

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

CSI Tackles Boosting Pride & Involvement on Campus

Student Based Forums Look at Ways to Boost Campus Pride

BY JEREMY PASKER

A number of solutions were offered by CSI students to improve the sense of community on campus. The consensus around campus is community is the greatest motivator, and the lack of community is the primary reason for apathy and disconnect in the student body.

"The more pride you personally have in your school the more involved you become," said student Andrea Curry. "The more involved you become the more connected you feel."

James Ashley was one of several students invited to communicate directly to faculty on how best to go about inspiring community on campus.

"Now I am what you consider filled with Dolphin Pride but during my freshman year I was dormant. I didn't participate," said Ashley. "After joining the Emerging Leadership Program, I feel more connected to the school. I went beyond my comfort zone and connected with classmates I had never met before."

Another theme brought up during the student forums was whether it's possible to reach the unreachable or if it is a lost cause.

"The students are all separated into two groups, 'the doers' and 'the do nothings'," said Andrea Curry. "I feel connected as many others do because I am a doer. I think all the issues in regards to feeling connected land on school pride."

CSI Ambassador Nathasha Minoly wants faculty and staff to look further than central student campus publications and clubs when handing out leadership opportunities. Students occasionally need a push to take that first step.

"I always see the same faces participating in leadership events," said Minoly. "I hope that CSI continues to add on more new hues to its student body and to continue to push activities that create a coalition among different student bodies and faculty."

Direct recruitment and advertisement to students can go a long way to establish campus cohesion. Providing an open hand or a nurturing environment can ease those tensions and misconceptions of campus life.

"I feel like there are a lot of students who want to get their hands involved [with] cam-

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Loop Bus Service Restored Throughout Campus

Restoration Topped List of Improvements Wanted by Students

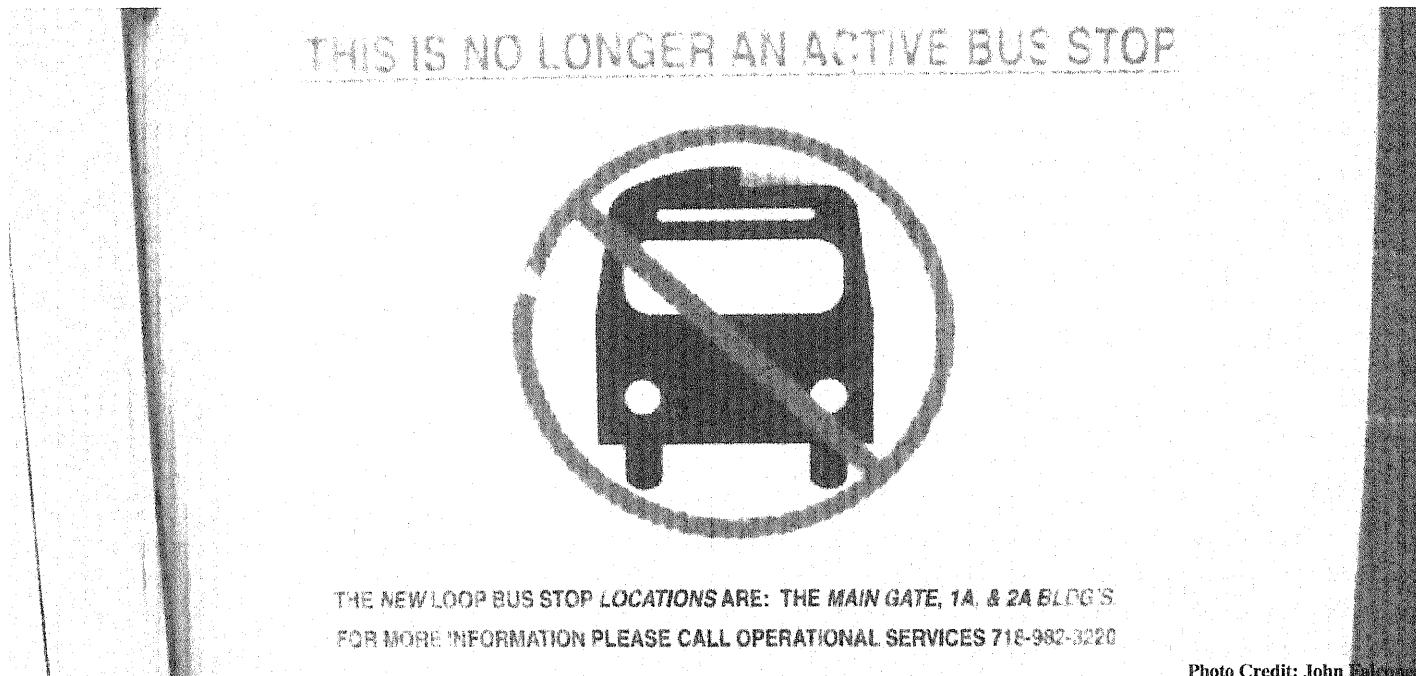


Photo Credit: John Falcone

The Loop Bus service was cut from traveling around campus to just two stops but the service has been fully restored

BY JOHN FALCONE

If walking through the snow and rain this winter left you fed up with the loop bus' shortened route, your voice has been heard. On Monday March 11, the loop bus returned to its previous route around the entire campus.

"I've had to walk from the bus stop all the way to 5N," said Computer Science major Jordan Torres, who was waiting for the S61 on Forest Hill Road. "It takes me 15 to 20 minutes to get to class."

Many students faced longer treks across

campus after the shortened loop bus route went into effect in July. Students who rode the S61 bus and entered through the Forest Hill Road entrance were affected the most.

"All of my classes are in 1R and 2N," said Freshman and user of the S61 Sonia Martinez. "It makes me so upset. It's crazy because I get to class late."

On February 28, Student Government gathered in the library to raise awareness for the current open nomination period and the upcoming elections. Resting on their table was a blank piece of paper for students to list

improvements, which they wanted to see Student Government work towards. On top of this list was the loop bus.

The Director of Operational Services who oversees the loop bus, Andrew Diaz, was willing to listen to the student body.

"I take all observations and suggestions and present them to the transportation task force," said Diaz. "We discuss viable solutions to problems."

Diaz explained that the task force is comprised of selected members of faculty, staff,

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Governor Cuomo Visits CSI in Last Minute Appearance

Lack of Space & Engagement Major Criticisms Surrounding Event

BY REBECCA DANIELS

Governor Cuomo announced last minute that he would be visiting the College of Staten Island on Monday, February 25. There was a lack of space for the audience, and students and faculty were left confused by the purpose of Cuomo's visit.

"I assumed it was going to be a question and answer session," said finance and economics student John-Michael Mon. "It turned out to be a public relations pitch for his campaign."

Faculty and students received a last minute email that instructed those who were interested in attending to reserve their spot immediately. A complaint from students and professors was the lack of space available for those who had reserved their spot.

"We were waiting outside for over a half

an hour and then we got put into the overflow room," said Anthony DiAngelo, a student who attended the forum with his Accounting 114 class. "We were all enthusiastic to be there and listen to what Governor Cuomo had to say but that changed fast when we had to watch it from a screen and we could barely tell who was who."

Some thought Cuomo was on a political visit, while others expected more interaction with the governor on the day of the speech, believing the event was going to be a question and answer forum.

"I thought he was going to talk about tuition, instead he spoke about rebuilding Staten Island," said a CSI professor who attended the forum but wished to remain anonymous.

Professors tried to distribute information

on what might be potentially spoken about at the forum. Unclear explanations were given on what the forum would be on due to the lack of concrete details surrounding the event.

The official email distributed to staff and students stated that, "On Monday, February 25, 2013 Governor Cuomo will be visiting campus to talk to CSI students. The conversation will take place in the 1P-Williamson Theatre from 10:30am -12:30pm. Doors open at 10:30am and the Governor will begin speaking at 11:00am-12Noon. We want to pack this room with students."

CSI's Director of Communications, Ken Bach, defended the Governors forum.

"The Governor's office set the timeline

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Men's Basketball Grab CUNY Championship
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Obama the Most Left Leaning President Ever? What Are You Smoking?

BY M MILEY
Since 2008, when Barack Obama was elected, republicans have been going on non-stop about how he is this super radical left leaning person who is going to destroy the American way of life and capitalism and God, etc., etc. I wish we lived in this republican "nightmare" world where Obama is actually a Marxist with a world view dominated by anti-colonialism. So let us start by looking at some of the "extremist" things Barak Obama has done.

The first thing that gets mentioned is the Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act, (PPACA) or otherwise known as, "Obamacare." So if Obama is this far left leaning guy, why were the first two things he took off the table both a socialized healthcare system and price controls on drugs? The idea of a universalized healthcare system was polling popularly with Americans at the start of the debate, until the usual spin doctors on the right started going on about "death panels" and all sorts of other nonsense; which is hilarious considering the way private health insurance is in America they're pretty much a death panel all ready, ask anyone who had the insurance company not pay for a procedure that could have helped a family member. Even better is when they made universal healthcare sound like "unrealistic" hippy evil, disregarding the fact that every other industrialized country in the world has one, that operates far cheaper than the system we have here. America tops all others in infant deaths while spending two to three times as much on healthcare as any other while receiving less than a third of the coverage.

So how is "Obamacare" a far left answer? The affordable care act is directly based off of the 1994 republican backed healthcare plan that was written by the very conservative "think-tank," *The Heritage Foundation*. Which was then implemented in Massachusetts by noted Communist sympathizer Mitt Romney.

Obama is as far left as the Republican Party of 1994 and former republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Honestly you've had to cross into some deep vortex to believe that "Newt" Gingrich and Mitt Romney are a far left duo. So while on topic of Mitt Romney, who remembers the first presidential debate? Romney got up there on stage and recalled the number of times Obama admitted he and Romney agreed on such and such topic. So either Romney was a secret communist who ran as a republican or... Obama and the republican stance on economics aren't that different from one another.

So let us also look at Obama and foreign policy where Obama has proven himself to be a mocha colored George W. Bush. He has expanded the war on terror and the use of drone strikes worldwide, even allowing for them to be used on US citizens. Five years into his presidency Guantanamo Bay is still open. Domestic spying programs are being expand-

ed. Bradley Manning, a modern day Daniel Ellsberg, as recognized by the still alive Daniel Ellsberg who leaked the *Pentagon Papers* in 1971, is still being held in military custody, most likely still being tortured and his status as a legal whistleblower is being withheld. The only people that could think Obama is taking a left position on US foreign policy are either the professional liars of the pundit class, or the people who believe those liars.

On the economic front, Obama is committed to the unfettered glory of Neo-liberal economics. He has said it in speech after speech that capitalism is the only way forward. Even though the actions of Wall Street led to a global economic crisis, and in the United States only one person has been put on trial. If the powers that be can define OWS as a terrorist group, which Homeland Security and the FBI have done, the ability to throw the whole world into chaos could count as well. Hell in the 1970s Richard Nixon was proposing a National Minimum Income, of course Nixon was going to use this program to help mostly whites while harming the Black community, but still, even suggesting that we might move to a NMI is farther left than anything Obama has done. Richard Millhouse Nixon can be considered farther to the left than Barack Obama. Something is wrong with our country when something like that can happen. Barack Obama has not pushed for any reforms that would actually make a difference and instead is just moving deck chairs on this sinking ship.

Is Obama the most left president ever? Hardly. Is Obama a left wing president? Hardly. Still, the window has shifted so far to the right in the United States that we confuse a Center-Right president for a left winger. Instituting social policies that seek to create a stable state and make the people more secure in an economic sense does not a left winger make. Unless we are at the point where the "Iron Chancellor" of Imperial Germany can be considered a communist.

The Fundamental Transformation of America Has Begun

BY JOHN FALCONE
There are many things that make the United States of America the greatest country in which to live. Unfortunately President Obama wants to change every single one of them.

Do not take my word for it; take his. During a campaign rally in Columbia, Missouri, back on October 30, 2008; senator Obama said to a crowd of his supporters "we are five days away from fundamentally transforming the United States of America."

The crowd then proceeded to cheer. God help us.

What is so wrong with our country that we need to fundamentally change it? Did those people truly understand what it was that they were cheering for? That phrase, "fundamentally transforming the United States of America," should have caused a deafening silence to overtake the crowd, but instead it was met with the blind and ignorant cheering of a people unaware that they were about to vote for the most liberal, left-wing disaster of a President to have ever sat in the oval office, and we have had some pretty liberal presidents.

FDR and his New Deal were just about as liberal as you could get. Creating massive governmental programs to hire unemployed Americans rather than stimulating the economy so the private sector could do it, and signing bills such as Social Security Act of 1935 opened the door for more and more government expansion; and government expansion is the calling card of liberals and left-wingers.

Lyndon B. Johnson was also another very liberal President. His "Great Society," which aimed to end poverty was, in principle, a great plan. Who would honestly say that poverty is a good thing? The only problem was that in order to accomplish his plan massive government spending programs needed to be initiated. We owe President Johnson for the socialized medical programs Medicaid and Medicare, lasting governmental expansions we are still dealing with today.

Even with FDR and Lyndon Johnson in the

mix, Obama takes the trophy for most left-wing American President, hands down. You see, FDR and Johnson may have been misguided in their attempts to *help* America, but they did not tell their fellow countrymen that they wanted to *fundamentally change* America.

So how exactly does Obama plan to change America so drastically? He has been doing it by changing how American people view themselves in their relationship with the government. President Obama does not believe the government of this country is what Abraham Lincoln so eloquently described it as being in the Gettysburg Address: "of the people, by the people, for the people." Obama believes that the government is a separate entity from the people, an entity that is not an extension of the people but rather is their supreme caretaker and provider.

Again, you do not have to take my word for it, take his.

"Look, if you've been successful, you didn't get there on your own...someone helped to create this unbelievable American system we have that allows you to thrive...somebody invested in roads and bridges. If you've got a business you didn't build that! Somebody else made that happen. The internet didn't get created on its own, government research created the internet so that all the companies could make money off the internet."

That is what President Obama said at a re-election campaign stop in Roanoke, Virginia last July. The implications he makes in this statement are astounding.

You cannot be successful on your own. You need help. Who is the first "somebody" that is named? Why of course, the government! Who could survive without ever expansive and invasive government, the calling card of left-wing extremists?

Obama does not mention that we the people not only elect and fund the government but that we the people also constitute the government. Again, Americans have always known government of the United States is *of the people, by the people, and for the people*. But that is not what Obama believes.

He believes the government is responsible for the roads and bridges in this country, not you. He believes companies in this country cannot make money without the government paving the way for them.

He believes the government should tell you what doctor to go see.

He believes the government should tell you which gun you can buy.

You see, President Obama is delivering on his promise to fundamentally transform the United States. He has begun to change this country from what it was into something it has never been before. He has succeeded in convincing many of the American people that their success is completely dependent on the federal government. What could possibly be more left wing than that?



Cartoon: John Dalia

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "Spring Break Packing for Dummies"
I loved the advice given about packing up for vacations. I'm always over-packing and end up not wearing half of the clothes I bought. This was a perfect guide to packing the perfect amount for any get away.
Dianil Santana

Re: "Spring Packing for Dummies"
"When going away, less is more." stated Shakiya McRae. I agree, being that I always pack too much and essentially overwhelm myself. I found this article to be useful and helpful because it's the most efficient way to stay neat and organized, which is something I am not. Using this method of packing is sure to make my suitcase zip.
Felicia Bracco

Re: "Spring Fashion Preview"
After reading "Spring Fashion Preview," I was quite impressed that The Banner has finally decided to cover more current news in the Fashion Industry for their Banner Styles section. However, I was still dissatisfied that the article focused mainly on peekaboo pieces and Bermuda shorts. With many trendy pieces and beautiful colors that were showcased in the spring collection, the article failed to mention them. It left me wanting more.
Obiageli Ukatu
Junior

Re: "Book Reviews"
Could you do a Book Review like the Sunday Times on new and classic books? I think it would be nice. Maybe a review of some books required for certain classes as well; whether or not assigned reading is worth reading or enjoyable. The assigned reading Book Review would be useful in obvious ways, but less obviously it could provoke a better book choice wherever there may be a poor one on a professor's syllabus.
Matt Connelly

Re: "GTA 5 Stands Out as the Biggest Highlight of the Upcoming Year"
Grand Theft Auto? I thought they had stopped making this video game over a year ago. To be

having the S93 come onto campus was in fact a good idea. However, I also feel that instead of having the S93 come onto campus, it would serve a much better purpose to have the S93 run longer. As of now, the S93 runs from about 6:30 to 10:00 AM then does not run again until 4:00 PM. Many people like me get out of class at 12:05 PM then have to take the S62 to the S53, which is always crowded and basically just disgusting. Judging by what I see on the bus, I'm not the only person who feels this way. However, I do feel that if the S93 runs longer that disgust could be avoided and the commute would finally become enjoyable.
Anthony D'Antuono
Junior

Re: "Spring Break Packing for Dummies"
I always pack for every vacation I go on most of the time. I bring 16 outfits and wear 3 of them. By the time I need to pack my bras, I have no room. The sock in the bra trick is very useful. Not only would I have more space, but it keeps the bra intact and not pressed down. That is the best idea and I definitely will use that strategy next time a vacation is coming. Thank you for the wonderful help.
Michele Scotto
Sophomore

Re: "Manifest Foundation Offers a Chance to Give Back"
I was really excited to read an article about volunteering. I've been trying to find different ways to volunteer this semester because I come from a family that believes giving back is important. I'm actually going to study abroad this summer. I wish I would have known about this before hand. This is such a cheaper option and still gives you the ability to immerse yourself in a new culture
Alyssa Olivo
Junior

Re: "S93 Finally Arrives on CSI Campus"
As a commuter from Brooklyn, I believe that

a gamer you have to be into the game and be excited about its new release. You say this game is going to be one of the best this year bit I know people will not choose GTA over Call of Duty. I do like how you broke the article down to 5 legit reasons, but I still don't think GTA will be a hit like you claim it is.
Jordan Young
Senior

Re: "A United College of Staten Island"
I happen to agree with Jean-Claude Quintyne. The majority of students complain about everything at CSI ranging from the facilities to the workload. Instead of finding excuses not to do something, students should find ways to do something about it. Doing well is about motivation, drive, and discipline. If more students inherited these characteristics, CSI would be considered a much more prominent institution.
Jenesis Muniz
Junior

Re: "A United College of Staten Island"
I find this article written by Quintyne very interested but yet also stubborn. I come from a working-class family and I pay for my own tuition with no help. When I'm not at school, I'm at work. When I'm not at work, I'm at school. I don't have the time to do all my assignments and there are numerous students who can agree. I would like to see a response article with the opposite view of Quintyne
Elissa Ramirez
Junior

Re: Sports Bias
From Issue 9, I enjoyed reading about CSI's volunteer work for Manifest Foundation. I think it's uplifting to read that CSI is assembling for a good cause and giving back to the community. However, I think the Sports section is a little biased only printing basketball although the sport is in season. Other students may want to know about the various sports at CSI rather than basketball season on every other issue
Jean Baak

The Banner is now offering INTERNSHIPS to CSI students. Internships last one semester and give students the opportunity to learn about media. Interns will work a minimum of 12 hours per week, and can focus on:

- Blogging • Editing • Photography
- Graphic design • Layout & production
- Reporting • Web design • Fact-checking

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"Governor Cuomo Visits the College"
Continued from the front page

for the presentation, and the College staff acted quickly and in close collaboration with the Governor's advance team to ensure a highly successful event for the College and Staten Island community," said Bach.

The college hosted the forum to meaningfully connect students with their political leaders.

"The Governor's office and the CSI administration are both firmly committed to engaging student populations in meaningful ways," said Bach. "The opportunity to attend a Governor's State of the State presentation helps prepare today's students to become tomorrow's leaders."

The speech given by Cuomo put forth ideas that the governor proposes to set for New York. Cuomo pointed out key issues such as enforcing equality laws, and argued that taxes should not be raised but minimum wage should.

The Governor also spoke about the relief efforts being put into effect for the rebuilding of Staten Island due to 'superstorm' Sandy. He noted that the state will buy back houses at pre-storm values.

The college was also chosen for its large role in the aide of victims of Sandy. CSI's active part in the relief effort made it a choice location for Cuomo to discuss buyouts.



Governor Cuomo addressed students, faculty, politicians, and others in the Williamson Theater on February 25th

"The College of Staten Island has a demonstrated leadership role regarding civic engagement and Hurricane Sandy relief efforts on Staten Island, and as the Governor brought his State of the State address to the boroughs of New York City, CSI was a natural choice for announcing his "buy-out" policy for the residents of Oakwood Beach," said Bach.

Cuomo also spoke about how schools should be funded properly and quality education should be provided. Cuomo noted SUNY and CUNY schools are also the "gems" of New York.

As far as bringing Governor Cuomo back to speak to CSI students Bach said, "We cannot speak on behalf of the Governor's office, but should he wish to return to CSI for a stu-

dent question and answer session, the College would welcome him and work to engage as many students as possible."

A student at the event, Ammar Tous, enjoyed it and took his experience lightly.

He wanted to know, "When do we get our five points that the governor promised for showing up?"

"Loop Bus Route Restored"
Continued from the front page

and student leaders.

The shortening of the loop bus' route was the result of the task force's negotiation of a new bus contract, which went into effect last year.

"Previously the college was using three separate bus services. One for the loop bus, one for the ferry shuttle, and one for the athletic department," said Diaz. "It was decided to consolidate to one bus company."

The task force decided that the shortened loop bus route would be the best option to maximize the efficiency of the bus within the given budget. The goal was to deliver as many students as possible from the main gate to the center of campus in a timely manner.

The shortened loop bus route, however, left students coming from the Forest Hill Road entrance with a very long walk.

"After each semester we re-evaluate," said Diaz. "There is a lot being discussed now, especially with the dorms being built."

The re-evaluation that Diaz spoke of is evident in the fact that the Loop bus has been restored to its full route and the addition of a second loop bus to the schedule. Recently, a 9:20pm bus was also added to the ferry shuttle in order to relieve the overcrowding of the bus that departs at 9:40pm.

Diaz notified students of all of these changes via email to their CIX accounts.

The reinstatement of the old route followed by the loop bus is a great help for students who use mass transportation to get the campus.

Additionally, CSI could relieve overcrowding at the main gate bus stops by promoting use of the S61.

The S61 directly links the back entrance of the campus to the Staten Island Mall. At the mall the S61 makes connections to other bus

routes that the front gate buses, the S62 and S93, do not make.

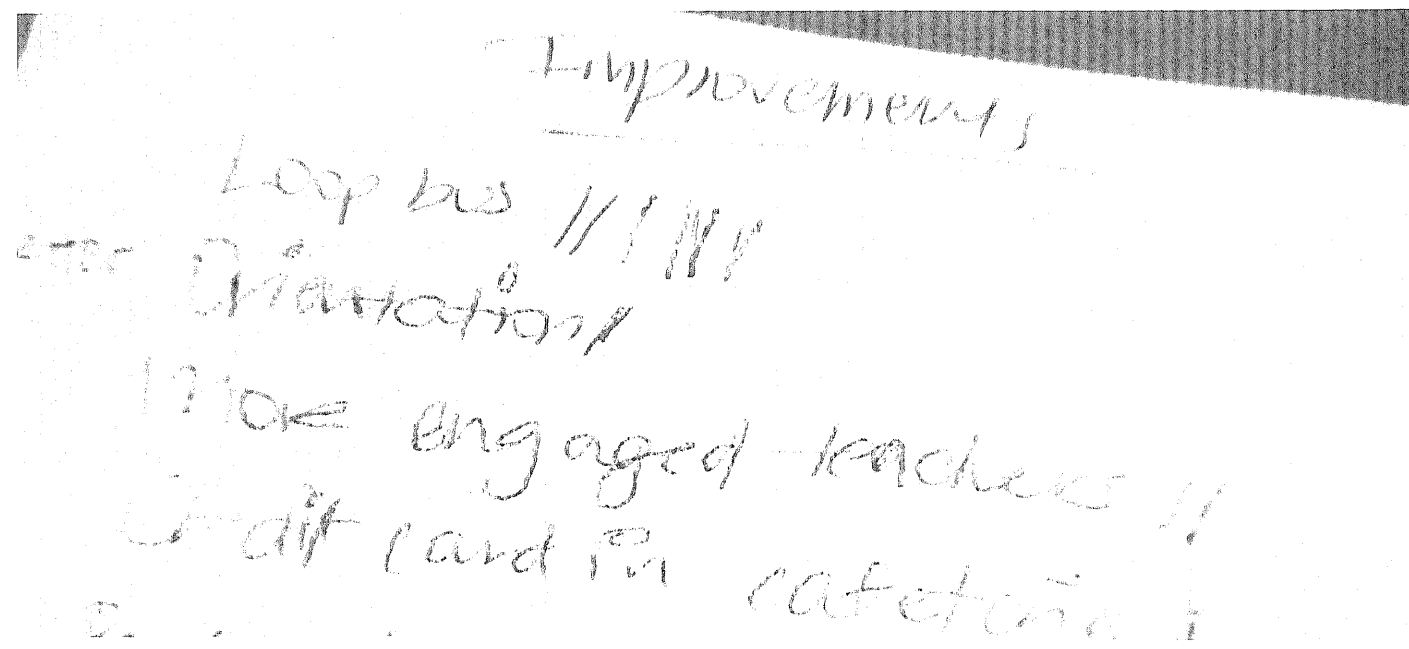
Students who take the S61 to the mall are able to transfer to the S55, S56, and the

MTA's new S79 Select bus service.

The restoration of the loop bus route proves that before any changes on campus can occur, CSI's students must speak up. For

more information regarding the Loop Bus, contact Operational Services directly at 718-982-3220.

"My door is always open," said Diaz.



Top: A list of grievances to the Student Government lists the Loop Bus as the number one problem on campus
Bottom: Students board the S61 to the ferry after a long walk to the Forest Hill Road Exit

Auditions Begin for CSI's Got Talent
Who's Who in Annual Talent Competition

BY CLEMENT THIERY

After the successes of the 2012 'CSI's Got Talent', the show is back on campus for a second year.

The last of a three-day audition series was held in the Williamson Theatre on February 26. Two-dozen performers took to the stage before the critical eyes of the judges of the competition. The judging panel was made up of four faculty members, a student from WSIA, and another one from the Student Center.

"All of a sudden, students we didn't know came out everywhere, being courageous and getting up there on stage," said Carol Brower, the Director of the Office of Student Life and the person responsible for organization of the show. "We learned a lot about what CSI students can do. That was the best part of it."

CSI students indeed did a lot. Hooded and nervous, a girl stands in the middle of the stage. Her trumpet catches the reflection of the auditorium's spotlights as the first few bars of The Beatles "Hey Jude" fill the room.

After the last note of the tune had died away, number 1281599 was finished.

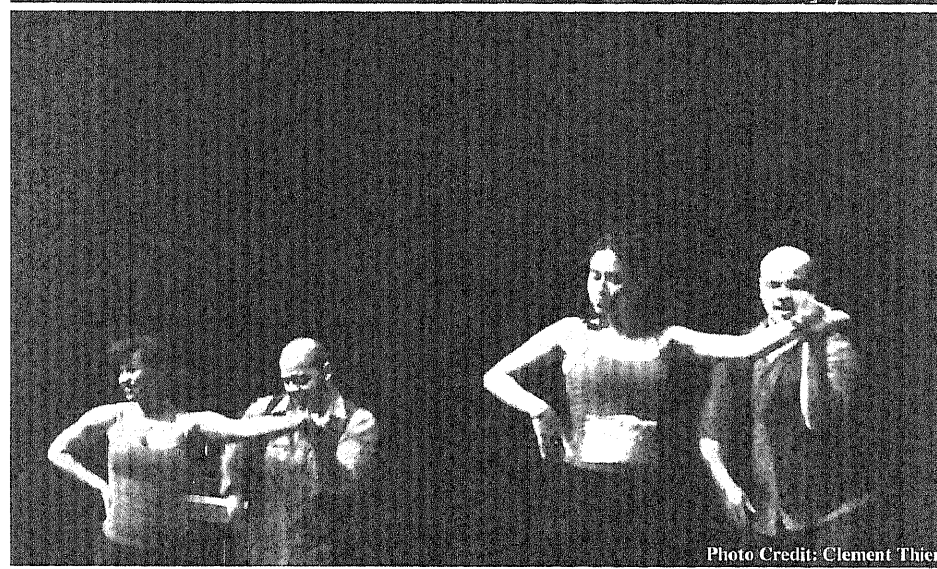
"Thank you sweetie," said the table full of judges. "Next!"

Also auditioning were a guitar-slinging young lady and her ear-drilling shrieks, and a remarkably ambidextrous musician who showed great skill at operating a piano and a trumpet at the same time but was unfortunately too busy to really convince as a one-man duet.

While acts such as these did not stand out for their originality, or their quality, others turned out to be sweet, sweet surprises.

Clad in black and red, two pairs of dancers won the appraisal of the judges and the audience with a sensual and gracefully steamy rendition of a Caribbean Bachata. Taken away and charmed by bongo drums, the audience clapped in wonder.

Short and shy behind the microphone stand, boots and fedora adorned Luz



Top: Luz Serrano, a sophomore English-major, gave a more-than-convincing rendition of Adele's "Rolling In The Deep."
Center: Sensual and graceful, two Caribbean bachata couples shook and twirled to the bongo drums.
Bottom: Jay Ax delivered heavy spoken word poetry for his audition

Serrano threw her powerful voice over Adele's "Rolling In The Deep." Serrano's astonishing trips up and down the sound ladder made spines shiver throughout the auditorium.

"Oh my God, I was so nervous," said Serrano after her performance. "It was so nerve-wracking, but I'm glad I gave it a shot."

Jay Ax was up next.

"Am I PG-13 now, or can I let it out?" asked Ax in a whisper. "Okay, okay, cover your ears sweetheart..."

In a deep, clear voice, he slammed verses heavy with the gravity of inner-city-living, telling the story of two women beaten up by both life and men.

"It's the story of two friends of mine," said Ax afterward.

At the judges' table, the panel conferred. "Last year was so strong, I was looking forward for this year's auditions," said the Director of CSI's College Testing Center Alan Hoffner, during a break between two performances.

In a pool of judges largely influenced by their American Idol counterparts, Hoffner was acting as the serious, stone-faced professional who speaks in appreciative monosyllabic words.

Out of the seventy-five performers who auditioned for this year's show, about thirty will be selected for the semi-final in March, and ten to twelve performers will remain for the concluding round on April 18. The reward of \$1500 will go to CSI's most talented performer.

A few more performances before the audition ends. Lucy Farfan-Narcisse stunned her audience with a tinkling belly dancing routine. Nora Cruz followed with a warm a cappella rendition of Lana Del Rey's "Born to Die."

With a surprisingly high and rocky voice, Aishmael King performed a soul-influenced version "Carry On" by fun. as clapping hands echoed in the auditorium.

"It was wonderful. It's amazing to see how much talent there is at CSI," said Hoffner. "It will be hard to narrow it down for the final."

"Increasing Involvement at CSI"
Continued from the Front Page

pus activities, but have not quite found their niche yet," said student Walt Poitevien.

With a little encouragement a student becomes comfortable enough to add their brand of excitement and enthusiasm to the Dolphin family.

"We get more connected by the opportunities CSI has to offer us, such as working as an ambassador, a research assistant, etc.," said Student Government Senator Monica Sibiri. "However, I believe that without the skills to do it, we will not be as efficient as we are."

Is increasing involvement a problem for students or for CSI? Faculty and administrators are the ones holding the specialized degrees and students are the ones dealing

with building an identity that simultaneously fulfills their goals for security, acceptance and new experiences.

"It may sound corny but it's the different people you meet on campus that can make your CSI experience a great one," said student Ralph Konecny. "It's hanging out in places like the cafe or the cafeteria with these people that connect us to the school. Speaking to new acquaintances from class about the goings-on in your academic life and really just life in general can form great connections and can lead to many friendships and relationships you never thought you'd have."

While at her previous college the only time that Student Nat Piccione felt connected was when she worked at the aquarium.

"I went to a different college before CSI. There I felt very disconnected due to not seeing support for disabled students in the deaf

community," said Piccione.

After enrolling at CSI last fall Piccione saw the difference between the two schools. She felt how open the students and the staff are at CSI.

"At the time, I was living in Brooklyn and I struggled to travel by bus, the students knew why I was late and they would explain many different ways to get to CSI from Brooklyn," said Piccione.

Piccione appreciated how CSI has a huge support for disability students, the deaf and hard of hearing community.

"The staff are little nicer and the interpreters I work with are a little nicer than I have experiences in my old college," said Piccione. "I love meeting students who are taking ASL and are motivated to learn or to use the language to communicate. They inspire me to connect with the students on

campus and it helps to boost my self esteem."

Piccione says there are only five deaf students that know sign language and another 10-15 deaf students or hard of hearing students that know little to no sign language.

"I am connected with a few of them. Since I became one of the leaders in the ASL Club last spring semester, I started to see how everything works on campus and how what we do to get the students to feel connected," she admits. "It is just important to have a little awareness on campus to help bring everyone together as a unit."

"Everyone will be connected in a different way but the most important thing about connection is to get rid of your pride and ego, to develop an understanding of whatever you are trying to connect with and analyze yourself before you say, this is not for you or you can't seem to connect," said Piccione. ■

BANNER STYLES

Is Rihanna A Fashion Icon or Fashion-hole?

How Being a Bad Girl Can Pay Off

BY VICTORIA CARROCCIA

Over the past few years Rihanna has been making headlines with her music, her fashion sense, and her shameless public antics.

With the launch of her new makeup and clothing line, Rihanna has slowly started taking over every facet of the entertainment business. Will her bad-girl attitude and scandalous relationship overshadow her upcoming success, or enhance it? Looking back on her style evolution, we can see how Rihanna's made her mark on pop culture and isn't going anywhere.

Rihanna first exploded onto the scene back in 2005 with her catchy single, "Pon De Replay." Since then, the singer has released seven albums and gone through some serious transformations both musically and physically. Early in her career, Rihanna let her Barbadian roots show through her music with reggae vocals and catchy dance-pop beats. Her original wardrobe maintained a girl-next-door essence with a touch of urban sex appeal through crop tops, tight jeans, and big hoop earrings.

By the time she released her third album *Good Girl Gone Bad*, it was clear that Rihanna was ready to shed her innocent image. Rihanna debuted the album sporting a new hair color and style, trading in her flowing honey locks for an edgy black asymmetrical do. Her signature club-wear took a back seat to her new found love of glamorous dresses and lingerie.

Her new image and musical styling proved to be a big hit among her fans, which prompted the pop star to sport a unique, ever-changing look.

Rihanna took her bad girl image to a

whole new level with the release of her fourth album, *Rated R*. In the wake of her very public fight with Chris Brown, Rihanna wanted to prove to the public that she was still a strong and fierce female who didn't need a man to define her worth. With tracks like "Russian Roulette," "Hard," and "Rude Boy," Rihanna really went out of her way to let us know that she was all grown up and not taking anything from anyone.

Sporting a bright red afro weave, Rihanna upheld her tough cookie persona for her fifth album, *Loud*, and tested the patience of law enforcement everywhere with the release of the "S&M" music video. While exploring her bondage and domineering desires, she managed to get her video banned in 11 countries.

With this entertaining statistic, Rihanna achieved her goal of being a total badass. Unfortunately, most of her fans were already worn out from her first wave of rebellion and quickly got over her.

Despite her abrasive, in-your-face public image, Rihanna continued to top music charts worldwide and maintained her successful album sales. Her two most recent albums, *Talk a Good Game* and *Unapologetic* prompted Rihanna to experiment with a new style: Hobo/Hooker chic. Nowadays, Rihanna can be spotted roaming the streets scantily clad in mesh and leather with her nipples hanging out. Her less-than-perfect boyfriend Chris Brown seems more than pleased with her new look, so chances are she won't be reinventing anytime soon.

Aside from making major waves in the music business, Rihanna can always be caught on Instagram or Twitter stirring up trouble.



Whether she's arguing with comedy queen Joan Rivers over comments on Fashion Police, or sharing Instagram photos of herself and Chris Brown smoking weed in bed to her billions of 14-year-old followers, tabloids and fans alike love Rihanna for her "unapologetic" attitude.

Big name companies like MAC cosmetics and River Island have taken note of Rihanna's mysterious hold over the public and are planning to profit off of her persona. Last month, Rihanna told Women's Wear Daily about her new deal with MAC cosmetics, a four-part collection named "RiRi Hearts MAC." One of the most anticipated items from the line is a lipstick called "RiRi Woo" based off of Rihanna's current favorite shade.

During London Fashion Week, Rihanna debuted her clothing line for River Island, a British clothing company comparable to

American Apparel. The "Rihanna for River Island" collection features many signature pieces that the songstress would deem ready-to-wear, from mesh dresses and high slits to baggy t-shirts and double top jeans.

Countless people have spoken out against Rihanna, claiming that her poor life decisions can be a bad influence on her young fans. These negative public views could have been a driving force behind Rihanna's decision to team up with MAC and River Island; designing these products will show that Rihanna is more than just a shit stirrer, but a creative one at that. Whatever the outcome of her clothing and makeup lines, Rihanna has certainly proved that being a bad girl is a profitable business endeavor. As long as she stays young, beautiful, and controversial, Rihanna will continue to stir things up.

BANNER STYLES

Pageant Girl Problems

Tips and Tricks of Pageantry

BY REBECCA DANIELS

Every year we hear about two major pageants in this country: Miss America and Miss USA.

Both pageants are significantly different yet the only thing that joins them together aside from the fact that they are pageants is the determination of all their contestants.

"Think of the pageant as if it were a sport," said Keith Lewis, director of K2 productions in charge of the state pageants for California, New Hampshire, Maine, and New York. "The best in the game win."

Pageant mentalities are far from the ordinary. Miss America is the girl "next door" type and Miss USA is "the girl you wish you had next door." Miss America is the wholesome girl who's talented, modest, beautiful and intelligent. Miss USA, is owned by Donald Trump, and while she needs to be all of the above, Miss USA is judged solely on her personality and her physique.

"I don't like the way the Miss USA system works, so I opted for Miss America, and honestly I'm a lot happier," said Amanda Davis, a

The best advice given to anyone who wants to enter a pageant is:

1. Be yourself but be prepared to enter the pageant world game.
2. Always give your best shot and have fun with it.

CSI pageant contestant.

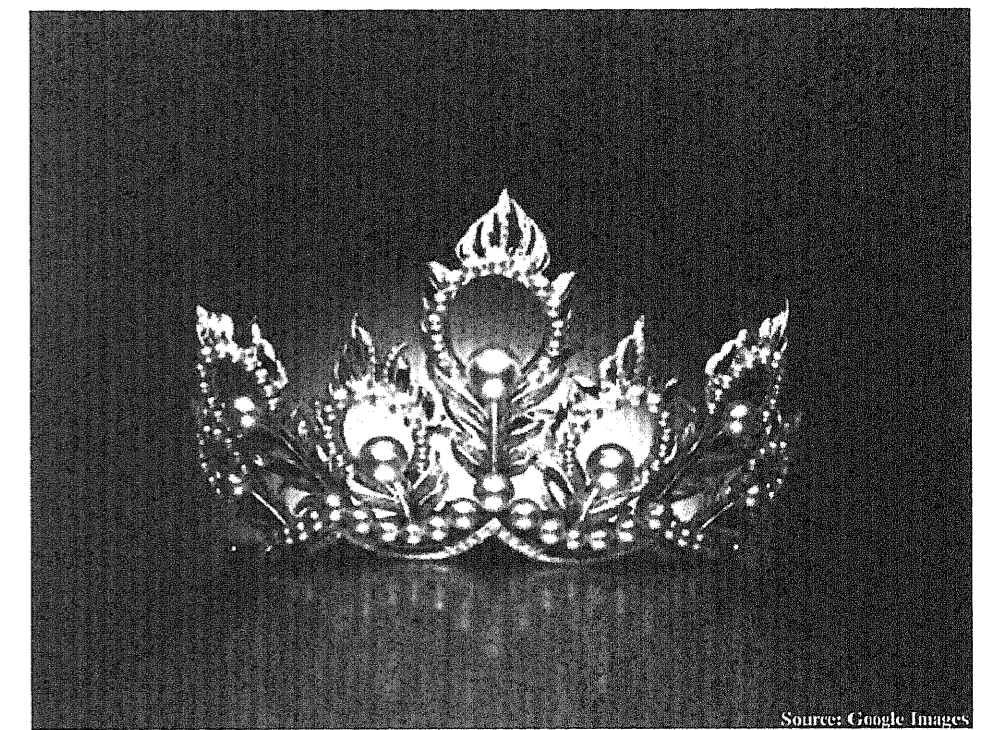
The common stereotype is that all pageant girls are superficial and shallow. The internet showcases falls, stutters and wrongly answered questions. The problem is that the pageant viewer doesn't understand the levels of stress that goes into pageantry. Women spend the entire year preparing for everything: studying current events, speaking in front of an audience and walking in heels across a huge runway and working on their bodies.

Regardless, preparation is never enough when pageant weekend finally arrives. The pressure bottles up when you're dealing with 200 other contestants and they are in their zone. Friendships are built and it's a bond that lasts a lifetime, but on the big day your best friend who encouraged you until the night before becomes your biggest competition.

Being on stage and under a timed panel can break concentration thus forming a silly answer.

Olivia Culpo, the newly crowned Miss Universe won her state of Rhode Island with a

3. Do google and watch older pageants for reference.
4. Go to as many pageant events that you can.
5. Listen to your pageant sisters.
6. If you feel you're not ready for the bigger pageants look into smaller ones in your com-



\$20 rental purple gown that was too small and ripped in the back. Mallory Hagen, newly crowned Miss America, a Brooklyn girl who is

7. Don't be intimidated by the competition. Confidence is key.
8. If you can afford the extra advice, work with a pageant coach.
9. Learn what your body needs and don't hurt

Following Up Fashion Trends From Fashion Week

How to Rock the Look Without the Runway

BY SHAKIYA MCRAE

The Bryant Park tents are packed up and out of sight for now, but the Mercedes

Benz Fashion Week left us with some fabulous, yet familiar trends to be seen on every fashionable guy and girl this

coming fall. Below are five of the most reoccurring fashion trends to hit the runway this

fall pre-season and tips on how you may want to rock the look!

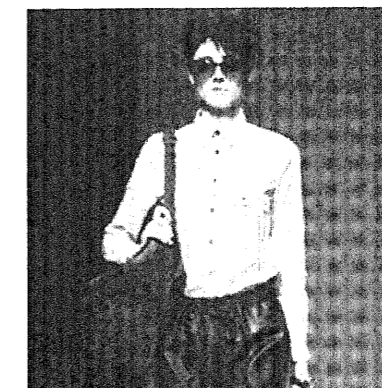


Black and White

This trend has been seen trotting not only up and down NY runways but also on red carpets, by the likes of divas such as Beyonce and Kelly Rowland. Stripes, color blocking and so much more can be done with black and white, so it's time to get creative!

How to Rock the Look

Consider investing in a staple piece such as a striped black and white cropped blazer, this way you can mix and match it endlessly! You can dress it up for partying over a cute leather mini dress. Or dress it down for a casual meet up with a comfy cotton tee, and light wash denim.



Leopard Print

Whether you like it or not, leopard print is back in style. This time though, try to keep it classy, not trashy by remembering that a little bit of leopard goes a long way. And if you're tired of the same old brown and black print, we've got you covered with variety such as black and white, red, and pink prints this season.

How to Rock the Look

You don't want to go overboard so try using leopard as an accent. Try on a pair sleek leopard print pumps with a pair of well fitting trousers.



Leather

Leather can be worn in so many different ways! From sexy, to sporty, to edgy, it all depends on how you dress it! This season you have more options such as leather shirts, vests, leggings and skirts.

How to Rock the Look

Tip: Try loose leather "sweatpants" that are sure to hit the racks this fall, as seen on the Rachel Comel, Charlotte Ranson and Rebecca Minkoff runways. Pair it with a printed collared shirt, and a long cardigan of a contrasting print for an effortlessly stylish look.

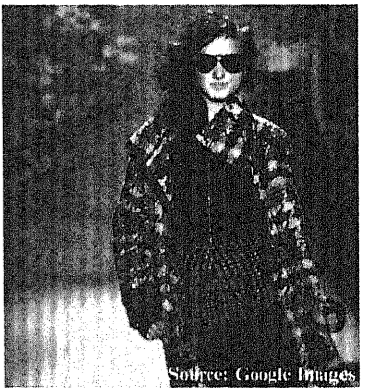


Layering

Get ready to pile on a few extra pieces this Fall. Do it the right way: don't go nuts with a bunch of colors and patterns, that, with a combination of layered peices can make you look super sloppy.

How to Rock the Look

Sloppy is never cute so instead, try playing with different textures. Go for different textures on the top and bottom such as a sheer or silk dress over a pair of leather leggings for a slim, put together look.



Classic Prints

You can kiss Spring florals goodbye and welcome an iconic fashion print back, the houndstooth! Houndstooth is a very neutral print, so you can pretty much wear it with whatever you like!

How to Rock the Look

Add houndstooth to your wardrobe to lend a professional touch to your outfit. Try this print on a jacket to put over your business or office attire for a chic look

Campus Style

BY DIANA PORCELLI



Ash Rashid

Freshman

Style: A little bit of everything



Kathryn Dowling

Sophomore

Styles: Sporty and casual



Mohammed Shalodi

Sophomore

Style: Nothing specific, comfortable



Shannon Letizio

Junior

Style: Vintage/Chic

BANNER ARTS

Letter From The Arts and Entertainment Editor

Re: The Banner's 5 Most Anticipated Albums of 2013

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

To The Editor:

I'm just curious as to who picks out and how you vote for certain albums to get picked and put in the newspaper. After reading the article I only recognize one artist. The others I never heard of or have never heard of anyone talking about them. I think more noticeable artists should be put into the new album releases.

I'd like to kick off my response to your letter by asking a few questions. What exactly is the definition of a "noticeable artist?" Are "noticeable artists" only the acts that consistently make the top 40 charts, or are you looking for artists that you deem worthy of attention?

Do you know what makes a mainstream act "noticeable?" I would love to know what artists you listen to and what makes you feel like they are superior to the ones Mark and I have selected for our articles; I speak on behalf of both of us when I say that "noticeable" does not mean popular. It is a word that pertains to an artist's quality, not mainstream popularity.

Did you know that music that tops the charts is scientifically programmed to trigger an emotional response from the human brain?

Pop music, which also includes hip-hop, rap, and certain types of rock, has been boiled down to a formula. With the writing of each new song the diversity of sound is lessened.

According to 'The Million Song Dataset', which uses algorithms to analyze the elements of popular music since 1955, the current state of music is essentially homogenous.

Music that receives consistent mainstream recognition contains elements such as note diversity, loudness, tempo, and chord progression that have little to no differentiation. We as

listeners are instead drawn to the concept of loudness as opposed to variation or quality.

Quite simply, the louder a song is, the better, which leads hit writers to compose pieces that revolve around this very same loudness factor.

There is music outside of this money-centric, poorly engineered realm of composition, and it is good; often, very good.

Knowing about how 'loudness' is engineered has helped me significantly in my music writing. It taught me that not all songs that are popular are good, and not all songs that are good are popular. Now I'm not saying that every pop song in existence is bad, but my point is that catchy doesn't necessarily mean that it brings anything new to the table.

Just because you are not familiar with an artist does not mean that they are un-deserving of recognition. Understanding that pop music typically follows a formula, makes artists like Katy Perry and Taylor Swift appear a little less than stellar. I've learned to look outside the box for lesser-known artists with actual talent.

Guess what? They happen to have a pretty big following too. You may not know who a group like the Yeah Yeah Yeahs are, but a fair amount of people do. Don't believe me? They sold out Manhattan's Webster Hall in under a minute, and they are headlining some of this summer's biggest festivals, playing to tens of thousands of people a night.

For more local artists, such as Brooklyn denizens Laura Stevenson and the Cans, there is a reason for their inclusion among a most anticipated list. The main purposes to any form of journalism is not just to entertain, but to uncover a great truth, or to bring exposure to something hidden. You may not know the artist,



Cartoon: John Dalia

and in fact a great deal of readers probably do not know the artist; the point is that they should because they are worthy of your attention.

That is showcasing rising talent. Ignoring the possibility of discovering the music world's next big thing, or simply hearing a track you may enjoy is not a fault on the artist's lack of popularity in the mainstream but rather your own ignorance.

Before you question the artists that we at The Banner cover, I recommend you do some research and check out a song or two by the artist's first. Even if it is not your cup of tea, you will likely understand why I, or anyone

who writes for my section, make the selections we do.

To dislike a track based on taste is fine but to deny talent because you are too lazy to look into it is unjust. After you've done that, feel free to come talk to me and maybe you'll even thank me.

If you still think my selections are poor, I encourage, and I strongly urge you to come and show me something incredible. Write for my section and show me what "noticeable" artist I'm not noticing.

-Marie Scarsella, Arts and Entertainment Editor.

Argo: A Historical Drama Worth Its Oscar Merit

BY IAN USTICK

The year is 1979 and Iran is in a state of revolution. Armed militants have overrun the United States Embassy in Tehran and Americans have been taken hostage. The situation is developing into an international crisis. Most do not know that six Americans have escaped through back door of the American Embassy and have made it to the Canadian Ambassador's house.

This is the setting for Ben Affleck's new film Argo. The film centers on Tony Mendez, a father and CIA operative. Mendez job is to remove people from dangerous situations, and he is about to face his biggest challenge of his career. The CIA has no plan to get the six Americans out of Tehran. The best that the CIA can come up with is to give the escapees bicycles and maps to escape through Turkey; not the smartest move considering that there are armed Iranian soldiers on the street looking for them.

Mendez comes up with the idea to create a fake movie, pretending the six Americans are part of a film crew. This cover can be used to fly the escapees out of the country. Mendez has

to sell this fake film idea to the studio without letting them know that it is part of a CIA operation.

At sea at this point in the film that a lot is at stake, and the scenario creates a sense of suspense and secrecy. This is an international effort, and if it fails the CIA will be the laughing stock of the world. Mendez contacts makeup artist John Chambers, played by John Goodman, and producer Lester Siegel, played by Alan Arkin, to help him create this fake movie. The CIA begrudgingly agrees, and Mendez begins putting his plans into action.

The film gives us a good glimpse of what Hollywood is really like --- actors are arrogant, directors are slow-moving, and almost no one is honest. John Goodman's character tells Affleck that he will fit in well in Hollywood, considering Mendez is part of the CIA, an organization, which barely tells the truth.

This film also has a great soundtrack. Since the film takes place in the late 1970s, there is no shortage of classic rock n' roll including the likes of Van Halen, Led Zeppelin, and Dire Straits. Locations are great as well. From a hotel room in Tehran, we see



Source: Google Images

the mountains and vast landscape of Iran, showing a more beautiful side of Iran. There is even a moment where the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul is shown. This adds more authenticity to the film because it is filmed on location rather than in a Hollywood studio.

Rarely do majority of Oscar fans feel the

movie that wins best picture is actually the year's best. That isn't the case with Argo. The film has everything desired in an award winner, suspense, good acting, some comedy, action, and a gripping story. Ben Affleck has proven he is a force to be reckoned with in Hollywood.

BANNER ARTS

Skinpop Puts a Contemporary Twist on Post-Punk

Bueno's First EP Emanates Late 70's Underground Stylings

BY ASHLEY DALLE

The release of Bueno's first EP, *Skinpop* under their new name signals a revival of late 1970's post-punk influence brought into the modern age.

Formerly known as In Buenos Aires, these veterans of the Staten Island music scene have come together to create a sound that is both modern and enthralling. *Skinpop* contains all of three songs, and each delivered with Luke Chiaruttini's highly charismatic, melodic monotone backed up by the sounds of AJ Pantaleo's new wave and experimental drumbeats.

The sound that they have created is uniquely and entirely their own, taking the state of local music and sending it into a direction that is far more positive than the current.

The first piece of the three track EP, "The Street," would be the result of taking The Cure's *Three Imaginary Boys*, slowing it down, and running it backwards in a loop. Chiaruttini delivers lyrics like a poet in a smoky 50's beatnik lounge, swaying and bobbing in time to the drums.

The lyrics are captivating and descriptive, and incredibly harmonious to the sounds being created from the rest of the band. It slowly fades out, and cuts into Joe Imburgio's funky bass line of

track two, "My Window (White Void)."

While the backing instrumentals sound like a Joy Division b-side, Mike Gagliardi's saxophone takes center stage, adding an element of chaos and disarray to vocals highly reminiscent of Lou Reed's mystique, rolling on the floor, fueled by heroin.

The quick cut and segue into "Skinpop Nite Theme" is very brief, and almost abrasive, evoking the feeling of stepping out of the busy Lower East Side streets and into a seedy jazz bar. Chiaruttini begins speaking, and without question, all attention is drawn to the words flowing out of the speakers, like a modern day Ian Curtis backed by an avant-garde jazz band. The mood change is very apparent as one listens to track into track, influenced by the subtle guitar riffs of Mike Dibenedetto.

Each element of the ensemble evokes a very specific psychological response, in a beautiful and perfectly constructed manner. The elements of mystery, intrigue, and intense passion play on each other, neither instrument overpowers the other, and the sound is wholly and utterly unique to itself. It is a haven to seek exile to after all that Staten Island's local scene produces is mediocre-at-best pop punk.

Bueno's *Skinpop EP* is available at: <http://bueno.bandcamp.com>.



Top: Mike Gagliardi and Luke Chiaruttini performing at Shea Stadium BK Bottom: Mike Gagliardi and AJ Pantaleo performing during "I Wanna Be Your Dog"



Photo Credit: Phil Ward

Super Heavy Vibes and Lyricism Opens a Church of Sonic Religion

Shining the Urban Spotlight

BY KHALEEL NICHOLSON

There are many rebels and risk takers that lurk within our world - the ones who push against the currents of the status quo, to bring enlightenment to the world. Such

rebels have been jumping out of the woodwork and exposing our ears to groundbreaking sonic journeys. Although these rebels feed our souls and minds, it is hard to discover who they are.

Stumbling upon rare, unique talent comes once in a blue moon, which brings up the question of what other artists lurk beyond our mainstream peripheral. It's like the matrix once you discover what lies beyond

the radio and the television. So get ready to choose between the red pill or the blue pill, maybe a molly. Here are some musical rebels that have blessed us with the gift of sonic religion.



PHONY PPL - VARIOUS

If the name isn't intriguing enough, then maybe the music will grab your attention. This group of afro-hipsters who reside in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, have been spreading dopeness as if it was a cool infection. Fronted by co-founder Elbee Thrie, rapper/singer Dyme-A-Duzin and MC Sheriff PJ, these multi-talented youthful souls have been creating a world of their own world since 2009.

To describe their music is like trying to squeeze blood out of a turnip. Lets just say they have the influence of a trippy, neo-soul with the perfect blend of vintage hip-hop.

Everything is authentic from their studio

basement, filled with bandmates pumping and pressing melodic jazz and smooth R&B, all which creeps out of the rustic walls of a brownstone.

This music group can take you on a smooth jazz ride with their latest video release "Wish I was a Chair," or they can take you to the BK nitty-gritty hipster flow with "Statues."

By serving up versatility and culture to our generation the group makes listeners appreciate just how far music has come.

To find Phony Ppl and vibe out to their work you can log onto their website at PhonyPpl.com.

KING

see our sound
read our story
hear our news
connect
contribute
get the ep



Source: Google Images

KING - KING

King is a force to be reckoned with. Mystical tones and soulful wonder would just be the tip of the iceberg when describing this trio.

As twin children, Paris and Amber began their musical discovery in Minneapolis where they found their curiosity within a piano and their voices. Along their journey the pair split and attended different colleges. There, Paris met a woman with majestic vocals: a woman named Anita. Together they made an unforgettable bond but parted ways, until they reunited in a club located in Los Angeles. It was a sign they were destined to become a music trio.

With Paris on the keys, and Anita and

Amber on vocals, the girls cast a spell of hypnotic vibes and timeless harmonies. Their music doesn't just sound good to the ears - it haunts the soul. It slowly paints a canvas of "Melting Pot Art." King's self-titled EP consists of three songs that are free, for all you broke kids., which takes off with "The Story." The track casts spells of harmonies and mellow tones, talking about a journey of easy-going freedom.

King is changing minds about what R&B is, and makes boundaries or the "box" slowly fade. Find their music by logging onto WeAreKing.com and follow their natural raw flow.

SEX AND THE ISLAND

On Playing Coy While Seeking Coitus

Navigating the Maze of Human Personality

BY JEREMY PASKER

Remain amiable for no other reason than life is experienced with two, or preferably three or more, friends at a time; it's complete shit when experienced alone. Everyone provides a parallel understanding, both emotionally and intellectually, so perhaps, life is better described as a symbiotic relationship with other co-inhabitants.

An example of this in nature is facultative relationships, meaning two organisms living independently, but one's enhanced by the other — according to Biologist Shanta Nair at least.

Though, there are still people who believe everyone enters pacts with greedy intentions. “We only help one another for the reward,” they’d say; and I can paint a picture that would agree with this.

Besides family, people rarely hang out with those who annoy them. People torridly avoid being drowned by others stale and uninspiring personalities.

For that reason, there’d be a level of cruel intent attached to each encounter. Whether rehearsed at the art of speak, or rehearsed at the art of digital espionage, either are efficient tools within the social quarry; no mallet is too heavy when wielded correctly.

Originally, I was the mallet, but eventually I graduated to utility belt — a slight transition but also a constructive one.

Meeting her was suffocating at first. Eventually I got over it, since she became the type of girl you practiced on until you met the next one. My intent isn’t to seem callous nevertheless that’s how our relationship crescendoed.

She was the first girl to fascinate my curiosity at a molecular level. She taught me the proper form of clitoral stimulation. Alongside her sexual apprenticeship I matured

like a 1 percenter trust fund. Before her, I was a sloppy mess.

In the beginning, as per usual, I was oblivious to what was in front of me.

“Come with me, Jeremy,” she said while grabbing my wrist.

“Sorry, to where?”

“Just trust me.”

In hindsight, I should have gone along. But I didn’t; I was high on something or another. For that reason, I felt it necessary to debate the tenets of Pantheism.

“What are your interpretations of our elastic universe?” I asked. “And how does that correlate to the meaning of life?”

Bored with my platitudes she replied, “Life is about how we balance the chase for happiness alongside the chase to not be an asshole. The ones who teeter carefully between the two are the most satisfied.”

Immediately I fell in love. Rather, I tripped into a lust that resembled love. Behaviorist B.F. Skinner feels each of us marvel at one another to such an extreme that we can no longer explain what the other does. She ignored my love but that only motivated me more.

She walked away due to my repeated mental doodling. I guess, my nerdiness wasn’t repulsive because I was granted other opportunities. I had second and third chances to consummate my debaucherous intentions.

We shared mutual friends, so we ran into each other over and over — on the beach and at the local “Salty Mermaid.” I imagined us being cosmic star fuckers. Reason enough for my booming libido to far exceed doctor recommended levels.

We bonded over a mutual attraction to alcohol. I enjoyed a melon rum and ginger ale blend. She favored dry tequila in a shot glass.

The medley of hormones and intoxicants propelled my lust for mischief, but I was merely a rung on her shelf or a discarded pair of loafers.

I approached her first the next time. “Hello,” I said with flawed confidence.

“Hi, you,” she replied with the cool distance expected from a demi god.

Avoiding the urge to drool on myself, all I could muster up was, “You look amazing.”

“You’re no bag of trash, either,” she said with as serious a face as possible given the circumstances.

Initially I was thrown back due to the randomness of her response. “Uhhmm. Yeah, have you heard?” I asked. “There will be a meteor shower this week.”

“In fact I have,” she admitted. “It should be a good one, too. I plan on having a front row seat.”

Her silhouetted body enticed me. My mind, revitalized by endorphins and testosterone, regurgitated out, “The galactic glow won’t be as brilliant as your eyes, though.”

Yeah I admit, the combination of party lights and ambient music made me confused. Whether it was fascination or just curiosity, she played into my advances as an active consumer of my affection. Her tongue packed a wallop. After almost snorting up cola from laughter she answered with, “Shut the fuck up, stupid. Where’d you get that from? Hahahaha”

Confused about what avenue to take, yet still undeterred, I sauntered forth. I was led by my lizard brain.

Before dancing the sexual tango we sparred using verbal foreplay. The initial response to my pursuits were just a way to prolong her climax. Thankfully she didn’t seem to mind my social follies.

Somehow I enticed her back to my bedroom. She certainly wasn’t lured by my intox-

icating words. It must have been the affable sounds of “The Wu-Tang Clan” that did it. She pulled my belt off using her teeth. I tripped over a bag on the floor. She danced out of her pants. My hands clumsily fiddled with her bra straps. After finally initiating the reproductive cha cha cha, my buddy walked in on us. It was tragic; I still cringe.

Since her, I’ve found that each person is unlike anyone else. No one may claim they know precisely what satellites the thoughts of others; even twins enjoy a distinct play at life.

One morning, we lay together dissecting each other’s inner perspectives.

“What is your father like?” she whispered. “I don’t remember. All of what I’ve heard is second hand,” I uttered with a hint of anxiety.

“My mother vacated a messy situation before I was lucid enough to remember him.”

“That’s too bad,” she replied. Would oral help?”

“Obviously” I thought, but I couldn’t blow a metaphorical load before I blew a literal one. I had to disguise my childish glee. “If it doesn’t you’re doing it wrong,” I assured her.

Whether she genuinely felt empathy or feigned sympathy didn’t matter to me. I grew under her erotic tutelage.

So, as if the therapist, one must tackle each patient with a new set of principles — the tools adapted from a previous influence. After meeting someone new you become entwined in the plot of their life and the characters that imbed it.

Hence, each person brings a new adventure and a new maze to dissect. I’ll contend, that there are the casual defense mechanisms lugged about for protection but because of the satisfaction I receive when they flatter my ego, I’ll yearn to meet them all.

Starting a New Relationship Illegally

My Real Life Episode of Cops

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

On a brisk November evening, I was driving back from Manhattan with my new boyfriend at the time. We were about two weeks into our relationship and couldn’t keep our hands off of each other. Whether it was the glow of our honeymoon phase or the Lemonade Four Loko I drank on the ride back, I wanted to be on him like white on Spanish rice.

After about an hour, we finally get back to the island. We spent a few minutes circling my neighborhood for a concealed spot to pull over and take care of some unfinished business. Finally, we came up with the perfect location; the dark, empty parking lot behind the Annadale train station. We assumed that, because it was almost midnight, no one would be around to bug us.

Plus, who hangs out in a parking lot

besides horny young lovers with cars?

At this point, that Four Loko I drank earlier was starting to take its toll. No longer able to control myself, or my libido, I flopped into the back seat and braced for impact. Time was at a standstill and I was in euphoria, so I had no idea how long the sex actually lasted. This was our fifth time having sex, so everything was still fresh and exciting.

I knew that I wasn’t the most experienced partner he had been with, nor did I have any bankable skills in the sex department. But something about him just made me feel like the sex-driven love child of Ron Jeremy and Jenna Jameson. He gave me the confidence to completely let go and not worry about my performance. It just came naturally.

Things were getting hot, heavy, and a bit

hazy when we both heard a loud knock on the door. My half naked, sweaty lover opened the door a crack and came face-to-face with an MTA police officer. He closed the door, turned to me and said, “Put your clothes on and don’t talk. I’ll take care of it.”

When the fog on the windows finally cleared, I saw the two cops standing outside of their car waiting for us to get out. I probably should’ve freaked out a lot harder than I actually did, but you know, alcohol. My boyfriend got out of the car and attempted to help me out from the back seat while smoothing out my dress to avoid any further indecent exposure.

They asked for our ID’s and began questioning my boyfriend about his vehicle. They then went back into their car to process our licenses and check our records. He assured me that we probably weren’t going

to get into any serious trouble, considering that we had no history of prior incidents, and because the cops got a glimpse of my ass on the way out of the car.

After a few minutes, the cops came back out and returned our licenses to us. They were surprisingly cool about the situation, laughing it off and urging us to rent a hotel room next time. “If you pool your money together it won’t be that expensive. Besides, don’t you want to give her a nice night out? She deserves it.”

We left the parking lot that night having escaped the wrath of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority with only a slight feeling of shame and an excellent story to warn our future children. Since that incident, we’ve been more cautious over picking a location and have found the ultimate spot free of cops and bright lights.

BANNER OPINIONS

He Doesn’t Eat Meat, Not He Can’t Eat Meat

Why I Became a Vegetarian

BY JEAN-CLAUDE QUINTYNE

In the middle of October 2012, I announced to my mother that I was going to become a vegetarian. The fact that she couldn’t contain her laughter after she said, “you’re not going to be full at dinner anymore son,” made me realize right away how easy this transition was going to be. I knew why I was doing this and understood that it was for the better.

I had a huge concern for my health. Prior to becoming a vegetarian, I started paying closer attention to the things I was eating and drinking. With the exception of ginger-ale, I gave up soda completely and cut down on my sugar intake. I also added more vegetables to my dinner, restarted exercising, and drank more water. While I figured out that doing this wasn’t enough, I agreed that I was at least off to a great start.

Because I grew up in a family from the Caribbean island of Trinidad, meat: chicken, fish, and goat, was a common feature of dinner. At the age of seven, I discovered that I was allergic to fish, so I wasn’t worried about that. Whenever I had chicken, I’d always leave a decent amount of meat on the bone; seeing whatever those gristly, veiny looking parts were, I knew I didn’t have the stomach to bite into it.

Whenever we had steak for dinner, I’d cut off the gooey, fatty parts in the middle and the sides of the portion that was given to me. This of course, didn’t please my mother because I was wasting food, but eating meat always felt forced. Perhaps vegetarianism had subliminally been calling out to me this entire time.

On the evening of October 15, 2012, I had my last meat featured meal. It was white rice, stew chicken, with a bowl of

salad. I stared at the plate for a long time before I began, thinking about how this would affect the rest of my life.

Five months have passed since that evening and I haven’t looked back. It’s been a wonderful experience. I finally understand what vegetarianism is, I’ve been introduced to an undiscovered world of foods that are indescribably delicious, and I’ve watched my health improve. My skin has cleared up, I have way more energy than I had before, and I feel a lot stronger.

I’ve also learned that vegetarianism helps protect the environment, which was another reason why I decided to do this. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average American eats close to two hundred pounds of meat a year. What’s significant about that, is in the United States, the quality of meat is significantly low because our meat comes from factory farms where chickens, just to give one example, are treated in utterly horrifying ways. Their short and tortured lives contribute to Global Warming, lots of wasted money, and food that can be used in better ways, and increased risks of getting sick.

In Jonathan Safran Foer’s book “Eating Animals” he describes that chickens are fed steroids, amongst the other terrible things they’re fed, which in turn is consumed by humans, that can, overtime, cause children to hit puberty prematurely and a twenty-four hour sickness that passes through the body after having a piece of chicken or steak.

Being a vegetarian doesn’t mean that I can’t eat meat, it means that I don’t eat meat, a choice that is immensely difficult for an individual to make, but one that is also a step in the right direction.

If We Are Not Supposed to Eat Animals...

...How Come They are Made out of Meat?

BY JEREMY PASKER

“Recently, while I was in the street, my eye was caught. I stared unthinkingly ... when I became aware of a man at the side busily plucking a hen, while another man ... seized a live hen and tore its head off. The hideous scream of the animal, and the pitiful, weaker sounds of complaint that it made while being overpowered transfixed my soul with horror,” wrote Richard Wagner.

Globally, tens of million of animals are slaughtered each day to satiate our primitive appetites. That number would be hundreds of times greater if I was to include the mass genocide of aquatic life, but I digress.

“We consume the carcasses of creatures of like appetites, passions, and organs with ourselves; we feed on babes, though not our own; and the slaughterhouse resounds daily with screams of pain and fear,” wrote Robert Louis Stevenson.

The similarities between the animals we consume and us are remarkable. Did you know mice make weird faces when they’re in pain? In 2010, researchers at McGill University and the University of British Columbia in Canada found that mice subjected to moderate pain “grimace,” just like humans.

A cow, after giving birth, wasn’t milking and the owner of a tiny farm was curious as to why, so he called in a veterinarian. After several visits the veterinarian was unable to find out why either. This went on for several weeks. Around the 5th week or so the owner, from his kitchen window one morning, saw the cow walk from the woods. The farmer thought this was strange so he went to investigate. What he stumbled upon in the woods was a baby calf hidden, nestled in the woods.

Upon giving birth, the cow had had twins then hid one in the woods and had been feeding the calf ever since. So whenever the farmer went for milk the cow was already empty. The cow was not only smart enough to hide only one calf, realizing the owner would know they were missing, but also had the foresight to do the feeding at night before the farmer could start milking.

Animals that show so much potential don’t deserve the mistreatment given to them by industrialized farm factories. Watch any number of free documentaries on Youtube then try to bare and eat a hamburger or visit KFC later. Impossible!

“I refuse to eat animals because I cannot nourish myself by the sufferings and by the death of other creatures. I feel happy. I am no prisoner, I am free,” wrote Edgar Kupfer-Koberwitz. “Why should I cause other creatures to be made prisoners and thrown into jail? I feel happy, nobody wounds me; nobody kills me; why should I wound or kill other creatures or cause them to be wounded or killed for my pleasure and convenience?”

Alongside wasted life are wasted resources. So many resources could go into

sustaining human life but instead are added to feeding animals bred for slaughter. Food that would otherwise go to prolonging the life of humans over the span of 80 years are instead rationed off to cows and pigs that if lucky are alive for 5-6 years (5 - 6 months for pigs) — or unlucky if what happens to them over that span could be considered living. The normal lifespan of a cow is 20 years and 15 years for a pig.

The extra six thousand grams of plant protein could go a long way to solving hunger issues in America. Just to put that in perspective, a 150 lb person is only required to consume less than 55 grams of protein.

Nutritionists estimate human’s minimum daily protein requirement by multiplying body weight in pounds by 37.

On average, it takes approximately 6kg of plant protein to produce just about 1kg of animal protein according to “The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition” (AJCN) (2003).

It takes 10 times as much water to produce beef than it does vegetables. Sustaining freshwater reserves has become impossible.

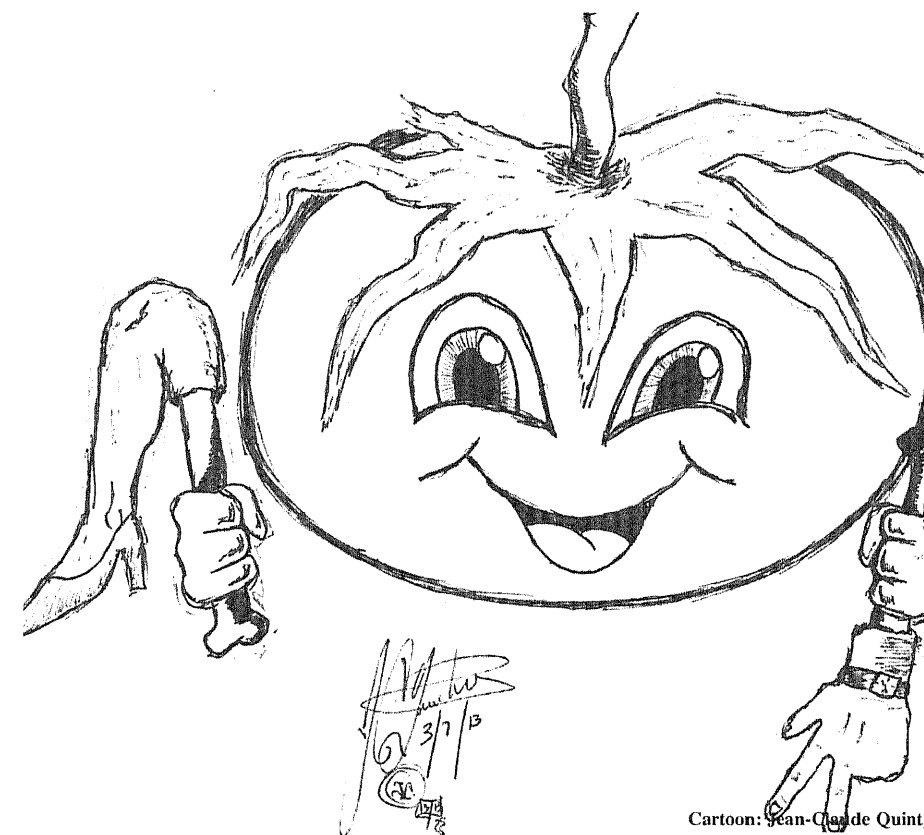
“It takes over 15,000 liters of water to produce an average kilogram of beef. This compares with around 1,200 liters for a kg of maize and 1800 for a kilogram of wheat,” says the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2010).

“With lentils, tomatoes and rice, olives and nuts and bread, why does a man care to gnaw a slice of something bleeding and dead?” wrote Henry Bailey Stevens.

Vegetarian substitutes have grown a lot in variety and taste over the past couple of decades. I challenge you not to love my favorite vegan donut shop in Williamsburg Brooklyn.

Just walk through an aisle at a supermarket and you’ll see how often organic, natural and meatless options jump out at you. The vegetarian lifestyle is no longer for the conscientious soccer mom or sickly goth child. Football players like superstar Arian Foster of the Houston Texans or Baseball phenom Prince Fielder of the Detroit Tigers have both adopted a meatless diet. Even the artist Prince is one. Besides, didn’t man come before both the axe and fire? Each is required to furnish flesh to our liking, given our lack of claws and sharp anterior teeth.

“That we can subsist on plant food and perform our work even to advantage is not a theory, but a well-demonstrated fact. Many races living almost exclusively on vegetables are of superior physique and strength. Plant food, such as oatmeal, is more economical than meat, and superior to it in regard to both mechanical and mental performance. Such food, moreover, taxes our digestive organs decidedly less, and, in making us more contented and sociable, produces an amount of good difficult to estimate.”



Cartoon: Jean-Claude Quintyne

BANNER SPORTS

Dolphins Grab Consecutive CUNY Championship Men's Basketball Downs John Jay

BY JESSICA PIFALO

The crowd was fired up in the Nat Holman gymnasium on the campus of CCNY as the CSI Men's Basketball team won their second CUNY Championship against the Bloodhounds of John Jay College 80-74. This win gives the Dolphins the automatic bid for the NCAA Division III National Championship tournament.

Hitting the court the Dolphins were off to a slow start. John Jay would go back and forth with the Dolphins and would lead the Dolphins by seven at the 16:14 mark. The defending CUNY Champs would not go down that easily when a run powered by Bloochy Magliore and Javon Cox would cut down the Dolphins lead to 3 at the 12:35 mark, followed by a jumper by Jonathan Chadwick-Myers to cut the lead to 1.

From there CSI would hold the lead for a shot time before John Jay would come storming back and extending their lead back to 3.

Magliore would come swooping in and hit a three to tie the game up at 20 with 7:00 left in the half. That three-pointer would set a spark for the Dolphins as they went on a 13-3 run for the Dolphins putting them at a commanding 30-23 lead with two minutes left in the first half. John Jay would respond with a little 5-1 run of their own, keeping them alive going into the second half.

Foul troubles did haunt the Dolphins, and that is something that Assistant Coach Sal Picciallo is worried about.

"Our top players like Dylan Bulger and Javon Cox, need to stay out of foul trouble for us to have a successful second half."

The second half started like the first half, both teams were going point for point. John Jay did tie up the game with 13:37 left, but that's when CSI really turned it up, going on a tremendous 17-4 run over the next five minutes that put them at a 63-50 lead. The Bloodhounds attempted to chip away the lead, over the next five minutes and would eventually cut down the lead to 5 points with :26 left in the game. However the Dolphins would hold strong and grab the win.

Leading the Dolphins was Tournament MVP Bloochy Magliore, who finished with 26 points, First team All Star Jon Chadwick-Myers dropped 15 points, Dylan Bulger snagged a double double with 14 points and 10 rebounds, along with teammate, former CUNYAC Rookie of The Year, Javon Cox with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Sophomore reserve guard Kevin King helped the Dolphins tremendously with 8 points and 4 rebounds,

"Everyone stepped up today," said King. "Defense was key, we had to make our stops."

King really points out teamwork that got



The men's basketball team celebrates with the CSI dolphins as champions

the Dolphins through the game. "When we were down, we stayed together," King said. "We knew we wanted a championship, we just stuck together to get the win."

Keeping composure during the game was key for the Dolphins to stay ahead in this ball game.

"We don't get rattled, we know that the other teams are here to play, but with the talent we have and the depth that we have, we know that we are going to make a run right back," said Junior Matt Van Mannen.

Slowing the game down helped the Dolphins keep their composure as well.

"We slowed things down, in the beginning

we let John Jay dictate what they wanted us to do, where as in the second half we kinda forced them to do what we wanted them to do," said Dylan Bulger.

For now the Dolphins will take the win and the Championship trophy back to its rightful place on Staten Island, but are determined to bring it home a third time.

"Two in a row feels great," said Magliore. "We are going to make it three next season."

The Dolphins will hit the road to Washington D.C. on March 2, to take on Number 9 ranked Catholic University in the first round of the NCAA Division III National Tournament.

Women's Softball Prepares for 2013 Upcoming Season Lady Dolphins Hope to Get Back On Top

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

After tallying at least 20 wins in the last 5 seasons, Women's Softball fell flat in 2012 posting a 17-20 record. The program run by Head Coach Stella Porto for the past 8 years hopes to bounce back from a mediocre campaign. Kaitlyn Flynn who played for Porto last season is now an Assistant Coach. Flynn points to chemistry as one reason for the letdown.

"We didn't play as whole team," said Flynn. "We need to have the team come together and a championship will follow."

Injuries to Right Fielder Kristi Dillon and Starting Pitchers Danielle Ponsiglione and Meaghan Techan didn't help. Although Ponsiglione was the number one starter she was also capable of playing first base and the outfield. With Dillon and Ponsiglione graduating, finding replacements for them will not be easy.

When the team starts with a clean slate in 2013 fourteen freshmen will help makeup the roster. Despite being a very young team both Flynn, and Porto remain confident that it won't be a weakness.

"The girls replacing us are very good," said Flynn. "They're all motivated to play and love the game."

In order to prevent further injuries from

occurring, Porto has made some changes to her staff. Porto's staff features new additions. Pitching Coach Kaitlyn Corica and Conditioning Coach Mike Massa join the staff. Massa is also a member of the Men's Soccer team. Both Corica and Massa will be called upon to help the team stay healthy and get back to their winning ways.

Corica has a tough task ahead of her trying to get her pitchers ready after losing the dependable Ponsiglione. Ponsiglione had 6 more wins than the next starter and a 2.3 ERA.

"I'm trying to incorporate all the skills I picked up as a former pitcher into what I'm teaching these pitchers today," said Corica.

Pitching depth was a weakness of the Dolphins last season so Porto focused recruiting on finding just that; except recruiting has become a problem of late. Due to strict academic guidelines that prevent incoming Freshmen from stepping foot on the diamond Porto has seen the number of prospects dwindle.

"Transitioning is difficult enough coming from high school," said Porto. "Softball saved me and it could save them."

This doesn't mean that Porto takes academics lightly. Flynn the former player recounts some not too distant memories of coach.

"She would always yell at me," said Flynn. "I

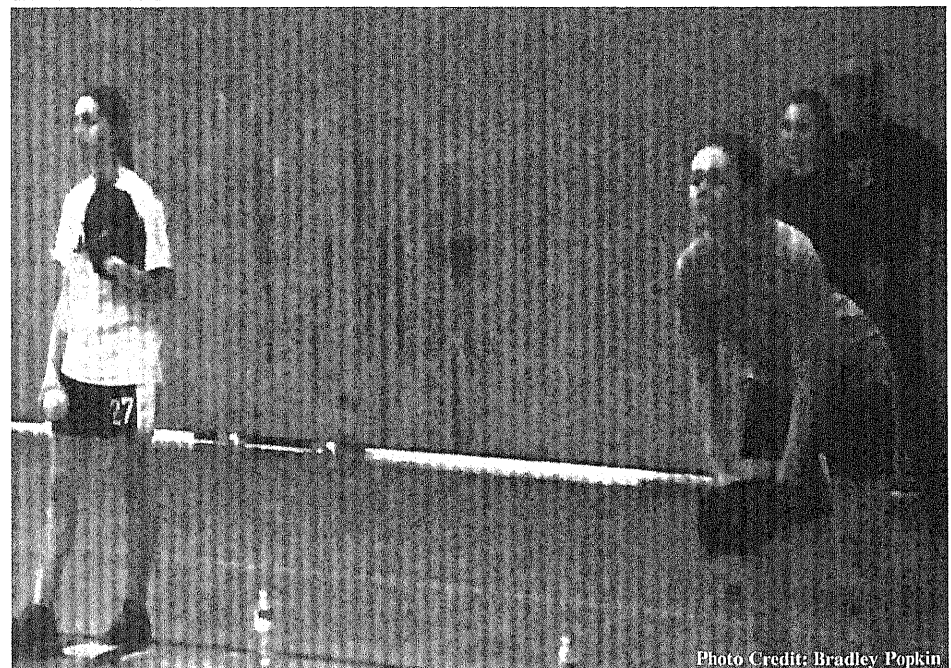


Photo Credit: Bradley Popkin

Women's softball team practices to prepare for a successful 2013 season

would have to pass because I was scared of her."

Moving forward, hitting will have to be addressed. Despite the team batting .322 and boasting an OBP of .359, it didn't translate into wins. The Dolphins scored just 19 runs in their 20 losses.

"Our OBP was pretty high, but we didn't get the right hits at the right times," said Porto.

The Dolphins 2013 schedule features several CUNY contests, 11 home games, and 8 away games all of which are doubleheaders. Coach Porto has her sights set on one particular matchup.

"Our game versus Montclair will be a test and the turning point of our season," said Porto.

In her 8 years as Head Coach of the Softball program, Porto has bumped heads with players. Players have had no choice but to follow her lead and they have nothing but respect.

"She's always here for us," said Junior Pitcher Stefanie Solari. "She puts her heart and soul into this team and that's why this program is where it is."

The Women's Softball season begins on March 8 with a home game versus Briarcliffe College at 5 pm.