into Libya and on Libyan government officials. They are also looking to charge Khadafy with war crimes for his actions against humanity. Hopefully ending or at least stopping the bloodshed that would come out of the possible civil war that Libya seems to be on the brink of entering. Yet the thought that speaks loudly is that of Sal DeGrado's comment which puts it best, "I think America should concentrate on its own oil and gas reserves. I think we should start drilling here. If we don't prices of oil is going to hit \$150 a barrel and we can only hope who ever takes over all of these nations that are in unrest will be US and Western friendly. Because if the Islamic Radicals take over, we are in for a long struggle. Also if the United States doesn't stop pushing policies down our throat we are going to start protesting."

"What Once Was Old Becomes New Again"  
Continued from the front page

processes and it is rewarding to pass it on to my students and to see how they use them," Professor Frocheur said.

By creating this Historical and Alternative processes class, she realized that it would not be for everyone, but felt it was for any student that was looking for new avenues of expression and new ways of making creative work. Along with the historical connection to past photographic processes Frocheur has implemented a real physical connection for her students as well.

Her students have created pinhole cameras using old and worn coffee cans and discarded shoe boxes. Photography students have also learned how to create images with a 4x5 large format camera and developed and processed their own film. By learning the origins of this medium, it brings the students back to the 18th century.

Professor Beatrix Reinhardt, head of the Photography department at the College of Staten Island, recommended and advocated the Alternative and Historical processes class.

"All these processes deepen as well as bring into context what photography is truly all about," said Reinhardt.

After a very successful workshop conducted by Frocheur, the Photography department decided the Alternative and Historical processes class was vital in providing a deep-

er knowledge of photography. The class became a permanent fixture in course offerings for all photographic students in the Fall of 2006.

Professor Nichole Frocheur has had many years experience handling and working with the chemicals involved with these alternative processes. Oftentimes she has realized that these processes can be very time-consuming and producing inconsistent results. Frocheur has witnessed that students that enjoy working with their hands and that have possessed a greater appreciation of the craft of art have experienced a greater level of satisfaction and success in her classes.

She has cautioned photography students that they should not be afraid of a challenge and not to expect immediate gratification.

"This class is for students that want to take the road less travelled and that are willing to explore," Frocheur said.

According to Frocheur her students while learning more about historical processes also have discovered more pieces about themselves and have developed a stronger work ethic.

Alexandra Hunt, a photography major said, "It rocks! I want to learn as much as possible about photography."

The ultimate and final goal for her students that have taken the class is having created a body of work that is implementing at least one of the learned processes.

The students are encouraged to utilize their newly acquired skills in alternative



Photo By: Lucia M. Barina-Norris

A small darkroom is ready for students to begin developing.

processes creatively by producing a personally fulfilling project. Photographically speaking, alternative and historical processes is a process, a series of experiments by trial and

error. The end results may be inconsistent but thrilling and beautiful.

Professor Frocheur said, "Things that are worthwhile...take time."

"An Amazing Professor Who Loves Teaching Math"  
Continued from the front page

classes. He thinks small classes are very important because he can become more familiar with the students. Mr. Yousef also believes that small classes will make it easier to help the students individually and see the students progressing.

Mr. Yousef prepares his lessons before each class, and writes down notes for himself. These notes help him remember the key points he wanted to express to his class. He begins the class with a review of the homework and the work they covered previously from the past couple of days.

Mr. Yousef said as a young boy coming to America he was shy and never spoke unless

spoken to. When he had questions in school he used to never ask then because he thought it would be a dumb question. He said "Always ask questions, nothing is a dumb question". He thinks that it's extremely important to ask questions before you get push behind a lesson. He doesn't mind answering questions or even explaining a problem over again as long as you understand it.

Mr. Yousef said he encourages his students to have a format and should stick to it. There should be at least two hours of review and studying at home. "A format like that never fails."

When talking to one of Professor Yousef's students Christina Raspante, a student at C.S.I, she began telling me about his math

class. "Math is my worst subject, there are so many numbers it's very confusing", she said.

Miss Raspante believes that Professor Yousef is a great teacher. He breaks down his work in a way that the students understand it. Professor Yousef goes over each problem until the students understand it and encourages us to raise our hands and ask questions.

Miss Raspante said "I came into this class saying it's too hard I won't pass, but professor Yousef made me have a different outlook about math, I enjoy it"

Miss Raspante is now understanding the math and asking questions when not understanding it. "I guess math is not as bad after all" Miss. Raspante said.

"Pell Grants Face Cuts In Budget Proposal"  
Continued from the front page

representatives, voicing his concerns about H.R.1, as negotiations are under way. Goldstein has been urging students, parents and faculty of the CUNY community to write letters via SupportCuny.com to United States Senators, asking them to reject reduction of maximum PELL awards and cutting of other vital financial aid programs. "We encourage students to be activists," Marius said. "When the faculty and the students are opposed and act together, it is never a bad thing."

"Life After The Military"  
Continued from the front page

lives.

As for changes, "We help the veterans get from point A to point B," Colon said "I would like to help the veterans become more independent." Colon would like to show the veteran students how to use Esims and degree audit. "This way they won't have to rely on us," Colon said.

Abbas Malik, an active member in the United States Army and student in the veteran's educational transition services program at CSI, feels the program doesn't need changes but improvements in awareness.

"I would like more promotions to inform veterans how much we have to offer," Malik

said. "Through this escalated level of awareness, we wish to build a foundation upon which student vets may meet and interact with one another. Our ultimate goal is enabling student veterans to not only get a degree but to assist them in their readjustment back to the civilian sector."

When another Army veteran arrived at the office, there were jokes all around on which branch of the military is better. "If I had to do it all over again I would," Colon said "I would recommend it to anyone."



Photo By: Michelle Macdougall

"New York State Fiscal Year 2012 Budget"  
Continued from the page 2

been disproportionately cut compared to any other state operations.

Besides, many are deeply concerned over the proposed cuts to our community colleges. Does cutting community college base aid at a time when they are experiencing record enrollments make sense? Do cuts make sense especially during a time of high unemployment when the opportunity for retraining and acquiring additional skills has become imperative? Is making the entry point to a higher education for hundreds of thousands of people less accessible because campuses are forced to cap enrollment a wise decision?

It is clear that many in Albany have forgotten the important role that our higher education institutions have played in the history of our great nation and state. History has taught us that significant investments in higher education have a positive impact on our economy.

In conclusion, we (as CUNY students) fully understand the state's fiscal situation and we are not asking for increases in operating aid to CUNY. We are only asking to stop the bleeding of these institutions. We are asking for restoration of the Executive Budget cuts given the disproportionate cuts levied to CUNY in prior years and given the important roles that CUNY plays in providing business and industry with a highly educated, skilled and trained workforce. Cuts to higher education are counterproductive and will only hurt our state's economic success.

Budgets are all about priorities. It's time to make CUNY a priority in this State, even in the face of fiscal crisis.

## Politics Are Never Just Politics

VLADISLAV GRACH

Politics are never just politics. To people like Kyle Jeremiah, politics is life. "It's how we interact with each other," he said, "how we manage our economy." His passion began all the way back in his home in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at a tiny desk. In June of 2010, he started working with the Trinidad Guardian newspaper. "Initially I was on general desk writing press releases," he said, "but eventually I began writing for the political desk."

During his employment with the political desk of the Trinidad Guardian he attended press conferences with key political representatives. He reported on critical political issues. He discussed key issues with Keith Rowley, opposition leader with the People's National Movement. "Warmly referred to as PNM," said Kyle Jeremiah, grinning. He also interviewed 3 generations of Prime Ministers like Basdea Panday, Patrick Manning, and current Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

In 2007, he covered the 3 way general election between the PNM (People's national movement), the UNC (The United National Congress), and the COP (Congress of the People). After the election, he got to go to the losing parties' main headquarters. Some of Kyle Jeremiah's most significant political trials happened at The Red House and White Hall in Trinidad and Tobago. He remembers many press conferences and meetings that took place at the countries parliamentary building. "Generally, there were a lot



Photo Submitted By: Vladislav Grach

of issues discussed at each of the conferences," he said.

On May 1st he covered the 2008 Post cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's official office. The White Hall meeting was held to discuss Keith Rowley's accusations of corruption and correction charges. In addition, another issue discussed was Rowley's relationship with UDeCOTT (The Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago).

His most recent interview was at the Marriott Marquis hotel in Times Square, New York. In August of 2010, he interviewed current Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, 3 months after she won her election. When he interviewed her, Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister was in New York City on a 10 day visit. A really important stage in Kyle Jeremiah's entire political career was when he reported on the 2008-2009 budget debates. "They had a marathon session of parliament," said Kyle, "and during the session they (Former Prime Minister Patrick Manning and Keith Rowley) had a huge argument."

Kyle Jeremiah was in his element. Two of the top dogs in Trinidad were barking at each other. Tensions rose and nasty insults started

flying. He was there to witness the entire thing unfold. "At the time of the argument I was too concentrated on doing my job to think about what was happening," he said, "But, in the aftermath, I was really disappointed ... given, we had many things to address about the country," with a slight raise in tone of voice, he continued. "Because they were arguing and bickering instead of solving critical issues, the government collapsed some time later," he said in a significantly higher tone than his last, "That argument was the beginning of the end for that party."

It's moments like these that really make a Trinidadian like Kyle Jeremiah proud. They are the moments that helped to mold him into who he is today. "I think his experience in Trinidad gave him the confidence to pursue the position of News Director at WSIA," said Philip Masciantonio, General Manager at WSIA, where Kyle currently holds news directorship. His plans for the future are clear. Kyle Jeremiah is pursuing a degree in international studies. Eventually, he wants to go back to Trinidad and get involved with the government there. "It's something I'm willing to do," he said.

## Saudi Man Charged With Planned Terrorist Attack

MARISSA PESSOLANO

Saudi Arabian college student, Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari, has been arrested by the FBI for allegedly planning a terrorist attack on the United States. Aldawsari was in possession of explosive chemicals and had plans to attack targets such as dams, nuclear power plants, and the Dallas home of former President George W. Bush. He recently appeared in federal court and pleaded guilty.

The 20-year-old student was reportedly inspired by 9/11 speeches given by Osama Bin Laden, leading him to spend years planning his own attack on the United States. The plot included the use of explosives placed in dolls and baby carriages strategically placed near landmarks in New York City. Numerous other locations such as a power plant in Colorado were named. The FBI learned of the plot on February 1st, when a chemical company, Carolina Biological Supply of Burlington, N.C. reported a suspicious \$435 order. According to court records, Aldawsari's other online orders were traced,

in addition to his computer and personal journal.

One purchase Aldawsari had made included: concentrated nitric acid and concentrated sulfuric acid. These chemicals combined together, make the explosive, trinitrophenol, also known as, TNP. In addition to the chemicals, the FBI also found beakers, flasks, wiring, a Hazmat suit and clocks.

It has been released by recent court documents that in his journal, Aldawsari's wrote of plans to travel to New York City and place bombs in rental cars for detonation during rush hour. "Now, after mastering the English language, learning how to build explosives and continuous planning to target the infidel Americans," Aldawsari allegedly wrote. A Dallas nightclub was also a possible target, as Aldawsari thought about filling a backpack with explosives. It was found that he had been typing phrases such as "can you take a backpack into a nightclub" into Google search.

There was no proof that Aldawsari had any formal training or that he had an accomplice. Aldawsari was legally in the country on



Photo Taken From: nydailynews.com

Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari

a student visa, studying chemical engineering at Texas Tech University before transferring to nearby college to study business. It is still unclear as to if Aldawsari was capable of assembling the explosives and carrying out the attacks. Nevertheless, "do-it-yourself" terrorists are much more capable of flying below the radar.

Assistant Attorney General Kris comment-

ed, "...Thanks to the efforts of many agents, analysts and prosecutors, this plot was thwarted before it could advance further. This case serves as another reminder of the need for continued vigilance both at home and abroad."

Aldawsari has been charged with attempted use of mass destruction. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted.

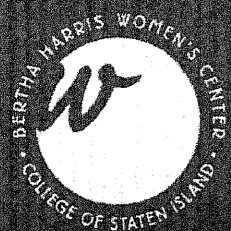
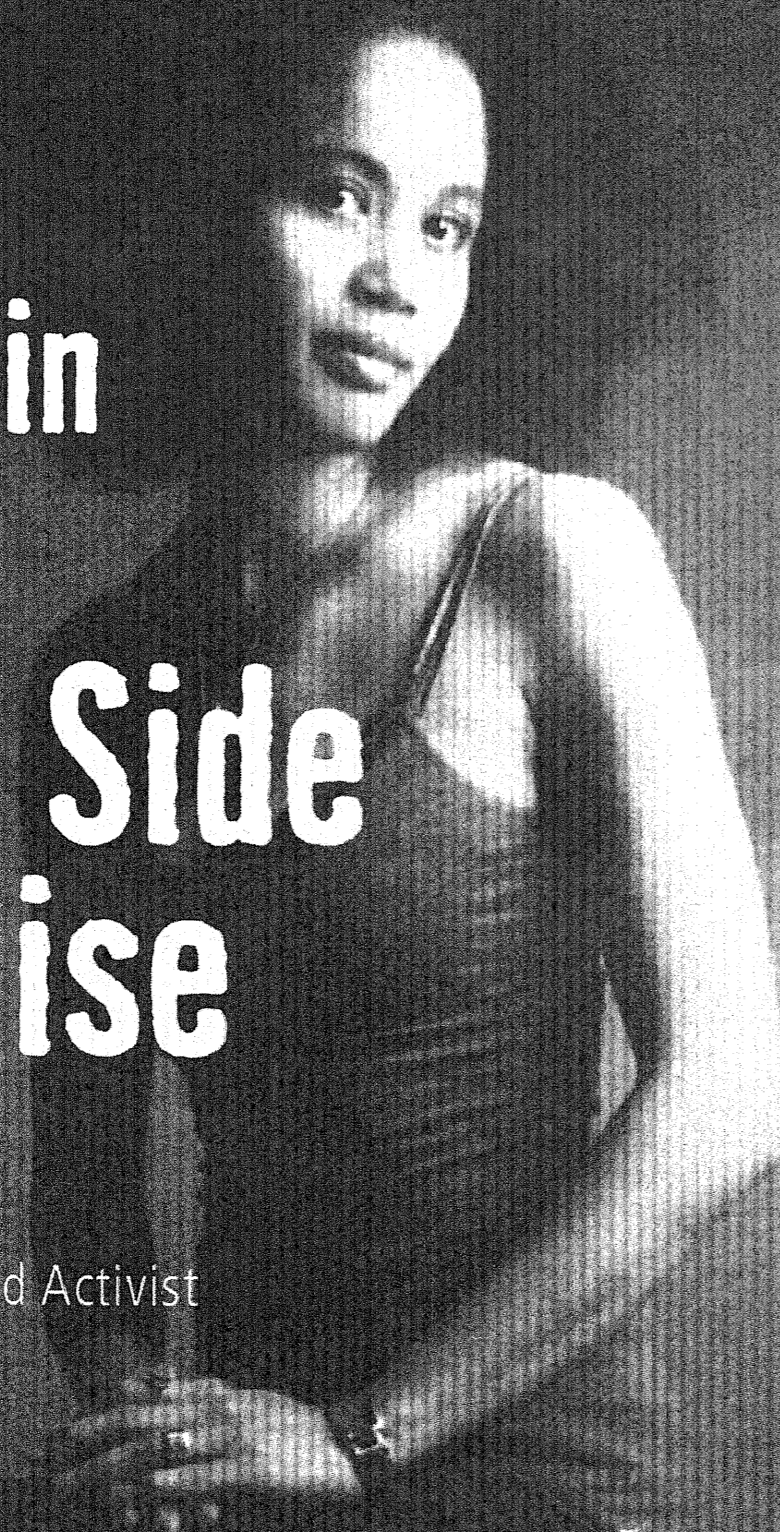
# THE BERTHA HARRIS WOMEN'S CENTER PRESENTS

## Staceyann Chin

in

# The Other Side of Paradise

Award-Winning  
Slam Poet, Author, Actress, and Activist



Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 6:30pm  
Williamson Theatre, Center for the Arts (1P)

COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND 2800 Victory Boulevard Staten Island, New York 10314



College of Staten Island  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS - OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

2011 Leadership Conference

# ONE WORLD, MANY DIFFERENCES

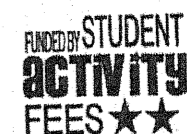
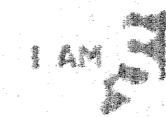


# APRIL 1, 2011

8:30am - 4:30pm  
CSI Center for the Arts (1P)

## REGISTER NOW!

CSI Home Page [www.csi.cuny.edu](http://www.csi.cuny.edu) under **UPCOMING EVENTS**  
or Office of Student Life, Campus Center (1C), Room 201 for information and registration forms



For more information about this event or other leadership programs at the College of Staten Island, please call (718) 982-3088 or email [studentlife@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:studentlife@csi.cuny.edu).

## ARE YOU READY TO LEAD?

# SEX AND THE ISLAND

## All the wrong reasons

ALBERT G.

Why is it that when it comes to relationships we sometimes choose to fool ourselves into believing that things will work out with enough time and effort? If you find that you're in a relationship that's going nowhere isn't it at that point that you need to move on? These are two questions that people ask themselves when it is already too late.

In my case, I had to find myself asking this question a few times. The first time was with someone who I thought I loved, but the longer we were together the more I wanted to be apart. There were things that at first there were simple things that I could overlook such as distance and our situations. At the time she was going to Rutgers and I was here at CSI. It's not like we were far from each other and we would always talk both online and on the phone. So we made sure that we made time for each other despite our busy schedules. We would alternate meeting in Jersey and in Manhattan. For a while things were going well and within three months it started going downhill.

Things between us were alright, but it felt like something was missing. About a month later we started talking less and we were both

busy because I was in the middle of midterms and she was on break. Then we met up one night in early November. We spent the day together and things were going well. I had gotten my bonus check from work so I bought her a giant stuffed panda because it was her favorite animal. We went to the movies and we had dinner. Everything just seemed to be going right.

**"Everything started out well and there were no problems. We did everything right, right? It was then I came to realize that I didn't love her. I cared about her, but there was no love."**

Then we went for a walk in the park nearby holding hands, which led to kissing and hugging. We had to keep it a little subtle because there were still kids around with their parents. As we drove off we didn't take our usual route back to her place. She eventually parked in what appeared to be a quiet street where there were a few lights on in surrounding homes as it was close to 1 am.

So we begin to continue where we left off. She leaned in close to me and I to her as we started kissing. I started to slide my hands through her shirt as I started to caress her breasts and she responded by sliding her hands down my jeans as she proceeded on caressing something else. She then took her hands back out and began to unzip my jeans... you pretty much can figure what happened next, right? That's what I thought until out of no where just simply the thought of her and what she was going to do disgusted the hell out of me. It wasn't so much what she was going to do. It was the fact that 'she' was doing it. At this point I'm thinking, "What the hell is wrong with me?" I mean really who turns down a blowjob? Well this guy did. It was then I realized that this was a defense mechanism kicking in. While I have to admit it wasn't one of my proudest moments it was one of those decisions I can't really regret. After two weeks later we broke up. If you're wondering, she went to school out of state and is currently dating someone who has the same first name as me. We kept talking for a while, but eventually we cut ties and moved on with our lives.

For a while I tried to figure out what made me unhappy being with her. Everything started out well and there were no problems. We did everything right, right? It was then I came to realize that I didn't love

**"we sometimes choose to fool ourselves into believing that things will work out with enough time and effort? If you find that you're in a relationship that's going nowhere isn't it at that point that you need to move on?"**

her. I cared about her, but there was no love. I found that I was with her to be in a relationship. Call me old fashioned, but if there's anything in life worth having you need to put in your energy, time, and work towards it. My heart wasn't in it and I ended up wasting both her time and mine. So the next time something doesn't feel right it most likely isn't. I'm not saying don't turn down freebees, but if you think you love someone you better make sure. There are plenty of women and chances at redemption, but you can't get back the time you wasted being in a relationship for all the wrong reasons.

*If you have any questions or need relationship advice, or just a comment in general, email the sex columnist at [the.Banner.csi@gmail.com](mailto:the.Banner.csi@gmail.com)*

# BANNER LIFESTYLES

## The Show Must Go On

CHRISTINE COLON

The end of Milan fashion week brought about controversy when head designer of fashion power house Christian Dior, John Galliano, was arrested on charges of anti-Semitism.

The incident occurred in a Paris café early in March; an intoxicated Galliano reportedly had a verbal dispute with a young couple after the woman made a negative comment towards Galliano's work. Galliano allegedly lashed back with a remark about her appearance and her Jewish background.

Almost immediately following the allegations, Galliano was suspended and ultimately fired from his position with Dior after a video of him claiming that he "loves Hitler," went viral. In response to this, face of Dior and Jerusalem born actress Natalie Portman said, "I am deeply shocked and disgusted by the video of John Galliano's comments that surfaced today. In light of this video, and as an individual who is proud to be Jewish, I will not be associated with Mr. Galliano in any way." She went on to say, "I hope at the very least, these terrible comments remind us to reflect and act upon com-



Photo Submitted By: Christine Colon  
John Galliano, former Head Designer for Christian Dior

bating these still-existing prejudices that are the opposite of all that is beautiful." Portman has removed herself from Dior, and chose to wear Rodarte at this year's Oscars.

Karl Lagerfeld, head designer for Chanel, also spoke out about the Galliano incident. "The image is around the world. It is a horri-

ble image of fashion because they think every designer and everything in fashion is like this," he said. "We are a business world where, especially today with the internet, one has to be more careful than ever - especially if you are a publicly known person." Although sympathy is given from celebrity friends such as Kate Moss, it is agreed among the industry that this was the appropriate decision for Dior to make. With the support of friends and family, Galliano checked into an Arizona rehab facility for alcohol abuse.

So what's in store for Dior's future? Talk of a replacement designer is flying around, but there is no conformation yet on who will take Galliano's place. Though many feared for the front row at this year's Paris AW'11 fashion show, Galliano's collection went on the runway without his presence and received a tearful standing ovation. CEO Sidney Toledano spoke to an audience of around 1000 who gathered at the show that morning, stating, "What has happened over the last week has been a terrible and wrenching ordeal us all ... It has been deeply painful to see the Dior name associated with the disgraceful statements attributed to its designer, however brilliant he may be." Toledano went on to say, "Such statements are intolerable because of our collective duty to never forget the Holocaust and its victims, and because of the

respect for human dignity that is owed to each person and to all peoples." Galliano's collection for the AW presentation will historically be his last with Christian Dior.

Galliano was, and still is, recognized as bringing life back into the Dior fashion house. His Haute Couture collection is recognizably the presentation that saved Dior from slipping under the radar in terms of fashion power-houses. With Galliano out of the picture, it's hard to say whether or not the Christian Dior name will falter or flourish. As for Galliano's independent work, his fragrance has already been removed from Bloomingdale shelves in Canada, and there is no word as to whether LVMH, who owns a portion of numerous companies in the fashion industry, will let go of Galliano's collection as well.

The immediate future for John Galliano, 50, is yet to be determined. He is scheduled for trial June of this year in France. His lawyer, Stephane Zerbib, who happens to be of Jewish descent, says, "There are always those people who make a fuss but it's very easy to judge without knowing the case. I have no explanation. It could happen to any one of us. Anyone can go to a bar, drink a little and get into a fight with someone." Anti-Semitism is against French law, and if convicted, Galliano can serve up to six months in prison.

# BANNER ARTS

## Teenie Helps Inspire Teens To Make The Right Decisions

JUSTIN SARACHIK

"Teenie," written by Christopher Grant, is the story of a 14 year-old High School Freshman named Martine (Teenie). She has a loving family, annoying older brothers, and a handful of friends she hangs with. Things start to change, however, when she is noticed by the most popular boy in school, basketball player, Greg Millons.

Teenie goes through all the ups and downs of a normal teenage girl and then some. She grows up fast as her naive innocence comes to an end, and she learns that the world can be a scary place. There are moments of laughter, sadness, and even periods of anger as Grant makes you feel as if you are in the story.

Some of the topics aren't for the youngest of readers, but adult subject matter is referred to tastefully and PG rated. The book is based on everyday life, but most importantly, it teaches kids to not be afraid to talk or speak up when something is wrong.

Overall, Teenie is a great read from start to finish, and I'd recommend it for ages 13 and up.

At a recent reading, the author, Christopher Grant, took questions from students:

"Why go for a young adult book for your first novel?"

Grant- "I was asked to write a book, but was let down and pushed the book away for a few years. I took a writing class and showed the first two chapters to the class and they loved it."

Another student asked, "Why did you



write from the perspective of a young girl, and what gave you that experience?"

Grant- "I felt uniquely equipped to write from a woman's perspective. I was raised by my mother and three aunts. I learned a lot from listening to girls talk on the train, and from my niece. Just listen, dialogue is flying around."

Speaking of dialogue, Grant also wanted to make sure there was no use of the "N" word, or profanity. He wanted the language to be almost like you are talking to your parents, and that's exactly how you feel.

## Sex Therapy A CSI Story

RAMSES MARTINEZ

For many people, the day after Valentine's Day is often a day normally full of regrets, empty wallets and exhaustion. However this February, it was filled with the booming sound of laughter and camaraderie. Comedian, lecturer and radio personality Daniel Packard performed that Tuesday night in building 1C's Green Dolphin Lounge (GDL) to an animated and rambunctious crowd.

Walking into the GDL, there was a small crowd gathering for the start of the show. There was a feeling of muted cheer in the air as Daniel walked onto the stage. Initially, the audience seemed to only half listen to Packard's numerous quips and jokes but rather quickly, he managed to win over the crowd through his personality and charm. Opening with a quick Q&A session, Packard answered questions such as "Where are all the 'good' guys?" He quickly doled out advice to people who handed in the semi-anonymous questions, which were answered with a combination of good-natured jesting and thoroughness. Brimming with enthusiasm, Packard moved on to the meat of his show, attempting to induce change into the complicated dance of the sexes.

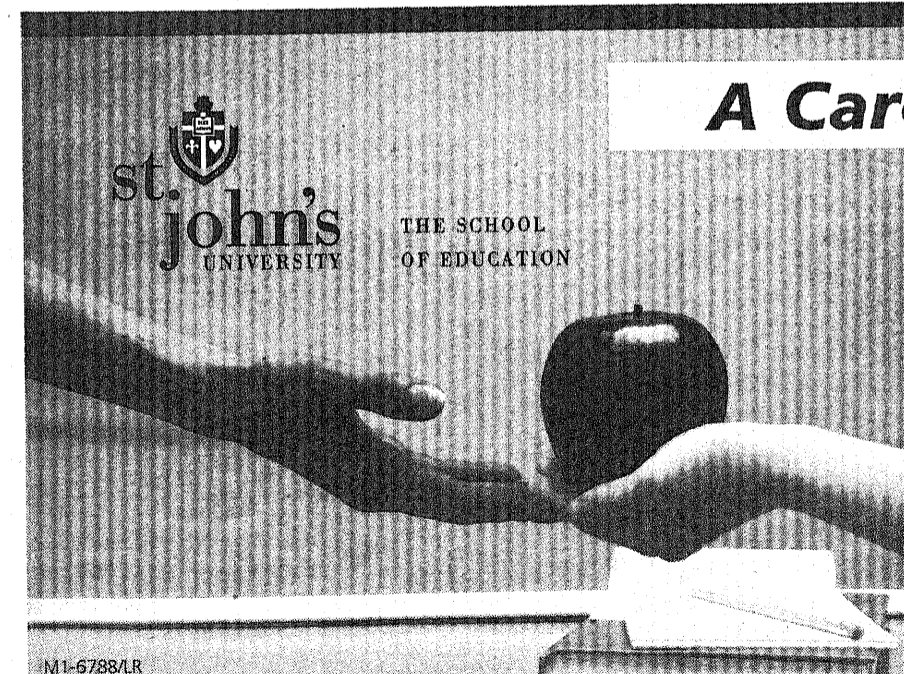
Beginning with women's issues, Daniel moved forward to ease their romantic difficulties. Using a combination of educating and chastising, he worked to soothe and inform the roused female guests with some fresh insights into their problems. He offered helpful tips such being more receptive of a guy's feelings and being less judgmental. While some women in the audience were less than thrilled with

his direct approach, others were more accepting of his methods. His rousing performance continued with the audience being deeply involved and appreciative with thunderous applause. After empowering the female spirit, he moved on to tackle the problems of those of the male persuasion.

Initially, the girls in the crowd were being lectured but now it was the men who were being humbled. He explained to the many guys present that one of their issues stemmed from their lack of confidence when around a pretty girl. He then brought several guest from the audience to the stage to act out small role reversal scenarios. Packard continued working toward inspiring greater male confidence by encouraging men to bring out their inner gorilla. Within a short while, he had all the men in the room grunting in unison with male pride and confidence. Even those who were initially skeptical were zealously joining in this mad chant.

As the show drew to a close, everyone who participated felt a little different. There were the men who were standing a little straighter and the women who had a little more understanding in their eyes. It is safe to say that the majority of the patrons thoroughly enjoyed the show and did not regret attending it. The next time Daniel Packard decides to have another show in CSI, it will most assuredly be just as humorous and fun as this one.

Paid Advertisement



## A Career in Education is Within Reach

In order to make it easier for graduates to transition into teaching and counseling careers — fields in which future jobs appear more promising than other sectors — we offer programs to prepare educators in areas of highest need.

As a college graduate, you may qualify for a full-salaried teaching position after one year of part-time study through our **ACCELERATED Career Change program**. And for those who are teacher certified, consider enhancing your credentials through our many other Education programs.

Courses available on **Queens, Staten Island, Oakdale and Manhattan.**

For more information, please call: **1 (877) STJ-7589, ext. 5122**, or visit us at [www.stjohns.edu/stj/edgrad](http://www.stjohns.edu/stj/edgrad)

The Campus Activities Board *presents*

AN EVENING WITH

# TO WRITE LOVE ON HER ARMS★

CONVERSATION: PAIN, HOPE, QUESTIONS AND COMMUNITY

## Wednesday, March 30, 2011



**FOUNDING MEMBER**  
**FOUNDER JAMIE WORKOWSKI**  
Q&A TO FOLLOW

TICKETS: CSI Students: FREE (at door \$2.00)  
Non-CSI students: \$5.00 (at door \$7.00)  
Tickets available at the CFA Box Office, 718.982.ARTS  
or in the Office of Student Life, Campus Center (1C), Room 201

TWLOHA.COM

Event sponsored by the Campus Activities Board, Office of Student Life  
Funded through Student Activity Fees

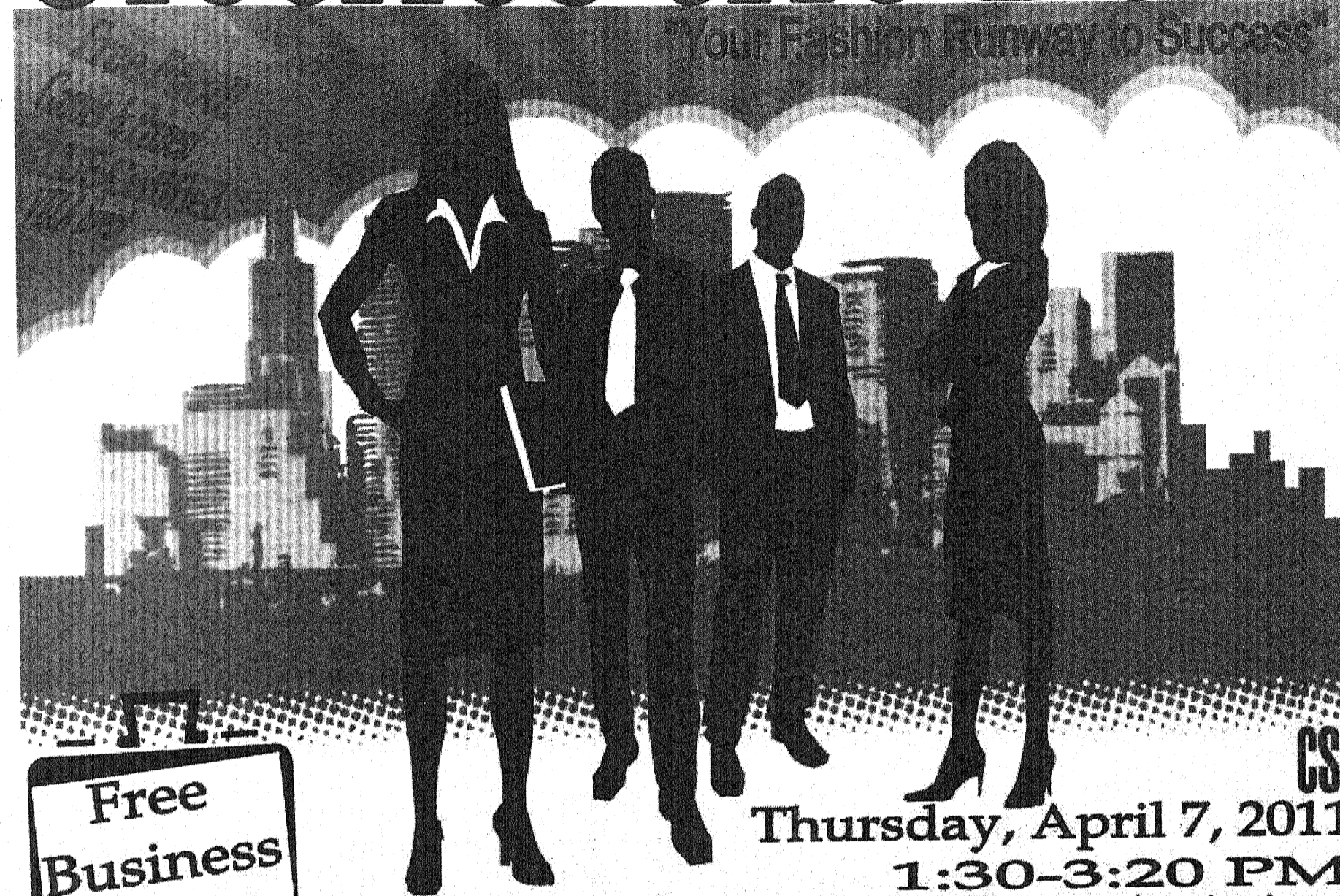
For more information contact Debi Kee, (718) 982-3268 or email [debi.kee@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:debi.kee@csi.cuny.edu)



STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES ★★

# Clothes the Deal

Your Fashion Runway to Success



Free Business Attire!

Thursday, April 7, 2011

1:30-3:20 PM

1P (Center for the Arts) - Atrium

For More Info: 1A-105, 718-982-2300

Sponsored by the Career and Scholarship Center, Division of Student Affairs

## Evaluations Are A Farce

### ANONYMOUS

I am a student at CSI and will keep my name hidden to ensure there is no retaliation against me from the administration or faculty. The evaluations that are conducted every semester by the students of their instructors are a farce. The students write crazy things about the instructors, i.e. calling them racists or junkies and the instructors never get a chance to respond.

The evaluations are brought to the instructor's departments and reviewed. Now here is what happens if the department likes the instructor, they pull the bad evaluations out and submit the good ones. If they do not like the instructor, they leave in the bad ones

and could possible hold it against the instructor and not rehire them or give them a bad evaluation.

They do not call the instructors in for a conference to discuss the allegations each time that there is a bad rating. Either the instructor get canned or reprimanded and the student gets their way or they just disregard the students comments and let this charade continue, even if the allegations could be true. Check out some of the department practices, i.e. History, Core, English.

This is not only cheating the instructors out of their constitutional right to defend themselves, but it is also cheapening the entire institution of higher education by not educating the students about moral character. I would like you to share this with the CSI community and let them see what is really going on, the deterioration of a once lovely College.

*"Major League Baseball Team Preview"*  
Continued from the back page

of Oliver Perez and Luis Castillo, however, it may not happen until the end of the year.

**Philadelphia Phillies:** The Phillies are a favorite to win it all with the best rotation in baseball. The addition of Cliff Lee, helps them out big time and the departure of Jayson Werth will hurt the offense but not significantly.

### NL Central:

**Chicago Cubs:** The Cubs added Matt Garza and Carlos Pena to help their pitching and offense out. Otherwise, this team is not that good. They have some decent offensive producers and their pitching can be erratic, but if Carlos Zambrano is able to produce at a high level

like he had done in 2004-7 then the Cubs could make some noise.

**St. Louis Cardinals:** The big story is of course the Albert Pujols contract negotiations. Whether or not it causes a distraction remains to be seen. The team has a pretty good offensive power unit with Pujols and Holiday at the top, and a solid pitching staff with Chris Carpenter and Adam Wainwright.

### NL West:

The Giants, Dodgers and Padres will battle it out for the division. The Rockies and Diamondbacks could make noise but need strong seasons to do so. The teams will play and it can be seen whether or not any moves made in the off season has helped them. If not there is always the always exciting trade deadline to see what will happen next to every team in MLB.

# BANNER SPORTS

## How Do We Know What's True Anymore?

JAMES MARDIKOS

However, if you were following this saga on the social media sites Twitter and Facebook, it was unbelievable how many rumored deals were done involving Carmelo Anthony. Apparently Carmelo was traded to the New Jersey Nets, then the Knicks. Then he was going to stay in Denver, then the Los Angeles Lakers got involved, then it was the Nets again where reports were that the deal was done. Ultimately and finally he was traded to the Knicks (again).

The Carmelo saga is surely not the only situation that has grown into a behemoth as a result of Twitter and Facebook. These websites have created a domain where just about anybody can make up anything and it will grow legs. A lot of sport journalists who have claimed that their "sources" have indicated these rumors to them and then people like us run with it.

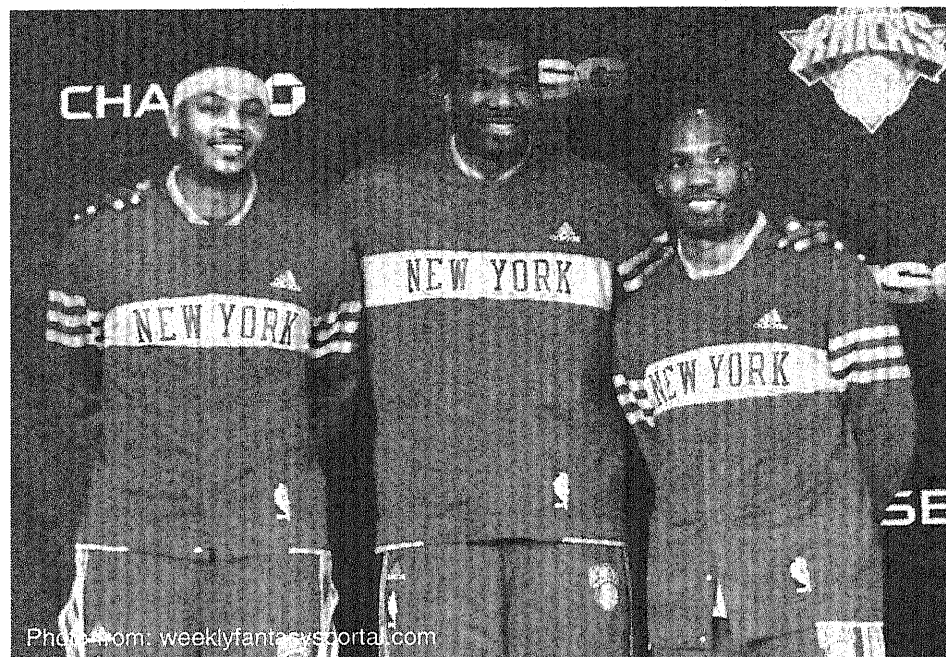
Another example would be from this past summer during the whole LeBron James free agency fiasco. If you recall the day before LeBron was to announce his decision, someone began a rumor that LeBron was seen in New York City leaving

a restaurant with Amare' Stoudemire and Allan Houston. Of course that led to a million or so tweets and Facebook status's from Knick fans that believed that LeBron was coming to New York. Which wasn't the case as he of course "took his talents to South Beach."

Cliff Lee, Carl Crawford, and Jayson Werth, this past winter's top three baseball free agents were also all rumored to be going to an assortment of different teams. Cliff Lee was either staying with the Texas Rangers or cashing in with the New York Yankees. Carl Crawford was supposedly signed, sealed and delivered to play in California with the Angels and Jayson Werth was a lock to be the right-handed compliment to left hand hitting Adrian Gonzalez in Boston for the Red Sox.

None of those rumors, which were all over ESPN, Twitter and Facebook evolved. Lee shocked everyone and signed with the Phillies. Crawford bolted for Boston and Jayson Werth caught a huge payday from of all teams, the Washington Nationals.

Journalism has really evolved over the years. It used to be a mortal sin for any journalist to report something without proof



Andy Pettite Announcing Hi Retirement

that it was rock solid. Think back to the old "Watergate" scandal with President Nixon, those Washington Post reporters needed to have full proof supporting their findings. They could not just release these allegations based on "their sources."

We see it all the time on ESPN. People saying that their "sources indicate" or "reports are." Next thing you know it's all over Twitter and Facebook just like a game of telephone and the rumors continue to grow legs.

Just a day after the Carmelo deal, we

saw the New Jersey Nets acquire All-Star point guard Deron Williams from the Utah Jazz for the same package that was supposed to have gotten them Carmelo.

It's almost come to the point where if you've heard any rumors regarding some sort of deal, or signing. Then chances are... it's probably not going happen.

## Major League Baseball Team Preview

JAMES KINGSLEY

Football has ended, and now the start of the Baseball season is approaching with Spring Training underway as all of the teams are gearing up for the new season. Many of the major clubs in each division and league are hoping that their off season acquisitions and other moves pay off for them in the long run, with an eventual surprise trip to the World Series much like how the Texas Rangers and San Francisco Giants had done last year.

### American League Preview

#### AL East:

##### New York Yankees:

The Yanks are still recovering from last seasons' ALCS loss to the Rangers and a rough off-season with a short feud with star player Derek Jeter over his contract and their attempt to sign prized free agent Cliff Lee. The Yanks look to rebound this year, but they will have to do it without "Core Four" member Andy Pettite who has retired. Still an

offensive juggernaut with the likes of Alex Rodriguez, Mark Teixeira, Robinson Cano, Curtis Granderson and Derek Jeter looking for bounce back years and a hopefully healthy Jorge Posada look to keep the Yanks power formidable this year. The pitching may be a problem after CC Sabathia and Phil Hughes. AJ Burnett is not as good as his \$82 million makes him out to be. With Pettite retired, the team must now rely on rookies and older veterans, Bartolo Colon, and Freddy Garcia, to fill the void. The bullpen has always been shaky the last few years, but with the addition of former Met, Pedro Feliciano, and the always dependable veteran, Mariano Rivera, the Yanks should still be competitive.

##### Tampa Bay Rays:

The Rays have been rocked by free agent departures and cut payroll as well. The loss of Carl Crawford and Carlos Pena hurts the team offensively, while the loss of Matt Garza hurts the pitching staff. This team is not expected to do well this season, but the good news is they have plenty of draft picks to make them a contender again potentially.

#### Boston Red Sox:

The Red Sox have been a busy team this off season. They made a few huge splashes by trading for first baseman Adrian Gonzalez and then signed former Rays outfielder Carl Crawford. The offensive loss of Adrian Beltre may hurt, but the team's addition of Crawford and Gonzalez will surely make up for it. Pitching is not a problem. The Sox still have a solid rotation and a built up bullpen to help stave off any problems that the rotation may have this year. The Red Sox should be a force this year especially with the uncertainty surrounding the Yankees their rotation, and the return of their team at full health.

#### AL West:

##### Texas Rangers:

The Rangers are fresh off of their loss in the World Series to the Giants, with hopes of going back this year. The losses of Vladimir Guerrero and Cliff Lee, will hurt the team offensively and in the pitching areas. Yet the signing of Adrian Beltre, may help a little bit to make people forget about Guerrero. Without Lee there is no question that the Rangers may not be able to top the Yankees, but they can still surprise you with closer Neftali Feliz who now being inserted into the rotation. In addition, former D'Backs starter

Brandon Webb may surprise people if healthy and lucky.

#### AL Central:

Baseball fans all over can expect another Twins, White Sox and Tiger duel to the end with either the Twins or Sox being first. The Tigers are already struggling with the drinking problems from Miguel Cabrera and the Twins need to add more power to go along with good pitching. This is needed in order to beat the Yankees when it matters most. The Sox additions may give them a shot at the post season and the division. The Indians and Royals will plan for next season and the possible Albert Pujols sweepstakes.

### National League Preview

#### NL East:

##### New York Mets:

The Mets are a mess with the Bernie Madoff scheme still floating around and a need for someone to buy 20-25% of the team. Johan Santana is out until at least late May or June, and Carlos Beltran's bulky legs may not hold on in center field. Good news is they have a new general manager, manager, and lieutenant. They also may be ridding themselves