

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

A Queer State of Mind

CSI Faculty and Staff Come Out to Students

BY JEREMY PASKER

The LGBTQ community at CSI held their annual panel, on the 19th of October, focusing on the issue of Coming Out. Professors Tara Mateik, Sarah Schulman and Zakhar Berkovich, an executive assistant to the Dean of humanities and social sciences, shared their personal coming out stories and took questions from the audience.

The panel discussed the topic of intolerance, and spoke about coping with the transition of coming out to the public. They expressed opinions on how to handle backlash from society and parents who are less than accepting of someone being different from them.

"[The] coming out process is a very personal decision. One should not be pressured to make that decision in a hurry, by celebrities, or [their] partner. The outcome for coming out is also very different for every person. The person should consider financial, personal, and safety repercussions of opening up. While the process of coming out is scary, at times dangerous, and nerve-racking, it is usually also liberating. The feeling that other people know and you do not need to cover your tracks or lie is very rewarding," Zakhar Berkovich said.

The panel suggested the option of telling a friend as a way to maneuver around a difficult decision. Involving others who understand the predicament cushions the swirl of emotions and fears involved in the coming out process.

"Start by coming out to another queer person and go from there," Sarah Schulman said.

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Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

Professors Tara Mateik, Sarah Schulman, Zakhar Berkovich and Matt Brim held a panel on October 19th. The panel focused on the issue of coming out as a gay student.

CSI Student Arrested at OWS

25-year old philosophy major spends night in jail



Ilya Geller, a CSI student was arrested during an Occupy Wall Street march on October 5th for resisting arrest while helping a young woman who was being mishandled by NYPD policemen.

Police Bring Out the Cuffs when Student Tries to be a Gentleman

BY JOSH SORENSEN

A CSI student who came to the aid of a female protester who to him appeared to be mishandled by law enforcement at Occupy Wall Street was detained by several police officers on the night of October 5th.

Ilya Geller, 25, was part of a march on

October 5th which was intended to go from Wall St. to Bowling Green. Geller said that he noticed a commotion going on in the vicinity of the march, he abruptly broke off the route with a few of his friends and came to the aid of a young woman who appeared to be being roughed up by the police.

"My instinct was to help the girl as most were to scared to jump in," said Geller, "Most of the cops doubled the girl in size, the police tend to mess with the smaller and more fragile females, as they knew it would make the other

protesters get angry enough to fight back."

Geller wore a thick book bag the night of his arrest, which took the brunt of the beating. He said that he felt as if he would be in a lot more pain if he didn't, as the book bag shielded his back from multiple strikes from a baton. According to him, the police used excessive force to get him to the floor before they put him in handcuffs, and sent him to jail for the rest of the night.

"Many of the protesters on hand lent their

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Taking Back What Belongs to US

CSI Students and Community Walk Against Domestic Violence

BY LEEOR BRONIS

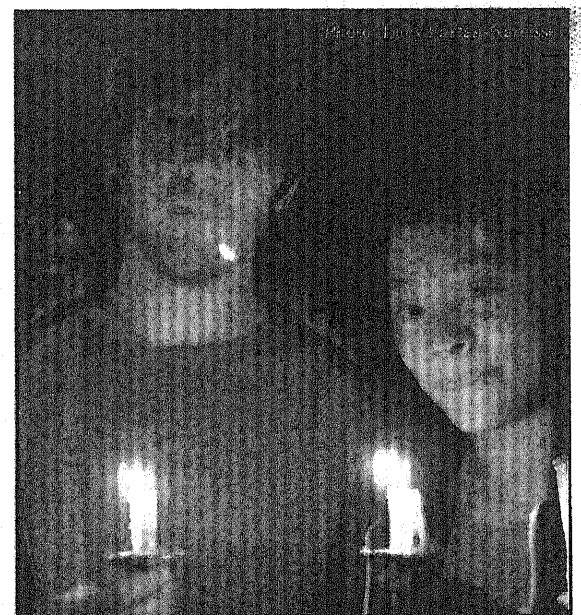
The closeted gay student tormented by her ex-girlfriend. The Indian wife of a NYPD cop who escaped her abusive husband. The Mother who buried her 19-year-old daughter after her boyfriend murdered her. The young woman who fled her home after years of her father's abuse.

These were a few of the stories told at the CSI's Bertha Harris Women's

Center's annual Take Back the Night event on October 24th. The event's purpose is for the college community to speak out against domestic violence, abuse and physical assault towards women. According to interns at the Women's Center, 1 in 4 female college students have been victims of rape. 90% of those victims say they knew their assailants.

"We come together as a supportive community," Ellen Goldner, Director of the Women's Center said while addressing a crowd of about 50 people. "We can get it out, not as something we blame our-

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Students hold candles before a march around campus for the CSI Women's Center's annual Take Back the night event to end violence against women.



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Occupy Wall Street, the Start of the Revolution

BY M. MILEY

Occupy Wall Street is indeed a radical revolutionary movement, but not for the reasons you think. There has been so much misinformation about this movement that it sickeningly barely covers it. It is not surprising that much of the mainstream media coverage is going out of their way to discredit the movement, since mass media are all owned by the same (at most) half dozen multi-national corporations from Disney and General Electric to NewsCorp. It is in their best interest to make sure that any actual populist reaction to Wall street greed is marginalized or squashed.

For all the complaints that one hears about from the media regarding the movement not having a clear agenda, one must begin to sus-

join in (cowardly, I know, and a source of great shame for myself. And the only half-hearted defense I can offer is that being a leftist in America, especially over the last ten years is truly demoralizing, if not at times either demeaning or disheartening, and sometimes all three).

What I saw down in Liberty Square nearly brought tears to my eyes for it really was perhaps the most revolutionary thing I have ever seen Americans do in my lifetime. An actual community had formed. A community where people interacted, talked with each other, played with each other, worshipped with each other, sought out each other, connections were forged. At the general assemblies consensus was attempted to be reached; which is a reason I find it absurd when I hear

“What I saw down in Liberty Square nearly brought tears to my eyes for it really was perhaps the most revolutionary thing I have ever seen Americans do in my lifetime.”

pect that many people employed by news services must be legally deaf, as the running theme out of even the different groups adding their voice to the occupation movement is an end to corporate greed. What does removing troops from Iraq or Afghanistan or the legalization of marijuana have to do with ending corporate overreach? Iraq and Afghanistan are nearly universal examples of the problem of corporate greed and ownership of government with the rampant amount of what not too long ago would have correctly been labeled war profiteering. Surely though, one would ask, that legalizing pot is little more than the pet cause of stoners and hippies alike? Which that may be a valid point, but there are the deeper implications of this policy; the ever expanding prison rolls, and the profits enjoyed by the companies that are privatizing our prison system with horrific side effects at all levels of society.

Even without delving into all of the potential critiques of the forces of Late Capital to anyone that has been down there it is widely self evident what they are protesting about. I will admit to, at first being a tad dismissive of the Occupation, thinking that it was little more than your run of the mill American hippies and their hanger-on's who would grow bored in a

the media discuss how frivolous the General Assemblies are in their attempt to reach a common consensus. It's almost as if many don't understand what democracy looks like. It's not perfect there are minor troubles with theft and attempted theft, however, this is what happens when many people gather around some elements - this is not a detraction of the movement but something that has to be worked with, but I digress.

The building of a vibrant community is what truly makes Occupy Wall Street revolutionary. The social model of the period of Late Capital in which we live is a very sterile one, near foreign and alien to the human mind itself. We all live antiseptic lives, we have neighbors but more often than not we do not interact with them, they are the Other so close to home. In many cases we are made to fear them, if we go by how dangerous everything is according to the local news broadcasts. Far too many of us live disaffected alienated existences, and we don't realize it more often than not. One would think that in an age where global communication is literally at the tips of one's fingers this wouldn't be a problem. Yet it is, we have become so

“Even without delving into all of the potential critiques of the forces of Late Capital, to anyone that has been down there it is widely self evident what they are protesting about.”

few days time and disperse. Six weeks later, never have I been happier to admit how wrong I was. I went down to Liberty Square to see what the occupation was doing and to finally physically show my support for a movement I have been cautious of backing until the end of its second week, when more people started to

isolated from human contact that we have built artificial tribes around corporate products, and staunch defenders of businesses that only care about how much money is in their pocket. It doesn't matter if its taking sides in the “cola wars” of the 90s or if you prefer Nintendo to Sony or Microsoft, PC to Mac,



Occupy Wall Street protesters crowd the streets of Zuccotti Park. OWS is a radical revolutionary movement, but not for the reasons you think.

HBO to Cinemax, NBC to AMC, the list goes on and on, ad infinitum.

That is the first threat that Occupy Wall Street poses, a human alternative to a market run, business centric, alienating community. The message they have is for the most part centrist, they want to limit corporate involvement in the government of living, breathing actual people and not one that is dominated by the legal fictions of a paper person, they don't want to destroy capitalism they want to reform it. There are groups there who have that goal (and God bless the Black and Red), but it is a wide coalition from your mainline liberals, to anarchists, socialists, communists, libertarians and Tea

Party types. We all may disagree on how to fix the problem of the status quo, but we all know that the status quo cannot continue. There will be work to be done, this is barely the start of it. With talk of a national convention to be held next summer to decide on a list of demands for a unified Occupy movement that has sprung up all across the country.

The most basic thing a revolution is, is a rejection of the status quo, which this truly is. If you can't make it down there, I urge you anyway to find time to at least visit. If not, please partake in one of the most downright radical thing everyone is capable of: think, truly contemplate the currently state of affairs and how things could be better, and then act on it.

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CONTRIBUTORS:
ASHLEY JOURNEAY,
STEPHEN KLEIN, DAEYUNG LEE,
TIFFANY OUTAR & NICOLE PAGANO

FACULTY ADVISOR:
FREDERICK KAUFMAN



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: “Walkout arrives at President Morales’ Door, Students Demand Tuition Cuts”

I agree with the protestors 100%. Another \$300 annually is a lot of money, whether you're paying out of pocket or receiving financial aid. What the state does not realize is that there are plenty of students who work and study full time and cannot sacrifice one or the other. They have families that depend on their income and cannot compromise their family or their education. If President Morales understands the importance on an education, having a PHD himself, he will do the right thing and not put someone else in jeopardy.

Sincerely,
Beatrice Armer,
Senior

Re: “Walkout arrives at President Morales’ Door, Students Demand Tuition Cuts”

I'm glad to see the issue of tuition increases is getting the proper attention. I am especially satisfied that the students took it straight to president Morales. It's absurd that this once free institution is now becoming too expensive for most students, while budget cuts still continue and facilities are sub-par. Hopefully if more students raise their voice, changes can be made.

Alexandra Elia
Sophomore

Re: “Student finds Solace at the Radio Station at CSI”

I found this article to be inspiring. Every time I am in 1P I see Bryan playing his guitar by the tables. This article gave me insight into who the man behind the guitar was. He has an amazing story, but I would like to know more about his music than his career at the radio station. Hearing about his upcoming songs, shows and events would be great.

Daniel Mulligan
Junior

Re: “Student finds Solace at the Radio Station at CSI”

So many young people in our society face stress and problems. Unfortunately, their number one stress reliever is drugs and alcohol. To see a young man like Bryan Karundeng having to battle cancer, something so much greater than stress, and have it be a time in his life where he discovered a lot about himself, makes you really appreciate life. You never know what could happen tomorrow.

Re: “Student Government Leader unafraid of Controversy”

It is finally nice to see someone in the student body take a stand against immoral actions and actually have a voice to speak for us “little” people. I share his same views and am also backing Ron Paul as our next President. For the last ten years, this country churned out pointless laws and principles for the benefit of less than 1% of its citizens, while the middle class and their livelihood wither away. Although it was not in the article, I'm sure Anthony is taking a stand against the recent CUNY tuition hikes. Hopefully we have more people like him who are willing to take a stand against it and fight these issues head on.

Gaetano Messina

Re: “Students Plan for Their Future Now!”

Not everyone has the time to find out all the information about internships and future plans, and this article gives you a person and place that can help you. For freshman, college can be confusing, but if you know who to go to for help it can make the experience easier. There are people in the Career and Scholarship Center that are there to help you, and that's all they want. Giving this information out through this paper will hopefully help those students in need of advice and guidance into the office for help.

Ava Cozzo
Senior

Re: English Professor Doubles as Superwoman

I really enjoyed reading this article that focuses on Cate Marvin, Associate Professor in the English Department. The article not only gave a very descriptive look on what her day entails. Handling the endless amount of paperwork, being a single mother and juggling 90 students is a tough job. I can see why she was included in this issue and why the author wrote a profile about her. Being a single mother and working full time as an English teacher sounds stressful, but she manages to it very successfully.

Nicole Bethell
Junior

Re: “CSI’s Most Fashionable Face Off”

I love that we have a fashion page in the Banner with students that all of us are surrounded by daily. It's great that the students gave their information and style tips. I just wish that the photos weren't all taken in the cafeteria it would look a lot better if they were taken on different parts of the campus. I feel it would bring out the unique styles more in the photographs.

Jessica Tedesco

Re: “Ask Sandra: She Has All the Answers”

Sandra's advice column is always interesting to read. She gave excellent advice to the senior who regrets his major. She told him to give his acting dream a try, but still continue on to complete his major. That's exactly what I would have said.

Frank Foresta
Sophomore

Re: “Wild Flag- Rally around the Flag”

This article makes a good point about the music industry and I agree that Wild Flag gets a good message across. They rock, and not many popular bands these days really rock. Music will always have artistic merit. These days it is a little harder for bands that play “for the power of music” to be heard, but it happens.

Andrea Hansen
Senior

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

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

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"CSI Student Arrested in Occupy Wall Street"
Continued from the front page

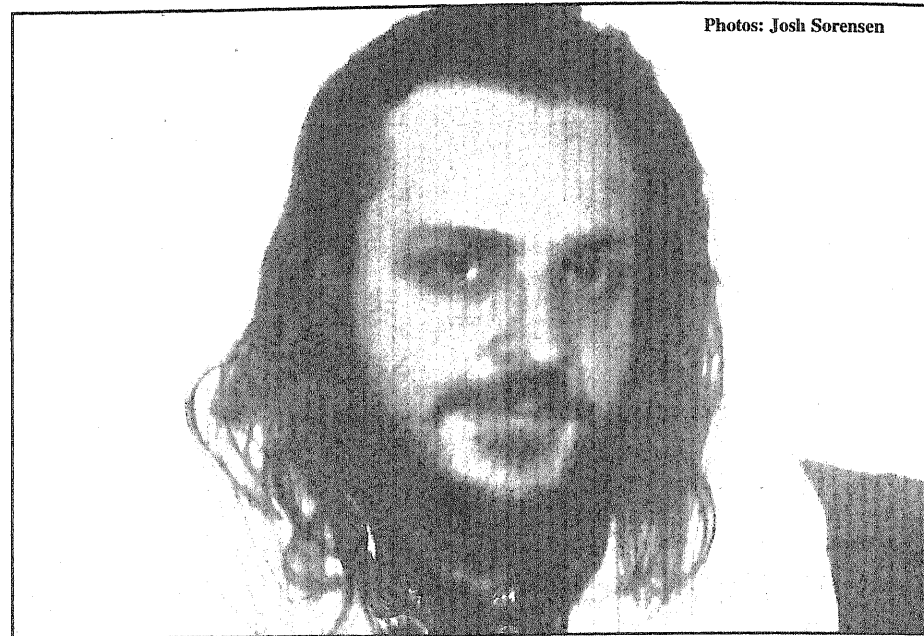
verbal support by chanting words of encouragement for Ilya, "Courtesy, Professionalism and Respect" were one of the many chants we flooded the police with," said Spencer Troeller, a friend of Geller and CSI student who had been assisting Geller in medical efforts throughout the night. "Once Geller was in custody, my friends and I took the young girl, who Geller had come to the aid of, to a safe area to clean her up and get her medical assistance."

"Making sure the young lady was safe was our number one goal," said Alan Aurelia, who was paying a visit to OWS as he was on his way to the Staten Island Ferry. "The way the police handle these peaceful protesters is insane, if the tides were turned, I would like to see how the cops would act."

Several charges were brought up against Geller, ranging from disorderly conduct to resisting arrest. Court dates have been filed, and fines have been issued. Geller does not let his arrest stop him from being a part of the Occupation. According to Geller, he remains a mainstay at Liberty Square in hopes of one day having communities in which all are treated fairly, with little to no suffering by those who are less fortunate.

Geller has established a group on campus, Autonomous Students United, which focuses on corporate greed and bringing awareness, as well as encouraging discourse, on poverty.

"I do not regret my arrest, I feel it was for a goal that I have been fighting towards for a very long time," said Geller. "I just want there to be a change, where it will be a great place for future generations to live in, no matter what their financial status may be."



Photos: Josh Sorensen

Ilya Geller, 25, has established Autonomous Students United, a group on CSI that focuses on corporate greed, as well as encourages discourse on poverty.



Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

The LGBTQ club held a forum with Zakhar Berkovich, left, Sarah Shulman, center, Professor Tara Mateik, right, and Professor Matt Brim. The Forum discussed the issue of coming out as a gay student in CSI.

"A Queer State of Mind"
Continued from the front page

They spoke about revealing ones sexual identity to ones parents as a complicated task with an entirely different set of obstacles and drawbacks.

"This can be very traumatic. There is number of programs and initiatives in NYC today that can assist youth who have been cut off by their families. If a person is in this situation, I would strongly encourage them to contact the Office of Student Affairs at the College of Staten Island, or talk to directors in the LGBTQ centers in all boroughs of NYC," Zakhar Berkovich said.

A reason to decide to inform parents and family of a non-conforming sexual preference according to Professor Sarah Schulman is "when being in the closet feels absurd."

The final decision to come out lies within the individual, if the situation ever becomes overwhelming

there are several tools that lend support for LGBTQ students at CSI, according to Sarah Schulman.

"[Go] talk to one of the openly LGBT professors. Some of [them] would be happy to meet...and explain that CSI supports students," Sarah Schulman said. "Staten Island is a very homophobic place, and CSI reflects that. [But], we in the faculty who are openly LGBT try to take a lot of responsibility for the queer students, [though] the straight faculty could step up more. There is no reason for LGBT content to not be included in every Social Science, Humanities and Arts class in the school," Professor Schulman said.

If encountering discrimination or intolerance on campus there are several options that CSI provides for students. The Office of student affairs, Office of Diversity and Compliance, and Public Safety are all equipped with resources to help.

To cope with intolerance or discrimination off of campus,

Zakhar Berkovich said. "There are many community organizations that welcome the LGBTQ community. There are LGBTQ centers, that provide programs and services that are directed to assist LGBTQ people." He cited both, "the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center and the Staten Island LGBT Community Center."

Students and faculty have the power to affect change, according to the panel. Zakhar Berkovich said, "CSI as a community can attend events, such as Pride Parade, Candle Light Vigil and other programs. On the other hand, the members of CSI community can boycott organizations that are intolerable and who discriminate against LBGTQ members."

Professor of Media Studies, Tara Mateik summed up the event "Identity is always changing and is confusing, but that's a good thing," she said.

"Taking Back What Belongs to Us"
Continued from the front page

sees for when the perpetrator is really the problem."

Women and men of all ages gathered at the event wearing turquoise t-shirts that read, "Take back the Night! Stop Violence against Women." One by one, speakers took to the podium to tell their stories of abuse.

Key note speaker, Agnes Bermudez, told her story of being set on fire by her boyfriend of 3 years in November 2008. She suffered burns on 70% of her body. Bermudez's boyfriend and 3 others were killed in the apartment fire.

"I was charged with 4 counts of murder," Bermudez said as several audience members broke down in tears. "Certain individuals testified...I knew I was being used as a scapegoat."

A jury trial cleared her of all charges in June 2010 after fingerprint evidence showed traces of lighter fluid on her boyfriend's hands and none on

Bermudez's. She has since created the Village of Hands Foundation Against Domestic Violence.

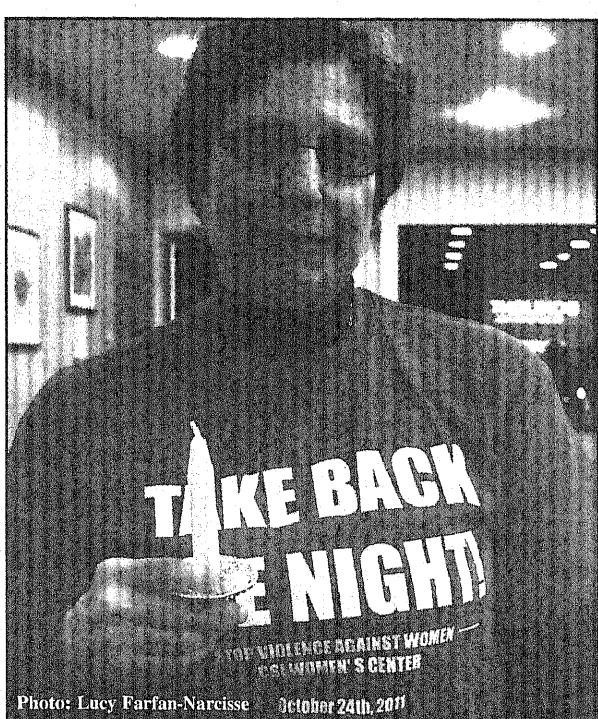
"My medical battles are far from over but I am free," Bermudez said as she finished her speech.

Officials from Safe Horizon branch in Staten Island, the nations leading victim assistance organization, believe the biggest problem with abuse victims is their inability to report the crimes.

"Domestic violence victims can be as young as 19 years old and are ashamed to state the hitting," Carry, a Rape Survivor Advocate for Safe horizon said. "Now it's becoming more and more open."

Almost every speaker of the night made it a point to tell the audience about speaking out and getting help. Bianca DiMitre, 30, created Fearless Females inc., a support group on Staten Island that coordinates and hosts weekly self-help meetings run by survivors of intimate partner abuse.

"It's possible to get out," DiMitre told



Ellen Goldner, Director of the Bertha Harris Women's Center at CSI poses before the Take Back the Night candlelight walk through campus. The event's purpose is to end violence against women.

the crowd. "People are murdered over this."

Dina Tush, mother of 19 year old Jessica Tush, who was killed by her boyfriend in April 2008, believes the most dangerous time for domestic abuse is 72 hours after a break up. During her tearful speech, she urged audience members to write letters to the Senate and Assembly Education Committee members asking them to educate young children on dating abuse.

"We have to educate young kids about respect and self esteem," Tush said. "No mother should stand over her child's grave."

Tush is also trying to get the state to pass a bill called the Jessica Tush Act, which would put repeat domestic abuse offenders on a bill of record.

After the speeches, candles were given out as the crowds of people walked out of 1C to start their march around campus to take back the night.

"We will do this until gender base violence is no longer a problem," Goldner said. "Unfortunately, I'm sure we will continue to need to."

Annual Club Fair Helps Recruit New Members
Over Twenty Clubs Participate in Joining the College Community

BY ASHLEY JOURNEY

CSI's cafeteria was full of students interested in getting more from their college experience. The college's annual fall club fair on October 20 occupied the rotunda in the cafeteria, sparking the interest of students passing by.

Representatives from over twenty clubs were present to recruit new members. Based on an article in The Times of London, in Europe students are asked to pay to attend club fairs. CSI's was free and many people seemed to take advantage of it. The most occupied tables were the Computer Club, the Japanese Visual Arts Club, the Psychology Club and the American Sign Language Club.

"I think the club fair is a really great opportunity to actually see who you will be in the club with," said Antonella Maniscalco, a freshman looking to join some clubs. "But it is difficult to join multiple clubs when most clubs, if not all, meet at the same time, Thursdays 1:30-3:30."

Maniscalco is currently in the Japanese Visual Arts club, but is also interested in joining the American Sign Language Club and the Psychology Club. She can not join either because of a time conflict with all three clubs hence, she is forced to choose.

It seemed to be a contest of which club had the better giveaways and food. The computer club brought in a line of people almost out of the door with their cotton candy machine. This raises the question: Were people really there because of the clubs or just to get the free things that were



Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

A group of students used the college's annual fall Club Fair on October 20 to raise money for AFACE.org, an organization that raises money for African Children's Education. Members of the event dressed up in Halloween costumes, many giving out cotton candy and ice cream.

given out? Most students that were seen walking around had a plate with many different types of foods from cupcakes from many different clubs. The most liked foods brought in a lot of people to each table and made them put their names on a sign up sheet.

All clubs order food for each meeting every week, therefore even if people joined just for the food, it will keep them coming back because there will always be food at meetings for every club paid for by the student activity

fees. Even though it was supposed to be a costume contest, many clubs either did not participate or they did not pull out their most elaborate costumes. But a good amount of clubs did dress up such as the American Sign Language Club, who were dressed as different superheroes and the Gay-Straight Alliance who were all fully clad in purple, in honor of it being anti-bullying day, during which you wear purple.

Many would agree that joining a club helps you make more friends and find new interests.

"Trying out different clubs has really helped me find out what my interests are," Said Joseph Motola, a sophomore. "It's great to know that it is not a big deal if you lose interest in a club, you can just join another one."

"This club fair really helps bring in new members," Said John Campione, an officer of the American Sign Language Club as he held up a sign up sheet over two pages long. "In the two years we have been participating, our number of members has grown."

Being Pushed Around?
You're Not Alone
Recent Panel Helps to Assess Bullying

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

A recent panel, chaired by Armando Thomas, discussed the topic of bullying at a sparsely attended conference on campus. While there was a focus on what constitutes bullying, there was also a serious discussion regarding professors being the bully or even being bullied.

"Bullying is any kind of verbal or physical abuse," said Thomas. "It makes you feel less of a person."

Bullying may often lead to suicide in cases both highly publicized and others obscure. There has been an increase in suicides as it is the second leading cause of death for college students. Bullying may lead to sadness and loneliness leading up to students ultimately taking their lives.

These consequences have led to campuses, including CUNY, taking the matter somberly. A highly publicized suicide of a Rutgers student led to criminal action taken against the perpetrators.

"There's no official CUNY law," said Thomas. "But it is taken very seriously."

According to Thomas, bullying in college often goes unreported due to fear, denial, and embarrassment. Students may not know where to report bullying or even if they do, they are too ashamed to admit to

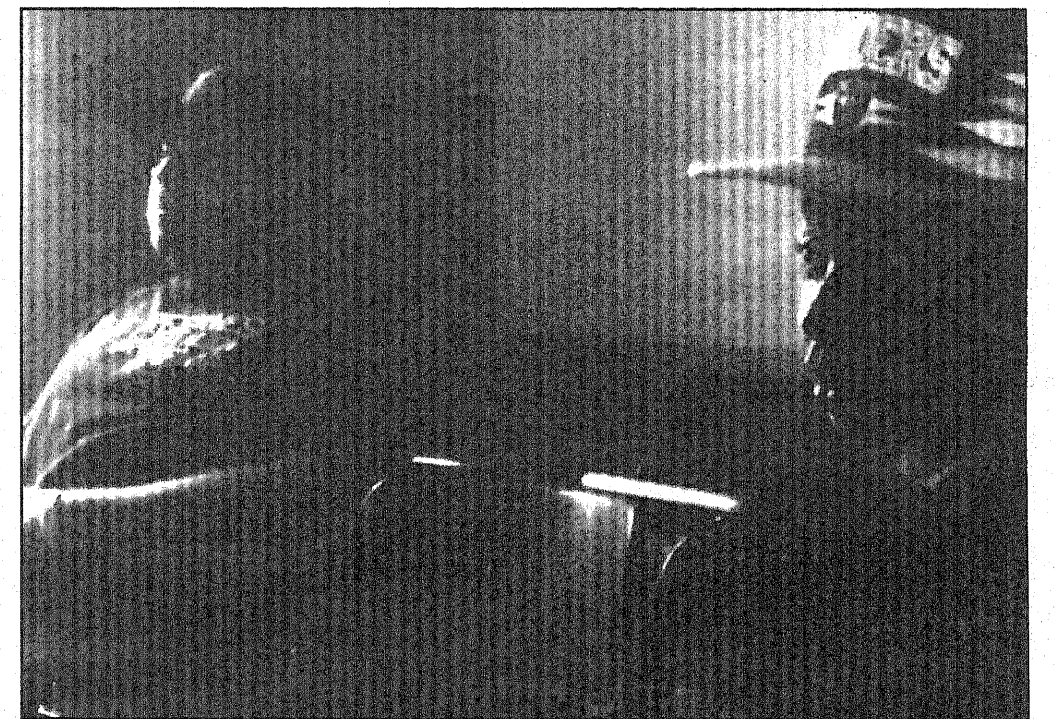
being bullied on a college campus. It also becomes a socially accepted aspect of college. At CSI, however, the Counseling Center and Public Safety are equipped to handle these issues.

Also according to Thomas, due to the fact that bullying often goes unreported in college, bullies could typically act that way throughout their lives while their subjects could become socially reclusive. Even witnessing a bullying act could have an impact on an individual.

"It causes a lot of pain," said Dr. Frances Melendez. "They sit on it."

Thomas points out that males are more commonly bullied than females. Males will be more aggressive in nature while females will verbally tease. Males may not always necessarily be physically bullied, but more verbally bullied in college and that bullying happens for different reasons.

Bullying on campus, however, is not limited to just exchanges between the students. A brief clip shown off of YouTube during the event displayed a professor exerting his power and using scare tactics. A former student of the professor faked texting on his cell phone while the professor snatched it and destroyed it with a sledgehammer. The class



Attendees listened to the discussion about bullying on campus. While the event was sparsely populated, those who attended learned about the effects of bullying.

gasped in shock before bursting into laughter at the revelation that it was all a gag.

"Some folks have this sense of entitlement," said Professor Roberts. "It is important that professors are mindful."

The line grows blurred as students argue that professors have no right to remove cell phones or exert power in a similar as the shown clip while professors argue that something often needs to be done to keep the class together. Bullying could even go against the professors as students attempt to exert their power by writing profane comments about them on websites such as ratemyprofessor.com. The statements could always

be removed from the website once discovered and requested, but to some professors, the damage is already done and their reputations are scarred.

Another form of bullying done to professors is when students feel that they should receive a certain grade and will not accept any other response for an answer. Bullying between students has even led to full on fighting in classrooms. Either way, it is the obligation of the professors to report any form of bullying whether directed at them or other students in the class.

"A lot of people blame themselves," said Thomas. "Everybody's unique, everybody's different, accept it."

Augustine Rocks CSI's Rocktoberfest

MTV's "My Life as Liz" Cast Members Performs for Students

BY MARISSA PESSOLANO &
THERESA PESSOLANO

This year's Rocktoberfest, sponsored by the Campus Activity Board, featured the up and coming duo Augustine who performed in the Green Dolphin Lounge on Thursday October 13th.

Band members Jordan Meredith and Louis Johnson began playing together in 2009 when they met in St. Augustine, Florida. After learning of their shared passion, they launched a national tour playing a variety of songs that do not fall under one genre of music. Johnson is also known for his role on the MTV quasi-reality show, "My Life as Liz."

Augustine opened to a crowd of about 45 with their original song "Flashes of Yellow," a song about living in New York. Playing a total of ten songs, the duo sang their original tunes and covered popular songs including Estelle's "American Boy" and a comical remix of Lil' Wayne's "Lollipop." In between each song, the band interacted with the audience and answered questions that were yelled out.

During the show, free pretzels, coffee and cookies were available in addition to apple juice that flowed from a fountain. "I don't like apple juice but it looks so classy that I want to have some," Johnson joked from the stage, impressed by the display.

Augustine closed the show with their fan favorite "Heartbeat." Band members Louis

and Jordan took some time after the show to speak with their fans and take pictures. They also had the opportunity to purchase t-shirts and autographed CDs.

"I thought it was very sweet that they took pictures and talked with us," commented freshman Faith Paccione. "It made me feel that they are down to earth people, I thought it made the show complete," she continued.

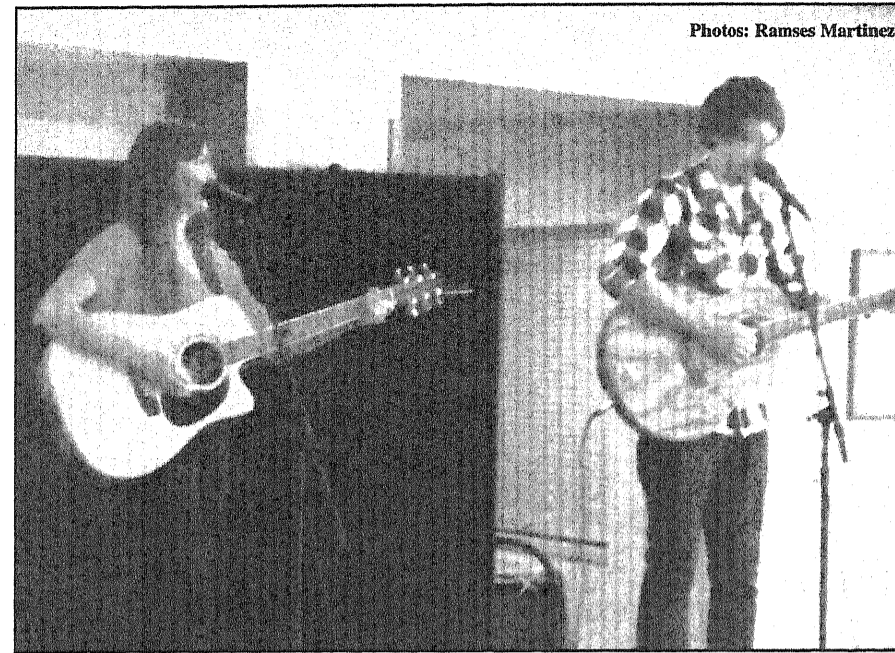
Playing at the Green Dolphin lounge brought Augustine to Staten Island for the first time. "We've had an awesome time playing here! It was our first visit and we enjoyed it...other than the \$13 bridge toll that we didn't know about," Johnson joked. "Other than that people have been very welcoming. The audience was great and we had fun."

The attendees of the event had similar feelings, "They were really good actually. Together, they have really good vocals," explained Pensee Elhadidy who did not hear of the band before their performance.

After the show, Augustine headed to South Carolina and will continue to play at colleges for the next few months.

"I hope they become successful. Hopefully, one day they have a really big crowd," commented Kellie Bollaert who has been a fan of the band since their beginnings.

As for the band, they will continue to make music and share their talent with as many people as possible. Meredith explained while smiling, "It feels great when people listen to our music. It is our goal."



Photos: Ramses Martinez



Top: Band members Jordan Meredith and Louis Johnson of MTV's "My Life as Liz" performed for CSI students in the Green Dolphin Lounge.
Bottom: Louis Johnson performed his song, "Heartbeat", a favorite among Augustine fans.

BANNER STYLES

Look Your Most Fabulous This Fall

Mixing and Matching is Key this Season

BY NICOLE PAGANO

This fall's major styles and trends contain lots of color and artistic patterns. Then key to this season is to mix and match. Long bright sweaters, patterned dresses, fake fur and animal print are in.

As for jewelry it's all about accessories that make a statement, the chunkier the better and of course, feather earrings.

For bags, bright sequined or glitter clutches have made a big entrance into the fashion world. Over the shoulder messenger bags have become more than a school accessory.

A trendy era has made a huge comeback this fall. Designers such as Jean Paul Gaultier are finding inspiration from the sixties mod movement, which includes a bright pop of color, woven sweaters and plaid designs. Mod style is all about bright colors, geometric shapes and short hemlines. So don't be afraid to rock a dazzling yellow skirt with a checkered pattern on it. Don't count out these styles on flats or boots. Black and browns are being pushed out of the way when it comes to this trend. Look for boots that come in a bright color or flats that are designed with a graphic print on them.

Francesca's Collections, a boutique style store in the Staten Island Mall, has a

variety of big fall sellers such as graphic dresses, printed cardigans, blazers, fake fur vests and bright cowgirl and knee high boots.

"It's all about color blocking," said store worker Toni Maffeo. "Layering of different colors and prints is huge."

Color blocking is a trend that originated in the sixties and is back this season. It is very easy to create a bold outfit in this store. The mannequins are dressed to show a perfect example of color blocking, so even if you are not sure how to go about this style, Francesca's Collections is there to help.

Another trend that is huge this fall is animal print. Francesca's Collections offers a big variety of animal print wear, such as scarves, dresses, skirts and shirts and even shoes. Fake fur vests have made a huge entrance into the fashion scene.

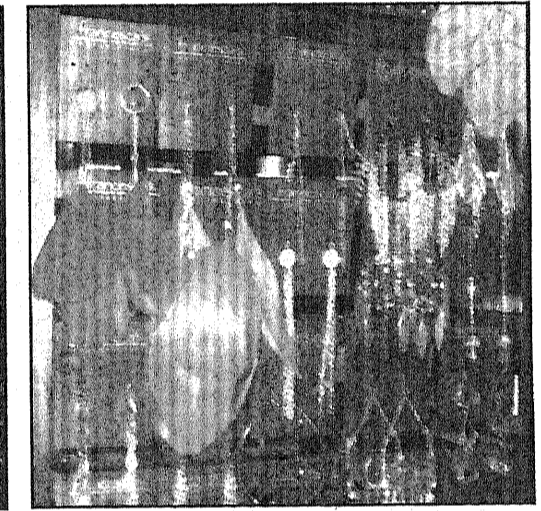
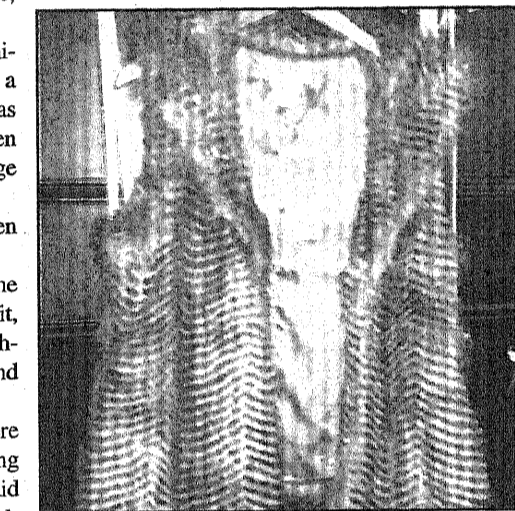
"Their great to add to an outfit when your color blocking," said Maffeo.

The huge amount of accessories in the store makes it easy to finish off an outfit, such as chunky bangles and necklaces, feather earrings and headbands and clutches and bags of all different colors and sizes.

"I see a lot of woman come in here unafraid to form their own trends by mixing different colors and patterns together," said Maffeo. "That's what this fall season is really about not being afraid to create your own art with fashion."



Photos: Nicole Pagano



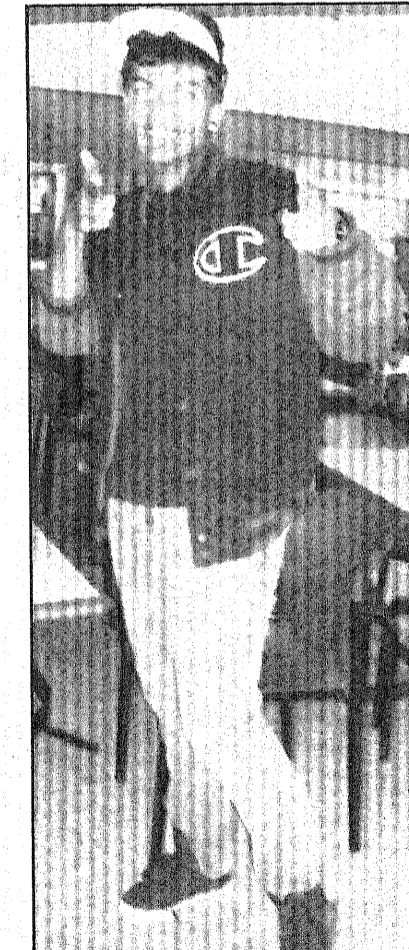
Francesca's Collections in the Staten Island Mall has a variety of big fall fashion sellers, such as knit sweaters, faux-fur vests and feather earrings.

Campus Style

BY LUCIA ROSSI



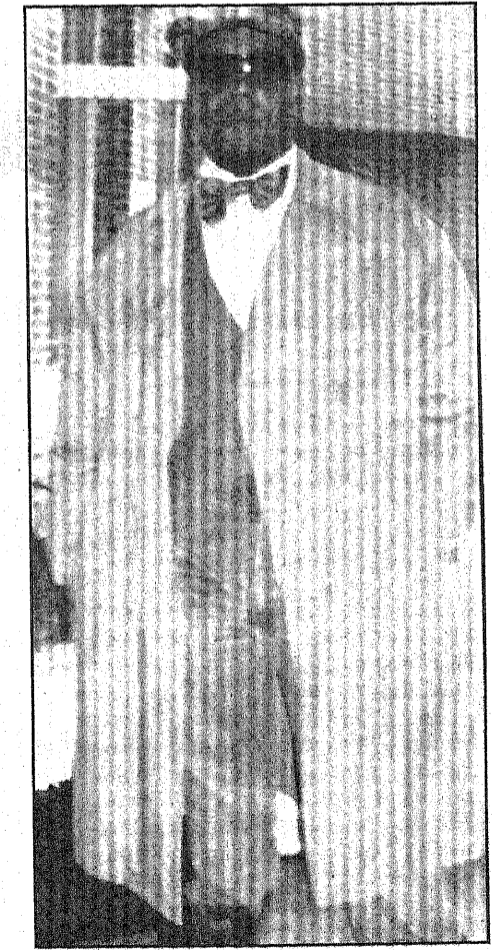
Narmin Mekawy, a Biology major, has a vintage and hippie sense of style. Her fashion advice: "Accessories are key."



Janith Wijeratne, 18, loves Zumiez and Hot Topic. He believes, "What you wear has to resemble your personality."



Dina Ahmed, a Biology major, describes her personal style as girly and preppy. Her style advice: "Wear clothes that flatter your body."



Troy Weekes, an Education major, mixes modern fashion with a classy twist. He believes, "You can accessorize a button up shirt and jeans with a bow tie or tie."

ADAM LEVINE
LEAD SINGER
MARON 5

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BANNER ARTS

Metal Musicians Tour The Five Boroughs

Paul Faust and San Equore Rock Out All Over New York



BY: TIFFANY OUTAR

From the halls of CSI, Brooklyn born native rocks out with his band, San Equore, all over the city.

Paul Faust, a nineteen-year-old sophomore at CSI started playing the drums at the age of nine years old. With just a few years of experience, he had already played at the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. He also played the drums with the All-Borough and All-City orchestras. With a love for jazz but passion for heavy metal, Paul transitioned from playing jazz music to gradually playing Heavy Metal and Thrash.

"I'm diverse when it comes to my style of music," said Faust. "My influences vary from Metallica, Thelonus Monk, Overkill,

Velvet Revolver, Machine Head, Michael Jackson, to Black Sabbath. People would never think that I would have Lady Gaga in my iPod but that just tells you their is always more to meet the eye."

During his high school years, Faust played for a local Brooklyn rock band called "Analog." Before the start of college the band parted and went their separate ways. Paul then met William Ponciano and Agron Pali from the band "San Equore". The two young men were looking for a new drummer for their band and was familiar with Paul's drumming.

"From the very beginning we liked his sound and his charisma," said Ponciano. "Faust brought a new kind of sound to San Equore and expanded our audience. It was

definitely a positive addition to our band that we haven't regretted or thought twice about ever since. Our audience has not only grown but we've had a lot of positive feedback since our new drummer. It's a good feeling to not only see familiar faces in the crowd but a lot of faithful ones as well."

San Equore had had a major improvement ever since the new addition of the then, 17 year old Faust. The band was being offered many more gigs around Brooklyn while building a popular fan base in their hometown. For the members of the band, their favorite place to play was always Brooklyn.

"It's one thing to be liked, but it's another thing to be accepted," said Faust. "It's cool

to play all over the place but the best feeling is to play home while looking back at faces you knew and you've seen before. When the people closest to you accept and appreciate what you do, there is not a greater feeling out there."

San Equore within the last 2 years have played in 30 different locations all around Brooklyn. The group has also been speaking with promoters who have been showing their faces frequently to their shows.

The 19-year-old Brooklyn native has been living out his dream. Paul Faust doesn't have any wish to slow down. His goal is to live up to the icons which he grew up watching; Matt.



Photos: Tiffany Outar

Top: Heavy metal band, San Equore rehearsing at lead guitarist Agron Pali's basement before their big gig. Bottom: San Equore's drummer, Paul Faust rehearsing before his performance at the Trash Bar

Start Something That Matters, If you Can Afford to

BY CHRISTINE COLON

Like many college students, I feel conflicted on how I am going shape my career path. Should I follow a passion that is admirable and will impact the lives of others, or should I just land a job with an income that allows me to live comfortably? According to entrepreneur Blake Mycoskie's book, "Start Something That Matters", it's possible to successfully achieve both.

In "Start Something That Matters", Mycoskie starts off by discussing his previous start-up companies along with the trial and error methods he discovered crucial to making these companies work. Mycoskie continues by talking about his appearance on the reality show The Amazing Race, and how this show helped to start his passion for helping impoverished children around the world.

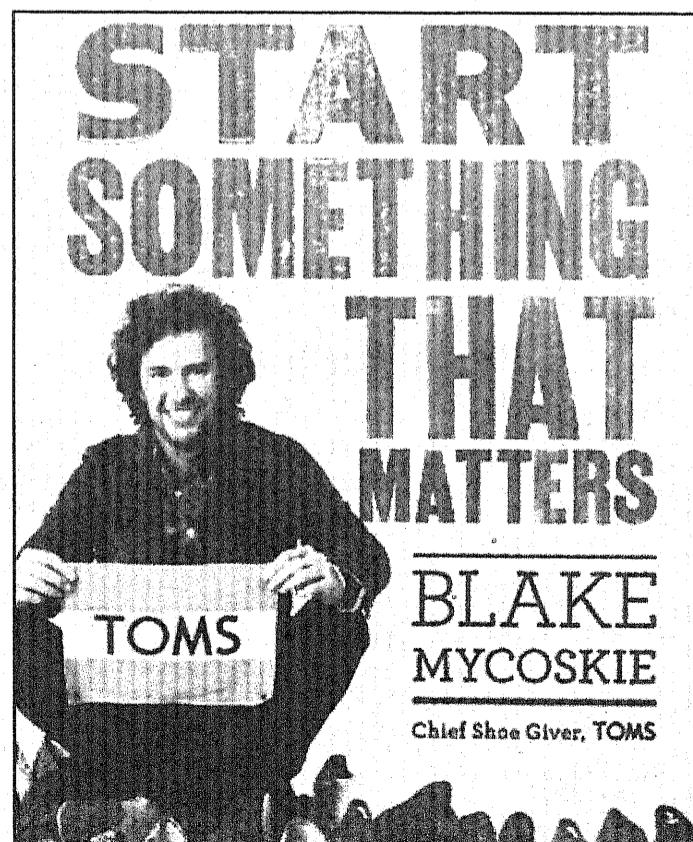
After losing The Amazing Race, Mycoskie took a trip to Argentina where he found his inspiration for his current business the TOMS Shoe Company. Mycoskie took notice of the simple flat shoe worn by farmers and villagers while in Argentina learning that these shoes were cheap to produce and quick to dry, an important quality for the sudden rain showers that occur frequently there.

Mycoskie also noticed that many children went barefoot and many diseases in Argentina are contracted this way. Combining his knowledge of the business world and his interest in helping these impoverished children, Mycoskie founded the TOMS shoe company that donates a pair of shoes to a child in Argentina for each pair that is bought from them.

Though the concept and story

are admirable, I felt discouraged. Beside from the condescending tone self-help books take, "Start Something That Matters" is a compilation of stories that feel aimed towards those who have both the finances and entrepreneurial knowledge to, well, start something that matters. Most of the businesses highlighted in this book whether non-profit or not deal with countries outside of the United States. For the average college student who can barely afford lunch everyday, helping impoverished nations for pure satisfaction just isn't economically feasible.

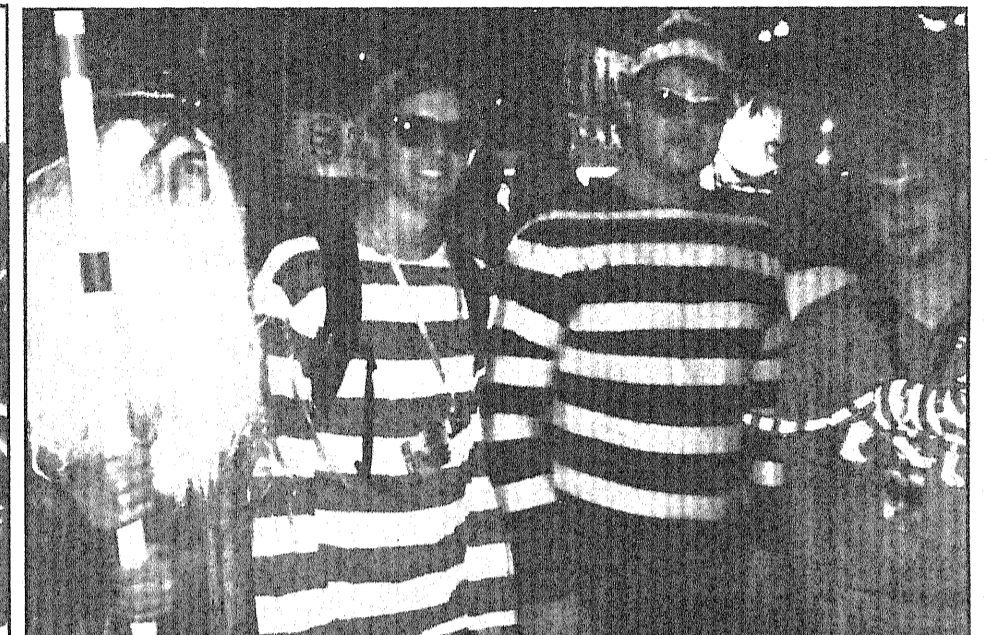
The desire to make a difference in the world may be prevalent, but unless you're a trust-fund kid or a marketing prodigy, Start Something That Matters is nothing but Chicken Soup for the Wishful Thinker's Soul.



BANNER ENTERTAINMENT

Nerds, Geeks, Fanboys, Assemble!

Comic-Con takes over the Big Apple



Left: CSI student Megan Hanford (pictured right) and two fellow fans are dressed as the Ghostbusters. Right: A group of teens from upstate New York are channeling their inner Waldos at the sixth annual New York Comic Con. Below: a model standing in front of a merchandise booth specializing in vampire attire.

BY: ANDREW DILORENZO

For pop culture enthusiasts, Christmas came early this year as the sixth annual New York Comic Con took over the Javits Convention Center this past weekend.

Over 100,000 people of all ages attended the four day event, which consisted of panel discussions, special events for children, artist signings and the first showing of video games that will not be seen in stores for a while.

The convention center was set up with over 2,000 aisles featuring booths that mostly sold merchandise consisting of apparel, toys and video games relating to a specific fan interests.

"I bought about two-hundred dollars' worth of stuff. Optimus (Prime), GIJoe, and Spawn, just to name a few," said Matthew Campanella, a first time Comic Con attendee.

While the name of the event has the word "comic" in it, the convention itself is starting to draw away from it and is slowly migrating towards other media, including video games, films and television. Around the convention center were banks of monitors connected to different video game platforms; and inside those platforms were demo versions of new titles that will be ready for the public in early 2012. Some of those titles included Prototype 2, Resident Evil: Operation Raccoon City, and the much glorified The Legend of Zelda:

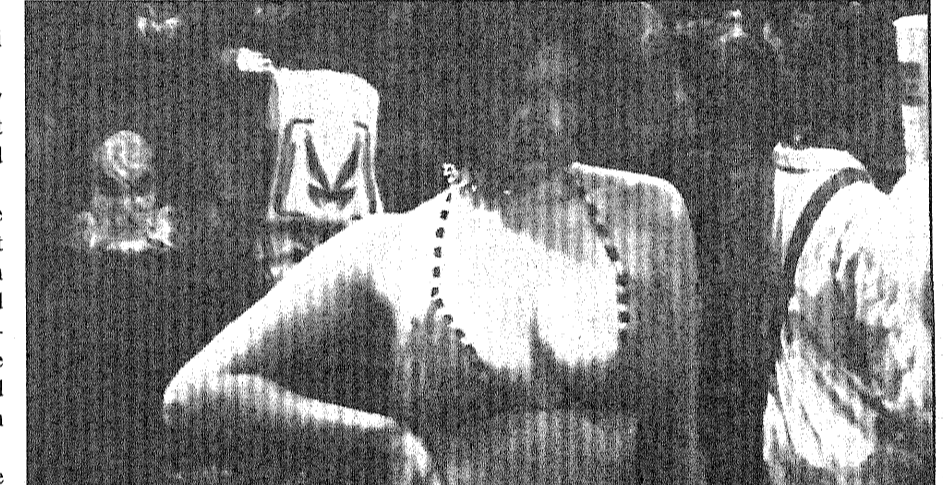
Skyward Sword, which is a Nintendo Wii exclusive.

"I waited almost an hour and a half to play [The Legend of Zelda] Skyward Sword and it was worth it, visually and aesthetically," said Nicholas Burger.

In regards to film and television, there were two panel discussions on Saturday night that featured the biggest titles within the fandom community: AMC's The Walking Dead and Marvel Studios' The Avengers. With seats filling up quickly, many fans that waited on a line that stretched over 100 feet were saddened when they heard they could not get into both events.

"I was determined to get in, and not believe what they [the staff at Comic Con] were telling me. You're waiting for nothing was what they kept shouting, but I didn't care. I waited for two hours, but still, I didn't get in," said Lucia Rossi, a fan of both works. The panels, both hosted by G4TV's Chris Hardwick, featured a discussion with the cast and crew of both projects, followed by never-before-seen footage and ending with questions and answers from fans to the stars.

Fans also got the chance to finally be able to meet some of their favorite comic book artists and give them some feedback in a room separate from the main show floor, aptly named "Artists' Alley." Some notable artists included



Tony Moore, the original artist behind the graphic novel adaptation of The Walking Dead; Jim Lee, a co-publisher at DC Comics; and Michael Watkins, an artist based out of Highburn Studios. "This is my fourth time at [New York] Comic Con, and it's great. You see a lot of people, a lot of costumes, but what you do not see is a lot of the floor," Watkins said.

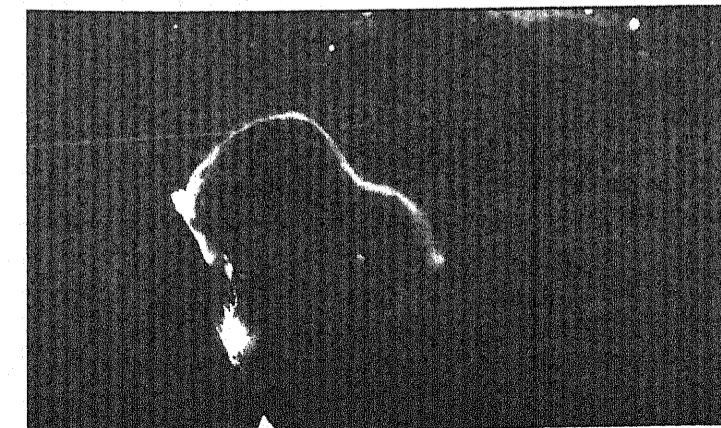
The biggest draw of all at Comic Con was the different costumes that most fans wore. Whether it was the Ghostbusters, Superman, Chewbacca or a Zombie girl, they were definitely noticed by the other

attendees. "It's my third time here, but my first time dressed up. It's an interesting costume, so it is cool to be stopped every five seconds to have my picture taken," said Larry Vizeel, a young man dressed up as the "Sex Robot" from the fourth season of the Whitest Kids You Know, "it's a win for me."

Now that the New York Comic Con has come and gone, those who indulged can take with them many memories of their favorite moments from the weekend. For Michael Watkins, "New York Comic Con is the only place where you can see a naked Lady Gaga yelling at people outside the convention center."

Neon Indian Ushers in New 'Era'

BY MARK REVELLO



When I first heard about the "chill-wave" genre I was generally dismissive of it as another fad that would not be around long enough to make an impact on the surface of music or even make it past the circles of hipsters. I found myself pleasantly surprised and only half wrong when I first stumbled across Neon Indian.

Neon Indian is the stage name of 23-year-old Mexican-born composer Alan Palomo. Palomo's first album, Psychic Chasms was released in 2009 to very favorable reviews from Spin Magazine, Pitchfork Media, and Hype Machine. The album's light, airy beats saturated with pop synth loops and ambient tones created a

record that both embraced and chided at the genre at the same time.

Psychic Chasms was notable enough to draw attention from fans of the genre and more popular acts like MGMT and The Flaming Lips, which resulted in a wider level of attention for the group. Palomo's sophomore effort, Era Extrana, takes steps away from songs exclusively overloaded with bursting ambient noises and trippy loops, moving towards a more mellow and farther-reaching sound for larger audiences with lots of success.

The production on Era Extrana is much more refined, as a result creating a spaced-out, dreamy feeling that is still ever-present throughout the entire album.

Though tracks such as, 'Polish Girl', still contain poppy loops and catchy hooks at the tempo that causes it to get stuck in your head, richer, slower songs like 'Future Sick' are potent enough to make you feel as though your floating through a collage of synth tones.

At the end of the day I still kind of think this "chill-wave" genre is really just a reincarnation of the early 00's Electro-Rock genre that was briefly popular. I admit though that artists like Neon Indian continue to prove me wrong and show that the genre can produce capable artists that competently shine in the music world.

BANNER OPINIONS

Ask Sandra: She Has All the Answers... The Banner's Resident Advice Columnist Answers CSI's Toughest Questions

BY SANDRA CHAMOUN

Dear Sandra,
My boyfriend has some issues with trust. After living together for two years he still has to double check everything I tell him. I try explaining that I would never lie to him but he still has this underlying issue and he questions everything I say. It's driving me nuts. I don't know if he will every get past the issue and it always causes a fight. What can I do or say to make the situation better?

Dear Peace Seeker,
One of the most important foundations for a relationship is trust. With out trust relationships can turn into a mess of insecurity, interminable arguments and just plain unhealthy interactions. In my experience this issue must be addressed and worked out because if the foundations of a relationship are not made of cement then the house is going to collapse. Maybe he does not realize how much it's bothering you. I'm certain that if you did this to him he would not like it at all. If this issue is a deal breaker for you, as it should be, because no matter how much this problem is buried, the underlying issues are going to continue to resurface. Try to explore with him where this comes from and find out if it is fixable.

Dear Sandra,
How can I overcome my shyness and lack of social skills?
Dear Social Butterfly,

One good way that a person can take a step out of their comfort zone is to do just that. However be sure to take small steps. How about every week you chose something that you always wanted to do but normally would shy away from, like join a club or start a conversation with someone in class. Once you complete each step and see that it is not as bad as you thought, then you will be able to slowly come out of your shell and gain more confidence in your social abilities.

Dear Sandra,
My best friend is dating someone that I hate. Every time I try to talk to her about it she gets angry with me and tells me that it is none of my business. I am scared that I am going to lose her as a friend, what should I do to handle this situation?

Dear Concerned Friend,
Unfortunately, when we are honest with those we love and tell them how we feel, they do not always appreciate it. When it comes down to the facts, your friend is the one who is in this relationship, not you. Even though you feel like this guy is not right for her, whether he is good for her or not is something that she must realize on her own terms. If she decides to leave him, it must be a decision that she makes and is confident with. It's a good thing that you have tried to talk to her about it because you obviously care about her but she has made it clear that she does not want anyone else's input. All you can do at this point is continue to be her friend and only offer advice when she asks for it.
Good Luck!

Dear Sandra,
I work two jobs, have a full course schedule, no days off and tons of homework. How can I find time for a social life, Or at least just find time for some sleep?

Dear Multi-Tasker,
While it may seem that you are drowning in the ocean of responsibilities, I can assure you that it will all pay off in the end. No one who has worked as hard as you are has ever regretted it. The key to handling this situation the best is to stay balanced and organized. What I do is carry a planner with me at all times. Every Sunday night I look at the upcoming week and write out my goals for the week. Time management is not an easy skill to acquire but nothing worth having is attained easily. Everyone has his or her own way of prioritizing but once you start this, you will begin to collaborate a plan that works for you. The key is to manage your time to its maximum capacity.
Good Luck and Stay Positive!

Satire and Smoking

BY DAEYUNG LEE

CSI students are seething over the loss of their rights to smoke cigarettes on Campus. Campus Security and directors of the Tobacco-Free Initiative fear the distress and overwhelming voices of dissent from students, and non-smoking students don't really care.

Mumbling and complaints of infringement of

angst, forced to stare at signs they believe limit their freedom. Bureaucrats behind desks are satisfied to appeal to the majority yet many non-smokers could care less. Before protests ensue and yesterday's walk-out is repeated I suggest turning outdoors indoors.

People are used to not smoking indoors. They refrain from it, abstain from it, and almost fear it

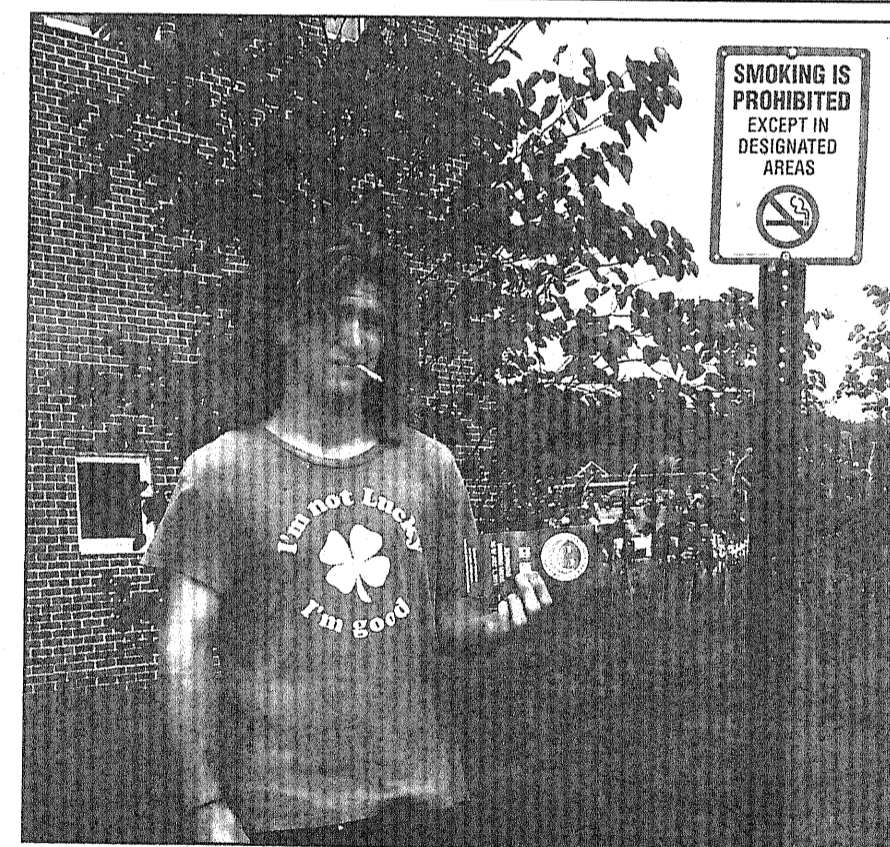
"Campus Security and directors of the Tobacco-Free Initiative fear the distress and overwhelming voices of dissent from students, and non-smoking students don't really care."

rights is often heard from the various smoking sections on campus. Complaints of the smoking sections are minor, mere misdemeanors in a well thought out crime. Having to curb their cravings for several hours or being forced to leave the campus for a guilty pressure is more punishment than most can handle.

CUNY representatives, concerned with the health implications of second hand smoke see a benefit for the majority of students on campus by banning cigarettes and tobacco. Many disagree however, arguing that an outdoor campus cannot concentrate smoke strong enough for negative effects. While retorts go back and forth, little is done to resolve the situation.

Smokers hug the smoking sections with

possibly out of respect for those they smoke around. You probably won't ever see a smoker indulge in a public building, embarrassed, the smoker will slink outdoors, the most sacred refuge available. An inexpensive solution adopts the same idea as the Tennis Bubble. Superdome CSI. A bubble that encloses everything is not only cheap, it is practical. CSI can make the air as clean as it wants it through use of filtration machines situated inside, outside, on the ceiling, anywhere. Some of the bubble material is even porous. Of course, the carefully manicured lawn will probably brown and die but care of prominent lawns cost money anyways. Allergy stricken people will be spared from hay fever season and spring entirely. Dour skies won't depress campus students, pigeons won't



drop filth on studious heads, and daydreamers won't have an interest in gazing out of windows absentmindedly.

Fires will suffocate. Winters can be summer with internal heat provided in the bubble. Short shorts forever, loss of those big bulky jackets, boots and sneakers traded in for sandals and flip-flops.

Vehicles can't drive around indoors so people will be forced to walk, exercise, and lose weight. Our astrophysics students will quit pretending to study a science and get real

major. No more umbrellas, no more embarrassing falls on ice, no more ugly browning leaves on the floor. Smokers will mostly understand, hold a grudge and stow their lighters further down their bags, pockets, and purses, convinced that indoor smoking is taboo. Turned outside to vent through chain smoking, angry but bemused at an accomplished trade-off that doesn't violate any of their rights, they sigh those shorter sighs of resignation and grudgingly congratulate the bureaucrats.
Or, you know, you could just let them smoke.



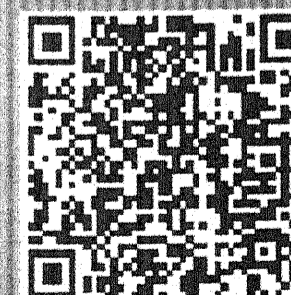
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BANNER SPORTS

Broken Ankle is Yet Another Chapter in TJ Tibbs' Story

With Season Opener Looming, Star Point Guard is Ready To Follow Through on Pro Aspirations

BY JAMES MARDIKOS

Last season, it took just 9 seconds for TJ Tibbs to go the length of the floor and drain the game winning shot of a triple overtime game against Baruch.

Ten months later, it took Tibbs 9 seconds just to navigate through a floor ladder one-twelve of that basketball court.

"How's the ankle feeling?" said Danielle Ponsiglione, a softball player receiving treatment.

"Better everyday," said Tibbs as he began slamming a medicine ball to the floor while teetering his bum ankle on a balance board.

"I never originally wanted to come to CSI, but I aspired to play at the D1 level, I gave that a shot and it didn't work out."

The CSI star point guard is currently rehabbing a broken ankle that he suffered just about a month ago while playing a pick-up game with teammates.

The injury has derailed an off-season in which Tibbs fully dedicated himself to becoming an even better basketball player.

"A usual day (in the off-season) would start off going for a run; usually a couple miles. Then I'd hit up the gym and put up about 300 shots. I'd go to work after that and then try to get in the weight room later on," said Tibbs. "I also tried to play in some pick-up games at least 4 times a week against different competition all the Island and Brooklyn."

During his debut season at the school, Tibbs posted solid numbers averaging 15.5 points and 5 assists per game as he led the team to a 17-11 record and a berth in the CUNY Championship Game, where they fell to Baruch in a rematch of the triple overtime thriller. Just days after the loss, Tibbs made a decision that surprised most.

He declared early entry for the NBA Draft -- declaring early means you're an underclassman and you want to test your draft prospectus. You're given until a specified deadline to either keep your name in or withdraw -- Usually when college basketball players declare early for the draft they're players from such big time schools like North Carolina, Duke, UConn, or Kansas; not division 3 Staten Island.

He understood that if he left his name in the draft it was highly unlikely he'd get selected, however opportunities playing

overseas and in the NBA's developmental league could have been very realistic. "You aspire to play at the highest levels and my goal is the NBA," said Tibbs. "If not, then I'd probably prefer to play overseas because the money is better for a stable life and the NBDL is more-less a pipe dream for players wanting to play in the NBA."

With all the work being put in, it was understandable how demoralizing the feeling was when he broke the ankle.

"I felt like the season was over," said Tibbs. "All this work I did was a waste, but after all the prognosis I figured at least the injury happened now with so much time left

before the season."

Tibbs is easily recognizable to spot around campus. Just try and find the only person walking around wearing a smurfs backpack.

"I caught the nickname smurf," said Tibbs. "So I figured I'd go with the smurfs backpack this year." He says this year because last year the backpack of choice was Toy Story. "Oh that was my favorite Disney movie man," Tibbs exclaimed.

After a stellar high school career at St. Peters Boys High School, where he was a Staten Island Advance All Star Selection in Basketball, Football and Track, Tibbs was only offered one scholarship by a division 1 college (Charleston Southern).

"It was probably because of my height," said Tibbs, who out of high school was roughly 5 foot 9.

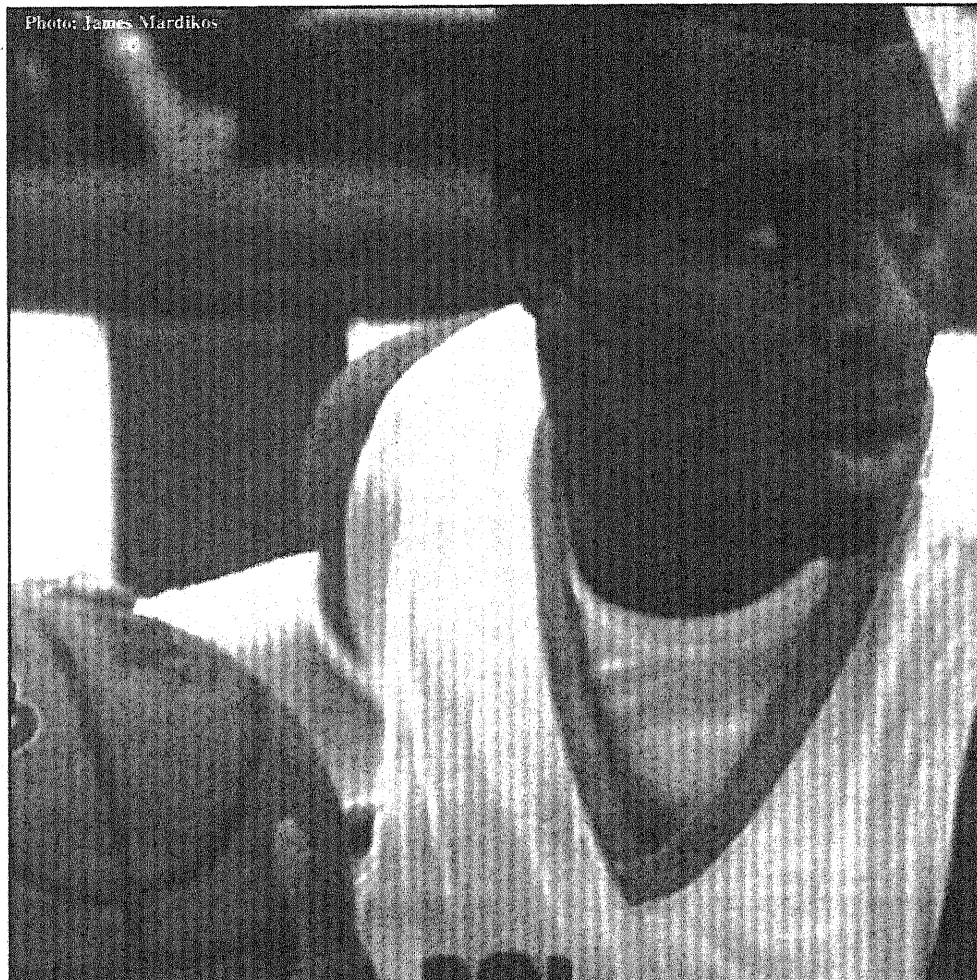
Tibbs decided to begin his college career at Monmouth University as a walk-on -- walk on's don't receive scholarships -- but transferred after one year because of a lack of playing time. Next was a failed attempt at Wagner College because of transfer eligibility reasons. This prompted a new plan.

"I never originally wanted to come to CSI," said Tibbs. "But it's like I said I aspired to play at the D1 level, I gave that a shot and it didn't work out."

The buzz around the CSI program grew throughout last season, especially when the team ran out to a 5-0 record.

The CSI Gymnasium was becoming more occupied, with people coming to come see Tibbs, who was fitting in perfectly with

Photo: James Mardikos



TJ Tibbs, star point guard for the CSI Dolphin's Basketball team will play in the teams first game on November 18th. Tibbs is currently rehabbing a broken ankle, suffered about a month ago while playing a pick-up game with teammates.

former CUNY Player of the Year Jordan Young and talented freshman Bloochy Magloire. "We're all so close," said Tibbs.

The decision to pull out of the draft, which seemed imminent at the time, was complicated by an offer to play professionally in the Czech Republic for CEZ Nymburk. After a long discussion with his family, Tibbs decided to turn down the offer and return to school for his senior season.

As a whole, the pre-draft workouts gave Tibbs the opportunity to work out in front of teams such as the Phoenix Suns and the defending NBA champion Dallas Mavericks.

basketball fans is what makes TJ Tibbs think he can make it, if Kyle MacAlarney didn't?

MacAlarney is arguably the best player in New York City High School basketball history.

"Everyone's situation is different," said Tibbs. "If anyone ever said that to me, it would just be more of a motivating factor for me because I have the biggest belief in my abilities."

Despite the low recruitment out of high school, the playing time that wasn't at Monmouth, the ineligibility at Wagner, not being in school for a year and a half, and

"The pro aspirations have always been there throughout it all and hopefully by this time next year I will be able to follow through on that."

CSI Head Coach Tony Petosa also reached out to the San Antonio Spurs who showed some interest as well.

"The whole pre-draft workout thing kind of made a name for myself," said Tibbs. "I talk to some other players now and they actually know who I am and how I'm doing and stuff, it's pretty cool."

The outreach hasn't all been positive. With the new found attention, last spring Tibbs was the feature of a "Dime" magazine article, a basketball tabloid. Tibbs was asked about his time during the pre-draft workouts and what it was like to play at CSI.

Another question raised by Staten Island

playing at a low division 3 college. He always believed he'd play basketball professionally. "The pro aspirations have always been there throughout it all and hopefully by this time next year I will be able to follow through on that," said Tibbs.

The team began practicing last week and he has participated in an abbreviated manner.

While it has been the longest Tibbs says he's gone without playing basketball, he believes mentally it has made him better and that will translate on the court this season. When asked when his ankle will be 100% he said, "as long as it's by November 18th."

November 18th is the first game.