

# THE BANNER

## Dolphins Win First ECAC Championship

Women's Basketball Team Culminates Season with an Historic First Championship Win.

BY EDNITA LORENZO  
SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time in CSI women's basketball history, the Dolphins won the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championship after an intense match up against the Lehman College Lightning with a score of 75-71 on March 8th, 2009.

The Dolphins got revenge after the Lightning smashed CSI's CUNY title hopes in a 51-58 win of the semifinal round of the CUNY playoffs on February 24th.

CSI hit a dead end on the road to the CUNY title, but found the open road when given the good news of being ranked the #1 seed in ECAC.

Once given the news, the Dolphins got back to work and made no mistakes.

Faced with 8th placed Purchase State in the ECAC quarterfinals, CSI found its stride with the help of Megan Sullivan. Sullivan, who accounted for 25 points and 20 rebounds, kept the ball moving offensively while shutting down Purchase on the defensive end. The Dolphins ended Purchase's run 85-72.

In the semifinal game, it was the #5 seeded College of St. Elizabeth (CSE) who saw its ECAC run cut short. The Dolphins continued to lead, but this time with the help of Melanie D'Ambrosi, Nicole Estrada and Kristen Panariello.

Ranking in 19 points, D'Ambrosi led her team with points and gave way for the Dolphins to cruise past the CSE Eagles 68-50.

In an intense and 3rd meeting between CSI and Lehman, both teams were out to prove something. CSI wanted revenge while Lehman wanted to show their win in the CUNY semifinal was no fluke.

Back and forth with baskets and heated adrenaline, it was Nicole Estrada who pulled through and gave the team the extra boost it needed for the 75-71 win.

Estrada, who walked out with not only a championship medal and a career

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Photo by CSIDolphins.com

After a loss to Lehman College in the semifinal round for the CUNY championship, the Dolphins ended their season 23-6 and captured its first ECAC title in school history.

## College Begins V.P. Search

Who Will Fill the Role of Vice President for Student Affairs?

BY JAMES PLUNKETT  
STAFF WRITER

The vetting process has begun for President Morales's second-highest official in the CSI administration.

A pool of four candidates, all of whom exhibit experience in collegiate administration, are actively being interviewed by a panel of CSI leaders to become the next vice president.

Throughout the last week in February, each of the four candidates presented for one hour to a panel in 1-A of his or her credentials, and took questions about past job experiences and what qualities they could bring to the administration. The panel consisted of CSI officials ranging from faculty in Student Affairs, to Library staff, to professors and chairpersons. Students were invited to join, but none came.

During the presentation, everyone on the panel was asked to fill out a questionnaire about each of the respective candidates' strengths and concerns—such as experience, ability to lead, personal conviction, etc. At the end of the hour-long roundtable presentation, each member of the panel wrote down their overall impression of the candidate and dropped off their questionnaires.

Candidates include Peter Barbatis, Dean of Student Affairs, Broward College in Florida; Ramona Brown, Vice Dean of Student and External Affairs, (CUNY) Grove School of Engineering; Michael A. Hutmaker, Dean of Student Affairs, Polytechnic Institute – NYU; Jerald Jones-Woolfolk, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Mississippi Valley State University.

According to the CUNY job offering, CSI's next vice president will need, "a doctoral degree required with eight to ten years progressively responsible senior level experience in student affairs. The successful candidate must also demonstrate a record of excellence in

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## Celebrating Black History

This February Seemed Particularly Historic.

BY MAUREEN CHUNG  
CONTRIBUTOR

Last Wednesday, a panel discussion presented by the New York Urban League, The Black Male Initiative (BMI), SEEK, Liberty Partnership and Student Services Programs attracted a less than stellar turn out. The panelists, a conglomeration of CSI professors, visiting professors, and students, spoke about The Impact and Meaning of the Election of President Barack Obama, a relevant topic today.

President Tomás Morales opened the panel by explaining what multiple programs did on campus "[they] champion diversity and inclusiveness," Morales said.

The BMI strives to include a highly underrepresented group in higher education. According to the CUNY web page, BMI was created in May 2004 to combat the factors that lead to poor academic performance in the K-12 system. BMI further encourages its members to participate in outreach, such as bringing a small group of students to West Africa with the creators of the HIV/AIDS testing kits, as stated by Ranti Ogunleye, one of the directors of NYUL.

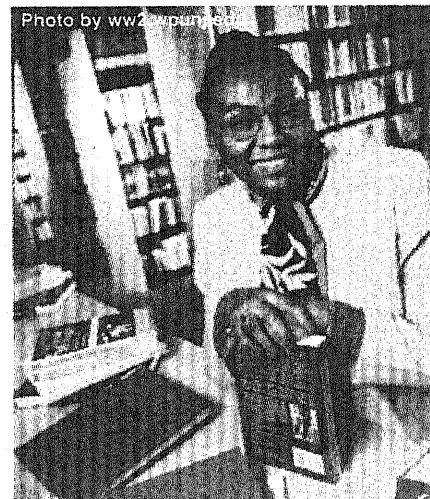


Photo by ww2.wpunjs.edu  
"It's a symbol of what America should be," said Charley Flint, the first African-American woman to achieve a sociology degree at Rutgers University.

President Morales also spoke about Strategies for Success, provides mentors and tutors from CSI's SEEK program to middle and elementary schools.

The moderator of the panel discussion, Larry Body, the advisory board chairman of the Staten Island branch of NYUL, spoke about his 21-year-long involvement with NYUL, focusing on education and employment and ensuring its accessibility to regular citizens.

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# American Democracy Project

## Who Watches Our Watchmen?

BY THOMAS MORRISSEY  
STAFF WRITER

Note on this column's title: I sometimes listen to Fishbone, and I like the song "Lyn' Ass Bitch." The Lyn' Ass Bitch (es) are, of course, the Media, but before I get ahead of myself—

**SPOILER ALERT!!** I'm going to talk about the end of the book Watchmen. If you don't want to learn anything you'd rather read first, skip to the "Cough".

Anyone smart enough to be reading this column has probably read "Watchmen" by now. Right off the bat, let me say I love the book. It's fascinating from so many perspectives that I generally flip through it once or twice a year just to refresh. I'm looking forward to the movie, the trailers look pretty interesting. It's supposed to be insanely faithful to the book except for the ending. We'll see.

It took me a few readings to start to be able to understand "Watchmen," but here's what I get out of it: to do what's "best for humanity," the villain kills over three million people and gets away with it because he lies about who is responsi-

ble. The heroes trying to stop him fail, but it's okay—the villain has made himself "feel every one of those deaths," so you know it wasn't an easy choice. The uncompromising hero refuses to see this "solution" to humanity's problems as acceptable and demands the truth be known, and the villain face responsibility for what he's done. Fat chance; the uncompromising hero is destroyed by the uncaring god/hero. The "sane" heroes are left to muddle through the rest of their lives, burdened by this truth but unable to talk about it lest they destroy the fragile world peace that has been achieved.

Let me repeat that for those who came in late: what's "best" for people can only be achieved by lies and mass slaughter, but it's okay if you "feel their pain" when you do it.

\*Cough\* Obama's economic policies. \*Cough\*

Political commentator Walter Lippman (1889-1974) had an observation: "There can be no liberty for a community which lacks the means by which to detect lies." The "means" by which our political

process detects lies is called "the Media." The Media are supposed to be the Watchmen, keeping guard of the truth, with special protection under the Constitution to do so. If there is no truthful standard, Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels' words become prescient: if you tell a lie that's big enough, often enough, it will be accepted as truth. Like in "Watchmen."

Could this happen in our society? Well, I've come across another book, "The Book of Vice (Very Naughty Things and How to Do Them)." It's written by Peter Sagal, a voice on National Public Radio. Different chapters describe different "naughty" things the author engages in, but I wanted to comment on one in particular, the chapter about lying. Mr. Sagal says it's possible to get away with lying about anything if you follow his simple steps:

- Appear reasonable in presenting your side;
- Teach your position as part of a "controversy" that has two sides, and yours is just one reasonable approach;
- Project your motives and methods

onto the other side;

-Present your arguments as specific and verifiable, the other side's as broad and assertive, and last (and most important, according to Mr. Sagal)

-Never give in. Ever.  
Now where can I find an example to illustrate...?

In the last few weeks, the Democrat/Leftists in government have created and passed the largest spending bill in the history of the world. According to Obama, this bill was absolutely vital in preventing a "catastrophe" and a "crisis." And yet—after it was rammed through Congress by Democrats, it took Obama FOUR DAYS to sign it into law. And far from "stimulating" the economy, it has driven the Dow Jones down.

Remember the words of Obama Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel? "You can do things in a crisis you normally wouldn't be able to do." Like keep people from discussing what the largest spending bill in the history of the world will do to this country, maybe?

Can the Big Lie ever happen in this country? Two words: President Obama.

## Does Wall Street See a Boost?

BY DHANISH BABU JOHN  
STAFF WRITER

Oh well, yeah I can't stop writing about the current economic crisis. Many need a break from it. Even me. But that doesn't stop us from sitting glued to out television daily seeing the stock market plunge. So, what do we do about it? Go buy a car and help them survive. What are you waiting for? They have those hot deals, where you buy two cars and they provide you the price they exclusively offer their employees. Or go buy a ranch house in Connecticut for \$250,000 as they advertise in those shows, "What is best to buy?"

Coming back to the topic, on March 3rd the Wall Street has seen a rise in its so called bad condition. But on Tuesday March 3rd, the Dow rose 43.0 to 6,806.30. On Monday the 2nd, the blue chips recorded their lowest close since April 25, 1997. The index is now down more than 52 percent from its record of 14,164.53 set in October 2007. Wait before you call it the phoenix bird rising. Before the 3rd, there were massive sell offs. And that is why when there was a slight rise, everyone seemed to jump with joy. The closing levels in the previous days were the lowest in eleven



years. But does this ease the common man's fears? No is the answer.

People are still worried the government won't succeed. On March 2nd, the government injected \$30 billion to troubled insurer American International Group Inc., its fourth attempt to stabilize the company since September. And these figures have only doubled for several other power houses such as General Motors. Stocks often rebound after heavy selling as bargain-hunters emerge to snap up pummeled stocks.

But still there are companies, that await massive bail out plans from the government and central bank.

And is the government responding? Yes, to a certain extent. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the Obama administration will work with Congress to determine the size and shape of future rescue efforts. He also hinted that the bailout costs may rise more than expected. The fiscal 2010 budget "acknowledges that, as expensive as it already has been, our effort to

stabilize the financial system might cost more," Geithner remarked. As more information becomes available, the Obama administration will estimate those costs and work with Congress to determine the appropriate size and shape of the efforts according to Congress spokesmen. It is also a clear fact that, the global financial situation has dramatically worsened since AIG was first rescued in September 2008 and this has put more pressure on the economy and AIG. Meanwhile, the contraction in credit is causing more job losses and further declines in business activity, which, in turn, is adding more pressure on the financial system.

The recession may not be hitting us as hard as hit back in the 1980s. The unemployment rate then was above 9%, while today it stands at a little above 7%. But the biggest drawback now is that the banks have tumbled. That is something, we didn't see coming, or our financial experts didn't see coming. Recovery may take two years or more than that. But hope for the best. And I will be back with more updates. Till then, keep thinking on how all this happened. Screw it. Have a coffee, relax and watch the cable. Why take the pain?

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Vin Forte is not funny  
To the editor:

Well its obvious that people have little regards to the English language. There is nothing you can really do about it except to destroy technology. Americans are incredibly spoiled. I would say about 90 percent of Americans, adults and children alike, need to be slapped in the face and re-educated. In case you were wondering, I am included in that category

Huntin Wu

Re: Leet. It's what's wrong with kids today  
To the editor:

Yo, Vin Forte, WTF man? Who are you to make fun of our diction? I am gonna speak out like I wanna speak. I have to connect with my kids. If they wanna be uncivilized then I have to adjust to their language and slang. So please don't criticize the language.

Ian Fledman

To the editor:

After trying hours yesterday to decode Vin Forte's human section puzzle, I began to feel a but woozy. Now no longer is Forte only not funny, but he is becoming a health risk, as my symptoms may have been attributed to low grade seizures. I am calling for action by the editor to please sit down to try and decode the puzzle that he allowed to be printed; just until the numbers and symbols turn on him the way they did to me.

Anthony Benevento, Sophomore

To the editor:

The article by Vin Forte was extremely funny and dead on. There are too many times when instead of simply picking up the phone to cal someone, I would reach for my touch screen phone and send a quick text. And at times of either urgency of laziness, I will abbreviate words within that message and add numbers into

the equation, for example, str8, instead of "straight". It can be problematic when there is so much slang spoken so freely, it is a struggle at times to block that out framing academic writing. Even though I have experience in short handed text messages, I could never translate the best article.

Johcalyn Hollis, Junior

To the editor:

I couldn't help agree with you more with your article about today's children tendency to use Leet. I work at Tottenville High School and have previously worked at New Dorp. I would spot leet in at least three assignments a week. From not writing the complete "your" and using "ur" to ending words with "z" and not "s". One prime example is in a letter which was to be written to our NY State Senators. The letter opened with "Hey, What's Up?"

The students aren't the only ones to blame. Teachers should immediately point out their spelling mistakes in order for it to become primitive to speak proper English. For me, I decided to take out leet from my text messages. I guess it's my way of saving the English language. One sentence at a time.

Kristina Niesi, Senior

To the editor:

The worst part about reading this is realizing that a lot of adults I know do this too. I never knew it had an actual name. I honestly thought it was created and kids started using leet. I beg to differ about this being the reason language has become so terrible. I blame it more on television, movies and spell check on Microsoft.

Tanya Simpson, Junior

To the editor:

I would like to point out how much I love this article. I too find myself using abbreviations and writing as if I am text-ing or typing. It is a bad habit and since every-

one at some point was taught proper English I think punishment for using it could work.

Jessica Hazzola

In this edition of The Banner, I enjoyed Vin Forte's page. I like the first article about leet. It is a rising epidemic amongst teens. I especially like when he compares the language to a heroin addict.

I like the idea of the second piece because it offers a prize to those who can decode it. That is a good way to get students to pay attention to The Banner. The last part listed some of the funniest and most ridiculous baby names, I agree with all of them.

Alyssa LaRocca, Sophomore

Re: Candid Kelly doles out advice

To the editor:

I really like the advice column and especially the advice about the best friend talking about nothing but how much money she spends. I had the same problem and the advice actually made me think that it would be better to just ignore it. All the other advice were also very interesting and definitely helpful. Many people don't ask their friends for advice because sometimes friends, think alike. So thank you, for having an advice column, an outsider opinion are always helpful.

Attiyah Rehan, Sophomore

Re: Dolphins on a Hot Streak

To the editor:

I feel this story was well written by Ednita Lorenzo. Ednita week in and week out keeps the readers, especially me updated with CSI' varsity teams. I really appreciate that considering I am a huge sports fan and a CSI athlete myself. Ednita' story explained how the women's and men's basketball teams ended off the regular season. Also where they stand and look for the playoffs.

Sal Tadaro

Re: Dolphins name new captains

Sports Editor Ednita Lorenzo did a nice job of capturing the faculty and staff honored by the athletes in CSI's last home basketball games of the year. If it wasn't for these faculty and staff it would make the season a lot harder for the athletes. I believe the faculty and staff do not get honored enough for the hard work and dedication that they put in and it is nice to see them be recognized. As a former athlete here I can say that they are truly appreciated.

Heath Dilts, Senior

Re: The Reluctant Leader

To the editor:

For years I have had gay friends and I have always tried to make myself as well as others more open to homosexuality. I think it is great that CSI has a GSA, it makes me feel like there is more tolerance today towards homosexuality. As a straight female, I feel that this article is a nice way of showing people on CSI that sexuality should not be a factor when it comes to who you associate with. Now that I have read the article I think that I will finally attend a meeting which I haven't done because I just haven't had the time.

Maria Cavaliere, Sophomore

To the editor:

I am proud to see coverage of the GSA. It was a refreshing to see a well written, positive piece about an important figure in Gay Campus Politics. The article itself was classy, informed and funny at times.

Raymond Reyes

Watch the Gap

To the editor:

I think it is true that if any of the proposed plans are implemented it would benefit everyone. The current MTA deficit can not be reduced simply by increasing rates and cutting services.

Megan Barclay, Junior

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## Black History Month (from front)

He then turned the conversation to its panelists, asking first the questions: "What terms describe Obama's election, and how does it affect you personally?" The panel discussion was filled with strong opinions, articulate arguments, and intelligent, thought-out responses from members of faculty and a student, Christopher Giddens, a

### A Panel Discussion, Honoring Black History Month, Marked by an Historic Presidency

computer science major.

Professor Calvin Holder, the Director of African American Studies who holds a Ph. D from Harvard, claimed that while it was obviously a significant achievement that Obama had been elected, its effects extended deeper, as Obama's election into a seat historically limited to WASPs (White-Anglo-Saxon Protestants) "broadens the American democratic tradition."

Throughout the panel discussion, many allusions were made to the ideal America strove for, and how President

Obama had made that ideal a little more real. As Professor Richard Flanagan wrote in an e-mail, "a racial minority has the best shot in the U.S. since the country's ideology of individualism (and individual achievement) can trump the freight of group identity."

At a panel which appeared to be filled with hope for its future generation, some may say it was disappointing to see the seats of 1P-111 only sparsely filled, and with mostly African-Americans. The dialogue about President Obama will likely create a discourse throughout the years of his presidency, and perhaps, for many years after. It seems unlikely to limit itself to one night during Black History Month, or to just a group of panelists.

Visiting Professor Charley Flint, who was the first African-American woman to earn a Ph. D in sociology at Rutgers University said, "It's a symbol of what America could be."

Christopher Giddens, however, warns against looking to President Obama as being an ultimate savior, saying, "He's not the Messiah, you know, he's just doing his job."

## Dolphins Win Championship (from front)

high 26 points, was awarded the Outstanding Player of the Game.

"It feels so good to win this championship game after we lost in the CUNY-AC Tournament," said Coach Marguerite Moran. "It's a great accomplishment for us and for our five seniors. I wanted them to have something to take with them as they left CSI. They worked hard for it and deserved it."



Nicole Estrada, career high 26 pts, was named Outstanding Player of the Game.

## Steam Leak in Campus Center

### A Faulty Radiator in The Banner Office, Floods a Portion Second Floor of the Campus Center.

BY THE BANNER  
EDITORIAL STAFF

At about eleven o'clock on Tuesday, March 3rd, the coldest morning of the year so far, a radiator in Room 228 of the Campus Center suddenly started steaming. Quickly, as the steam condensed, the floor flooded. Banner's editor John Adrian, was working in the office at the time.

Condensate spread across the hallway, under the door of "Third Rail." Adrian, with his back to the disaster, worked at a computer terminal, grateful that some heat was finally making it into the frigid office. Only when Hom Chan, who was working in the "Third Rail" office, noticed water coming under the door and investigated was the alarm sound.

Greg Brown, Associate Director of Student Life, notified the building's custodial staff who called CSI's plumber. Risking steam burns, he removed the radiator cover and turned-off the steam supply. Pat Polikarpo, Mary Anne Hicks, and Tom Carfagna of the Student Center's custodial staff soon arrived with mops, buckets and wet-dry vacuums to clean-up the mess.

Within an hour-and-a-half all that was left of the morning's adventure was a broken radiator and some discolored floor tiles.

Reported by John Adrian.

### Join The Banner!

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

Newspaper and writing experience are not necessary. If you are interested in writing about sports, hard news, the arts, movies, politics, music, sex, comedy, or just about anything else, join the Banner team!

Submit your articles to 1C-228, or email them to: [The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com](mailto:The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com).

### THE CANDIDATES

**Peter Barbatis**  
Dean of Student Affairs,  
Broward College in Florida

**Ramona Brown**  
Vice Dean of Student and  
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Grove School of Engineering

**Michael A. Hutmaker**  
Dean of Student Affairs,  
Polytechnic Institute - NYU

**Jerald Jones-Woolfolk**  
Interim Vice President for  
Student Affairs, Mississippi  
Valley State University

## City University Film Festival is Here

BY JOHN ADRIAN  
ARTS & COPY EDITOR

The City University Film Festival is here and its goal is to bring CUNY students and faculty together for a celebration of films produced by CUNY students. The festival is a platform for publicity, peer review and the cultivation of creative collaboration. Join a community of ambitious, like minded individuals who care about getting the most out of their college experience.

The CUFF will be held on the evening of March 29th, 2009 at Macaulay Honors College at a beautiful new center at 35 West 67th Street, Manhattan, featuring a state of the art screening room and Crystie projector.

This is its first year, and distinguished faculty from several CUNY campuses have already signed on to participate in the selection process. Representatives from the Mayor's Office of Film and Broadcasting, HBO, and the press have been put on the guest list.

To find-out more goto <http://macaulay.cuny.edu/cuff/>. Got questions? Contact CUFF at [Cityuniversityfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:Cityuniversityfilmfestival@gmail.com)

All entries will have been viewed by



the selection committee, and a festival jury will present awards to films deemed exceptional by the judges.

If you plan on attending, "RSVP" by e-mail the [cityuniversityfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:cityuniversityfilmfestival@gmail.com) with RSVP in the subject line to confirm your attendance. Include your name as well as the names of those who will be in your party. Space is limited.

## V.P. Search (from front)

creative leadership and outstanding management of staff and functions in the areas of student affairs including management of a diverse staff in a multicultural multiracial environment. S/He must possess excellent written and verbal communications skills, and be able to demonstrate a record of developing excellent interpersonal relationships with students, faculty, staff, and administrators. S/He must have a demonstrated ability in budget and resource allocation and strategic planning as well as a clear understanding of the academic process and its relationship to student issues."

## TECHNOLOGY WARS

Contract VS. Prepaid Phones:  
What's the bigger bargain?

BY ANDREW DILORENZO  
GEEK ON THE STREET

When I think of tech battles, I come up with a few, including Betamax vs. VHS in the 1980s, where ultimately, video did kill the radio star. (PUN INTENDED) Or how about the 1990s, when people were deciding what to listen to Smashing Pumpkins on, cassette decks or CD players, with people picking the latter. And as of recent, you have the iPod vs. the Zune. I don't have to tell you who won. In fact, we can make it a guessing game and if you guess right, you can see my editor in 1C-228, and he will give you a dollar as a prize.

Nowadays, it's less about the "WHAT COLOR DOES THIS COME IN?" or even "CAN IT PLAY PAC-MAN?" but more about how technology can save you money. So, now I present to you the latest battle in the Technology Wars: Contract vs. Prepaid Phones.

What's a contract phone, you may ask? Well, a contract phone is a phone for which service is provided by a prior arrangement with a carrier, i.e. Verizon Wireless. The user is billed after the fact according to their use of mobile services at the end of each month. Typically, the customer's contract specifies a limit or "allowance" of minutes, text messages, et cetera, and in turn the customer will be billed a flat rate for usage less than or equal to the allowance. Any other usage will incur other charges.

A prepaid phone is a tad bit different, however. In this case, the service is purchased in advance of use. By purchasing time or credit to use on the cell phone network, i.e. Virgin Mobile, a user can access a mobile phone network without an ongoing billing cycle. A user can use the service until their time or credit runs out, in which case, they would have to purchase more.

To further myself into this topic, I

went on down to my local RadioShack and sat down with a colleague of mine, Michael Georgalas, who schooled me more on what people are looking for nowadays.

"People come into the store looking for a phone. They don't know what they want to get at first, but after they talk to someone who works there about it, they ultimately make a decision. A lot of people would go for the prepaid at first, but after being explained that different cell phone providers have different policies and procedures on credit and activation, they try to see what it would take for them to get it. Ultimately, they stick with the contract phone. It's easier to use."

What about prepaid and all its perks? The fact that no one runs your credit and that you can use it sparingly, whenever it is deemed necessary to use. And the fact that it's cheaper to get a phone and some type of prepaid plan, where you pay a certain amount a month for a certain amount of minutes. Yes, it sounds like a contract but it's not.

But unfortunately, I can't decide who wins this battle between contract and prepaid phones. That's for the customer, which is you, the reader, to decide.

Some Links to enjoy:  
BOOST MOBILE \$50/month unlimited plan  
<http://www.boostmobile.com>  
VERIZON WIRELESS  
<http://www.vzw.com>  
METRO PCS Plans for Prepaid  
<http://www.metropcs.com>

Andrew DiLorenzo is a tech expert for RadioShack and a DJ for WSIA, 88.9, Staten Island.

Got a question for the Geek on the Street? Email him now at [The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com](mailto:The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com). Your question could become the Geek's next topic.

## COMING UP AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**Celtic Crossroads: Music at the Crossroads Tour**  
Friday, February 27, 2009 - 8:00pm  
The Williamson Theatre  
\$30, 35, 40

One of the most exhilarating and authentic shows of music and dance to come from Ireland in decades, Celtic Crossroads is a high-energy fusion of Irish step dancing and traditional Irish, bluegrass, gypsy, and jazz music.

"Elevating Irish music to an exciting and electrifying dimension"  
The Galway Independent

The Center for the Arts usually offers CSI student with ID advance sale tickets at half price. Check with the box office, 718 982-2670. When available, "student rush" tickets are available 30 minutes before the scheduled start of a program for \$5.00 -with ID.

## An Evening with Harvey Pekar

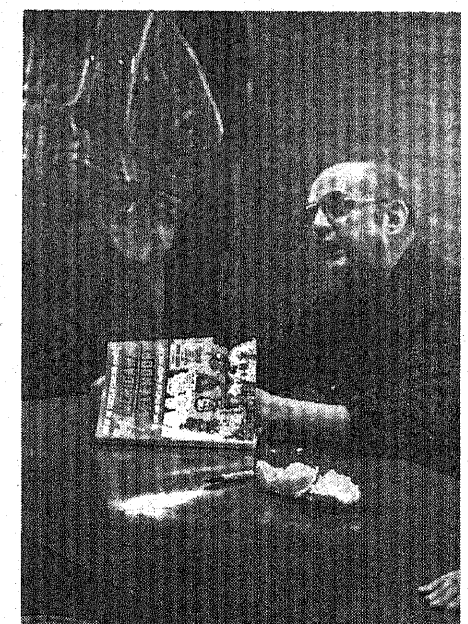
BY BRIAN GONZALEZ &  
RA'CHAUN ROGERS



Harvey Pekar signing books.

On Feb.17 the final part of a 3 part series of one-on-one interviews entitled "Comics and the American Jewish Dream" was held at YIVO institute for Jewish research. This evening's speaker was Harvey Pekar who is known for his "American Splendor," Danny Fingerth who is a comic book writer and editor known for his work on the "Spider-Man" series was the moderator. An entertaining and engaging discussion ensued ranging from questions about Harvey the person and Harvey in "American Splendor" to reflections on "American Splendor" itself.

"American Splendor" is the story of Harvey Pekar who is an anti-hero, an everyday Joe who just decided to turn his life into an underground comic. I can go on and tell you the story of Harvey but it's better for people who may not be familiar with him or "American Splendor" to watch the film before jumping right into the comic. It helps to give you an idea of what exactly "American Splendor" is about. In the film Harvey jumps right in and speaks to you about himself... "Ok this guy here he's our man all grown up and going nowhere. Always a pretty scholarly cat. He never got much of a formal education... So if you're the kind of person



Harvey Pekar

looking for romance or escapism or some fantasy figure to save the day guess what? You got the wrong movie."

The film itself was a successful jumping point to where both Harvey Pekar and Paul Giamatti—who played Harvey in the film—became well known. So when the film was discussed Harvey mentioned that he was "very gratified," and "that Paul Giamatti did a wonderful job... I'm glad for this that it helped his career because prior to that... he didn't used to get lead roles... an outstanding actor but he was an ordinary looking guy."

In the end stories were told that were familiar and welcoming. At the same time there were stories that were new and interesting. However, while the discussion continued, little did everyone know they themselves were becoming part of the story. We were able to get a hold of Harvey and ask a few questions:

**Ra'chaun Rogers:** What made you want to put your life in a comic book and illustrate and write it and have the foresight to know that people want to read it?

**Harvey Pekar:** I wasn't sure that people wanted to read it but I thought that I had a pretty good idea for a you know a original idea for a comic strip and you know what they say the original is still the greatest. That's you know I mean I saw an opportunity and I jumped in with both feet.

**RR:** What do you feel you gain from doing your work like a spiritual gain just like notoriety?.

**HP:** I like to get praise and money.

**RR:** Out of all your work what was your favorite?

**HP:** My favorite collection is the one with Paul Giamatti on the cover... you know I think that's probably the book I would recommend.

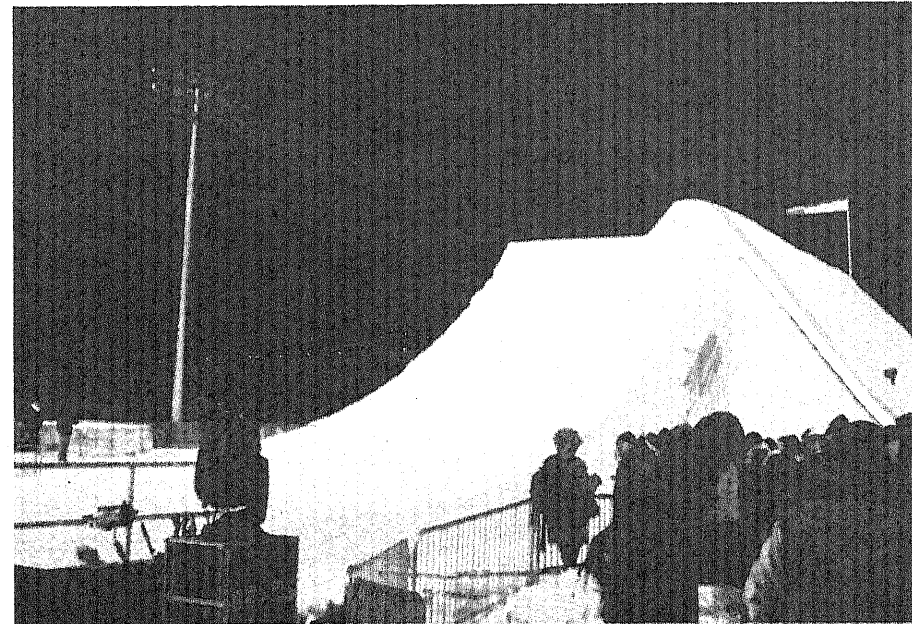
# Red Bulls Snowscrapers

BY BRIAN GONZALEZ  
MANAGING EDITOR

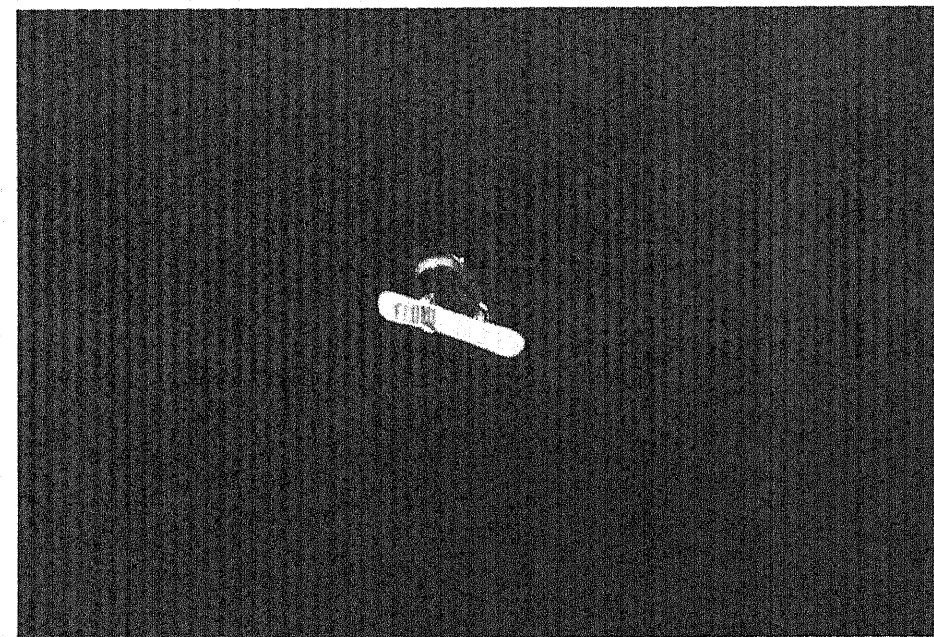
On February 5th, in the East River Park 16 of the world's best snowboarders competed for \$100,000. The park was packed with people watching the riders perform tricks off an 80-foot-long jump. The competition was setup as a jam session, which meant that the rider who showed their skills by landing the most creative and difficult tricks would win. Competitors included: Shaun White, Pat Moore, Travis Rice, and more.



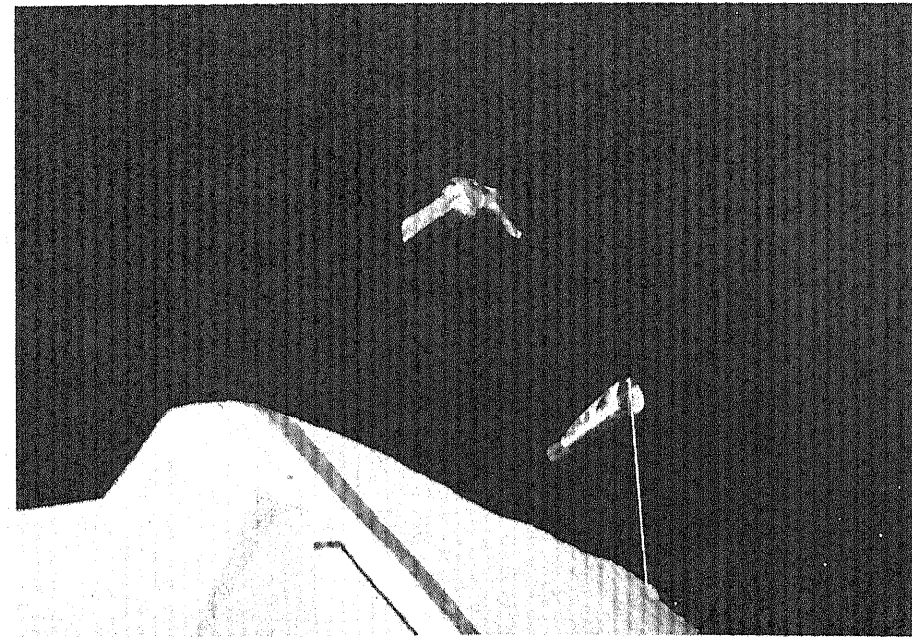
New Jersey native Shayne Pospisil.



The Williamsburg Bridge served as the backdrop to where riders would fly high performing tricks of skill.



Scotty Lago.



Daniel Ek.

# Faces in the Crowd

Over 13,000 students attend CSI. Yet, sometimes it seems like we see the same faces over and over again when we walk to class, grab a bite at the Campus Center, or workout in the Recreation Center. It is a small world, afterall. Can you recognize any of the students below?

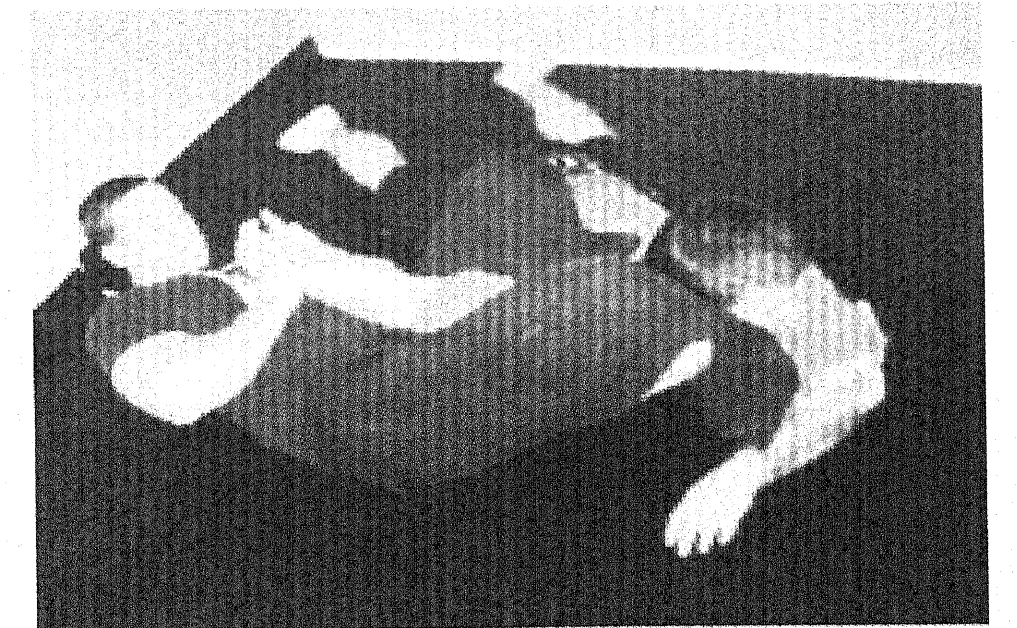


Jackie Levin (left), a Macy's sales associate of eight months, folds clothes and assists customers in the Women's Department of Macy's in the Staten Island mall on a quiet Monday night.

By Lauren Trapasso

After many fighting ordeals as a young child, Mike Venditti (right) finally found an outlet to his frustration. Following the wise words of his once enemy police officer, Venditti began mix martial arts and is currently undergoing training to further his career.

By Ednita Lorenzo



Lisa Curcio (left), against all odds, is balancing a busy life as a Staten Island hair dresser while chasing her dreams of completing college and becoming a high school teacher. Curcio, born and raised in the South Shore of Staten Island, has returned back to college, focused to one day wear the prestigious cap and gown at graduation.

By Johcalyn Hollis



Gaspar Randazzo (in the leather pants), practicing in his band room. He is working on one of the upcoming songs for the next show on March 28th which will be on Staten Island. Randazzo has been the guitarist and vocalist of Almost Easy for the past two years.

By Ally Rehan





## SEX AND THE ISLAND

### The Rules of Attachment

*A tale of the girl who swore she'd never get attached...*

BY EMMA HERNANDEZ  
SEX COLUMNIST

Katie and Andrew had been seeing each other consecutively since mid-December.

After the conversation they had on the train, they both decided to date with commitment, but no titles. Katie wasn't sure if she was okay with this arrangement. After getting her heart broken over the summer in a similar situation (dating without titles), she vowed to never get attached to another guy again. Five months later, she was falling for Andrew and she couldn't help herself. She didn't want to stop seeing him, so she tried to listen to her friends' advice and just take it one day at a time.

Lauren's birthday came around at the end of January, and they were all going out to a bar to celebrate. Andrew and Katie went into the city to pick up Andrew's friend, who was visiting from Texas, and met up with everyone in Jersey City.

They spent hours at Abbey's on Monmouth. Katie kept getting up to order more cranberry vodkas from the bar and

to impose her musical taste on everyone in the room by playing her favorite bands on the jukebox. Katie didn't realize how drunk she was getting, and she kept taking hits of coconut-mint tobacco from the hookah pipe on their table and chain-smoking cigarettes in between. Andrew was holding her hand and being nice to all of her friends. She couldn't help smiling the whole night.

The bar closed around two and Andrew's friend had to get to La Guardia (his flight back to Texas was at 8 a.m.). While Andrew went with him into the city, Katie went with Lauren and their friend Justine to a diner and ordered lots of food. When they got back to Lauren's apartment, Andrew was there waiting for her. They walked back to his apartment and they were still very drunk.

After a failed attempt at drunken sex, they just laid in bed, smoking cigarettes and talking. Katie drifted off around five, but she couldn't stay asleep. She got up at eight, showered, brushed her teeth, put on Andrew's hoodie and sat at his computer. She was working on a story for the magazine she freelances for and she had to send e-mails to record labels and PR agents to get interviews for her story. In between smoking, drinking water, and typing, she kept looking over at Andrew, who was still sleeping.

The sunlight was filtering in through the blinds, and it made Katie realize how comfortable this was. How comfortable she was with Andrew. That she could really get used to mornings like this—working on her articles, wearing his hoodie, and watching him sleep.

She sent out all of her e-mails, put out her cigarette and crawled into bed with him. She kissed him gently and he opened his eyes and looked at her. "I have to leave in an hour," she whispered. "I have work at one." He kissed her, pulling her on top of him.

A few weeks later, after a slow Sunday at work, Katie went with Stanford and Karen to see "He's Just Not That Into You." It was the typical girly movie, and the story line involving Jennifer Aniston and Ben Affleck's characters made Katie appreciate just being with Andrew, even if they weren't an official couple. Sometimes you just have to compromise.

She called him when she got home to tell him she really was okay with their decision, but he'd been drinking. "You know, I think we made the better choice—dating without titles. Because I've seen my friends' relationships. Seeing them lose themselves and just become a 'couple', and I don't ever want that to happen," he said.

"But how do you know if that's what will happen with us?" Katie asked, getting upset. "Sometimes, I think you're just so against everything that you don't even know what you stand for."

Andrew explained that he would rather be friends because he'd been cheated on in two of his previous relationships. Katie called him out. "You're just scared and it's not fair to make me pay for something that somebody else did to you," she told him, crying.

Katie took advantage of the fact that Andrew gets quiet when he's drunk and told him everything she'd been holding back for the past month and a half. He told her he would think about what she said and call her tomorrow.

Around ten o'clock the next day, Katie's phone rang. It was Andrew.

"Look, I thought a lot about what you said yesterday. And I can commit to a relationship but you have to agree to just be honest and loyal, and promise that we'll still be friends afterwards, if we break up."

"I think I can do that," Katie said, smiling.

"Okay, good. So, would you go with me?" Andrew asked.

Katie laughed and said, "Yes. But only if you let me wear your letterman jacket."

### Battle of the Sexes

#### Male Couture vs. Female Couture

BY LATHLEEN ADE-BROWN  
FASHION COLUMNIST

The noisy cafeteria did not disturb the intense six-way conversation that could be heard from the far end table. Three males and three females, including myself, engaged in a rare conversation that debated the different aspects of female and male couture.

"Why do you think in all retail stores, the female section always contains more clothes than males?" questioned Kimberly Rogers, a junior at the college.

"Man, who cares? Men couture is dominant and has a lasting impression on society. Admit it, men couture is way more important on the runways," shouted Ricardo Williams, a freshman majoring in accounting.

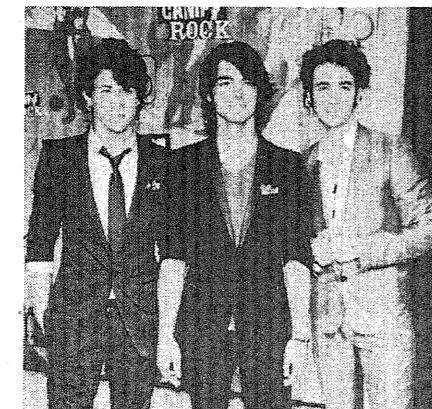
I had to interject. "Ricardo, you have



to explain," I said laughing.

"People come clearly to see the menswear at all fashion shows, including the females," he said with confidence.

"Oh please," screamed Agnes Ojeh, a junior studying biology. "First of all, this conversation is dumb because, clearly, women are the empathy of fashion. We have way more pieces on the runway: skirts, shorts, and pants."



Photos submitted by Lathleen Ade-Brown  
Shawn Matthews interrupted:

"Yeah, and we have ties, shorts, and Marc Jacobs is walking around with skirts now," he laughed.

"Please, do not make me throw up. Female couture, from lingerie to clothes, has way more franchises than males, this is really not going to even be a debate," explained Frances Ojeh, a sophomore studying Business.

"Shhhhh." A whisper came from

behind the counter, "I know this is the cafeteria. Talking is permitted, but not yelling," said an Public Safety officer.

"This is one interesting conversation," I said with a lower tone.

"Absolutely," Agnes agreed, then added: "I will put this conversation to rest now. I know the history of fashion, and the history is female couture ripped the runways first, and then over time, menswear was invented. But fact is, we were first." She laughed.

"Whatever," Ricardo said, getting up from the table, and eventually walking out the cafeteria. The entire table busted out into laughter at the childish ways of Ricardo. He had to face it: female couture rules the runways, however, male couture also has a respectful platform.

If you have information on the history of fashion, e-mail me at:  
The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com

# VIN FORTE IS NOT FUNNY

(HUMOR SECTION)

## A Five Dollar Snowjob

Making the Best Out of Mother Nature's Hatred for the East Coast.

BY VIN FORTE  
SNOW BUNNY



Photo by blog.mlive.com

As last week's snowstorm rained great vengeance and furious anger across the streets of Staten Island, I could not help but think that there was something lucky in the air. I smelled the potential for disposable income.

As my Monday night deadline grew ever closer, I knew I had to find something to write about. This East coast disaster had just saved my [expletive]. It was the perfect opportunity to hone my narrative chops. With so many angles to take on this storm, there had to be something original for me to grab. Then a wondrous idea emerged in my mind: shovel + snow/old people = money.

I would shovel snow for people at five dollars a house, then exploit anything interesting that happens along the way as a means to fill my column.

## Failing Fallon?

BY VIN FORTE  
GIGGLING IDIOT

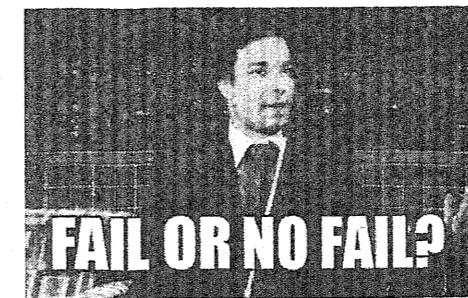


Photo by www.daps.tv

I have now seen the first episode of "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" and can report that, while it was not the best I could have hoped for, it was not the worst either.

Kudos up front for his set. The area where he does his monologue looks like it was made using spare parts from a House of Blues. Which is, ironically, a good thing (at least in theory).

You never want to copy the set of the person before you. Be different and original instead of following a shadow. Also, his desk area reminds me a little of a modern-day version of Letterman's set from the 80's.

His jokes were sporadically amusing but never gut-busting. He did show promise in his ability to improv his way out of a bombing joke. This is an area

where time will tell where it goes.

Next he did a bit where audience members licked things for money. Very mainstream talk show fare in my opinion. Again, only time will tell where he goes with his post-monologue segment.

His first guest was Robert DeNiro. *Bad move.* DeNiro is notorious for having tight lips and this was no exception. This was a case where even Conan or Letterman might have a hard time getting anything good out of him. To shove him on the first show of an inexperienced host was a big faux pas.

Justin Timberlake was the second

guest and a much welcome improvement. I'm not a fan of his music but I'll be the first to admit that he knows how to play along and get a conversation going during an interview.

This segment redeemed Fallon in terms of his ability to play towards the guest's willingness to be candid and fun on a talk show.

All in all it was a promising first show. Nothing great, but nothing completely terrible either. I say give it a chance. Remember how quick everyone was to chide Conan during his first year?

## Interview: Andrew Dice Clay

BY VIN FORTE  
DICE MAN

This past week, Andrew Dice Clay became the first person eliminated from the new season of *Celebrity Apprentice*. Here's what he had to say about it.

[EXPLETIVE]



Photo by LIFE magazine

"The Diceman takes no sh\*t from no c\*nt."

**DISCLAIMER:**  
The views expressed here are those of "The Banner" Humor Editor, Vincent Forte. All content on this page, unless clearly marked, represents (or attempts to represent) fiction and/or parody. -Editors

# BANNER ARTS

## Can't Stop the Music

Directed by Nancy Walker  
Screenplay by  
Allan Carr and Bronte Woodard

REVIEWED BY JOHN ADRIAN  
ARTS & COPY EDITOR

Every once in a while movie critics really get it wrong. One of those times occurred in June 1980 when almost every movie critic in the English-speaking world hated "Can't Stop the Music."

Some reviewer quotes are: "incredibly awful," "stupid," "I can't tell if they trying to use homosexuality to sell milk or milk to sell homosexuality," and "worst actors Hollywood had to offer." You get the gist.

Seldom in the annals of film criticism have so many critics been in agreement with each other, and been so wrong.

"Can't Stop the Music" is a lavish homage to and parody of the movie musical.

The first movie musical, "The Jazz Singer," was released by Warner Brothers in 1927 using their patented—and short lived—Vitaphone process in which, the sound track was recorded on sixteen-inch discs. They were synchronized by the projectionist with the film using a special turntable that was mechanically linked to the projector. Within two years, this system was replaced by the "sound on film" system still used today.

As soon as the sound track was on the film itself, movie goers were inundated with movie musicals. (In 1929 Paramount Pictures filmed the Marx

Brothers' musical comedy "The Cocoanuts," which ran on Broadway between December 1925 and May 1927, in their Astoria studios during the day, while many of the performers were performing on Broadway in "Animal Crackers" Monday through Saturday evening and on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. This was the first filming of a Broadway musical.)

By 1933 both Warner Brothers and RKO Radio Pictures were turning-out musical films at an astonishing rate. Warner had Busby Berkeley as dance director (choreographer) and later as a director. RKO had Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers as stars and Hermes Pan directing the dance numbers Astaire didn't choreograph himself.

By 1936 the America public was so tired of movie musicals that some comedies and dramas proclaimed in their advertising: "This is not a musical," in order to woo audiences tired of all the singing and dancing.

Within a few years America's dislike of musical films had dissipated somewhat and MGM and 20th Century-Fox, perhaps the two wealthiest of the "Hollywood" studios, began making them again, this time in Technicolor. The zenith of this cycle of movie musicals came in 1943 with 20th Century-Fox's "The Gang's All Here," which was directed by Berkeley.

By the end of World War II movie musicals faded again until their revival in the early 1950s. The apex of this cycle of movie musicals was probably "Seven

Brides for Seven Brothers" (MGM-1954), which was the first musical shot in the new anamorphic process, Cinemascope, which gave a very wide aspect ratio requiring a very wide, curved screen. This was an attempt by Hollywood studios to lure audiences away from television.

What does all this palaver about the history and evolution of movie musicals have to do with "Can't Stop the Music" you ask?

Well, in the course of this quarter century, the movie musical developed certain plot conventions, stock characters and other, less tangible, requirements, which made it at once enormously entertaining and ridiculous.

By the late 1970s, the movie musical was considered a dead genre, except for occasional films like "Saturday Night Fever," "Grease" or "Xanadu." By the late 1970s there had also developed a musical genre—Disco. Disco was (and is) great for dancing. Enter a young French music producer, Jacques Morali, with a gift for producing hit albums and his partner Henri Belelo. They wrote, with the help of some others, a bunch of hit disco songs which were recorded by studio singers, for the most part hired on a per diem basis, and marketed under the name Village People until a television and film producer, Allan Carr, decided to write and produce a movie about this "group" that had had three gold and four platinum albums.

Carr hired Broadway, television and film comedienne Nancy Walker, whom he had managed for many years, to direct. Walker was a show business veteran with almost forty years experience as a performer, most of it in comedy and musicals. Together they hired a long list of gifted, veteran comedic actors like Tammy Grimes, June Havoc, Valerie Perrine, Barbara Rush, Paul Sand, and Marilyn Sokol. To this group, they added relative newcomer Steve Guttenberg, just three years out of high school, and 1976 Olympic decathlon winner Bruce Jenner. They rounded-out the company with veteran character actors 'Bobo Lewis, Portia Nelson, Russell Nype, Paula Trueman, and Jack Weston for minor but very funny cameos. They also cast a group of talented singer/dancers who, as a result of "Can't Stop the Music," would become the Village People.

Carr and Walker then proceeded to make a big, brash, "all singing," "all dancing" Hollywood movie musical that poked delicious fun at, and ridiculed none too gently, every imaginable movie musical stock character, plot, costume, set, choreographic, and photographic convention. Nothing escaped their rapier.

However, by the time it was released in June 1980, the bottom had fallen out of the Disco craze. The critics, seemingly unanimously, urinated all over every aspect of the film and it died a quick and undeserved death.

In the early 1990s it became, briefly, available in VHS. By the middle of this decade it was available in a handsome, full-screen, DVD version with an added feature of a true history of the Village People and a few other goodies. If you like movie musicals, you'll love this much maligned parody of them.

## A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME

BY JOHN ADRIAN  
ARTS AND COPY EDITOR

Occasionally life throws a very pleasant surprise in your path. Recently, while culling some old books donated to the Unitarian Church of Staten Island for sale at its annual bazaar, I found a book I've wanted to read since I saw the movie made from it over forty years ago:

"Her career has made her name synonymous with sin," wrote "The (New York) Daily News." With this quotation, Polly Adler began her infamous memoir.

From 1920 until 1945, Miss Adler ran what quickly came to be regarded as one of most elite brothels in the world. From various addresses between 42nd Street and 125th Street—between the East and Hudson rivers—she catered to the needs, desires, fantasies and whims of some of the richest, most powerful men in America. (Had he been alive then, Elliott Spitzer would doubtless have been one of her clients.)

"Anything which is economically right is morally right," Miss Adler is quoted as

saying.

Pearl Adler "was born in a White Russian village near the Polish border, on the second Sunday before Passover, April 16, 1900." Being female and a Jew, she was doubly cursed in Czarist Russia. The high school (Gymnazia) in Pinsk would only allow one Jewish student from her village to attend on scholarship and custom decreed that student be male. That custom forced her to emigrate to the United States.

At the time, World War I had broken out in Europe, and the resulting economic restraints isolated her from her family for over a decade.

When she arrived at Ellis Island, she was put on a train to Holyoke, Massachusetts where she stayed with family friends. Driven by a fierce desire to get an education, she worked hard in school. Despite knowing no English, she quickly brought home report cards "glittering with A's."

However, the onset of World War I ended the remittances from Russia that

paid for her room and board and her foster father ruled that she could not return to school, but rather, must go to work. For two years she worked in a paper factory for three dollars a week. She eventually quit the tiring, depressing work and moved to Brooklyn.

The above is a digest of the first sixteen pages of "A House is Not a Home." The remaining 358 pages are a most fascinating, first-hand account of the life of a young immigrant girl who did what she had to do to earn a living in the first half of the twentieth century. At this point, I should state that Polly Adler never admitted to working as a prostitute. She simply operated a very successful house of prostitution.

"A House is Not a Home" is a highly literate, easy to read autobiography of a woman who, after she gave-up "the oldest profession," availed herself of the "second oldest profession"—studying English at a West Coast college.

David Weiss, the author of a number of critically acclaimed, popular historical

novels about the lives and times of people like Mozart, Titian and Rembrandt once told me that in researching his subjects, their lives, and times, the thing he found most useful was the writings of his subjects and their contemporaries. Through these writings Weiss got a sense of what the people thought and felt themselves, instead of an historian's viewpoint on the person and period usually written many years later.

Certainly for anyone interested in New York City during the administrations of Jimmy Walker and Fiorello LaGuardia "A House is Not a Home" is an invaluable resource for first-hand information about the mores, morals, vices, and corruption in what was then the largest city in the world. For anyone interested in urban American society between the world wars or anyone interested in the life of the keeper of a high-class brothel, it is a must read.

"A House is Not a Home" is available at [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) for as little as one dollar (plus shipping).

*Polly Adler Tells Much, If Not All.*

# BANNER OPINION

## Dear Kelly: Advice Column

BY KELLY KENNY  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Dear Kelly,  
My boyfriend and I have only been dating for three weeks. Last weekend, after a long night of drinking he said "I Love you." Ever since that night, things have been really awkward. We haven't even mentioned that it happened. I don't think I love him yet, but I think I could be falling for him. Should I bring it up? What is going on?

As we all know, the most embarrassing things are said under the influence. In my experience guys always need a little "liquid courage" to tell you how they really feel. I think that he really does love you. If you don't feel the same way I wouldn't bring it up though. Things could get a lot worse if you ask him if he loves you and you can't say it back. Wait until you feel the same way, then tell him!

Dear Kelly,  
I think I'm in love with my girlfriend's mom. I don't know how it happened. She's not even that good looking. I have X-rated dreams about her every night and I catch myself asking my girlfriend questions about her mother's teen years. I'm sick, but her

mother is single, and dates younger guys all the time. Should I pursue it?

You're joking right? Ok, first off, eww! Please do not try and pursue this fascination you have for your girlfriend's mother. Not only do I think she wouldn't be interested, I think you would destroy your girlfriend's life. I would say to keep living in your dreams because that's as far as you're going to get.

Dear Kelly,  
I consider myself a decent writer. I have never gotten anything lower than a B on any of my papers. Since I've been at CSI this semester, I have gotten two C's! I feel like my professor is grading my papers too harshly. I have a friend in the same class and he gets A's and B's on his papers that I help him write! What should I do?

I can't tell you if you are a good writer or not because I have never read any of your work. I can't tell you if you professor has it out for you because I'm not in your class. What I can tell you is that you should, when you get your next paper back, discuss it with your professor. Ask her nicely what can be improved. You can also take it to the Writing Center in 2S 216. The staff there is very smart and

helpful. If there is a problem with your writing, they will find it and work with you until it is fixed.

Dear Kelly,  
My parents have been divorced for as long as I can remember. They divorced when I was nine and I have always lived with my mom on weekdays and my dad every other weekend. I know my mother hates my father. She always comes up with these conspiracy theories about how he's turning me against her. Last weekend my Dad said that if I move in with him permanently, I wouldn't have to worry about money again. He offered me everything. I know what this would do to my mother, what should I do?

I really can't believe your father would put you in this position. I understand the sensitive dynamic between divorced parents, and I know a lot of people can relate to your situation. I hope you can take some time and think about what you want. Your father (hopefully) will wait for you. You should make a list, and weigh your options. As cliché as it sounds, it really helps to make your feelings a little clearer. You really need to decide whether or not your father can buy you.

## NY Post Controversy

BY MICHAEL YOUNG  
CONTRIBUTOR

The "New York Post" cartoon controversy has come to a boil this past week, raising serious questions about the freedom of the press.

The cartoon, published on February 18th, caused a public outcry, rallies, and threats to shut down the newspaper.

The cartoon is in poor taste. Its grim subject matter, insensitivity towards a Connecticut woman almost being mauled to death by a 200-pound chimpanzee, cruelty to animals, and potential association with our African-American president are all grounds upon which it can be condemned. It's also exactly the combination of what cartoons are meant to do, and have done throughout history—satirize topical events in an outlandish manner in order to get people to think critically about the world in which they live.

The cartoon depicts two policemen standing before a monkey, which lies contorted on the ground in a pool of blood. One policeman turns to the other and says, "They'll need to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill."

Nowhere in the cartoon does it directly imply that the monkey is Obama.

I interpreted this cartoon as dissatisfaction towards the stimulus bill. While this could be perceived as a veiled, racial attack on the president, there is not enough evidence to view it as such. Cartoonists, writers, and editors are responsible for deciding whether or not controversial submissions are appropriate and how the public could potentially interpret them.

Just as freedom of the press exists, so does freedom of speech, and the public can react in whichever way it so chooses—anger, laughter, revolt. That's what makes us Americans, that we have the power to make a statement.

There are certain types of fly-off-the-handle behavior that are more explosive and harmful than they are constructive. The reactions towards this cartoon were reminiscent of the violent way radical Muslims reacted when cartoons, depicting the prophet Mohammad were published. They rioted for months and set fire to a Danish embassy. It is scary to think this can—and is—beginning to happen. There are times to protest, but this type of behavior that happens regularly in our society is divisive and only works to create conflict, rather than

reach reconciliation.

I may not see the world through the eyes of a person of color, but I do see the world as a person whose life mission is to ensure that humans live harmoniously and peacefully. If we want to live in a society in which people of all races, backgrounds and creeds view each other as friends and equals, temper your anger and think about the implications of your actions.

Write a letter to your editor. Choose an alternate news source. Engage in healthy debate amongst your friends. We have made so much progress as a nation already and broken down many barriers, but we should not create a fear-state in which tensions are heightened, making people afraid to voice their opinion for fear of offending someone whose views differ from their own.

A cartoon may be lodged between a few pages of print, but our actions are visible to the world.

Send your opinions or letters to:  
[the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com](mailto:the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com)

## A-Rod's Toughest Year, by Far

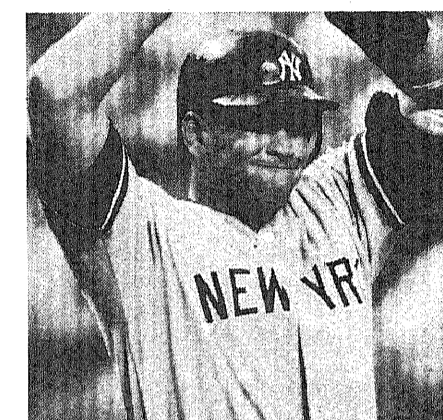


Photo by picasaweb.google.com

BY ALI SAFARAZ  
CONTRIBUTOR

The whole baseball world was shocked when they found out the best player in major league baseball took steroids in 2003.

In an interview with ESPN's Peter Gammons, Rodriguez claimed his cousin injected him with a drug called "bole"—a drug that has been banned in the Dominican Republic for quiet sometime.

A day later, after the Gammons interview, reporters found out who was the reported cousin of Rodriguez. It was a man by the name of Yuri Sucart who, quite recently, was seen driving Rodriguez back home after a spring

*"The Skeletons Came Out of the Locker and Once He Strikes Out...I Can Hear the 'A-Roid' Chants..."*

training game.

What makes this whole situation so sad would probably be the pathetic acting performance on A-Rod's behalf during his press conference. He would consistently bite his lip and go on long pauses. One long pause in particular lasted for quite some time when he expressed his appreciation towards his teammates.

For many baseball fans, this was a sad day. After all this is the same guy who many expected to break the home run record the "right" way, meaning without using performance enhancing drugs.

Well, the skeletons have come out of the locker, and the minute A-Rod strikes out, or commits an error, I can hear the "A-Roid" chants begin to get loud. However, with that said the best thing A-Rod can do is be remorseful.

This will probably be the two time MVP winner's toughest year as a Yankee because fans will be critical of his performance the minute he makes a mistake. So if there was ever a year for A-rod to deliver on the field this is it.

# BANNER SPORTS

## First and Only Trainer Bids Farewell

Still waiting to hear for new replacement

**BY EDNITA LORENZO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

John Nostro, 44, a Brooklyn native and the first and only full-time athletic trainer at CSI, announced his resignation to the athletic department after 19 years of service to the school.

"Leaving behind CSI, and athletic training, has been a very tough decision for me," said Nostro. "I'm interested and excited to be heading in this new direction. I know I can be an athletic trainer no matter where I go, but there is something to be said for learning something new and being able to do it."

First and new experiences for Nostro are what got him into CSI in the first place.

He began his time at CSI in the summer of 1990. While finishing up his master's at Long Island University in Brooklyn, the CSI athletic director at the time was looking to hire a student right out of school and begin what is now a 13 team, and still growing, athletic program.

"It started at CSI's old campus working out of an old shower room," said Nostro.

From there the change to the new facility in the new campus was a much needed one. He has been there ever since.

"The magnitude of John's loss is overwhelming," said Athletic Director, David Pizzuto. "Although we are excited for the opportunity afforded to him, we are deeply saddened to lose such a valuable piece of our operation."

Nostro has taped, wrapped and, to the best of his abilities, healed injured players on any athletic team. He has dealt with over 2000 athletes in his 19 year run. It's no wonder that many, such as Tina Bellocchio, a 3 sport athlete, have learned to love Nostro as more than a trainer.

"John's family to us," said Bellocchio. "We spent a lot of time in that room with him and we have shared so many memories together. He has helped me with



my rehab along with so many other athletes. We'll miss him dearly, but I'm sure he will be around."

Many athletes emphasized the impact that Nostro will have after he is gone. "It's going to be hard for all of us, especially those who have been going to John for rehab," remarked Nicole Estrada. "We don't know if and when we will get a new trainer so all we can do now is wait."

The resignation came fast and there still isn't any word as to when a new trainer will be assigned. With many athletes upset and spring season underway, the athletic department might have to act quickly.

With his family at his side, 9-month old twins Olivia and Benjamin and his wife Susan, Nostro leaves CSI on a happy note. "It is bittersweet for me," he added. "I've met great doctors and made good friends, all while learning a great deal. But this was a good opportunity at a good time and helps out with my family."

Nostro's resignation came as of late February when he was given the opportunity to become the director of operations for a home care agency, Americare. He will be overseeing the placement for home health aides in people's homes. Nostro doesn't plan on leaving CSI for good. You may still be able to catch him on the sidelines taking care of an athlete or just hanging around watching a game. "I'm not walking away from CSI forever."

## Batter Up

Baseball and Softball Preview.

**BY EDNITA LORENZO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The smell of hot dogs in the air, fast balls, and steroids...oops this isn't A-Rod and MLB. But it sure is time for some dirt sliding, high flying action for CSI and the baseball and softball teams.

As the snow melts away, spring is sure to come quickly and with it comes the start of a new spring sports season.

### Baseball:

Returning with last year's record of 22-19, 11-4 in CUNYAC, the Dolphins look to start fresh and make history. With a new coach, new faces and new atmosphere, these men are hungry for victory.

While Mother Nature contributed to the cancellation of their first baseball home game, the Dolphins are eager to continue their season after losing a double header to the Salisbury University Sea Gulls, 8-1 and 9-3.

The men traveled to Maryland on February 21st for opening weekend. In the first game, things looked bright as the Dolphins were up by a run in the 5th inning. Then a pitch by Pat Gale, who contributed to a Sea Gulls scoreless 4 innings, led Salisbury to a run. After a few lucky hits and runs, the Sea Gulls ended the match with a win of 8-1.

Second game was underway as Salisbury looked to continue its stride. The Sea Gulls made it look too easy as they were up 4-0 in the 3rd inning. But, as the 4th inning came around, the Dolphins came to life and managed to get on the scoreboard with the help of Mark Glennerster. Even with Glennerster, the Dolphins couldn't keep up and fell to Salisbury 9-3.

Opening weekend against Salisbury is a tradition for the baseball team. Even with the losses, which were minimal in comparison to previous years, it was a first for this new and young team to show what they can do.

"I have a young bunch of freshmen and sophomores," said new head coach Mike Mauro. "We have the best team chemistry where we take care and worry about each other. That's the foundation for winning."

With the Dolphins next game slated

for the 14th, make sure to catch this baseball family out on the mound. You can check them out at any of the following home games:

3/14/2009 SUNY-Maritime 12 Noon

3/17/2009 Farmingdale State 4:00 pm

3/19/2009 St. Joseph's College-Brooklyn 3:00 PM

3/25/2009 Centenary College 3:30 PM

3/28/2009 Lehman College 12 Noon

### Softball:

After a 20-23 record, 10-1 in CUNYAC, the Dolphins look to better last season with a team of new and returning players.

Returning about 10 players and 8 fresh faces, Coach Stella Porto feels "we have a new team and we have the potential to go even further this year."

The Dolphins will travel to Virginia Beach to kick off their season on March 6th and 7th, as part of Back to the Beach Blast Tournament. There, the Dolphins are scheduled to play four teams: Stevenson, Gettysburg, Arcadia and Cabrini College.

CSI will then return home and host its first game of the season on March 22nd. With the help of some new freshmen, Coach Porto feels strong about the team and the season.

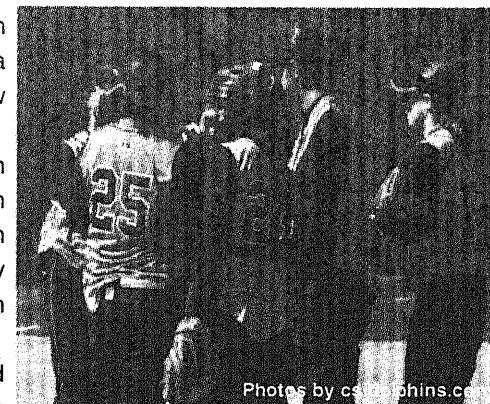
Several key players to keep an eye on include returning CUNY Softball All-Stars Krysta Kinsella, Nicole Estrada, Alyssa D'Elia and Raechel Strobel. While freshmen Michelle Ferraiuolo, Danielle Ponsiglione and Catherine Ebro will try to bat their way to victories.

Check out these ladies and the rest of the softball team in action at any of the following home games:

3/22/2009 Drew University 12 Noon

3/26/2009 Polytechnic 4:00 pm

4/4/2009 Union College 12 Noon



Photos by CSI Dolphins.com

## In Case You Missed It...

...CSI has an official Cheerleading Team.

Often cheering at basketball games, this group of young ladies and gentleman competed in the 2009 CUNY championship at Baruch College. The first team since 2003, captured second place and is well on their way to making a name for themselves.

... The men's basketball team ended its season at 6-20.

These men ended their run in a quarterfinal loss to Baruch College, 87-57.

One of the worst records in CSI men's basketball history, the Dolphins will need to search high and low to find some power and hope for next season.

