

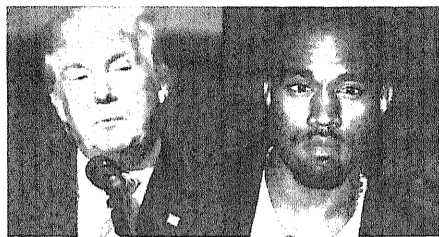
THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

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Sexual Harassment at CSI: One Incident is One Too Many

Know Your Rights on Sexual Misconduct

BY: LUCIA ROSSI

It's one thing to feel safe on CSI campus, especially if you are dorming, but another thing entirely to feel protected by the CUNY system in the event of an incident.

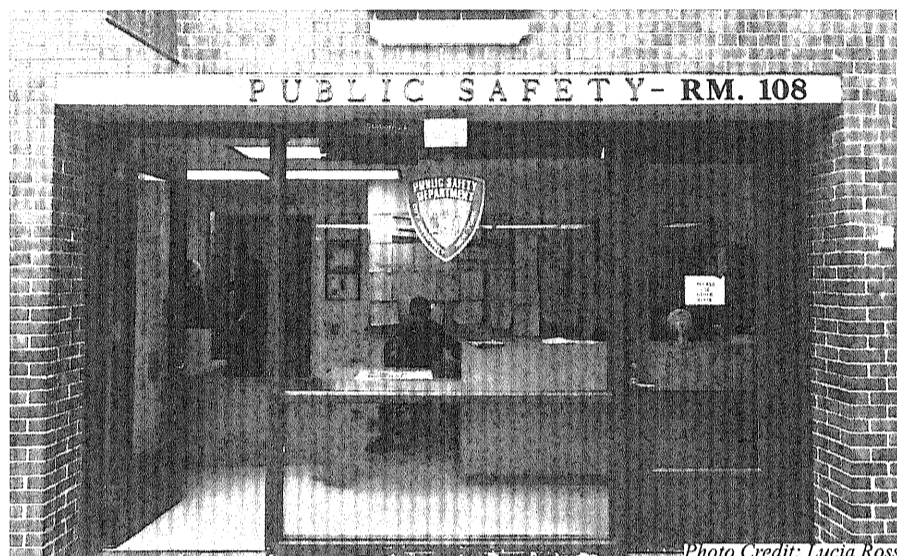
In the times of the current #Me-Too movement, we have to be our own advocates and the way to do that is to be knowledgeable of the available resources, the policies that defend us, as well as CUNY's process of handling these situations.

Perhaps with newfound knowledge, there can be a sense of comfort and confidence that there is help available and it's worth saying something if you experienced any wrong-doing on campus.

It's no secret that acts of a sexual nature are the most underreported and CSI faculty agree.

"I think there's a lot of serious things that never make it up here unfortunately," said Danielle Dimitrov, the Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator from the Office of Diversity and Compliance.

"Sexual harassment is unfortunately going to happen in any atmosphere whether it's the campus, the workplace, the high schools..." said Michael Lederhandler, Director of Public Safety. "It shouldn't happen, but the reality is that it does."



The Public Safety office is located at 2A-108.

Both offices of Diversity & Compliance and Public Safety often work together on cases of sexual harassment and misconduct; they want students to know that every complaint gets addressed until there is a conclusion.

"Complaints can come to public safety, they come directly to Diversity and Compliance, sometimes it'll come to the Vice President of Student Affairs," said Lederhandler. "If its workplace, it may come into the HR department for employees who are harassed. A student could also go to their professor, in which case the professor would contact me, Diversity and Compliance, or Student Affairs."

"One of the pieces that I emphasize [is] whenever we're working with a complainant who tells us that she's been, or he's been harassed, or other sexual misconduct has taken place, is to ask what they want us to do with that information because some people don't want us to do anything. They're afraid, they just want to move on," said Dimitrov.

When this happens, Dimitrov often resorts to using interim and supportive measures such as changes to the class schedule, providing a tutor, getting deadline extended, changes to resi-

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CSI's Crazy Club Carnival

End of the Year, Start of Your Life

BY: MOHAMED MAHMOUD

On May 3, CSI's Spring Carnival and Club Festival was hosted by student government and took place in the 1C-Plaza and Alumni Walk. It's conducted every year around the end of the spring semester.

The Club Festival of CSI is an event that was funded by the student activity fees and sponsored by the student government commission and Campus Activities Board. It's a way for students to relax and enjoy themselves before the stresses of finals week comes up.

It's also another way for students to get more involved on campus and hear about clubs that they could potentially join. There are activities students can participate in if they don't want to search for clubs, such as Henna art-

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Let's Graduate From the Cuny Service Corps

Cuny Service Corps: The Core of it All

BY: MOHAMED MAHMOUD

The CUNY Service Corps and Cultural Corps Culminating event, that took place Friday, May 4, at Lehman College celebrated the end of the program for this year.

CUNY Service Corps facilitates CUNY students in developing skills and gaining experience for the working world.

It is a program in all CUNYs where students can get a paid internship in their field of choice. Service placements last twenty-four weeks over two semesters and participants work approximately 11-12 hours per week.

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Undergraduate Research Conference: The Conference Of The Year

Are You Underground? Because Our Research Conference is in Town

BY: MOHAMED MAHMOUD

The CSI 17th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference featured intellectual posters that were made by students of different majors throughout the campus. This year it took place on April 26, in the atrium of 1P.

In this conference, the students displayed poster boards that presented their research at which point, the students were questioned by a committee to see if they understood their research.

In order to present in this conference, students needed permission from their mentor who oversaw their proj-

ect. In some cases, students who presented could acquire stipends for their project as long as their professor approved it.

Faculty and students visited the conference to see the students' presentations and could receive a CC or PG credit.

Students from every major, regardless of whether it was science or humanistic studies, were able to present.

Brian Keegan, a 21 year old junior who is also a computer science major worked under Natacha Gueorguieva with his research. Thanks to presenting

in the Undergraduate Research Conference, he received a stipend as well as the Mini-Technology Grant both from CSI.

His research was about utilizing neural networks to find effective strategies in deep learning with regression. It is important because by finding the best strategy for regression can be applied when doing types of problems that involve predictions.

He stated why he chose this particular method, "I wanted to focus on

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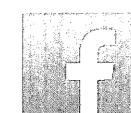
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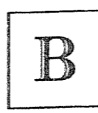
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Lavender Graduation Reception

Open to all graduating
LGBTQ+ students

Honoring the lives and achievements of
College of Staten Island's
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Students

4 pm, Wednesday, May 30, 2018
1C-Green Dolphin Lounge

Please register/ RSVP by going to:

<https://orgsync.com/125833/forms/30-4256>

For more information: LGBTQ Resource Center, 1C-226
Jeremiah Jurkiewicz 718-982-3091 jeremiah.jurkiewicz@csi.cuny.edu



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BANNER POLITICS

Commentary: Trump & Kanye, Controversial Friends With Benefits

President Trump Proves That Controversy Sells

BY: CHERMO TOURE

No Kanye, slavery was not a choice for African-Americans, it was one of the darkest times in human history.

And no Donald, laziness is not a trait in African-Americans--something he allegedly said.

Kanye West is known for being narcissistic and for having a big ego--it's his whole brand. In the past, Kanye has called himself a genius and everybody should be taking notes from his playbook.

Most notably, while Kanye worked on his "Yeezus" album, he would often compare himself to a god-like figure in the fashion world and in the real world.

Kanye would often pontificate about how he's the greatest rapper of all time.

Trump is also well known for his narcissism and huge ego, one of the reasons why he got so much media attention during the 2016 election season.

During the Republican primaries, Trump would often brag about how he was the only person that could fix the problems with America.

Trump would often boast about how much of a "smart person" he is. There was even a time during one of the Republican debates where he presumably bragged about the size of his genitals--live, on television.

He often calls out any reporter or media organization that criticizes him, calling them "fake news," meanwhile he revieces and retweets "fake news" himself.

President Trump will verbally attack anybody that would bring up facts about how much of a failure his business ventures have been, and brag about his business success-

es--however his past begs to differ.

According to the Washington Post, President Trump has bankrupted at least six companies he once owned. He opened a real estate company right before the 2008 Housing Market Crash when virtually every economist and business experts knew that the housing market was a bubble ready to burst.

Kanye also has his own share of failed business exploits. Kanye habitually branded himself as a successful person in the fashion

industry, because of his overpriced Yeezy brand. Kanye admitted this on Twitter to the whole world--he even begged Mark Zuckerberg on Twitter.

Kanye supposedly criticized Silicon Valley's executives and investors for building schools in Africa, instead of bailing him out of his \$53 million debt by tweeting, "All you dudes in San [Francisco] play rap music in your homes but never help the real artists... you'd rather open up one school in Africa

inherited most of his wealth, or that he might not be a billionaire in the first place.

Kanye has branded himself to be the greatest artists of all time which, arguably, he is not. Kanye is so good at marketing that he was able to convince people to buy his overpriced Yeezy products.

Kanye's recent remarks in the media has gotten people fired up. However, this might be a calculated move on Kanye's part to get people to listen to his music.

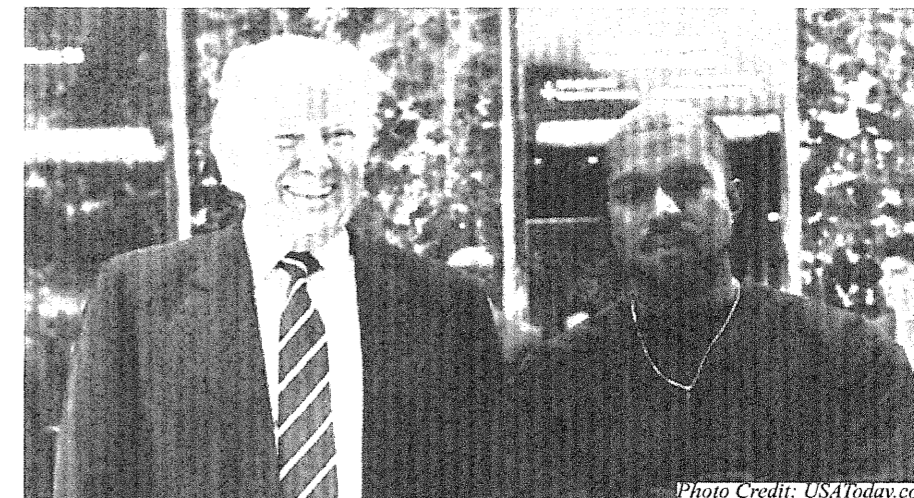
The day after he endorsed Trump on Twitter, he dropped "Ye vs. the People" a track expressing his political views. He's also going to release a new album in June.

This attention that Kanye has garnered could also bring in good ratings for his wife's TV show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians."

Kanye's recent remarks about endorsing President Trump and his comments on slavery are actually beneficial for President Trump and Republicans in Congress. With virtually everybody talking about what Kanye said in the media, this could provide cover for Republicans to pass their draconian policies.

Republicans can also use this distraction to employ their infamous "divide and conquer" strategy, where they make voters focus on social issues as they implement their economic policies, which is nefariously and ironically genius.

What can be learned from the Trump-Kanye duo is that any publicity is good publicity for them, and that controversy sells. It is on us as a society to be mindful of these things.



Donald Trump and Kanye West in New York in 2016.

Photo Credit: USA Today.com

like you really helped the [continent]..."

Amongst all their failures, Kanye and the President are good at marketing themselves to people.

President Trump has branded himself as a successful businessman so precisely that most people wouldn't believe that he bankrupted six companies, ran a scam university,

However, according to a Vanity Fair article, Kanye tried to start his own women's fashion clothing line called "Kanye West" in 2011, but the clothing line never saw the light of day.

According to the same Vanity Fair ar-

Trump Blows Up Iran Nuclear Deal

Consequences of Pulling Out of the Deal

BY: CHERMO TOURE

Tensions between the United States and Iran have just increased due to the United States backing out of the Iran Nuclear Deal.

The Iran Nuclear Deal ensures that Iran doesn't get a nuclear weapon. In the deal, Iran reduced their nuclear power plants to the point where Iran cannot develop a nuclear weapon.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, Iran had been in full compliance with the nuclear deal.

In return of Iranian compliance with the nuclear deal, the US would lift sanctions on Iran and the US would unfreeze all of Iranian foreign assets that the US and its allies had halted.

However, Trump and congress had implemented new sanctions on Iran, which violates the deal, thus making Iran violate the nuclear deal by doing missile tests.

Critics of the nuclear deal said Iran is guaranteed to get a nuclear weapon, as the deal allows Iran to enrich their nuclear plants after fifteen years. However, there has not been enough substantial evidence to prove this.

Pulling the US out of the deal could guarantee that Iran gets a nuclear weapon.

According to a report by Rolling Stone, with Trump's recent move to pull the US out of the Iran Nuclear Deal, the ayatollahs in Iran have already hinted at reestablishing and revamping its nuclear program. This could lead to further tension

in the Middle East.

Rolling Stone reported that Saudi Arabia has publicly declared that they are willing to have an arms race with Iran if they decide to restart their nuclear program. Seeing that Saudi Arabia is a US ally, the US will have to decide which country to side with.

Just hours after Trump announced the US withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal, Israel, who is also a US ally, traded shots with Iranian troops in Syria. An exchange of airstrikes between Iran and Israel resulting in the death of twenty-three Iranians, according to Vox.

Last April, defense secretary James Mattis said that conflict between Iran and Israel is "very likely."

President Trump also added new people to his administration that are open to regime change in Iran.

John Bolton is a staunch supporter of getting rid of the Iranian Nuclear Deal. He is now the new National Security Advisor for President Trump.

In a 2015 op-ed that John Bolton did for the NY Times titled "To Stop Iran's Bomb, Bomb Iran" he openly called for the US military to launch a military strike against Iran.

Bolton was also a top advocate for war with Iraq during the Bush administration.

Furthermore, President Trump's new Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is also a vocal opponent of the nuclear deal. On a Fox News segment, Pompeo called the Iranian Nuclear Deal "a disaster."

According to ForeignPolicy.com, as a representative in the house, Mike Pompeo openly called for "regime change" in Iran, much like President Trump.

The international community was appalled by the President's move to withdraw the US from the deal, as well as greatly decimating US-Iran relations. According to Foreign Policy.com, Iran has publicly stated that it can't trust the US anymore.

American allies in Europe were also frustrated with the move by President Trump. According to a Politico article, the European Union will seek to pass legislation that would block Washington from punishing European companies.

Placing sanctions on Iran could also have economic consequences on the United States.

According to CNN Money, the Chinese telecommunication company ZTE, which is the fourth largest smartphone manufacturer in the US, will no longer be open for business. This is because ZTE had violated the sanctions placed on Iran.

According to a different CNN Money article, ZTE ending its business in the United States could lead to a trade war between the US and China.

Another company, called Huawei, one of the largest smartphone providers in the United States, could also suffer the same fate as ZTE.

This move by President Trump and his administration is a pivotal moment in his presidency.



Photo Credit: 5111.com

BANNER NEWS

"Sexual Harassment at CSI" Continued from Front Page

dential housing on campus, or changes to employee work schedule. Dimitrov also provides an escort to and from class or work, arranges transportation, prohibits contact, offers counseling services, assistance in obtaining other medical services, assistance in filing a criminal complaint and order of protection, or will seek emergency suspension.

"We want to make sure the person's academic future isn't in jeopardy. After experiencing trauma, grades might slip," said Dimitrov.

It's important to note that only certain places and employees can promise a student confidentiality and that is the Counseling Center, Health & Wellness Center, and the Women's Center. All other staff are may be required to report any incidents told by students.

"Sexual harassment in most cases is not criminal but it is something we need to deal with. Sometimes you cross the line into sexual assault and that is criminal," explained Lederhandler. "If there's a crime committed, we strongly encourage the victim to make a police report and if he or she will, then we definitely facilitate that."

The complainant is not required to report to the NYPD though - this process will only go as far as the person reporting is willing to take it. It is completely understandable if a person does not want to go through the process whether it be due to shame, fear of retaliation (which is illegal), guilt, or not being ready to acknowledge what happened, among other reasons.

"If something doesn't feel right, then it's probably not and maybe you gotta tell somebody," Lederhandler said.

"If people didn't file those complaints we wouldn't know, and we wouldn't be able to investigate something we don't know about. So, it's really crucial," added Dimitrov.

According to the CUNY policy of Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimina-

tion, the process of addressing these issues are as follows: a report of the harassment to Public Safety, Office of Diversity and Compliance or Student Affairs, a preliminary review of the employee, student, or visitor in discussion with the Chief Diversity Officer, filing a complaint in writing, an investigation where both parties and evidence will be interviewed and reviewed, and then a conclusion is decided by the President, Stu-

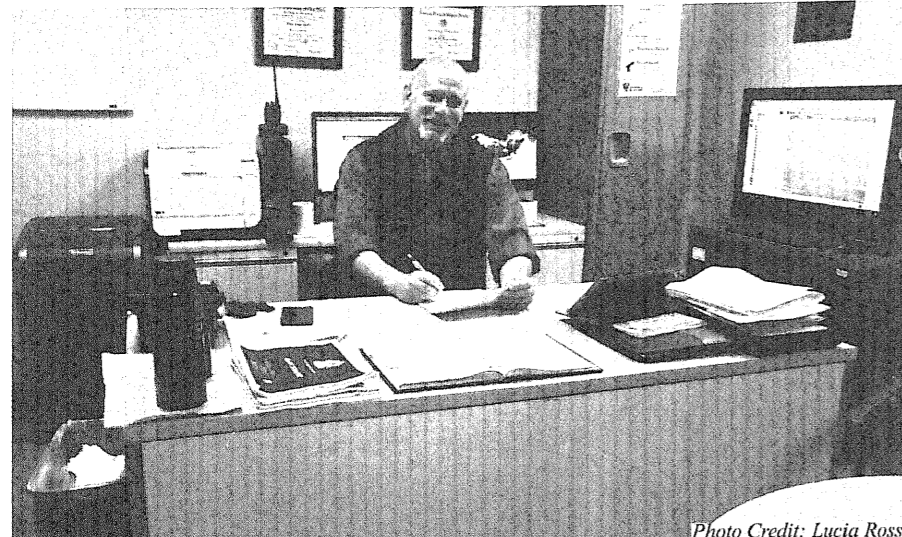


Photo Credit: Lucia Rossi
Michael Lederhandler, Director of Public Safety reviews reports in his office.

dent Affairs, Labor Relations, or the Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee.

If it is decided that the person accused is responsible, then the disciplinary penalty will be as dictated in the Henderson Rules from the Annual Security and Fire Report of 2017, which states that they will be, "be subject to the following range of sanctions as hereafter defined in the attached Appendix: admonition, warning, censure, disciplinary probation, restitution, suspension, expulsions, ejection, and/or arrest by the civil authorities."

When the respondent, or accused, is an employee of CUNY however, their actions are taken to the President and Director of Labor Relations or HR, where their union may be involved, and their imposing disci-

"Undergraduate Research" Continued from Front Page

something that other researchers often overlooked." Its thanks to this research that Keegan was able to use resources he wasn't able to utilize before.

"At first, the reason why I did this research was because the computers and technology in CSI wasn't something I couldn't get through by myself without proper clearance. I want to become a computer programmer where I design my own games. But in order to get near this technology, I had to do research with this professor. As I did my research with my professor, I discovered a new field of

computers that I never thought I'd enjoy."

Keegan was effective at conveying his work, by explaining his graphs and tables, which were very helpful in visually and numerically seeing the implications of his work.

Another student presenting was 21-year old junior and economics major, named Matthew Keegan. His mentor was Simone Wegge and their research was on Economic History. He received the Undergraduate Research Stipend and a CSI School of Business Grant for performing at the conference.

His research was about how industrialization and newfound wealth in the West impacted East Asia by comparing

plaine is governed by collective bargaining agreements, followed by a hearing.

The investigation usually takes less than 60 days and every complaint is investigated even if they are given anonymously.

"But it varies you know, sometimes you have 10 witnesses sometimes you have one, sometimes you have none, sometimes you have documentation and video to watch other times you don't have anything,"

slurs, demeaning words, graphic or sexually suggestive comments, inquiries or discussions about sexual activities, pressure to accept social and/or electronic invitations, to meet privately, to date, or to have sexual relations, sexually suggestive letters or other written verbal communications, including emails, texts, snapchat, photos and others.

Lederhandler explained that there are two types of sexual harassment.

"A hostile environment, a person complaining that others are making his or her environment hostile by catcalling, saying inappropriate things, making them feel uncomfortable, or then you have the quid pro quo type of sexual harassment where it could be anybody in authority, could be a professor or employer, says I'll do something good for you, grade wise or whatever, but I want something in return."

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, is a federal law that prohibits sexual discrimination on college campuses. Sexual harassment of these kinds are forms of sexual discrimination.

Lederhandler also wants students to know that, "the victim is never at fault but there are things we can do to minimize our chances of being victimized and that always being aware and if something happens, don't hold it in let somebody in authority know so it can be looked into."

Some suggestions on prevention and risk reductions were made, such as "Clearly define your sexual limit. If someone starts to offend you, be direct. Say 'no' clearly when you mean 'no.' If you feel that you are being pressured into unwanted sex, say something as soon as you can before the behavior goes any further. Embarrassment should not keep you from doing what is right for you. Do not hesitate to raise your voice, stand up abruptly, or scream if the situation warrants it."

If you're curious about the crime statistics on our campus, a federal law, called the Jeanne Cleary Act, requires every campus to report crimes every fall and is made available online from the Public Safety website.

said Catherine Ferrara, Diversity Program Manager and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, about the length of the investigation.

According to the CUNY policy on Sexual Misconduct, sexual harassment is defined as "unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, graphic and electronic communications or physical conduct of a sexual nature."

This includes acts that violate an individual's right to privacy in connection with her/his body and/or sexual activity, like videos or photography without consent.

More specific forms of sexual harassment are described as unwanted sexual comments, teasing, jokes, catcalls, sexual

the economies of China and Japan. It is important because it helps identify major characteristics of the economies of China and Japan.

He explained why he chose this method of study, "This method was chosen because economic data is hard to collect before the 20th century. Therefore, I had to rely on primary sources and data compiled by economic historians to analyze past trends."

One thing he particularly noted was his new viewpoint on the field, "this project helps me to commit to going to Japan and China. Going outside my comfort zone usually makes me feel uncomfortable but after learning about the econom-

ics, it motivated me to go to different countries to get a better understanding of their economy after I graduate."

Adessem Eldrissi, a faculty member and mentor, went around to ask students if they were willing to volunteer for another research event where students could oversee middle schoolers and high schoolers for a program called STEP.

"I came to this country with pennies in my pocket and the knowledge in my brain. I was smart and knew when to talk and when not to talk," he said.

"Back then, when people were seen as different, they pushed you away because they didn't want to be part of the social norms that were created. But I worked twice as hard as everyone else to be on the same level and I was finally able to achieve my goals and I want to give everyone here the same opportunity."

Eldrissi does this because he wants to give students the opportunities he never had when he came to this country.

The Undergraduate Research Conference was successful in the number of students that attended. The students who presented their research were clearly dedicated and passionate about what they did.

There were hundreds of students that applied this semester and next year hopefully more.

BANNER NEWS

"CSI's Crazy Club Carnival" Continued from Front Page

-ists, photo booths, rock climbing, games, and even free food.

Students attended to relieve themselves of the stress of finals and enjoy the outdoors before they are ravaged with papers and exams.

Christopher Costello is a 20-year old junior in the Macaulay program that is a computer science major. "I look forward to this event every year. I barely sleep with all the assignments my teacher wants me to finish... I am even doing an assignment as I am eating my churro," he said.

Though the event seemed to be enjoyable there were some things that people felt could have been improved. Costello mentioned, "the lines are too long with some of these events and the portions for food aren't that great." He also said, "the vegan options aren't that diverse" and "the prizes for getting the card stamp isn't that great."

Another thing that was noted was that the use of PG and CC credits. He knew that going to this event wasn't mandatory and thought it was hard to enjoy an event when you're being forced to go and have to make it as if it was a class assignment.

Other clubs and publications also seemed to enjoy the event, since another purpose for this event was to promote their respective organizations to see if there would be potential candidates for the upcoming semester.

One of the publications of CSI, is The Catalyst. The Editor in Chief, Juan Valbuena, a 24 year old biology major in his last year of CSI, had a few things to say about in this event. "It's fun to meet new people and get involved in the event."

He did express his concern when he said, "Honestly it bums me out that people just show up to take some stuff and not have the decency to sign their name."

Valbuena, who was recruiting new members at the event said, "I have been working with The Catalyst since 2015. I was able to find a few members over the years but they either graduated or left."

He also said, "It bums me out that I can't find a committed member soon since by next year The Catalyst will soon be disbanded."

"It'll be a distant memory like the Serpentine Magazine and the Three Legged Dolphin," he added.

All of this wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for the Student Government and CAB volunteering and preparing the event for all the students of CSI. Emanoil Shafik, is a 24 year old biochemistry major, and the president of Student Government.

Shafik explained, "As president, I made sure the club commissioner did a good job of it as well as allocated money to ensure everything went well. It wouldn't be possible without the help of



Photo Credit: Mohamed Mahmoud

student government and the club commissioner, as well as the Campus Activities Board."

He also added, "There's always a pushback when we try something new but for the most part it ran smoothly." It's important to note that these events aren't mandated, even though CSI is in a bit of a financial slum, it still chooses to make these events for the students.

Whether the reason the students come to these events are for the free stuff, free food, or to meet new people, regardless of

the student's personal reason, many can agree that it's something that the students need in order to help them get through the harshness of exams and papers.

Though some students may have some complaints about this carnival, overall it was a resounding success because hundreds of students seemed to have participated. Hopefully, clubs and publications were able to recruit the new members needed for the following years to come too.

"Graduate CUNY Service Corps" Continued from Front Page

The work the students can do ranges from teaching children in a zoo to providing administrative assistance for facilities and organizations. Local not-for-profit organizations also benefit from having professionally developed and high-performing student interns in the workplace.

Every year, CUNY Service Corps goes through a graduation for students of 2017-2018, congratulating the students who finished their mandated 251 hours.

Students came to Lehman College to hear the experiences of other members of

CUNY Service Corps throughout New York.

Samah Zahara, 21, from CSI, is a psychology major who worked as a financial advisor for Wagner High School. "I enjoyed my time during this event. This program opened my horizons and helped me be more intuned and intertwined with my community," she said.

"I don't have much time to go and look for a job that is specifically tailored to my needs and speciality but I was able to find new connections, broaden my resume and be able to pay my tuition for my classes this semester thanks to this



Photo Credit: Mohamed Mahmoud

program," she said.

It seems that each person who got accepted into CUNY Service Corps used this as a platform to grow closer to their goals and become a much more productive member of society.

Saman stated that, "I hope to one day become a teacher and thanks to this internship, I was able to understand how to interact with kids in an enclosed environment. I never realized how professional some of the teachers were when it comes to students, since as a kid, I just viewed them as people who thought too highly of themselves and had sort of an elitist attitude."

In this event there was a Keynote Speaker, Rejwoan Matubbar, from New York City College of Technology, who studied as a computer science major in the Queens Library.

He was a man who seemed to have a deep connection with this program and took the most out of what he got.

"As a kid I didn't have a lot of friends but what makes me whole is when I help the people around me, which replaced the need for friendship."

He embodies what it means to be a CUNY service corps member, a man who truly wants to give back to his community and not just to help himself but help others.

He mentioned, "When I first worked as a clerk in one of the non-profit organizations, I had to help an old lady with un-

derstanding PowerPoint. It took hours for me to teach her but she finally got it. She thanked me and gave me a hug. To me, in that situation, it made me feel like my life had purpose and made me feel like I can make a difference."

Cheryl Barzey, CUNY Service Corps Manager, helps to conduct the interviews for incoming CUNY Service Corps students at CSI. It's thanks to her that CUNY Service Corps is at CSI.

"CUNY Service Corps promotes learning and helps students engage in their community. When I came to this country, it was hard to establish connections and find people who were selfless enough not to work without their own benefits. There are students who claim to work for others but secretly are just looking out for themselves," she said.

"It does break my heart when I see students leave this program."

One thing she did emphasize was civic leadership and engagement. She believes it's worth it when at least one student makes a change, but luckily this year there were many.

The graduation for CUNY Service Corps students had an astounding turn out over with over 1000 students from the program.

Next year, hopefully the turn out will be even greater and more programs will be implemented into the CUNY Service Corps.

LIFESTYLES

Creating A Summer Bucket List to Remember

Ditch the Indoors, Enjoy the Warm Weather

BY: VERONICA PISTEK

Relaxing in the air conditioning and the comfort of your home throughout the summer is chill.

Planning new experiences and making glorious memories, though, will make your summer seem endless and exciting.

Everyone's favorite part about the hot season is the warm summer nights. Gather up some of your closest friends for a campy bonfire.

This is the perfect opportunity to make the tastiest s'mores, go night swimming (or skinny dipping—make the best of it), and star gaze.

Make your cozy night outside even cozier with big blankets, a speaker for music, and a camera to capture these heartfelt moments with the people who mean the most to you.

If you'd rather be partying than chilling with your squad, there are never-ending opportunities to make the best of the years longest nights.

Search the internet for outdoor festivals and concerts, movie drive-ins, go adventuring throughout your city with no destination in mind, or spend a night at the club feeling tipsy and dancing your heart out.

Though waking up the next morning for your summer job will seem impossible, the night time experiences would be totally worth it.

Daytime activities are limitless during the summer season. One experience in particular to put on your bucket list is to spend a day at an amusement park.

Summer and theme parks are a match

made in heaven. Once you are free from the exhausting assignments and exams, let adrenaline set loose in your veins and have some fun.

Spending the day and night riding the biggest roller coasters, eating comfort food, and playing games to win prizes to take home is priceless.

Another perfect experience to try during your few months of freedom is going on a road trip.

A road trip with your family or friends will remind you of how large and beautiful this world is.

Whether you are road tripping across the country or into your neighboring state, you can make spontaneous stops on the road to flea markets, farmers markets, and little mom-and-pop stores that you would never have entered otherwise.

Also, creating a summer playlist filled with throwbacks, current jams, and nostalgic songs for your road trip will keep you and your loved ones awake and excited for your destination.

While all of these things are achievable and wonderful, setting small goals that you can enjoy each day will keep you entertained and not feeling alone and bored while your friends are on vacation.

Plan a day to start a journal, take a painting class, or complete the DIY projects that you have been dying to start.

Summer is the prime time to let your creativity run free. Go on Pinterest and gather some ideas, you will feel like you are accomplishing something throughout these lazy months.

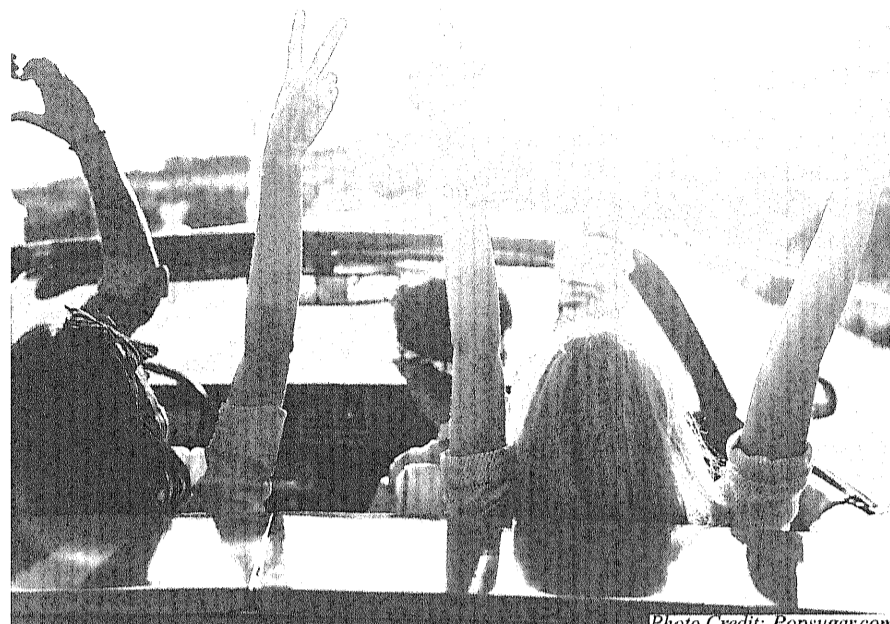


Photo Credit: Popsugar.com
Spend this summer making memories that will last forever.

Summer is also the perfect time to go to a park that you have never been to before, ride your bike around town, and get your outdoor fitness on.

Going on a run, walk, or a bike ride every day will help you gain endurance and get your body ready for the many beach days ahead.

Spending your days lounging at the beach is a summer classic. To spice up your sandy tanning session, buy a game of KanJam, join a game of beach volleyball, bring a kite to fly, or learn how to surf.

The beach is the best place for summer

experiences, like visiting the boardwalk psychic, having a spontaneous photoshoot, going shopping, or indulging in an ice cream sundae and an acai bowl.

While there are so many other ideas to make this summer unforgettable, it is important to tailor your bucket list with ideas that suit your interests, but also break you out of your comfort zone.

So, remember to take a lot of photographs, try new things, and spend your days and nights with your loved ones because this heart (and body) warming freedom only comes around once a year.

We'll Drink to That: Cool Drinks for the Warm Weather

Six of the Most Refreshing Drinks to Make This Summer

BY: BRIELLE SPARACINO

The semester is finally coming to a close.

Even if you aren't done with finals, you know that this school year is winding down because there are more available parking spots on campus than usual and your classes are letting out earlier and earlier each week.

Whether you're graduating from college this May or June, or you're just happy to be finished with this school year, celebrating with an alcoholic beverage of your choice

is well-deserved; if you're of age, of course.

There are plenty of drinks for you to enjoy, booze or no booze. The good thing is that just about any alcoholic beverage can be re-created without the alcohol, so you won't be missing out on too much.

As for the drinks that do contain alcohol, however, one of the most refreshing beverages that really helps to set the mood for summer is "Summer Sangria with Watermelon and Pineapple."

All the ingredients you need to make this for this deliciously simple drink are on

whattheforkfoodblog.com, and the best part is that there are no simple syrups added. Other than the liquor, the fruit is the star of the show, along with some soda for fizz purposes only.

The second drink on today's menu is the "Peach Basil Moscow Mule." Does the name sound intimidating? Maybe.

But according to Whitney Bond, blogger and owner of whitneybond.com where she lists the recipe for this tasty treat, "...this is the Moscow Mule, summer-ized!"

With only four ingredients, this beverage is super easy to make, which means you'll get to actually enjoy it sooner than you think. Ginger beer and peach vodka are combined in a glass, and with a bit of lemon and basil for garnish, this drink will make you wish you were laying on the beach, even if you aren't.

Has summer really arrived if mimosas aren't present? Many would say no.

That's why "Peach Melba Mimosas" is the third drink on this list of refreshing summer beverages. Mimosas are one of the best cocktails for when you're in a festive mood but don't want to get crazy, and this particular mimosa is great for kicking off summer the right way.

Loaded up with peaches, berries and bubbly (oh my!), you'll be in heaven as soon as you take the first sip. The recipe for this drink can be found on Countryliving's website.

The "Rum Sunset" is Delish's twist on the classic "Tequila Sunrise." Orange juice, rum, and grenadine are three of the four ingredients in this drink, and with a couple of

lime slices to serve as garnish as well as the fourth ingredient, this sweet summer treat is sure to cool you down when it starts getting unbearably hot outside.

The drink's ombré effect is pretty neat, too.

Margaritas are a signature summer drink, and "Moscato Margaritas" are the fifth beverage on this menu. Delish is back at it with the recipe for this adults-only slush drink, and moscato isn't the only source of liquor in it.

Delish's "Moscato Margaritas" include more tequila than moscato, but it's also loaded up with strawberries and a hint of lime to keep your taste buds satisfied.

"Cucumber Lemonade" is a different take on your traditional summertime treat. Most of us love lemonade without the extras, but cucumber and mint leaves, which are also part of the recipe, both have great health benefits and serve as a perfect addition to this timeless drink.

All of the ingredients for this drink recipe are found on giverecipe.com, and even though this drink isn't alcoholic, you can always add your liquor of choice after combining the given ingredients. This drink is pretty full of sugar though, so you may want to cut down on the amount you add or use a sugar substitute like Stevia to take its place.

Each beverage on this menu can be modified to include or not include alcohol; simple syrup and fruit juices can be added as substitutes for the hard stuff and liquor can be added into any soft drink, but if you are sticking with alcohol, make sure to drink responsibly.

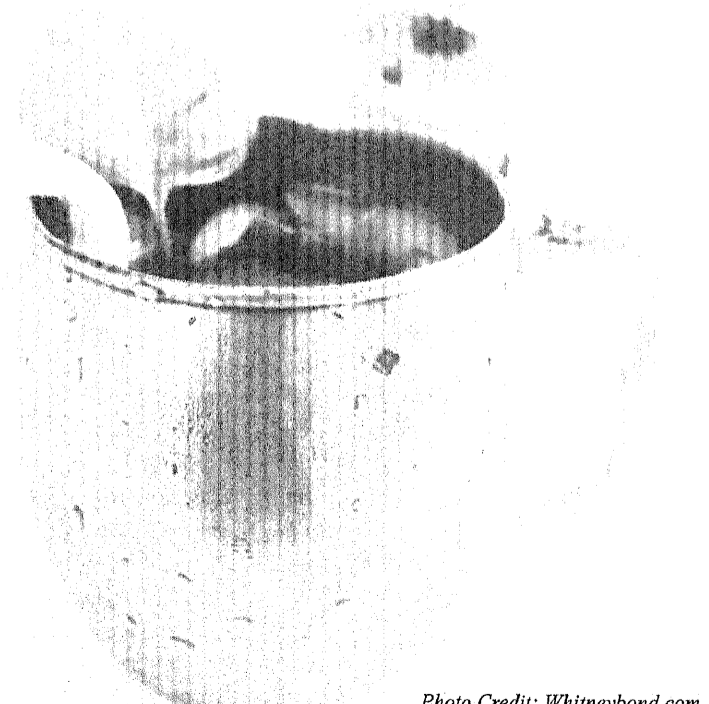


Photo Credit: Whitneybond.com

Survive the summer heat with a quick refreshing beverage.

LIFESTYLES

Building A Small Business: Becoming Your Own Boss

Giving Life to Your Creative Business Ideas

BY: VERONICA PISTEK

You've had a creative concept bursting in your head for months; you started sketching out a game plan, and now you are finally ready to build your very own small business.

Nowadays, the branding behind your personal business is the key to not only appealing customers who will want what you are offering, but also dictates who will want to be part of your team.

So, in order to create a brand that represents the "true you," start with a little thing called brainstorming.

To begin, recognize your mission. Whether your goal is to sell a product, create a service, or to help others—define a clear mission statement.

A mission statement typically is one-to-three sentences that sums up your main business ambition and your personal values. This statement will help you visualize and maintain a defined guideline and also inform your clients and customers what you are all about.

One of the most common excuses from creators is that they have so much drive, but not enough ideas.

However, simply listing every hobby, interest, word, and source of inspiration that comes to mind for 10 minutes will have you closer to realizing your main purpose for your business.

Now that you have exhausted your goals, it is time to bring in your wit. Creating a company name can arguably be the hardest, yet most fun aspect of the initial

process. Some tips include reading your favorite books and highlighting ideas that stand out to you, identifying words that correlate with your core values, or utilizing the sources of the internet, such as word generators or social media platforms.

However, it is truly important to make sure your name is unique, memorable, and creative. Be sure to search the internet to make sure your desired name is not already taken or trademarked.

To get started on creating the lifestyle you have been craving, it all starts with just a few clicks. Snag and secure domain names for your company all across social media outlets.

These might include an Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, and Facebook. Since these channels are flooded with users, your exact handle might be taken. T

Try and create a similar version of your domain and use the same one for each social media page.

Moreover, if you want to create your own website, there are many website creators available that help you with formatting and the tiny details of tangibly designing your ideas.

Some of these sites are squarespace.com, wix.com, weebly.com, and wordpress.com. All of these software platforms offer various customizable designs to help you get going on creating a brand.

Now that you have your social media domain names secured, it is time to get graphic.

Creating content that is appealing to the eye will be the centerpiece of your marketing. This, however, is not easy for the average individual.

If you are not skilled in creating logos, designing business cards, or images in gen-

eral, head over to your favorite websites to gain inspiration.

You might need to seek out someone with a graphic design background who can help you transform your mission into tangible artwork.

One of the most important aspects of building your own brand is also building your skills. If you are unsure of how to make your best webpages or your most creative name, take time to educate yourself.

Visiting YouTube channels that describe the business building process, reading articles, or even picking out a book on marketing and entrepreneurship will help you feel more confident and remind you that this is your passion and it deserves to become a reality.

Now that you have a strong idea and feeling of your business, it is time to start networking. In the business world, networking is the key to having connections and becoming part of a tribe that speaks to your values.

Reach out to people that you know who are following a similar path as you, research nearby networking events, schedule dates to meet with a mentor, or send out a bunch of emails to set up meetings to talk to like-minded business starters.

Once you have found a group of individuals that reflect your goals, passion, work-ethic, you will find yourself gaining a larger reputation and getting your name out there without those exhausting virtual messages.

So, making a commitment to building a life where you are your own boss is a successful life. Your potential has not yet been discovered, get out there and start creating to give life to the ideas you feel so strongly about.

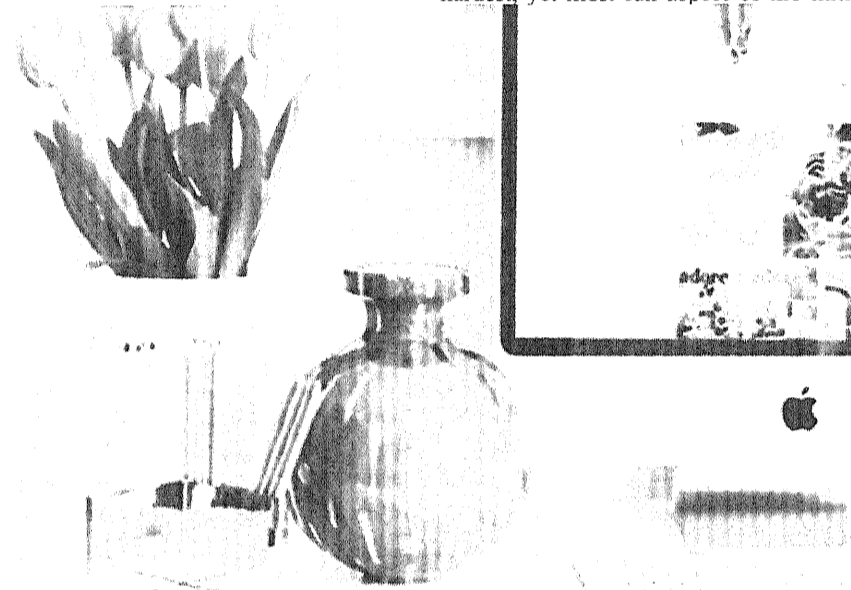


Photo Credit: Simplifiedbee.com

Creating your small business starts with just one click.

"Donut" Fear, the Trip of a Lifetime is Here!

This Donut Trail Through Ohio May Be Your Sweetest Adventure Yet

BY: CLARA PEREZ

With spontaneous summer road trips right around the corner, travelling to the "holy" land is a guaranteed trip to remember.

When most Americans think of vacationing for the summer, Ohio is typically not the first destination to come to mind.

Ohio, the Buckeye State, has become home to the 80-mile "Donut Trail"—and it is the perfect experience for you and your junk food-loving friends.

Now, it is not a physical donut trail—there are not sweet treats lining the streets—but the experience is enough to make you feel like you are in donut heaven.

While many people post Instagram worthy photos of their eye-catching ice cream, the beauty of the donut is definitely underappreciated.

Donuts are not just sweet treats, but they are also versatile, portable, and downright delicious.

They make for the perfect accessory to a place like Butler County, Ohio, which sports the impressive title of "most donut shops per capita in the United States."

The Donut Trail consists of 12 donut shops spread out over the 80 miles, which makes for great snacking and scenery.

If you plan on making the trip to the Butler County Donut Trail, you should make it early in the morning. Some shops along the trail have been known to sell-out, or even

close as early as 10 AM.

Along the journey, you will indulge in donut flavors that you didn't even know existed.

The shops variety of flavors from perfected glazed, to apple cider, s'mores, fruity pebbles, and even donuts topped with maple bacon can persuade anyone to get out of bed early.

The best part of the trail is not just the donuts, but the adventure Ohio makes of the trail.

Upon your start, you are given a passport where you will document your visits to each of the shops.

If you are able to visit 11 out of the 12 shops and present your stamped passport, you earn a trail t-shirt to celebrate your sweet accomplishment.

So, this trip includes all of the calories you can ever want and a cute interactive experience that you can remember for a lifetime.

The Butler County Visitors Bureau also created a handy map to help travelers take a full advantage of the shops that are located in close proximity to one another.

This donut trail not only has brought joy to those who get the chance to visit, but also to these donut shop owners.

Many owners say that this trail and the map have helped to put their businesses on the map. Visibility of these once hidden treasure shops has greatly increased along with



Photo Credit: Gettothebc.com

Visit Ohio's "Donut Trail" for a sweet summer experience.

sales and revenue.

So, if you decide to travel to Ohio's sweet trail, you will be fulfilling your junk food dreams and helping small business owners live out their own dreams, as well.

This road trip also will allow you to bond with your friends and family. According to foodandwine.com, a Donut Trail lover has expressed: "But it's more than just doughnuts. It's a vehicle for connection. It's the stories we hear—who did the trail and who they did it with, and why they did it—that makes the trail really rewarding."

Planning a trip with people who you love, eating food that you love, and experiencing a part of the country that you might not have ever visited is a recipe for summertime satisfaction.

So, not only are you getting to indulge in the doughy goodness of a holey treat, but you are also supporting small and local Ohio businesses at the same time—talk about a trip worth taking.

"Donut" miss your opportunity to visit the Butler County Donut Trail, and be sure to visit www.gettothebc.com/donut-trail for more information to plan your tasty trip.

BANNER ARTS

A Take on Broadway's Latest Hit, "Children of a Lesser God"

An Artful Display on the Beauty of Sign Language

BY: LUCIA ELMI

"Children of a Lesser God" makes a groundbreaking return to the world of theater after a successful run during the late 1970's.

The play stars upcoming deaf Broadway actress Lauren Ridloff and Joshua Jackson, an acclaimed Canadian actor who first made a notable appearance in "Dawson's Creek" and starred in the lead role of the science-fiction series "Fringe".

The play centers on a theme that is a very important one to deaf culture, being the struggle to fight for their right to be individuals and a collectively independent culture that is not looked down upon by those that are hearing.

This is the main conflict for one of our main characters, Sarah Norman, a former deaf student and custodian at a deaf school who is conflicted between choosing to be her true authentic self, or learning to speak. This would mean she would become completely immersed in the hearing world at the expense of leaving her deaf community.

On the flip side, we have James Leeds, a speech teacher at the deaf school who is at odds with Sarah's wishes to remain mute as he attempts to find common ground with her in their budding romantic relationship.

Right off the bat, it was immediately apparent this wasn't the average Broadway show. Instead of using the added fluff of

extravagant costuming and elaborate stage set-ups, the play centers on a simple style, willfully divulging into the meat of the story with powerful dialogue and character conflict that keeps the audiences engaged in the heart of the story's message.

There were numerous accommodations used for both deaf and hearing audiences. The play featured James Leeds, who interpreted Sarah's sign language out loud to the audience, as well as the addition of subtitles suspended above the stage.

Although at some points both modes of aided communication became jumbled, making it somewhat tricky to follow along, it served its purpose well and I am hopeful they will continue to make improvements to it throughout the duration of the play's future shows.

Lauren Ridloff's performance as Sarah Norman was perhaps the most notable. It was a wonderful experience to see how masterfully she was able to bring out Sarah's stubbornness and cynical sarcasm with nothing but the use of her hands and a colorful palette of body language.

Just through her strong-willed demeanor alone, it was hard to dismiss her under the chains of the harmful label as a so-called "deaf and dumb" individual, someone who was a victim of her own genetic lineage.

Throughout the play, everything she does is in the name of maintaining her identity as something she and only she



Photo Credit: Playbill.com

A captivating story about love and self-discovery. herself can call her own. A nicely quoted declaration of this is when she says, "I don't do things that I can't do well." These words are not an act of defeat, but rather of confident acceptance.

Secondary characters did not fail to add to the emotional complexity of the story.

Sarah's childhood friend, Orin, becomes a force that she continuously clashes with throughout the story. Unlike her, he has allowed himself to be taught how to speak the spoken language, inevitable becoming a symbolic figure of everything Sarah doesn't want to be.

The only character that seemed somewhat of a burden throughout the story was Lydia, a student at the school who is madly in love with James. There is a growing animosity towards her as she repeatedly gets between Sarah and James' relationship, as she takes over the top strides to win his love, which only comes across as overly obnoxious and intrusive rather than being for comedic relief.

"Children of a Lesser God" did a superb job at drawing in an audience of both the deaf and the hearing, serving to pave the way for a deeper understanding between both cultures.

BY: BRIELLE SPARACINO

There's nothing quite like waking up to check your social media after getting four hours of sleep to find out the "Walmart Yodel Boy" is the Internet's next big thing.

Within one week, Mason Ramsey went from being a normal 10-year-old boy from Illinois who just happened to sing in his local Walmart in his spare time, to appearing on The Ellen Show and performing Hank Williams' "Lovesick Blues" at Coachella.

Ramsey is neither the youngest nor the most sensational viral video star of all time, but he's definitely taken the cake for one of the most popular acts this year.

Another online goldmine of 2018 was the "Squinting Woman." Only a quick Google search away, the picture of a woman with her hands on her knees looking exasperated beyond words hit the internet hard in the beginning of April.

According to an article on thefader.com, "the source of the super-viral meme is Kalin Elisa, a.k.a. @solo_kalin. She is loving the attention her picture is getting and explained on Twitter that it is actually an outtake from a different shot she took for the "Gram."

The "Zendaya Shade" meme crafted from fashion week footage became iconic when it appeared that she was giving Blake Lively and Emily Blunt the evil eye on the side of a runway.

While certain Twitter users were thrilled about Zendaya throwing a little shade, the actress herself was quick to shut

BANNER ARTS

The Weirdness of Internet Fame and 2018's Most Iconic Webstars

Funny Memes, Viral Videos - Internet Fame is an Untamed Creature

down rumors of any bad blood between her and the other celebrities to her left, and said she was simply looking at the runway. Footage from that same day taken at a different angle proves her response true, but it was fun for the internet while it lasted.

The "Angry Mannequin Head" meme is yet another piece of 2018 internet gold. Social media users ran with this meme, making it a reaction to any and every tweet, Instagram or Facebook post imaginable.

It's unclear who started this specific meme craze, but it was all the rage in March of this year.

The internet's newest viral trend that's taken up computers across the world is the face of Felonius Gru (from the "Despicable Me" franchise) being photoshopped onto other people's faces, along with text that mocks the way he speaks.

For example, because he says the word "girl" as "gorl," social media users have been turning lyrics and photo captions into mockeries of his speech pattern, interchanging the correct form of the word to match the way he says it in the movies.

The most interesting thing about internet fame is that it's only had a surge in popularity in recent years, and the internet isn't even that old to begin with.

Every time someone takes a screenshot of an image they find funny, they'll send it to their friends who relate to that image and find it funny as well.

Those friends will send it to their friends, and the cycle continues until it



Photo Credit: Twitter.com

The viral "Squinting Woman" meme that defines 2018 so far.

lands in the lap of someone like Ellen DeGeneres, who offers to fly the original creator of whatever video/picture/audio clip reached peak popularity that week to her studio and makes them famous for no other reason other than how they've influenced a lot of people very quickly.

Internet fame takes on a mob mentality, or a bandwagon mentality. So many individuals will like one post that its circulation will reach new heights. Even if someone doesn't like a post or doesn't understand it, they might pretend to like it and share it merely because of its popularity.

Social media has wormed its way into even the most stubborn hearts in the 21st century, and this has only further propelled individuals to either knowingly or unknowingly create content that grabs the attention of audiences despite age, gender, race, religion, etc.

Internet fame is a concept that will only keep growing and evolving; while it isn't exactly a lifestyle, it contributes to all of our lives in a big way.

One More Piece Into a New Arc

Let's Piece Together This New Chapter

BY: MOHAMED MAHMOUD

"One Piece" is an ongoing manga series in a company called Shonen Jump that has been running within this company since 1997.

The translated scans of the "One Piece" 904th chapter recently came out May 11.

The series revolves around a kid who wants to be king of the Pirates, Monkey D Luffy, by finding the legendary treasure the first King of the Pirates originally found. Luffy then sets sail and finds new

comrades and goes through another adventure to find this sacred treasure.

The story follows a brand new arc, with new expectations to the of the Reveries Arc. It is a world summit, where all the kings and rulers associated with the World Government gather at the capital of the WG, in order to discuss big political events taking place in the world.

It takes place periodically once every four years and has served to established some big changes in the history of the government. Despite the World Government being formed by around 170 countries, only 50 of those have been mentioned to participate, so not all the kings of the world do partake in the Reverie.

The chapter starts off rather exciting. It's been known that the revolutionary army has been opposed to the World Government for the longest time, but the details have never been specified as to the type of world that they want to build. What they want to do after the WG falls, that's yet to be known.

This chapter at least indicates specifically that their grudge is with Celestial Dragons and with the World Government for allowing them to act as such--since after all, Tenryuubito are the true leaders of the World Government, with power even over the Gorosei.

This falls in line with what Doffy claimed, that the Celestial Dragons would be dragged down from their thrones very

soon. This statement feels very personal to Sabo, a friend of main character Monkey D. Luffy, given the past of Sabo.

We then arrive at an old place that hasn't been seen by the readers for years. There was an architecture of Rurusa, which shares a similar name and appearance of Russia. The characters also wear clothing similar to traditional Russian clothing for folks of lower classes.

In this location, there are new enemies attacking. To be clear, the new threat isn't something to look forward to, but just some fodder villain so he can be beaten by some new protagonist to make them seem more heroic and powerful.

What was most interesting was a character that wasn't seen for almost a decade. We see Ace, another brother of Luffy, cover story, the one who asked him to deliver a letter to a marine base after saving his life.

It makes sense, as his attire matches that of the other villagers, through we originally didn't see him in this kingdom. This was very amusing considering how well the author foreshadows his appearance years before his debut which shows how cleverly he plans out his series.

Another thing to note is the Heavenly Tribute that all kingdoms need to pay to the Celestial Dragons, who are descendants of the founders of the World Government, and is why they are so rich to begin with.

From this point, the author wants to drive home the fact of how cruel the Celestial Dragons are and explain how they're so rich. This town is incredibly poor because of the Celestial Dragons, and it depicts the Revolutionary Army declaring war against them.

There are some references to some type of revolution from real life. For example, when Sabo defeated Vice-Admiral Bastille, it was literal pun of "A revolutionary broke the Bastille", in reference to the taking of the bastille in the French Revolution.

There are also connections with the castle Mariejois, which was as well assaulted during the French Revolution, further hinting at what was mentioned in this chapter of the Revolution crashing the Reverie. In another case it was rather obvious: while real life had the Russian Revolution, here we had the Rurussian Revolution.

There is also an emphasis on the logo design. The chapter ends with the Pink-beard pirates leaving with their tails between their legs.

It was an interesting chapter where it showcased the new characters and development of the Revolutionary Army and World Government. The chapter left a satisfying taste and make readers anxious for more.

Melissa McCarthy Heads Back to School

McCarthy Stars in Hilarious New Movie

BY: BROOKE PRICE

Melissa McCarthy is back for another movie, and this time, she's going back to school.

McCarthy stars in "Life of the Party" as Deanna Miles, who decides to go back to college with her daughter after her husband, Dan, files for a divorce.

Now that Deanna is divorced from her husband, she finally has time to herself, but wonders what she will do with all this free time. She devoted her life to her family, and when her husband left, she looked back on all of the things she missed out on and always wanted to do.

Deanna realizes that she never completed her college degree and decides that it is best to go back to school to keep herself occupied. However, she enrolls at the same college as her daughter, Maddie.

Not only does McCarthy star in the film, but her and her husband, Ben Falcone, co-produced the film and wrote the script. Falcone is also the director of the film.

"Life of the Party" was released on May 11 by Warner Bros.

McCarthy and Falcone discussed their inspiration for the film in a recent interview from Popsugar: "I went down a wormhole with it, with people at a way too early an age being like, 'We're done. This

is what it is. We can't evolve anymore. We can't change anything about ourselves...I just found that so sad, and a weird thing you can buy into. And that's what this was all about. You really could restart the clock. I am always obsessed with the second chance thing, or the fifth chance, or the sixth chance. It's where we spun out from there."

When Deanna Miles joins the same college as her daughter, she tries to find herself by becoming a member of a sorority, getting involved in with frat boys, and in other college shenanigans.

Many famous actresses and comedians play characters in the film.

Maya Rudolph portrays Christine, Deanna's best friend in the film. She also starred in "Bridesmaids" with McCarthy.

Rudolph had great chemistry with Melissa McCarthy and Ben Falcone; "Ben, Melissa and I have been friends for over 20 years, and this is the way we started together, doing improv and sketch together," said a quote from The Los Angeles Times.

When McCarthy wrote the script, she wrote it while having Rudolph in mind to play one her friends in the film.

Julie Bowen plays Marcie, Deanna's enemy and the woman Dan is in love with. Bowen is well known from her portrayal of Claire Dunphy in "Modern Family".

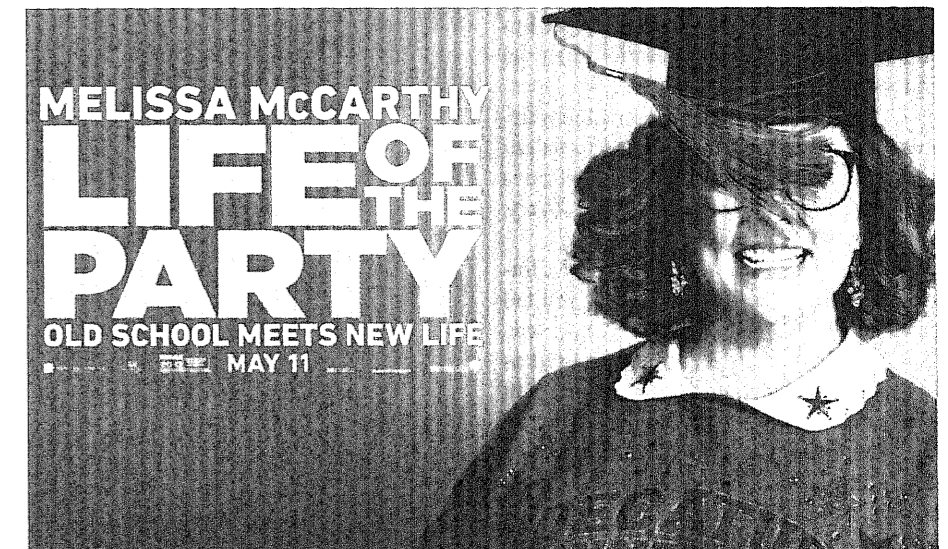


Photo Credit: Femalefirst.co.uk

"Life of the Party" stars Melissa McCarthy as she plays a mom who goes back to school. Debbie Ryan plays Jennifer, who is the head of the sorority. She is well known for playing the titular character Jessie in the television show "Jessie".

In "Life of the Party," Deanna learns more about herself since she never had any time for herself when raising a family.

In an interview with The Los Angeles Times, McCarthy discussed how even though a script was written, some things were improvised: "I always want to get the gist of the script, and then the wheels are off. You can't suddenly change the story, but if you stay true to the character, that can be the most fun stuff. And when Maya's there's, it's, like, "Say whatever you want. Let the noodle loose," because the stuff that comes out of her mouth, at any given moment, you can't write it. When someone is handing you all this great stuff, you just shut up and keep that camera rolling..."

"Life of the Party" can offer a laugh to those who are curious about the college life and finding oneself. This film is sure to entertain those who see it.

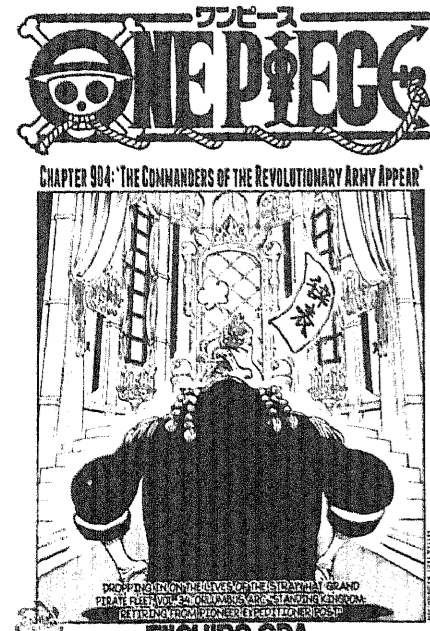


Photo Credit: Mangareader.net

BANNER OPINIONS

Snapchat Better Snap Out of It

*Time for the App to Get Their Sh*t Together*

BY: BRIELLE SPARACINO

Once loved by many and now tolerated by few, Snapchat has suffered an abundance of mishaps throughout 2017 and 2018.

The amount of annoying and unnecessary updates - the most inconvenient one combining friends' stories into the conversations tab and disregarding the more convenient format of watching stories based on how recently they were posted - is just one problem. Thankfully Snapchat fixed that issue, but that's besides the point.

Another problem is the Rihanna and Chris Brown debacle that occurred on their app in March of this year. According to Snapchat, the "Would You Rather" ad that asked users if they'd rather "punch Chris Brown" or "slap Rihanna" was "...disturbing and never should have appeared on our service" as was stated in an article by Vanity Fair.

That mishap alone cost the app 800 million dollars after Rihanna called Snapchat out in an Instagram post, accusing them of making light on domestic violence.

Although Snapchat apologized twice, the company lost an incredible amount of users due to their carelessness, and this wasn't the first time an A-List celebrity cost Snapchat serious dough. When Kylie Jenner tweeted "does anyone else not open Snapchat anymore?" to her now 25.5 million followers in February of this year, Snapchat lost 1.3 billion dollars.

Apparently, Snapchat is trying to gain

that money back by forcing users to watch unskippable six second ads in some of their TV-like shows on their Discover page.

In an article posted on April 25, 2018 on digiday.com, it states, "A Snap spokesperson confirmed that the company will test a



Photo Credit: Adage.com

new ad format called "Commercials," (yes, commercials) which will feature six-second ads that run in select Snapchat Shows and not in Snapchat's magazine-style Discover editions or users' personal stories. The test is supposed to start around May 15, two of the sources said.

Snapchat users - at least, the ones who still use the app regularly - should be fed

up with this information. It's no one's fault but Snapchat's that they've been making so many mistakes in their business, and users shouldn't have to open yet another social media platform on their phones to find unwanted ads waiting for them.

The difference between these two social media platforms and Snapchat, however, is they are great for business and self-promotion, along with Instagram. They are a lot more interpersonal than Snapchat, since the owner of a business or an internet influencer can easily interact with fans and potential clients.

Snapchat started out as a video messaging service, and many were skeptical before the platform really took off. It's been beneficial for influencers who want to communicate with their fans in a more intimate way, but even verified celebrity Snapchat accounts took a while to happen on the app, and that communication is more one-sided.

Other than Snapchat's GeoFilters and face filters, the Bitmoji interactions you're able to have with friends when you're together and Snapchat's world map (which can be a dangerous tool in the hands of the wrong person), the app doesn't serve much of a purpose; it's just an amusing way to waste time and send hideously unflattering pictures of yourself to your best friend and we all know it.

With all of Snapchat's mess-ups this past year alone, there's no reason unskippable ads should be snuck into their content. It would be nice to scroll through one social media feed for once without having to worry about seeing an ad for a cell phone company or a personal hygiene product.

Come on, Snapchat, it's time to do better.

Facebook isn't as popular with millennials anymore, and has become even less popular with the integration of ads into the middle of videos on group pages. Youtube Red is nothing more than a ploy to rip off viewers by having them pay more money to completely eliminate ads and allow Youtube to play videos even if they're not directly watching them in the app.

Should Celebrities Be a Part of Politics?

Why Superstars Stay in Hollywood and Keep Out of Washington

BY: VICTORIA IFATUSIN

During the 2016 Elections between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, Clinton ensured the use of celebrities to attract voters to vote for her.

The former candidate launched various concerts to contribute to her presidential campaign. Some of these celebrities included Pharrell Williams, Katy Perry, Jay-Z and Beyonce.

Although, this didn't get Hillary Clinton elected as the President of the United States.

Could it be that celebrities are used as magnets by politicians to gain recognition for having a "promised" seat in the office?

Celebrities don't usually give attention to the real socio-political issues that are happening today. Instead, they are focused on targeting the popularized wants of the audiences.

The views that members of Hollywood have are either too far to the left or too far to the right, because of the fans they are "representing".

There are many stories of celebrities having issues of being unstable in some way - usually mentally.

During the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards, Kanye West promised to run for president in 2020. He was supported, and people stood up and gave him a round of applause for his "brave act of justice."

Two years later, the same man men-

tioned that slavery "sounds like a choice."

Would you still want him for president?

Before that occurred, Kanye West was said to have some type of mental disability. With that mentality of slavery being a choice, and not being able to function properly, how can you function and satisfy a whole country?

Today, youths are already influenced by celebrities. They go after the fame and wealth these superstars have, even though it is not promised to them. At times, they never receive it, allowing them to neglect everything (family, friends, school, etc.), to pursue these things.

"But Pharrell Williams sang about freedom, that means Hillary would probably be a great president for freedom too!"

I've heard that statement before, and it is sad that youths of nowadays, especially in this era of social media, refuse to do personal research about those in power, including the celebrities themselves.

If anything, celebrities should be exposing the dirty secrets of those in power, through their movies, shows, music, and other forms of entertainment.

A perfect example of someone who does so is Donald Glover, also known as Childish Gambino, in his breathtaking music video "This Is America."

In the video, his message of gun violence and racism in America is perfectly voiced as various forms of symbolism are



George Clooney leaving the White House.

used.

One form is the careful handling of a gun and the dragging of a body, as the two guns that are used are carried by a person holding a red scarlet napkin.

This symbolizes how guns are still treated properly over human lives whereas the red napkin symbolizes bloodshed. Along with this is when the celebrity kills a choir singing along to the song, which automatically reminds the viewer of the Charleston church shooting.

Glover's stance when killing his first victim, is similar to the Jim Crow law stance, which was a law that prevented African Americans from having rights. Not only that, but the lyrics, "Get your money, black man," is often repeated.

Many more devices are seen in this four-minute video, yet, Donald Glover is not involving himself in government. Rather, he's portraying the happenings of the nation, and what the government should do about it.

If celebrities used their platform and outreach similar to Donald Glover, aka Childish Gambino's, single "This is America", they would effectively be exposing what is really happening in the United States.

It's important that celebrities speak about politics because their voices are heard due to their large following; however, that doesn't mean they should be in politics.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

Summer Lovin', Have Yourself a Blast

Spend Your Staten Island Summer the Right Way

BY: JESSICA SCARIMBOLO

After a long, treacherous winter, it seems that summer is finally here. Grab some of these fun summer adventures that are close to home.

A good option for some year-round fun with your partner is taking a trip to Six Flags, Great Adventure. Whether

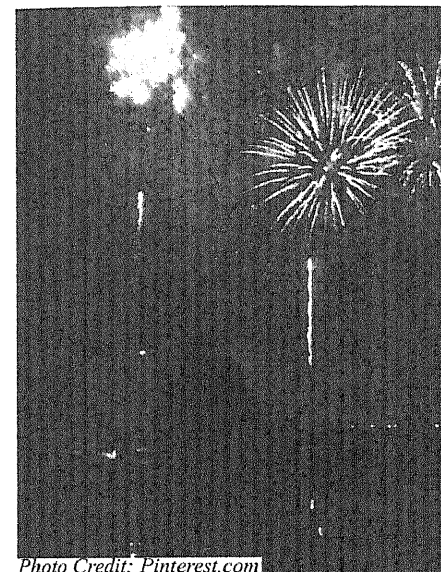


Photo Credit: Pinterest.com

View fireworks with your partner this summer.

you're someone who enjoys thrill rides or not, it's a great excuse to cuddle up with them.

During the day, the two of you can enjoy one of the many restaurants that Great Adventure has to offer, and by the end of the night, you can get yourself some sweet treats from candy to ice cream.

Something a little more limited for summer time in the city is visiting the beautiful botanical gardens. Tickets are all \$20 and under, with special deals running for students who show a valid ID upon entering.

Living in Staten Island, we are fortunate enough to live close to so many of the gardens, all making for an adventurous outdoor date. Depending on the location you choose, you can visit their website to see which plants and flowers you can anticipate seeing in bloom when you visit.

Another fun way to spend an evening in the city is to go see an outdoor movie with your boyfriend or girlfriend. Various locations throughout the five boroughs show dozens of movies for most dates from the end of May to beginning of September.

You can go see movies like "Toy Story"

or "The Greatest Showman" for free in a number of NYC Parks around the city, even featuring a drive-in movie.

Something I personally have been known to take advantage of every summer is the GMA Summer Concert Series in Central Park. On over a dozen Friday's during the summer, GMA hosts artists who perform free concerts for guests who attend.

Though it means waking up at an ungodly hour and waiting outside, sometimes in the rain, these concerts may be the only time you would get the chance to see artists like the Backstreet Boys and Fall Out Boy at no charge.

On Staten Island, there are a number of locations you and your partner could go to see some beautiful fireworks. Places like Staten Island Yankee Stadium and the Boardwalk in South Beach do fireworks weekly, always giving the two of you a chance to catch them.

The fireworks take place in locations that have a lot of delicious restaurants around them. You and your partner could go enjoy a nice dinner before heading to one of these places.

You can't go wrong with a simple date

A Matter of Heads or Tails

Relationships Are No Better Than A Coin Flip

BY: DOMINICK WOJTAS

Drunken nights have started to conclude with her wails and tears.

It's almost natural at this point.

Yet we still wake up the following mornings, side-by-side, cuddled up against each other as if the previous night was nothing more than a mere nightmare.

These tears of anguish and shouts of anger are not as frivolous as originally thought. At the root of the relationship lies a bad bug.

During hours of sobriety it remains relatively dormant, agitated only by a poorly worded phrase here-and-there.

But as alcohol infiltrates our bloodstreams, subduing the bodies defenses, the

bug starts thrashing gnawing away at all our contemptuous strings.

She's aware of this, or at least she should be. Sometimes I believe the alcohol wipes these harsh moments from her memory.

I gaze into her eyes the next morning seeing no sign of grief behind them. Out of inquisition I start to ask her shameful questions, "Do you remember when I hatefully threw my phone in your direction?"

To which she responds, "Why would you throw your phone at me?", a blank and honest expression covering her face.

The phone never did connect with her body, that was far from my intention. It was simply a catharsis embodied with an-

ger and despair. The hostile bickering needed to end and intimidation seemed like the quickest route at the time.

The phone had recoiled against a pong table laying at its side. With a loud bang this rough scene ended, only to be revisited in my mind when she groggily walked into the foyer the morning after asking why my phone was lying on the floor.

This story is an allegory for the seemingly innumerable amount of couples living in a lie, submitting to their bugs ravaging in their minds.

These men and women feel trapped, too far-gone in this metaphorical home that they have built for each other, disregarding all the termites and roaches it houses.

Without a solid foundation, these problems begin to multiply.

A therapist frequently makes an appearance. Sometimes a psycho-analysis of issues and mutual effort is enough to mend the situation.

Other times it only temporarily subdues the situation, keeping it at bay until something sets it off again.

In many cases the burden is too great to handle. Each individual goes their separate way; in some cases one walks off before the other, clinging desperately to a false hope.

The divorce rate remains high--the number is no better than a coin flip.

Character is also a coin flip. For one half, love immediately becomes soft, full of devotion, sacrifice, and charity. The sex drive turns mild and domesticated.

This group feels the need to experience life and seeks sex in its purest form.

The other half places the greatest weight on utility. If their partner's characteristics and positions are sustainable, that roller-coaster will be to the end of time unless some drastic change presents itself.

Of course success is not as simple as discerning two contrasting personalities. There is an endless list of factors that hold a weight, specific to the individual, that impact attraction and longevity.

Triggers, softeners, manias, aggression, timidity, lust, staleness, interests, and ambitions are just to name the minimum. Some act as positive reinforcement while others stack up to despair.

To sum it up, relationships are a constant battle between utility and hunger. Who comes out the victor depends on personality.



Photo Credit: Shutterstock.com

SPORTS

Knicks Choose David Fizdale as New Head Coach

Fizdale 29th Coach in Knicks History

BY: ERIC RANSOM

It did not take long for the New York Knicks to find their new face – and they couldn't be more thrilled.

After firing Jeff Hornacek last April, the Knicks delved deep into a huge amount of possible coaches, ranging from Marc Jackson, David Blatt, Jeff Van Gundy and Jerry Stackhouse, to name a few.

Once a few weeks went by, a favorite emerged out of the group.

Enter David Fizdale, the 43-year-old recently fired Memphis Grizzlies head coach.

Already a coveted and successful assistant coach with the LeBron-era Miami Heat, Fizdale took the Grizzlies to the playoffs in 2016 with a 43-39 record and a 7 seed in the Western Conference – in his first ever year as an NBA head coach.

Once the 2017 season got off to a lackluster start, Fizdale was questionably fired from his position, much to the shock and disappointment of his players and the rest of the NBA.

Grizzlies players vouched for him, airing their grievances publically and showing their dismay with the firing.

The reasoning remains linked to tension between Fizdale and star center Marc Gasol, where the two “didn't get along,” among other things. The beef created an environment which hindered the performance of the team last November, resulting in a rather quick firing of Fizdale not

even a quarter of the way into the 2017 season.

Fizdale was also responsible for the Grizzlies severing ties with veteran cogs Zach Randolph and Tony Allen, beginning a rebuild and targeting a fresh start. It wasn't long before Fizdale was abruptly cast aside, becoming a major player in the head coaching market this spring.

Revered by many of the players he has coached both as an assistant and head coach, the Knicks gravitated to his famous “grit and grind” coaching style and defensive mindset, and hired him to be the 29th head coach in franchise history.

Being that LeBron James will likely be a free agent this summer, the Knicks look to be in consideration for his services by hiring Fizdale, a coach James worked closely with while playing for the Heat, and praised for quite some time.

Fizdale, a native of Los Angeles, told his mother that he would one day play in Madison Square Garden. Now, Fizdale can do the next best thing – and he couldn't be happier.

“To have an opportunity to coach for this franchise [and] to be a part of a rebuild that gets this place back to long-term winning, I couldn't pass that up. I just felt like I don't want to look back on my life and say I didn't take this chance,” remarked Fizdale.

Knicks players like Tim Hardaway, Jr., Enes Kanter and Emmanuel Mudiay took

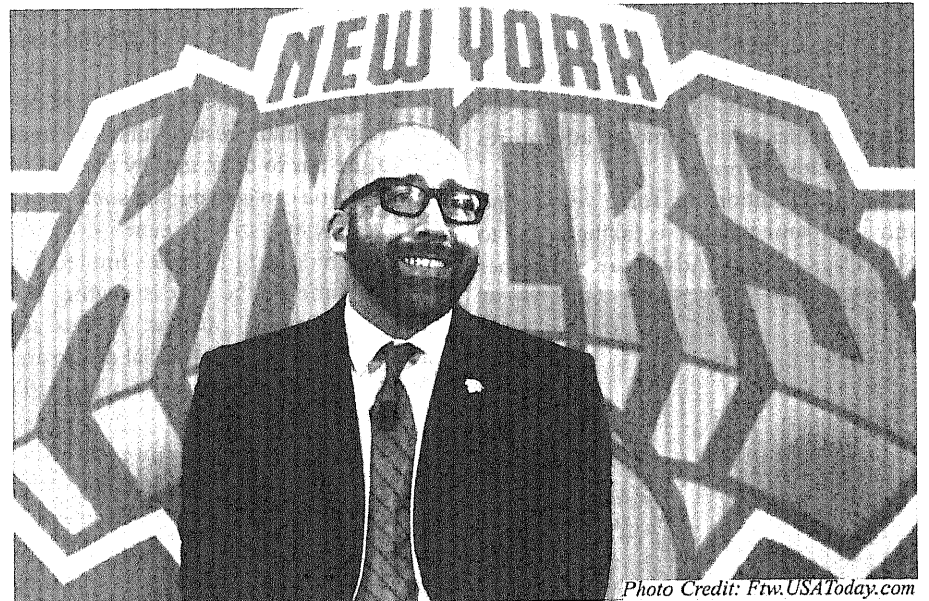


Photo Credit: Frw.USAToday.com

After two disappointing years and no playoff appearances under Jeff Hornacek, former Grizzlies Coach David Fizdale aims to turn the Knicks franchise around.

to Twitter shortly after his hiring to express their satisfaction with the news.

Fizdale and the Knicks agreed to a four-year contract to coach the team, giving him plenty of time to rebuild the Knicks and formulate players that “have an edge to them.”

One obstacle Fizdale already has to overcome is the injury of the team's star, Kristaps Porzingis. After his ACL injury cost him the second half of last season, reports are the Porzingis may miss the entire upcoming season as well.

The Knicks are hopeful he can recov-

er from his injury in time to play approximately around January - February 2019, although there are no guarantees when it comes to ACL tears.

The team has not made the playoffs since the 2012-2013 season, winning no more than 37 games since then. After shedding superstar Carmelo Anthony last summer, the Knicks continued their rebuild around the allure of Porzingis, assuring that the Knicks were Porzingis's team.

Whether or not Porzingis plays at all next season, signs of positivity and a bright future are certainly “fizzing.”

Humboldt Broncos Find Solace after Tragedy

Crash that Killed 16 Won't Stop the Hockey Team

BY: ERIC RANSOM

Killed, paralyzed, injured, devastated, heartbroken--these are just some of the adjectives that describe the aftermath of the April 6 bus crash that claimed the lives of 16 junior hockey league players, coaches and staff.

The Humboldt Broncos were among 29 people headed to a playoff game traveling by bus through Saskatchewan, Canada when a tractor trailer smashed into their bus, killing or injuring everyone on board, including the driver.

Some players were left paralyzed from the chest down or severely injured – the rest, 10 players in all, perished in the accident, along with two coaches, including their head coach Darcy Haugan, one broadcaster, the team trainer, and a statistician.

The players all ranged in ages from 16-21.

A close-knit group, the players collectively dyed their hair blond ahead of their playoff run, only for it to be brutally cut short.

An outpouring of support from all over the world followed suit, offering condolences to the victims and survivors, including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the NHL, and President Trump.

Among the heartbreak, a GoFundMe page was established shortly after the accident, and in seemingly no time at all, over \$1 million dollars was raised 18 hours after the page as created, halfway to their goal.

The money raised for the Broncos so far has reached over \$15 million dollars in just two weeks, the second highest total in GoFundMe's history for any page.

Only the TimesUp page has accrued more money, reaching totals of around \$21 million dollars since its inception a few months ago.

Nonetheless, fellow players, staff and sports fans alike have been in mourning.

“We are just in utter disbelief and shock at the loss that's fallen upon us,” said Broncos president Kevin Garinger. “Our community is in utter shock and we are trying our best to come to grips with this unimaginable tragedy.”

The Winnipeg Jets and Chicago Blackhawks honored the victims of the crash by wearing uniforms with “Broncos” written in place of their names during a game on April 7. Pregame ceremonies were held across the entirety of the NHL, including a tweet from the NHL official page, which simply said, “Today, we are all Broncos.” Despite the tragedy, the Humboldt Broncos will return to action for the 2018-2019 season. Until then, the team will be looking for a new coach after Haugan lost his life.

Amongst the hardship, 20-year-old Broncos player survivor, Kaleb Dahlgren, committed to play at York University for the upcoming fall season in a post by Dahlgren on Facebook.

“I have dreamed about and worked

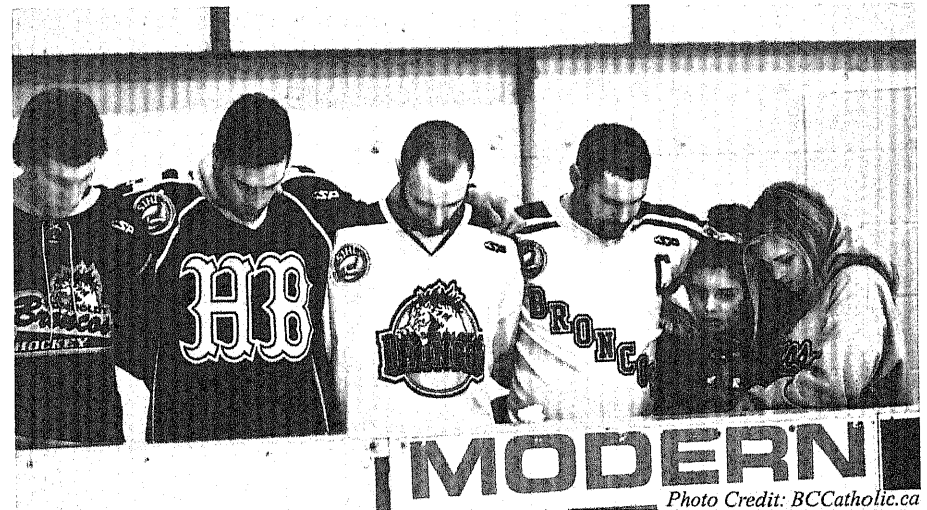


Photo Credit: BCCatholic.ca

The Humboldt Broncos lost 16 members of their family in a bus crash last April, and global outpourings of support for the team have been abundant.

hard for this since I was 9 years old. My goal is to attend York in the fall of this year, however the school has assured me I can begin whenever my body is ready,” said Dahlgren.

The crash resulted in Dahlgren fracturing his skull and vertebrae, among other injuries.

Among the most badly injured is Ryan Straschnitzki, one of the survivors who has become paralyzed from the chest-down. The injuries aren't bringing him down, with hopes to not only walk again, but to compete in sledge hockey, a form of competition for athletes without the use of their legs.

Parents, family and friends have all

come to the aid of the injured, posting pictures of progress since the crash and starting the hashtags #HumboldtStrong and #PutYourStickOut, in honor of the 29 people aboard the bus on that April day.

Local communities and Canadians alike have donated supplies and food, as well as a vigil that was held a few days after the accident.

Bill Chow, who is the president of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, commented on the tragedy during an emotional press conference.

“The worst nightmare has happened. As a league, we will support the Humboldt Broncos in every way possible.”