

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

Letter From the Editor

The Year of Firsts Ends With a President's Last

BY LEEOR BRONIS

With the semester coming to a close, The Banner staff decided to do a wrap-up issue of the many new, interesting and sometimes controversial stories our University has had this academic year.

You may notice that many of the articles in this issue are done as opinions and editorials. The reason we decided to be more vocal for our last issue transpired because so many stories this year have sparked heated discussion and debate. As a result, we thought, as reporters who have always strived to be unbiased and neutral when writing our stories, we could get in on the fun too.

Perhaps the biggest "trending" story right now is President Morales' announcement that he is leaving the College of Staten Island for California State University, San Bernardino.

While this came as somewhat of a shock to the college community, Morales' exit strategy was executed with expert timing, announcing his departure right before the Faculty Senate meeting that would have discussed the now irrelevant 'Vote of no Confidence' motioned against him. Morales explained his reason for leaving in an official letter to the college community in which he stated, "I faced that decision in the past 24 hours and have chosen to be guided by family." While our aforementioned president is enjoying the sunshine beaming out of his brand new office windows in San Bernardino, the incoming president of CSI will be faced with the many unfinished projects Morales created during his tenure.

One of those unfinished projects is the CUNY tobacco ban. An editorial written for this issue searches for the answer to what many are wondering- "What will happen to smokers who violate the ban?" According to Morales' "Task Force," your guess is as good as theirs. Whatever the penalty for unlawful campus smokers will be, the consensus from many students interviewed was that this ban will simply not work.

Students will have to wait until next semester to see some of those initiatives come to fruition. One of the biggest debates, especially amongst the faculty, has been Pathways. The Initiative is described on the CUNY website as plan designed to create a curricular structure that will streamline transfers and enhance the quality of general education across the University. As lovely as that sounds, we at The Banner find this statement to be unnecessarily cryptic. Effective Fall 2013, CUNY will drop the minimum core requirement of 60 credits needed to 42, leaving many departments shut out of the credit count.

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The Rise and Fall of President Morales

In the Wake of 'No Confidence' chaos, Our Fearless Leader Heads For Sunny San Bernardino



Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

As the school year comes to a close, so does President Morales' five year run at CSI. On May 10, he announced he is leaving to accept the position of President of California State University, San Bernardino.

BY ANDREW DILORENZO

After a 'Vote of no Confidence' and a smear campaign started by students online, President Morales accepted the position of President of California State University at San Bernardino on May 10, making the announcement around noon that day.

It shocked me at first, especially with Morales' success at finally breaking ground on the dormitory houses behind the R buildings, even if that pissed off a couple of handball players. But as I look back at both

Morales and his "five year plan," I think he gave his best, but ultimately let this school get the best of him.

When I started CSI in the fall of 2007, the senior college was going through a transitional period. Leaving was Marlene Springer, the former President who served thirteen years here and became a name that shook students the wrong way. Replacing her after a bumpy nine-month candidate search was Dr. Tomas Morales, who just completing a six-year stint at the California State

Polytechnic University, Pomona and was also a product of the New York public school system.

With Morales succeeding Springer, he had his work cut out for him.

In the fall of 2006, I came across statistics for CSI. The graduation rate was at a dismal 22 percent, while the retention rate was at a staggering 80 percent. That's very frightening for a seventeen year old to see about his future, but I took the chance because CSI

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Better Put Out That Cigarette, Public Safety's Got Eyes on Every Corner

Morales' Task Force Stumped For Answers on Unlawful Smokers

BY GEOFFREY HEATH

As a student walks to class, smoking and daydreaming, an unmarked van suddenly pulls alongside. A door opens and ten vicious dwarves garbed in multicolored suits and top-hats wielding nightsticks pull the student inside and drive off.

The student was a repeat offender of the CUNY tobacco policy, and thus subject to "disciplinary action."

That exaggerated scenario will never happen. CSI can't afford a dwarf army, as they are quite

expensive and prone to drunkenness and debauchery. But what will happen to repeat and first time, offenders after July 1 when the ban is in full swing?

According to CUNY Tobacco Policy, phase 1 of the plan calls for a verbal warning and/or a violation notice. Phase 2, effective July 1, calls for only disciplinary action.

What might "disciplinary action" entail? Fines? Suspension? Would these people go so far as to expel rule breakers? These ques-

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Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

The designated smoking areas set up throughout campus will be long gone next semester, as CSI plans to fully implement the Tobacco Free Policy.



Do You Have the Style it Takes to Succeed?

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Meet Your New Student Government President

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Tennis Champ Leads Team to Semi Finals Back of Banner



New Student Government President Talks Goals, The Past, And The Present

Michael Allamby Introduces Himself

BY DAEYUNG LEE

Campus Surveys.

Michael Allamby sat in the library café waiting for his interview to start. With a laptop on the table, he hoisted his track equipment and several large textbooks onto the floor and greeted me pleasantly with a comforting smile. Introducing himself as Michael, he opened with a laugh, giving odd a certain cool composure about him.

The Banner: Well congratulations on your big win. Are you a politician at heart?

Michael Allamby: No, (laughing). I am most certainly not a politician. I'm a capitalist at heart. I'm all about business.

TB: What are some activities you participate in here at CSI?

MA: I'm an accounting and finance major here at CSI. I did an internship at Lehman Brothers for a while.

TB: Alright so now to the more obvious question. When did you get involved with Student Government?

MA: I was on the Student Government from 2010 as a Senator at the time. It was a great year. We started Timeout magazine, which called for a lot of canvassing and handing out

TB: How do you like Kevin Storberg? As a President?

MA: I like him a lot as a President (laughter), we have a class together and we were thinking about writing an economics book together. I should talk to him and see if he wants to still do that. I agree with a lot of his initiatives, particularly the S62 bus initiative I think you're familiar with. As a person who takes the 62, I want to get that pushed through.

TB: Speaking of initiatives, any opinions on the Student Bill of Rights? I know it was tabled at least 3 times.

MA: Well think about it, we were only shy of 3 votes so hopefully next semester it will be passed. I definitely want it to be put through as well. I don't know the document itself, I believe Meagan Derbyshire is in charge of that, it's her brainchild.

TB: So three main things you want to see done for the next year would be?

MA: Well I have 2 things mainly. One is to link the Career and Scholarship Center to the Department Chairs to the students. Email and bulletin boards are so ineffective in relaying

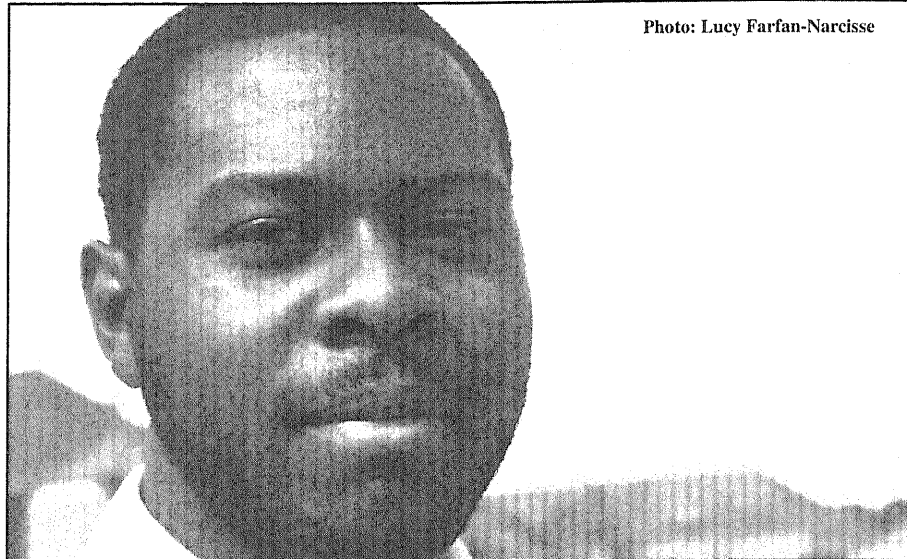


Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

Michael Allamby has replaced Kevin Storberg as the newly elected Student Government President for the next academic year.

information. I want there to be more opportunities available here at CSI. The second would be to propose an etiquette course here at CSI to teach students how to interact at a professional level. You know that would include how to send a proper email, how to hold an engaging conversation, things like that.

TB: Do you think you're looking at a hectic year?

MA: No, not at all, I'm feeling calm about the new year. The President is just another person in the senate. He's only a figurehead really, everyone shares and does an even amount of

work.

TB: Were you looking forward to working with President Morales?

MA: Yes, I really was. I like President Morales. What's really funny is that I heard that he was leaving 20 minutes before I supposed to be presenting him a plaque at the Seek Honors presentation. What I like about him is that he's always working for the college. I've been over his house on the weekend with his family for a formal dinner. I think he's underrated and the his Presidential job is also underrated.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "Dorms Start to Build on Campus"

The fact that the school didn't do a better job of notifying students of the demolition of the handball/basketball courts just shows their inability to reach the student body. They emailed a letter roughly a week before they were closing down the courts and think that that was fair enough warning. Those courts allow students to stay active and enjoy being outside at a time where our society has reached a point of extreme laziness. They absolutely need to rebuild them and fast.

Mike DeMarco,
Senior

Re: "Dorms Start to Build on Campus"

This is an interesting topic. Who'd even given that a slab of cement had such an impact on the CSI community? It's probably one of the most talked about issues. Tuition goes up, that gets forgotten about in a day. A handball court being removed, doomsday!

Jason Zahil,
Senior

Re: "CSI's NYPIRG Fights for Tuition in Albany"

I still can't believe congress is arguing for the tuition hikes. They believe just because there's a lack of student loans, they have every right to increase the tuition by \$300 every semester. Are they trying to make students drop out of college?

Sarah Aladhamy,
Junior

Re: "CSI NYPRIG Fights for Tuition in Albany"

I'm glad The Banner is covering the budget in Albany and student efforts to influence it. We really need to make voices heard to insure affordable tuition.

Kevin Elkins,
Senior

Re: "Sex and the Island"

I love Dae's Sex and the Island article. They are interesting and funny. I'm sure they're relatable to many other guys. It's great that he's not afraid to say what truly happened in his articles.

Nicole Pagano,
Junior

Re: "Anti-Suffrage: The One Woman Show"

I think this was a great article. It is a great reminder to women that we once didn't have all of the rights we do today and that we should be grateful to those women who fought for our independence. I think it's great that CSI holds events like this, and they should continue to do so.

Lauren Cerisano,
Junior

Re: "Miss California and Her Golden Laptop"

This story as hilarious! It is so well-written and entertaining. There is a clear level of self-comfort in the writing making it an awesome read.

Marie Scarsella,
Junior

Re: "CSI Cafeteria Uses Caged Chicken Eggs, Human League to Petition"

I found this story to be interesting. I did not know that our cafeteria uses caged chicken eggs and I feel it's better to use eggs from non-caged chickens. The article mentions how students are protesting and if there is any kind of petition being signed about it, I will sign it.

Andrea Cacace

Re: "CSI Cafeteria Uses Caged Chicken Eggs, Human League to Petition"

I am happy to see attention brought to the campaign for CSI to use cage free eggs. Even though economically it will be harder, it's important to have healthier food as an option in the cafeteria. Even a small step like switching distributors can cause a big impact and maybe other universities will follow.

Amanda Granberg,
Junior

Re: "CSI Cheerleaders Take CUNYAC Title on Home Court"

I was really happy to see an article recognizing cheerleading on campus. I have competed at CSI before and it was nice to see recognition for a team on the college side. High school cheerleading gets so much press especially on SI. I think Jessica did a great job acknowledging the girls' hard work and dedication to a sport that needs more attention.

Alexandra Altieri,
Senior

Re: "A Summer in Rome"

I really hope this article makes students take advantage of CSI's study abroad department. Studying abroad is something so special that you keep with you forever. Majority of the students here aren't aware of the study abroad department or are afraid to get out of their comfort zone. Students should take advantage of this amazing opportunity instead of ten years from now saying "I should have."

Ariana Induddi,
Junior

Re: "A Summer in Rome"

This is an interesting article because it talks about traveling abroad and the experience the student had in Italy. There are not many students that travel or would like to so I think this article is an eye opener to those students. It is a positive article which that can draw students in and maybe even make them want to plan a trip or even want to live somewhere else.

Caroline Panga

Re: "Dean Koontz's 77 Shadow Street - Where Nightmares Become Reality"

I really enjoyed Sharon Cruz's book review. I am a big fan of Dean Koontz and I did not read this so I am looking forward to reading it after seeing and reading Ms. Cruz's article.

Jessica Pifalo,
Junior

Re: "The Right Spring Look to Enhance Your Features"

I loved this article because spring fashion is exciting and fun. The article says "don't be afraid to brighten up your face and make your features pop." Today's trends are all about bright bold colors and not playing it safe. A bold color lip stick mixed with a cat eye is a perfect spring combination.

Natasha King,
Junior

Re: "A Summer in Rome"

I think the study abroad program is an amazing thing to have. It gives students (such as Ariana Induddi) an opportunity of a lifetime. I think The Banner should publish more "study abroad" students who went to different places. Showing/telling their stories may make more students interested.

Rachael Weiner,
Senior

Letter From the Student Government President

BY KEVIN STORBERG

This year was a wild ride for Student Government. We have fought hard for student interests on every level of the political arena.

We saw Middle States review our campus, and Pathways split the CUNY system in two. 'Votes of No Confidence' were passed against President Morales, who is now stepping down. We fought to increase MTA services and pass a Student Bill of Rights. I can say it was stressful, but I was lucky to have a dedicated team of Student Senators and other student leaders to work with this year.

Moving forward, there is still a lot to fight for. The MTA is paying attention to our campaign and have been collaborating with us. We are aiming to finish the campaign, and increase services by next spring.

The Student Bill of Rights has been gaining support since it was voted down at the last College Council meeting, missed by just 3 votes. Member after member of College Council are rallying to the cause. We will be giving it another shot at the next Council meeting on May 24, 2012. If we miss the necessary number of votes again, you can be certain we will be continuing the fight into the upcoming school year.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. There will always be campaigns to fight and causes to rally to. This is why it is so important for students to involve themselves on cam-



Photo: Nicole Pagano

pus and help in any way they can. Join student government, join a club, and write an article in a publication. We are the leaders of tomorrow, but we are also the leaders of today. We have a civic duty to make our campus, our community and indeed the world a better place.

It is the inspiring leaders I have worked with this year that have made all the difference. No amount of thank you can suffice. What I hope is that many more students will step up to the plate and carry the torch. Remember that this is our time to work toward a better world; in fact this is our time to work together. We didn't have this chance 200 years ago, and we won't have this chance 200 years from now.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Storberg
"Become The Change"

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"The Rise and Fall of President Morales,"
Continued from the front page

just had something more to it than meets the eye. Not only did Morales have those statistics in front of him, he also had pressure from higher-ups to transform the school into something that wasn't being known colloquially as the "College of Shattered Intelligence."

were built on both the north and south quads to accommodate students during the peak hours of classes.

The biggest improvement seen during the last five years was the amount of students attending the school. Hearing the statement "I got wait listed by CSI," still shocks me to this day. Also, having professors that completed their post-doctorate

period to around \$40 more than it was in 2007. And where was that \$40 going to? According to Morales, it was going towards the road repairs and more spots on campus. Somehow, students still can't find spots and subsequently must park near 1R to go all the way to 4S and still get a ticket from Parking Services, to whom I affectionately call a bunch of "Keystone Kops."

faculty. We can't forget about the blunder called the Pathways Program either.

This program essentially allows students to be screwed seven ways from

Sunday, changing the core credits from 60 to 42. The new "Common core" curriculum was a decision that Morales backed that

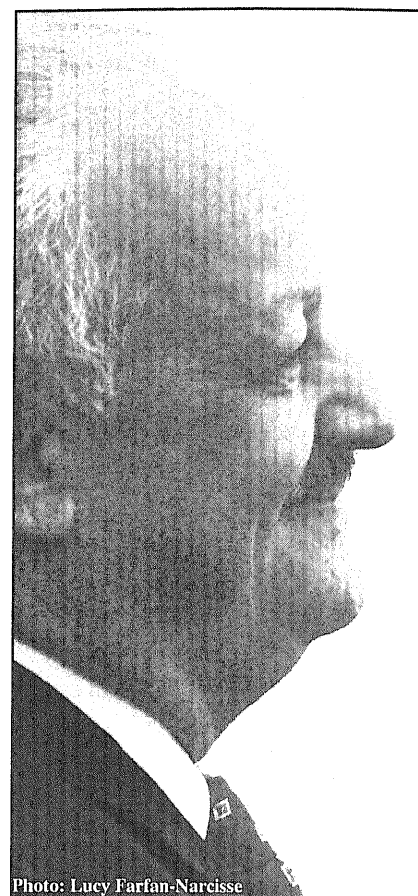


Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse
President Morales ends his tenure after five years at CSI.

"As I look back at both Morales and his "five year plan," I think he gave his best, but ultimately let this school get the best of him."

And so he did. Over the past five years at CSI, I saw an improvement with not only the school, but the local community as well. A bus service was introduced in the spring 2008, which shuttled students from the St. George ferry terminal to the school throughout the day. Moreover, The existing loop bus service inside the campus upgraded their buses and developed a better pickup schedule. New parking lots

education at prestigious universities and are now teaching classes here still makes me happy.

But with his successes also came his failures, to be cliché. Parking on campus was already horrendous to begin with, but with more students attending, spots became very barren. A logical person would think to build a big lot, but not Morales. He instead built two small lots and raised the price on parking passes over a five year

Smokers are now segregated into spots 100 feet away from most of the buildings, and if you think about even lighting up outside the door, expect a hard scolding from Public Safety. All changes in July however, when the campus officially transforms into a "Tobacco free campus." Morales had some involvement with that decision, and what came from it was the beginning of the deteriorating relationship between him and the college

essentially led the college faculty to single him and Provost William Fritz out for a 'Vote of No Confidence,' which means the faculty has lost faith in the way the school is being run.

The twist to this whole tale is that just like I am leaving after a five-year run, so is Morales. To our former President, I wish you luck on your next chapter in your career, just like you will do to me on commencement day.

"Better Put Out That Cigarette, Public Safety's Got Eyes on Every Corner,"
Continued from the front page

tions needed answers and the clock was ticking.

Linda Conte, co-chair of the Tobacco Free Committee, would have answers, or so I thought. And why not?

"Ms. Conte seemed to know as much about the plan as I did. She said the answers are in the implementation plan online. They are not."

She is co-chair, after all.

Unfortunately, Ms. Conte seemed to know as much about the plan as I did. She said the answers are in the implementation plan online. They are not.

"The penalties will carry over," she said. "If we need to make changes after July 1, we will."

Maybe Paul Murtha, director of Public Safety and committee member, could help. I had been told he was the man with the answers.

Unfortunately, Mr. Murtha was too busy waxing his Campus Security Segway to answer questions.

It's comforting to know this com-

mittee is on top of things and not just wasting time, money, and resources that could be put to much better use.

The tobacco policy crosses a line. CUNY is in the business of education, not regulating students' lifestyles. Smokers know the health risks, but still



Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse
Sorry smokers! Say goodbye to those mid-class smoke breaks, CSI goes tobacco free next fall.

choose to smoke. CUNY should respect that, if only because cigarettes are legal. At least keep the designated smoking areas.

The only deterrent will be harsh penalties, and harsh penalties are totally unreasonable to lay on students up to their eyeballs in debt and stressed from an abundance of work. The ban won't work.

So here we stand, CUNY playing the role of mother and outlawing smoking because it's bad for students and staff. Smokers are now left with the vague description of disciplinary action for offenders with no clear description of what that means.

Designated smoking areas are the only solution. But the CUNY brain-trust is all knowing and they know what's best for students, right?

"The Year of Firsts Ends With a President's Last
Continued from the front page

CSI's "Models" for Pathways are suggested to include cutting Foreign

Language credits, cutting back of Freshman English class hours and eliminating lab credits for Science classes. So you can see where we run into problems. This sent faculty up in arms and subsequently created a war with many faculty

"While our aforementioned president is enjoying the sunshine... the incoming president of CSI will be faced with Morales' many unfinished projects."

members resulting in a 'Vote of No Confidence' against Morales and his Knights of the roundtable up in 1A. What CSI needs to do is stop suggesting a model and start solidifying one because the only people who really need to be concerned and clarified on the issue is the students. Ultimately, it is our education and spending money on classes that come

game changer," students currently enrolled in CSI would much rather see the money used to fix the lighting problems on campus at night. When I interviewed Paul Murtha, Head of Public Safety, about two years ago, he informed me the lighting behind 1P was going to be fixed within that week, so I guess we can be expecting some lights up any day

now. Perhaps CSI should spend less money on Public Safety Segways and start thinking about the safety of their students. It seems as if Morales has dug us another large hole that some poor newbie is going to have to deal with, something tells me they are going to need that hard hat.

Whatever next year has in store for CSI, I can be certain that The Banner's

next Editors-in-Chief will work very hard to make sure the students, faculty and staff are very well informed. To my staff, it has been an absolute pleasure to work with a group of such dedicated, smart and open-minded people. May you always be committed, fair and unbiased when reporting the news of CSI. Just don't forget to have a little fun, too.

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First CSI Sigma Beta Delta Event Kicks Off

Celebration Commences as CSI Introduces First Annual Induction Ceremony

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

CSI has landed a national business honors society. Sigma Beta Delta, an international honors society for business, management, and administration has formed its 322nd chapter at CSI.

Students and faculty members celebrated their induction at a ceremony held on May 10. One of the evening's speakers was President Morales, who earlier in the day released a statement to the college community announcing his departure.

"This is really a game changer here," said Morales. "The fact that we are inducting our very first Sigma Beta Delta is very significant."

President Morales went on to declare that the business department is CSI's largest department. He also stated that he wished to explore the possibility for advocating a more distinct business school. He went on to discuss the future for student degrees as well as potential jobs and careers.

Although Sigma Beta Delta is a fresh start for CSI, President Morales acknowledged his departure from the college. He extended an invitation for all to visit him at California State University, San Bernardino. He also implied a future possibility for exchange programs and acknowledged the road ahead for students.

Perhaps delivering some insight into his announcement earlier in the day, President Morales acknowledged that there are difficult decisions. He stated that he supports the aspirations of students.

"You will be faced with tough decisions," said Morales. "There are more challenges ahead."



Photo: Kellie Bollaert
Chief Academic Officer, William Fritz (left) and President Morales (center) congratulate a student on his induction to the Sigma Beta Delta international honors society for business, management, and administration on May 10.

Chief Academic Officer, William Fritz also attended the event and was inducted during the ceremony. He gave everyone his best wishes and hoped they would remain active in the national chapter. Fritz expressed his gratitude for this recognition of hard work.

"I am distinctly proud to be inducted in this evening," said Fritz. "I think these are so important for recognizing student work."

While new to CSI, Sigma Beta Delta has its roots dating back to 1994. The only other CUNY School to have such a chapter is Lehman College. Only students who are within the top twenty percent of their class are eligible for this honors society.

President Morales explained the significance of the Greek letters, which are Sigma Beta Delta. Sigma can be derived to mean wisdom, Beta stands for leadership, and Delta means aspirations or goals.

"Academic honors societies are part of a long history," said Susan Holak, Professor of Marketing Business. "This honor is widely recognized."

Holak also acknowledged that they will always be considered lifetime members of this society. The society's website has a job board solely for its members.

Each student was called upon by Professor Jonathan Peters to receive their new medals and lapel pins. The faculty were called upon as well and recognized as business professors. Then, the roughly 30 students and 15 faculty members took a solemn oath and posed for photographs afterwards.

"Wherever your life takes you, I hope you build up on your skills and goals," said Morales. "Whether it be in Staten Island or the metropolitan area."

When it Comes to Class Warfare, It's Every Man for Himself

Registration Causes Student Anxiety

BY MICHAEL DEMARCO

Picture yourself sitting at your computer, searching through the open sections for the classes you were told you should register for at advisement, and every time you click on the class, you see the dreaded No Available Seats sign. This is a very common issue at CSI and something that drives students crazy.

"Registration is the most problematic issue at CSI. Some classes are only offered at one time, on one day," said senior Allison Ryder. "Since they are required they fill up quickly, students are forced to wait."

The school Union recently reduced the cap on the number of students permitted in each class from between thirty and thirty-two students per class to only twenty-five students per class. The Union also reduced the number of classes a professor is permitted to teach from its previous three classes to only two classes.

"There is always the fear of seats running out in a class," said junior Andrea Barberio. "There are definitely ways that the school could enhance this process so that the students have an easier time registering for the

classes they need."

CSI's system for registration is set up so students are assigned specific dates and times as to when they may begin to register, which allows for a form of stability and organization. The negative aspect of this system is that if a student is assigned a date that comes significantly later than when registration begins,

due to the shortage of class availability the likelihood of them registering for necessary classes will be low.

The students barely fit into the classes the school offers as it is and now because of budget issues there will be fewer seats available in the minimal amount of classes offered. While the students are suffering and battling to get into the classes they need in order to graduate, our leader, President Morales, has done nothing to resolve the issue.

As the leader of an Institution of learning, Morales should be doing whatever he can in his power, with the limited time he has left

before he officially resigns, to ensure the students are given the best opportunity to succeed. It is not surprising that the faculty voted "No Confidence" for a man who clearly missing the

"This is a learning institution, but more importantly, it is a business," said Professor Michael Schuyler. "It costs more to open classes over the summer that students will not take."

point of his job. The fact that his response to the vote was, "I was shocked," just shows how out of touch he is.

"Registration is the most problematic issue at CSI. Some classes are only offered at one time, on one day, since they are required they fill up quickly, students are forced to wait," said senior Allison Ryder. "Trying to take upper level courses isn't easy because they are limited and rarely offered during the winter and summer sessions."

For the upcoming summer session the classes offered in the introductory and secondary level courses are close to seventy classes each. While the school is offering only twenty-seven classes at the 300 level, and two classes at the 400 level.

The lack of higher level courses offered during this summer session makes registration that much more difficult. The availability of classes in the fall semester is significantly higher, with the sections and classes for the lower level still being the majority, but as the courses become more advanced they also

become significantly scarcer. The reason for the greater class numbers for the lower level courses in each field is that most of them are required for every student. The school mandates students take Fitness for

Life, or PED 190, a foreign language and certain Sciences, English and Psychology classes. But since they must allocate funding and staff for these lower level courses, the availability for the advanced levels is jeopardized.

"Our institution should consider offering classes during a more accessible hour, and perhaps, grant each student the respect of a personalized letter, e-mail, or guidance counselor for each departmental field," said senior Laura D'Anna. "Then perhaps some of these technical issues may be ironed out."

With the focus of this issue being the school's deficiency in classes, Professor Michael Schuyler sympathizes with the students' frustration but offers a counter look into the perspective of the administration.

"This is a learning institution, but more importantly it is a business," said Schuyler. "It costs more to open classes over the summer that students will not take. You may have ten students who need to take this class but if only five are going to register for it then it isn't worth it."

BANNER STYLES

How to Make it in America You Have to Dress for Success

BY NICOLE PAGANO

A long walkway with rows of chairs on each side and black backdrop set the scene for a knowledgeable and exciting fashion show.

Business attire and how to prepare yourself for an interview were two of the main topics at the Express Business Fashion Show held on May 3. The Marketing Association presented the fashion show with President

“When dressing for an interview, it is important to always look neat and clean cut. Shirts must be tucked in and suits must be tailored.”

Esmeralda Xheleshi playing the part of the master of ceremonies.

Two key speakers were there to discuss related topics. The first speaker Yao Huang spoke about being a successful entrepreneur. Huang himself is involved many different companies. Twylfe.com, an entertainment company by the name of Blast Premium Entertainment and a restaurant, which was opened three months ago called Fusion D’lite.

Recent CSI graduate, Angelica Spano, was the second speaker. Being the hiring manager at Express in the Staten Island Mall, she was able to give tips on how to ace an interview. She talked about what it is like to work at Express.

“As an express associate you’ll be apart of the wonderful world of fashion and all it has to offer,” said Spano.

Once the two speakers were done, the

actual fashion show got started, however this was not your average runway show. It was interactive, as models walked down the runway the audience had the chance to point out what was wrong with their interview outfit. Prizes were given out to the winners. Once all the models dressed in the appropriate interview attire they all walked back onto the runway to show off their fashionable yet business looks.

When dressing for an interview, it is important to always look neat and clean cut. Shirts must be tucked in and suits must be tailored. Blazers and pencil skirts are a great choice for women. They look professional and still fashionable. Xheleshi explained that small pieces of jewelry are okay to wear, while chunky bracelets and necklaces look less professional and more fun. Open toe shoes should not be worn to an interview, instead go for an ankle boot or a closed toe pump.

For men suits should be clean cut and ironed, at least one button should be buttoned on the jacket. Do not wear sneakers with a suit even if they’re black. A vest is also okay to wear in place of a jacket but just make sure it matches.

Two gift cards to Express were raffled off after the show to happy recipients.



Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

CSI’s Marketing Association taught students how to find the right outfit needed to land the perfect job at the Express Business Fashion Show held on May 3.

During Finals Week, Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures For Some CSI Students, Adderall is Essential for Late Night Cram Sessions

BY AMANDA GRANBERG

Imagine a pill you could swallow that would turn you into some type of essay writing, text-book reading, problem solving, academic machine. It’s called Adderall, but before you get too excited let a sober, rational mind, question this collegiate candy.

Adderall is a prescription drug designed for individuals with attention-deficit disorder. It can narrow the brain’s attention to a single task allowing for a productive and focused “study” mindset. As an amphetamine, the drug is classified alongside cocaine and opium and is controlled by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

On the CSI campus, Adderall is surprisingly popular. Possibly because a large portion of our student body has full or part-time jobs to accompany their class schedule and don’t have the luxury of some universities where the typical student alternates studying and partying.

This generation has become accustomed to instant gratification. A college student’s brain can become so clogged with Facebook

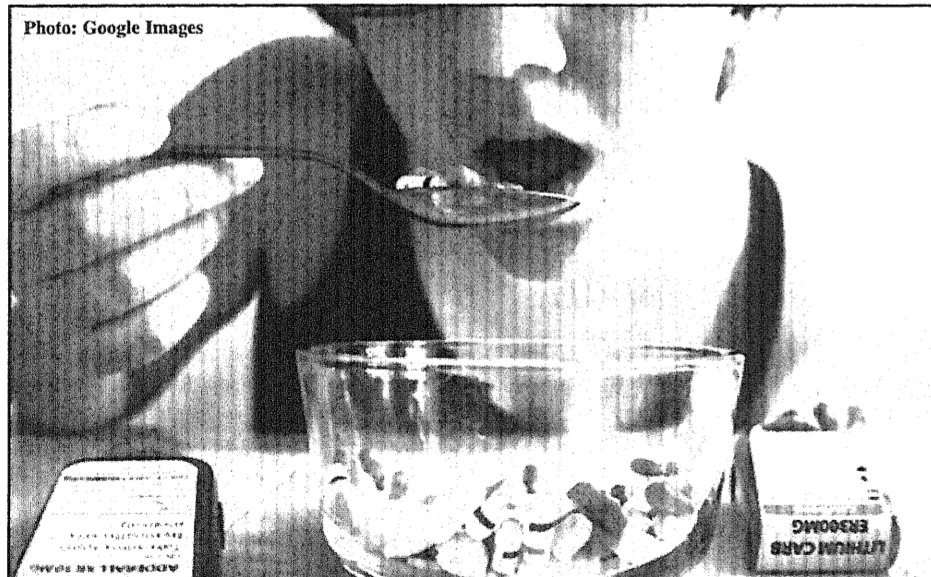


Photo: Google Images

On the CSI campus, Adderall is surprisingly popular amongst students looking to beat the finals blues.

notifications, emails, and text messages that schoolwork gets done only after they Instagram a picture of their lunch that day.

Obsessed with getting things done quickly, not efficiently, students turn to a pill so that it forces them to sit down and get an assignment done without procrastination.

However, many taking the drug reported they didn’t retain the information and when they wrote what seemed brilliant at the time, really it was just excessively worded grammar and out of focus text.

Another way this could work against a student studying for finals is if they take this

pill and focus on the wrong thing. Before they know it they just spent three hours playing fruit ninja on their iPhone instead of hitting the books.

It is unclear exactly how many students across the US are taking academic performance enhancing drugs because they are given to them by friends or dealers much like the way marijuana is distributed. The only difference is that when prescribed, Adderall is perfectly legal.

No one should be so desperate for an A that they risk their mental and physical health. Not only is Adderall highly addictive, it has a number of side effects ranging from loss of appetite to stroke.

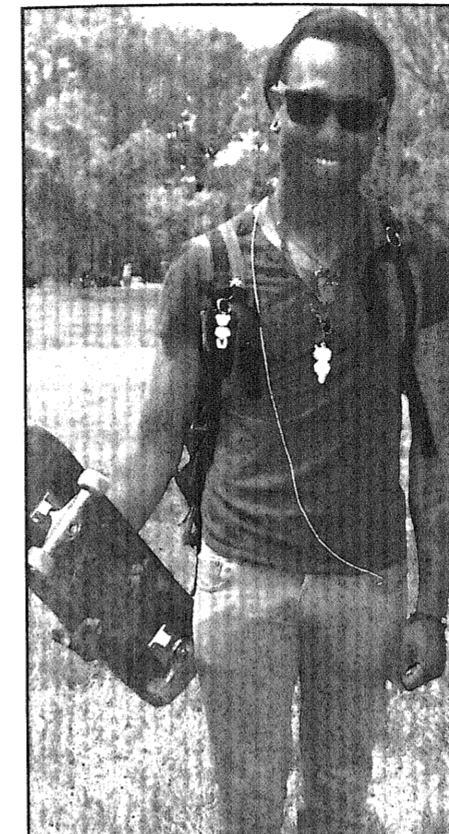
While a student juggling 18 credits per semester and a part-time job may think popping one or two pills a week during finals isn’t such a big deal, it is.

At the end of my college career I would like to feel that I had the academic integrity to finish a paper with a clear head, and if I didn’t get around to finishing it, oh well at least I tried.

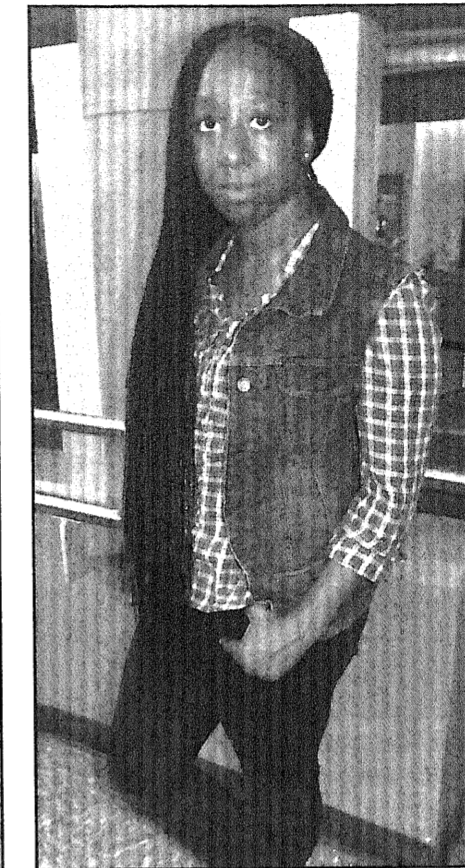
BANNER STYLES

CSI Fashion Who’s Got the Best?

BY AMANDA GRANBERG



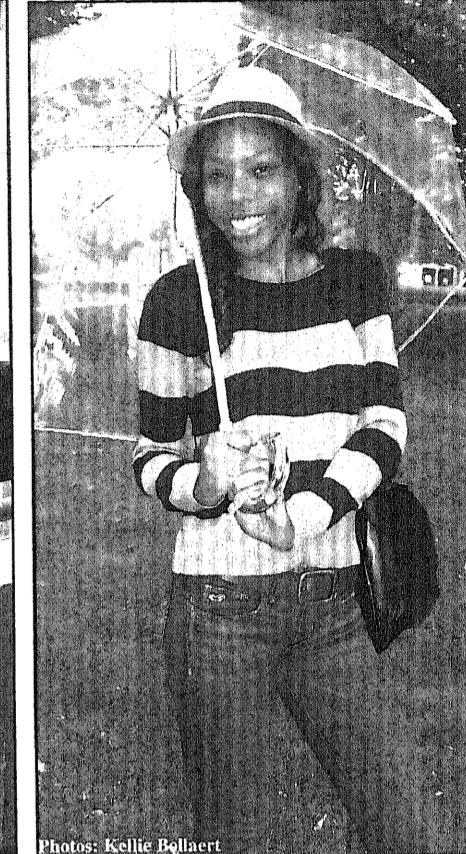
Ruehl Charles,
Age: 18,
Major: Computer Science
Favorite Shop:
“My favorite store is a skate shop called Skate Brooklyn in Boerum Hill.”



Shevon Miller
Freshman
Age: 18
Personal Style:
“I like the 90’s grunge style that’s what I wear most of the time.”



Alex Perez
Freshman
Age: 20
Favorite Brand:
“I got this jean vest from urban outfitters, that’s probably my favorite store.”



Photos: Kellie Ballaert

Watchain Bestman
Freshman
Age: 18
Summer Style:
“I think my go to summer trend will be orange lipstick and high waisted shorts.”

2012 Summer Fashion is Bright and Airy Pastels, Florals and Trendy Patterns Dominate This Season

BY NICOLE PAGANO

When dressing for summer, think pastels, patterns, florals and a mix of accessories. For pastels, mint green and baby pink are the two most popular colors for summer 2012, complementing all items, such as shorts, tops and sundresses.

Along with pastels, the decade of the 20’s is still in style, starting on the runways for spring. Now with summer approaching designers are making an impact by mixing this flapper style with sundresses.

Flapper style dresses have a very light and airy feel to them, so naturally designers choose to put them out towards the summer. Designers such as Oscar De La Renta and Ralph Lauren are making this look part of their runway.

Lace is popular a fabric that returns each summer, as seen on sundresses and this year expect to see lace paired with the flapper style dress.

Students around the CSI campus also have their favorites when it comes to upcoming summer trends.

“High waisted shorts with a bright top or racer back,” said Jennifer Rammairone, a senior. “Looking good and still being comfortable is key.”

High waisted shorts are a great way to dress up or dress down any summer outfit. Black high waisted shorts can be used when

going out to a club or when going out to dinner, a bright color short are better for daytime in warm weather.

Florals always seem to make a big impact during the summer but we saw them for each season this year. This summer printed florals are not so much in as to the sheik Appliqué floral design. Appliqué is a 3D approach to fashion, think extreme ruffles. Florals are showing up on another big trend for this summer, long maxi skirts. These skirts were shown very quickly on the spring runways but now they are popping up in stores just in time for summer.

“Accessories are going to be a huge part of summer fashion this year,” said Toni Maffeo, an employee at Francesca’s Collections, a boutique style store located in the Staten Island Mall. “Feathery scarves, satchel bags, chunky jewelry and floppy hats are just part of the shipments we are receiving.”

Mixing and matching different prints are also one of the big trends for this summer. Think different colors, designs and shapes. There are really no rules for this trend. Summer is supposed to be fun and care free, so show it off in your outfits.

“Sundresses always show up for summer, but this year a new kind of sundress is coming about,” said Maffeo. “Peak-a-boo backs and bando style are showing up, it’s really about looking cool and comfy.”



Photo: Nicole Pagano

High waisted shorts and pastel colors and sundresses are in at Francesca’s Collections located in the Staten Island Mall

BANNER ARTS

Against Me! Rock on After Lead Singer's Sex Change

Tom Gabel, The Transgender Punk Sensation

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

Florida punk rockers Against Me! have never been able to please everyone. No matter what they do, they are never quite "punk enough." They have been deemed "sellouts" by bitter fans and trust fund kids every time they released an album.

Though the band has a steady legion of fans, many have abandoned them, unhappy with frontman Tom Gabel's lack of allegiance to the anarchist movement, or his change in writing style between albums.

Regardless of the punk community's backlash, the band's most recent release, *White Crosses* has been their best seller to date, climbing as high as number 34 on the Billboard Hot 200 Charts. One of the album's singles, "I Was a Teenage Anarchist", a track about Gabel's prior life as an angry anarchist teen, is one of Against Me!'s most popular songs.

Clearly, somebody out there has to be buying it. Even if Gabel and the band aren't "punk rock," they're making people happy. The only person not happy was Gabel.

Recently, he has made what could be called the most "punk" move of his career; he has made the decision to live for himself and not to please society. He has come out as transgendered and to start living his life as

a woman, taking the name Laura Jane Grace.

In an interview with *Rolling Stone*, Gabel, who from here on out will be referred to as Laura or through female pronouns, stated that he has lived with gender dysphoria since he was a child.

Regardless of this, the decision was not an easy one. With a wife, Heather, and a two-year-old daughter, Gabel feared the reaction not only of the punk community, who is already on his case as it is, but also of his family. Luckily, though, Heather was very accepting, and the couple will remain together throughout the transition.

Gabel has recently begun taking hormones, and is still deciding if he will end up undergoing the full gender reassignment process. He has posted on his twitter account, thanking fans for their support, as well as documenting the start of his journey. He tweeted photos of Estradiol, Progesterone and Spironolactone pills, along with the statement, "Biggest moment in my adult life. Here goes nothing."

While most of Against Me!'s fans are very supportive of Gabel's decision to live as Laura Jane Grace, many are weary of the future of the band. However, Laura has addressed this issue, explaining that the band will continue to make music and she

Photo: Google Images



Against Me! frontman Tom Gabel will soon begin to transition into living as a woman and will eventually change her name to Laura Jane Grace.

will continue to front them. As she is not undergoing surgery to shave down her Adam's apple, her voice should remain the same.

The decision to transition has also inspired band's next album. It will be called *Transgender Dysphoria Blues*, and it is said to be a concept album about a transgendered prostitute.

As for live performances, Gabel explained to *Rolling Stone* that fans have nothing to worry about, and that there will be just as much energy as ever.

"However fierce our band was in the past," she said. "Imagine me, six-foot-two, in heels, f---ing screaming into someone's face."

What could be more punk rock than that?

SEX AND THE ISLAND

What to Expect from Oral Sex

I can tell you what NOT to expect at least.

BY DAEYUNG LEE

For this story, I take you to Michigan, the land where every girl is blonde, and the ones that aren't are shunned and forgotten.

Michigan is the new land of the Valley Girl dialect. For those unfamiliar with it, it is a form of American English filled with phrases like "Totally," "For Sure," but pronounced like it rhymes with R&B superstar, Usher, and "Like, Oh Ma Gawd." The girls are brainwashed zombies, looking for their next victim to rape with their shrill voices and lack of bedroom etiquette.

"I was dancing with one fairly inebriated girl who was grinding me down to a point where I was getting burns on my crotch from the friction of her skirt against my pants..."

I went with my Barracks Roommate who ensured me there was going to be, "Tail to grab tonight, brah, broham, brohamese," and I was down because I was lonely, horny, and well, a dude.

We got to U of M at 10:00 P.M., yes, that's like 20 hundred hours for militant people like me. At the door some douchebag

wearing an upside down visor and a pink polo representing a really crappy fraternity stamped my hand and was like, "Bro, no wait bro, bro man, you gotta drink like a lot of beers tonight man." My look of incredulity escaped him and he continued greeting women like there wasn't a problem in the world.

The frat house was loud and the music was bumping, so it was everything I've ever wanted in a world that was reversed when I saluted and signed myself away to defend the country I love so much. On top of that, short skirts and high heels never looked so good. I

was dancing with one fairly inebriated girl who was grinding me down to a point where I was getting burns on my crotch from the friction of her skirt against my pants against my genitals because my roommate assured me that, "going commando" was an excellent idea. With eyes burning and wincing from pain every time she dry humped me, I had a look on my face that other girls around me

believed was ecstasy.

It was that point that she mounted me on the dance floor and ran both her hands through my short, "high-and-tight" haircut and aggressively sucked my soul out through my mouth. Afterwards all I could taste was strawberry lip gloss, beer, ciga-

"The 3rd base was reached immediately, like I hit the ball and was teleported there, a magical land of oral sex and I'm not going to lie but it wasn't her first time."

rettes, and the resurfacing thought that. "This is probably not going to end well." The song was over and the DJ slowed it down for a little bit so she grabbed my hand and dragged me upstairs where I was thrown on the bed and manhandled a little bit until majority of my clothes were off. Then she showed a little inhibition. "Like oh ma gawd, I've totally never done this before, like for sure," is what she may have said, I wasn't listening because it was hard to get an erection.

There's no nice way to say this, but the 3rd base was reached immediately, like I hit the ball and was teleported there, a magical

land of oral sex and I'm not going to lie but it wasn't her first time, if you catch my drift. Halfway through, I started to relax and closed my eyes until I felt a dripping on my leg, a steady dripping, the kind that a facet does at night to drive you crazy. I looked up and saw a river of blood down my leg and I thought she

chewed off Little Lee for a second. I flipped out and pulled out, scratching a good inch of my junk on solid teeth and realized she was having a nosebleed, on my penis. I ran to my roommate and was told him that we needed to leave but he was like, "Awww man, I'm having fun." I told him, "Listen, you don't understand, I believe my meat sword might have impaled a woman into a concussion and she probably dying on the floor right now and I don't know if it's rape or not but I know we need to jet. Like fast."

We ran far and wide until I got tested the next day. Getting back a negative never felt so good in my life. I swear.

Carrie Underwood's Blown Away: More Like A Light Breeze

BY THERESA PESSOLANO

Country superstar and past American Idol winner, Carrie Underwood, released her fourth album, *Blown Away* on May 1, 2012.

It debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 chart. The album creates a darker atmosphere than her previous efforts. The lead single, "Good Girl" is Carrie's fastest selling single, being downloaded 108,000 times from iTunes in its first three days of being release.

Despite this, Good Girl is mediocre compared to her previous singles. The song is warning a "good girl" that the "good guy" she is dating is really a heartbreaker. Confronting heartbreakers is something that Carrie Underwood is best at, with songs like, "Before he Cheats," "Undo It," and "Songs Like This."

"Good Girl" is a downgrade from the clever, aggressive lyrics on her previous albums. After the weak opening track, the title track follows. It features a haunting pre-chorus with the theme of the narrator seeking for the house, along with the sins committed by her drunk father in the house to be washed away by a twister while she takes shelter in the cellar.

Following the theme of revenge, "Two Black Cadillacs," is a dark ditty about a man being killed by his wife and his girlfriend after they found out about his infidelities.

Two slow tracks of longing come next, "See You Again," in which she tells the

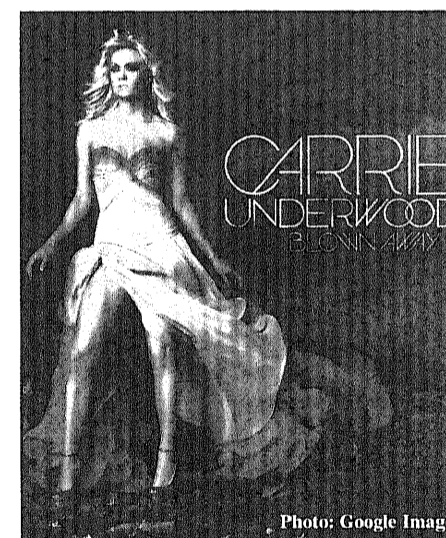


Photo: Google Images

someone that she takes the with her everywhere until they meet again, and "Do You Think About Me," a song wonder if the person you desire, desires you back.

The album does feature a few bland ballads, however, on the other hand it contains some strong, beautiful ballads including "Good In Goodbye" and "Leave Love Alone." The final three tracks make sure this album goes out on a high note.

The closing track, "Who Are You," is by far the best song on the album. It is a sweet ballad that describes what the person who is the subject means to her.

Evaluating this album is tough because there are insanely powerful songs that just take your breath away but there is a nearly equal amount of lackluster tracks.

The Hunger Games Satisfies the Appetite of Fans

BY MARISSA PESSOLANO & THERESA PESSOLANO

The Hunger Games movie release was one that was highly anticipated, not only by readers of the popular book series, but by avid moviegoers as well. Keeping this in mind, it is no shock that it is currently ranked third as highest grossing film of all time for an opening weekend, just behind *Harry Potter* and *The Deathly Hallows Part 2* and *The Dark Knight*, while being the first non-sequel to achieve this record.

The Hunger Games takes places in a futuristic society of Panem in the ruins of North America. The Capitol of Panem forces one boy and one girl, ages 12-18, from the twelve districts in a gladiator-style fight to the death where only one victor survives. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, played Jennifer Lawrence, finds herself sent off to be a part of these games after volunteering to prevent her sister, twelve-year-old Prim, from entering the games.

As far as acting goes, the whole cast was superb. Jennifer Lawrence performed well in her first major role, doing justice to the fierce character of Katniss. Her co-star Josh Hutcherson, who plays Peeta Mellark, the boy tribute from her district, conveyed Peeta's gentleness and his desire to be, "more than just a piece in their games." Elizabeth Banks portrayed Effie Trinket wonderfully, capturing the eccentricity of the character and Woody Harelson was perfect as Haymitch Abernathy, the mentor for



Photo: Google Images

Katniss and Peeta and past victor, who tries to forget the horrors of the Games with alcohol.

The movie gives you a behind the scenes look of the Gamemakers controlling the fates of those fighting for their lives in the arena. However, The movie lacked in some areas when it comes to the emotional depth of the characters, as well as the true intensity and desperateness for survival in the arena.

In the movie, it was not as clear that Katniss' romantic advances toward Peeta could be questioned as being just for their survival in the games, as it was in the book.

There are always going to be complaints from faithful fans of the book, but as far as book-to-movie adaptations go, *The Hunger Games* by far succeeds in making the jump from page to screen.

A Diet That Works For Those Lucky CSI Dorm Residents Quick & Easy Eating For Future 2013 Lodgers

BY SHARON CRUZ

It's difficult to predict what challenges college has in store for your health. Armed with the right information, you can be aware of how and why students tend to gain weight and start establishing good habits as soon as you unpack your bags.

The college experience would not be complete without living in a dorm room and eating Ramen noodles every night. Future and current CSI students will have the opportunity to live out the college dream with the new student housing facilities, opening in Fall 2013.

The prospect of sodium rich, high calorie, and sugary treats should not send you running for the hills, according to Daphne Oz. "You don't need to worry about whether that brownie is within the guidelines. The brownie is in if you say it is," says Oz in her book, *The Dorm Room Diet: The 10 Step Program for Creating a Healthy Lifestyle Plan That Really Works*.

In her book, Oz outlines the most common and realistic downfalls college students fall into when living in a dorm. In a new and exciting way, Oz makes a case for choosing a healthier lifestyle while living on campus. Oz's easy to follow diet, which includes quick and easy recipes, are delicious and a realistic alternative to junk food.

Throughout her book Oz say the first step



Daphne Oz, author of *The Dorm Room Diet: The 10 Step Program for Creating a Healthy Lifestyle Plan That Really Works*, outlines the most common and realistic downfalls college students fall into when living in a dorm.

is getting informed. Knowing what foods are good for you and what foods to eat to help you stay up at night during finals is an added bonus to an already fantastic book.

The meal plans that college's offer when living in a dorm are not necessarily the healthiest or tastiest. It's important to have a backup

plan when the cafeteria slaps questionable meat on your plate.

So, if you're wondering what you are going to eat, or how to maintain a healthy lifestyle, pick up this spunky health and lifestyle book. Get a head start in preparing your stomach and mind for the Fall of 2013.

Tips on Dorm Room Living:

TIP #1: DON'T TRY TO REPLICATE YOUR ROOM AT HOME:

Keep you packing simple and basic. You'll have the opportunity to buy stuff later.

TIP #2: SET THE RULES:

When you meet your roommate, make sure to set some ground rules, this way future problems won't present themselves.

TIP #3: LEARN TO DO LAUNDRY:

Mom won't be around to your laundry, so make sure you learn to separate those colors and know what detergent to use.

TIP #4: MAKE TIME:

Don't forget that you're still in college. Make sure that between hanging out with friends and learning beer pong you make time to pick up that textbook.

Ask Sandra: She Has All the Answers...

The Banner's Resident Advice Columnist Answers CSI's Toughest Questions

BY SANDRA CHAMOUN

Dear Sandra, I am stuck in the middle between my two friends who have recently broken up. I'm close to both of them and it's hard seeing both of them suffer and complain to me about one another. I don't want to butt into their relationship but I feel like eventually I will have to take a side. How should I tell them how I truly feel about the situation without losing them all together?

Dear Stuck in the Middle,
I agree that over time this situation might lead you to feel the need to take a side or be pushed into the role of relationship therapist without the appropriate salary. Honesty is the best policy but the delivery is weighted heavier than the message it self. Explain to the two of them that you care about both their friendships and tell them how you really feel. As long as you say it in an empathetic manner your friends will understand.

Dear Sandra, I am having some major problems with my parents. We are not getting along because I am tired of living at home but I can't afford to move out on my own yet. What should I do?

Dear Conflicted one,
As difficult as it may be to mediate this unsettling situation my advice is take the reigns. This situation may make you feel out of control because despite your desire to move out you have to remain living at home with your parents. You may not have control over moving out but you do have control over your actions. Try to avoid disagreements with your parents, even when you feel like lashing out remind yourself that this passiveness is a small price to pay for your end goal of ultimately moving out.

Dear Sandra, I have been feeling stressed and depressed lately, and feeling the weight of school, work and relationships. What are some things I can do to make me feel a little better on the days that I am most upset?

Dear Bogged Down,
Here are some suggestions on boosting up your spirits on those emotionally rainy days:
- Give yourself a break! On moments when you feel most stressed chances are your body and mind are begging for a break. Do something that you really relaxes you. Like taking a warm shower or unwinding with a cup of tea.
- Get that oxygen circulating! Improving blood flow is not only good for the body but it feeds the mind. Try going for a walk, doing deep breathing exercises or squeezing in a free yoga class at CSI into your schedule can give us that needed boost.
- Talk yourself to happy! Remind yourself that emotions are a wave and when we are feeling most upset, remember that what goes down must go up.

Dear Sandra, My childhood friend has turned to stripping to pay her bills. How can I convince her that she's better than that and that there are other ways she can make money?

Dear Concerned Friend,
Some ways you can try to show your friend that she can do better is to remind her of her prospective passions and goals. Show her how stripping may jeopardize these prospects and that this short-term fix can possibly amount to an unwanted skeleton in her closet.

Sandra Chamoun is senior and psychology major at CSI. You can reach her at the Heath and Wellness Center in 1C where she is a peer counselor.

CSI Students, Please Expand Your Minds

College Life vs. Reading & Writing

BY SHARON CRUZ

At the recent Spring Festival, CSI students had the opportunity to submerge themselves in college life. Clubs and other organizations lined the walkway leading to the campus center with tables, balloons, free giveaways and free food. With music blasting in the background and the lure of games and fun with friends, CSI students were certainly over stimulated.

there were any students interested in a reading and writing club but the numbers were few. Why are college students moving away from recreational writing and reading?

I am aware that reading and writing for fun is not for everyone and might not appeal to the mass populous, but something has to give. There has to be more to academics and life than Facebook updates and short 140 character Twitter responses. The problem

The response from the festival-goers: "I don't like to write," and "I don't like to read."

Sitting at a table, looking over the crowd of people it became obvious to me that these students were not looking for clubs that promote academic excellence but fun. A sad truth.

I attended the festival as a member of a writing club and with my fellow members tried, with little success, to get the attention of the CSI community. The response from the festival-goers: "I don't like to write," and "I don't like to read." As an English major, I found these responses offensive and repulsive. Is the lure of recreational writing and reading dissipating from college students? I would hope not.

It wouldn't be fair of me to say that

comes from being over stimulated. Why read a whole book when Google could give the answer? Why write a beautiful lyrical poem when you could get to the point in short status updates?

There could be another reason these students don't want to read. They don't have the time. Since CSI is a commuter school and a portion of the students juggle jobs and complicated home dynamics, it's plausible that there isn't enough time. The English geek inside me wants to believe it's time that's preventing leisure reading and not the un-coolness that might be trailing behind the presumption.

Want More Friends? Perhaps You Should Dorm Can Living in Dorms Create Stronger Friendships?

BY LAUREN CERISANO

Is four months really enough time to call someone a friend? And if so is that "friendship" one that will last after the semester ends?

It's easy to talk to someone in a classroom, while going over assignments or comparing grades, but the difficulty is having only one thing in common- the class.

People who dorm tend to have stronger

just on campus."

With CSI being a commuter school, it's often hard to create friendships. Many students attend class then go home because staying on campus seems "useless" if they don't have another class.

The creation of dorms can be a good thing for those at CSI. Having dorms allow students to interact.

"Most friendships end once the semester ends because they associate to ease the semester," said Samantha Font, a junior at CSI.

"Living in Staten Island, we have our own groups of friends that we see more than just on campus."

relationships with their classmates and roommates because of the amount of time they spend together. Dorms allow them to be around each other for more than just class time and give them the freedom of getting to know each other outside of class.

"Most friendships end once the semester ends because they associate to ease the semester," said Samantha Font, a junior at CSI. "Living in Staten Island, we have our own groups of friends that we see more than

"The dorms being built are great assets to our small environment," said Font. "Having student's together semester after semester will help better relationships."

Complaints were high when rumors of dorms started. When construction began, tempers flared. If people look at the positives rather than the negatives, they too could see the good in dorms and possibly create friends they may not have made without them.

Will Mainstream Art and Culture Turn Audiences Into Cabbages?

We Will Let You be the Judge

BY JEREMY PASKER

As a society, we are moving aimlessly between boredom and distraction and have resorted to nothing more than intellectual masterbaters.

We've become addicts looking for the next entertainment fix. Now, it has become impossible to experience real gratification because the consumption of mass culture represses individuals and clunks them all into one enormous vat of idiocy. Therefore, whatever comes next morphs into the deformed version of its predecessor.

According to philosopher Ernest van den Haag, popular mass culture is a drug which diminishes people's capacity to experience reality. And from what I'm witnessing on television and in advertisements, he was correct. By no means am I separating myself from the herd. I adore "Monk" and "Veronica Mars," which are no vanguard of high culture whatsoever.

Shows similar to "Pushing Daisies" and "Dead Like Me" get cancelled, while "Celebrity Rehab" and "Jersey Shore" are constantly syndicated allowing for producers to recycle old themes. That allows for copycat series to pop up on other networks. The only contribution they provide to society are gratuitous sex, explosions, chase scenes and the objectification of women. I could go on but the insults turn gratuitous.

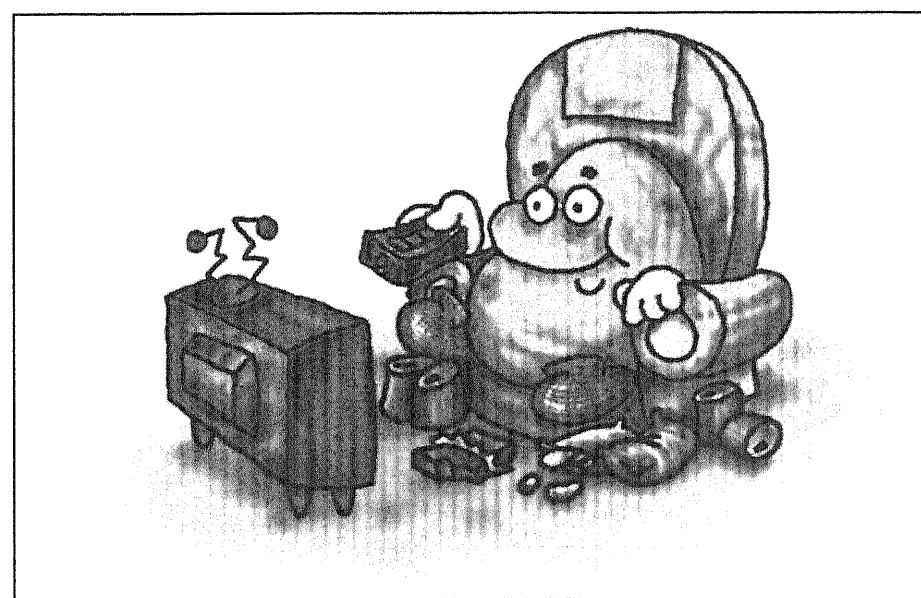
Another philosopher, Dwight Macdonald, claims mainstream mass culture is a retardation of indigenous art "fabricated

by technicians hired by businessmen meant for passive consumers" limiting the choices to either buy or not buy, thereby cutting away their imagination and authentic development. In other words, our minds have become prey for vultures in suits.

In their defense, they kind of give us what we clamor for. I blame the buyer in this case more than the seller. Until there is a demand for better, more in depth narratives, there will continue to be more obtuse programming put on air.

In aggregate we've become mesmerized by the shiny apple. But there are a select few that stand above the fold. There are the courageous, creative and conscientious few who took to the internet to create "fine" art. No, I'm not talking about the incredulous amount of cute cat videos or the attempts to turn into Super Saiyans on YouTube (I know you've seen them; hilarious!). I'm referring to the many who've become internet journalists. For instance the daily podcast "Citizen Radio" hosted by Jamie Kilstein and Allison Kilkenny, the ten minute rapid paced news show "Philip DeFranco Show" or the blog Hullabaloo authored by Digby. The list doesn't end there either; there are several more all across the illustrious intraweb.

Regrettably, there is more refuse on cyberspace than admirable content. The sustaining allure to the tripe adorned on television are its blindingly lurid qualities. Not to sound pretentious, but what needs to happen is the repetitive creation of techniques concerned with the internal organization of inner



CSI students- don't let this become your future.

logic. In other words a shift to meaningful, worthwhile media that is not monotonous, mundane nor dense.

Therefore it is up to this generation to satiate the virtual and tangible environment with tolerable content. When a person puts forth effort and risks it all in the pursuit of what's "important" they can say they've created something of "beauty."

Within the most fortunate country on Earth lies the capacity to initiate visual, oratory and palpable poetry. We need to get back to producing with our hands, transforming clay into phenomenal spectacles, constructing blank canvases into vivid murals and sculpt-

ing minds into acceptable vessels willing and able to carry a collective, into a prosperous future (where are the flying cars).

This generation is high tech, savy and incredibly eager to evolve. We are on the precipice of greatness. But to quote Steve Jobs, "as individuals, people are inherently good. I have a somewhat more pessimistic view of people in groups. And I remain extremely concerned when I see what's happening in our country.... We don't seem to be excited about making our country a better place...."

What will it require to excite this modern renaissance? I do not know. But maybe, one of you at CSI will be the catalyst for its ignition.

Barbie Is the New Bitch

The New Trend of Being Fake, Blonde, and Plastic

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

On one of the warmer days earlier in the month, I was walking behind two girls on campus. One was platinum blonde, obviously spray-tanned and thin as a rail; the other was a little bigger than the blonde, brunette, and also orange-skinned. The two were talk-

ing loudly amongst themselves, and I couldn't help but overhear their conversation.

They were jabbering about guy drama. I drowned most of it out, but one statement stuck with me: "He'd date you before he'd date her anyway," the brunette said to the blonde. "She ain't no Barbie."

"If Barbie were real, she would be 5'9" tall, have a 39-inch bust, an 18-inch waist, 33-inch hips, and she would wear a size 3 shoe."

For the rest of the day I couldn't help but think about that comment. Are there really women who strive to be like a plastic doll? Do men actually find that look attractive? Why do these girls not see this as degrading?

It reminded me of the word "bitch," and how many women saw it as a cool term to use to describe themselves, even though it is extremely insulting.

After an extensive round of Google searching and Facebook lurking, it became clear that, much like "bitch," the term "Barbie" is being taken by many women as a

compliment. In the same way that women had previously embraced the term "bitch," "Barbie" has become the new hot term. Facebook statuses and tweets from girls now read: "Hanging out with my Barbies!" Men post about how they want a girl who is a "Barbie." Even Nicki Minaj sings about being one.

But this isn't necessarily a bad thing, right? Barbie is gorgeous, and is known for being the typical, all-American beauty queen. She landed Ken, the perfect man, and lived the perfect life in her dream house. Who wouldn't want that? Actually, this is a very bad thing, and nobody should want it. It has been proven that if Barbie were real, her measurements would be so disproportionate that she wouldn't be able to walk. According to an article in the Huffington Post, if Barbie were real, she would be 5'9" tall, have a 39-inch bust, an 18-inch waist, 33-inch hips, and she would wear a size 3 shoe. She would have a body mass index of 16.24 because she would weigh 110 pounds. She would fit the profile of an anorexic, and she would not menstruate.

Using Barbie as a label takes the word beauty and redefines it in a negative way. It

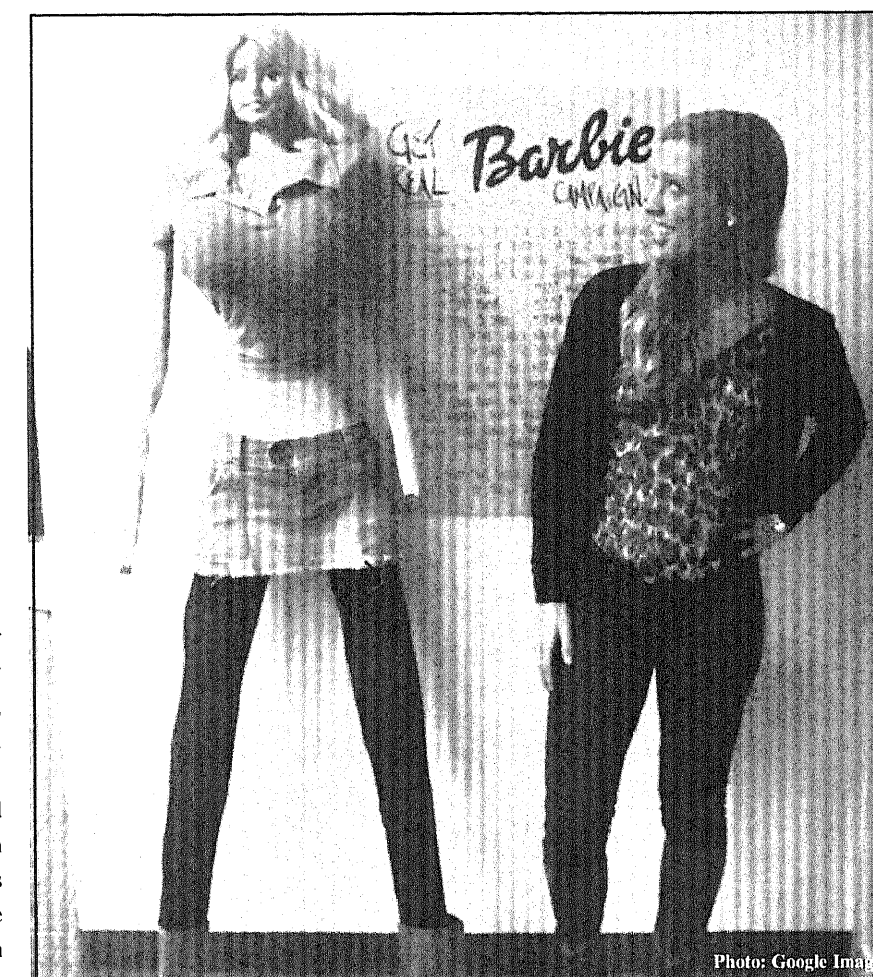


Photo: Google Images

It has been proven that if Barbie were real, her measurements would be so disproportionate that she wouldn't be able to walk. This is not the perfect model any woman should strive to be

tells girls who may not be skinny, blonde, and Barbie-doll-like that their features are you look like. We should not be okay with this.

Girls, don't buy into this nonsense. You are beautiful no matter your size, hair

color, skin color, or resemblance to a children's toy. Embrace who you are and what you look like. Besides, Barbie isn't all that great. If she were, thousands of little kids wouldn't enjoy ripping her head off so much.

BANNER SPORTS

Dolphins Storm Past Brooklyn, But Fall To Baruch for CUNYAC Title

The CSI Women's Softball team lose to the Bearcats for the 2012 CUNYAC Championship

BY JESSICA PIFALO

After a wet and soggy game, The College of Staten Island Softball defeated the No. 4 seeded Brooklyn College Bulldogs on a 10-0 mercy rule to advance to the CUNYAC Finals to face longtime rivals Baruch College.

Jumping into game one, the Dolphins got on the board early in the 1st inning by a sacrifice fly RBI by senior pitcher Danielle Ponsiglione bringing in Brittany Smith. The bottom of the third inning is where the Dolphins shined, tabbing in five runs starting with a sacrifice RBI from Sophomore Stefanie Solari, sending Kristi Dillon to score.

After a Ponsiglione single, sending Kaitlyn Flynn to second and Brittany Smith to third, it was Victoria Procoprio's single to center field, sending Flynn and Smith to score, putting the Dolphins up 4-2. Finally, to seal the inning Christine DeCarlo singled up the middle to send Procoprio and Ponsiglione home to put the Dolphins up 6-0.

Solari shined in the Bottom of the fourth, drilling a 3 run homerun to put the Dolphins up 9-0, a moment the Sophomore was truly proud of, "I had a base hit previous at bat, so I was

relaxed and focused," said Solari. "After that hit, I was going crazy; it put us in a better place."

Decarlo would then seal the game for the Dolphins with a single RBI, sending Procoprio to score, finishing off the Bulldogs.

Going into the finals, the Dolphins were confident but on their guard.

"Coming off a 10-0 win we definitely feel confident," said Senior starting pitcher Danielle Ponsiglione "We can't have them catch us sitting back though, and we have to be on them the whole time."

Teammate and power hitter Stefanie Solari agrees, "We are going to come play hard and hopefully win a championship, we can't come out taking this game lightly," Said Solari.

Despite being the No. 2 seed the Bearcats are the tough contender hitting wise in this game, a fact that Head Coach Stella Porto takes into account,

"They are one of the best hitting teams in the city, they know our team in and out," said Porto. "We never underestimate them."

After a 3 hour rain delay, the Bearcats

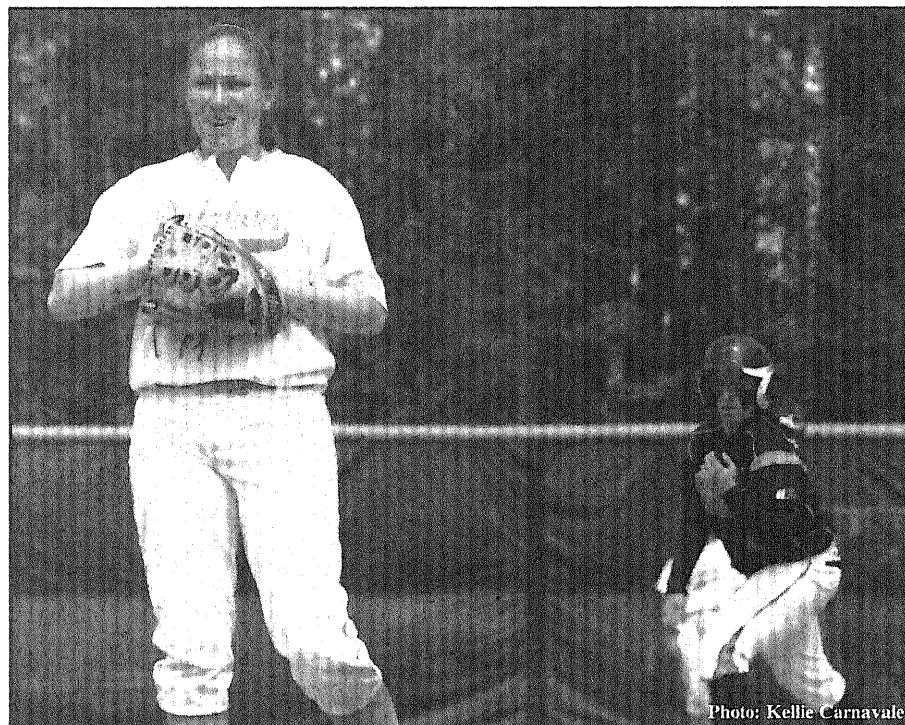


Photo: Kellie Carnavale

Senior pitcher, Danielle Ponsiglione (center) and the Lady Dolphins softball team finished their season, 11-1, falling to Baruch, 5-0 in the CUNYAC Championship game.

showed that they were putting up a fight for the title with a double to left field bringing in Melanie Pellegrino. Shortly after, the Bearcats were at it again with another RBI, leaving the dolphins trailing 2-0. The Dolphins hitting was not in their favor, popping out the bottom of the 1st. Baruch got on the board yet again in the top of the third with another RBI, marking the

score 3-0.

Despite the Dolphins best efforts, time was running out gearing into the top of the 7th, the Dolphins saw their fate sealed after a 2 run homer from Baruch's Olivia Auman to finalize the 5-0 loss.

The Dolphins finished their season 16-20, finishing the conference with a record of 11-1.

CSI Men's Tennis Captain Shines On and Off the Court

*As a Stellar Athlete and Student,
Dan Ursomanno Proves He Can Do it All*

BY MICHAEL PAPANDREA & BRADLEY POPKIN

The soon to be junior coming off of his second season with the mens tennis team, Dan Ursomanno takes command on the court as well as off of it. He is also part of the Macaulay honors program here at CSI, a program for academically gifted students.

Ursomanno, a sophomore from St. Peter's high school where he was elected Valedictorian, is a multi-faceted athlete having played baseball, and basketball. It wasn't until his senior year at St. Peters when he first picked up the racket.

"Dan did not have much experience coming in but showed his ability to learn and pick up things quickly," said Tennis coach Paul Ricciardi.

Dan's play has gotten better each year; going from the first sub in the 7th slot to playing anywhere between 2nd and 4th singles.

This past season Dan had played through a painful strain in his thigh.

"I just stayed the course...and never gave in," he said.

Staying on course is nothing Ursomanno is not used to. His 100 grade point average from high school has translated over into his college career. We spoke with Ursomanno about his play on the court and off of it.

The Banner: Are there any special people

who influenced you that have played tennis? Do you idolize anyone in particular?

Dan Ursomanno: Well it comes from my dad he would always try to get me to learn any sport I could and said will work on it. And then my coach really took the lead and he developed me into who I was, always asking me to hit, showing me the little things. Like professionals, say Rafael Nadal I modeled my game after him knowing I can't blow people off the court but I'll work every point whether it's love 40 or I'm up 40 love I'll fight for whatever point comes.

TB: Do you think it's important to cross-train- running, swimming, weight lifting, etc.- to improve your tennis?

DU: It's something that no one realizes when you hear tennis. Some think, 'oh you don't get tired, you don't have to do much work.' It's a sport where you need the most. We use every part of the body kind of like swimming. People underestimate us so this year we have a new personal trainer who is going to try and take it over so we can get in the gym, start running more, and I do all this on my own. Just sending a call or text saying maybe you could do this with me, to try and get the team on the same page, same mission and going the same way he hopefully is going get everyone going.

TB: Obviously losing to the Baruch Bearcats

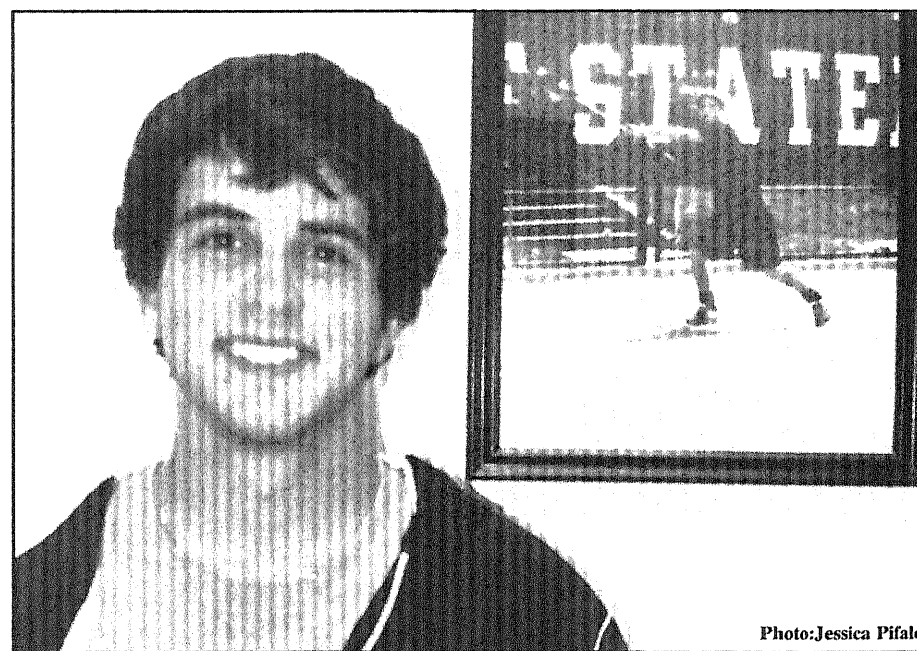


Photo: Jessica Pifalo

Sophomore Dan Ursomanno juggles being a Macaulay Honors student and the Captain of the Dolphins Tennis team, leading them to semi finals against Baruch College loosing to the Bearcats, 5-1.

5-1 in a championship semifinal match was tough. If you had to choose, what would you say was the most memorable moment of the team's season?

DU: The most memorable moment of the team's season was after the first round of the playoffs when we won and it was announced we were going to play Baruch. As the captain of the team I felt it was my responsibility to get the team motivated for the next round. No one was giving us a chance to win. Our top 4 players were never at one match all together and the moment after the match when we talked and each gave speeches and gave our

ideas. There was a belief that was put into the team that was so impressive to me. We were struggling along the way and not having a full team ever makes things difficult. Even though we lost, the way everyone competed and not letting the stage overwhelm them was something proud to see.

Ursomanno will continue to play tennis next season for the dolphins. As for his education, he is currently a business major but thinking about changing it to law. In the future he hopes to go on to grad school.

"I want to become independent and not rely on anyone else," he said.