

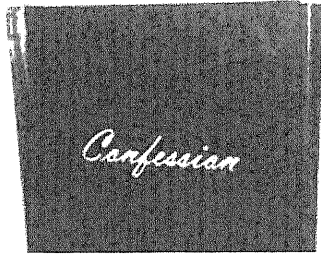
THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

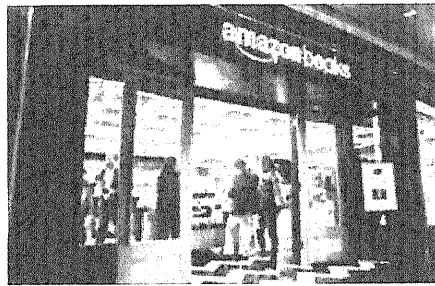
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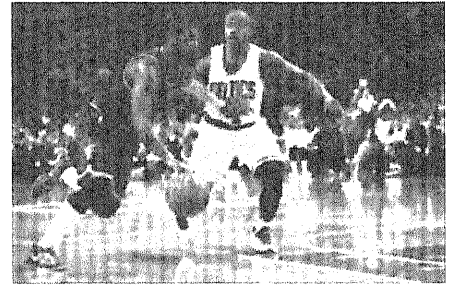
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CSI's Work in Progress

Numerous Worksites Around the Campus are a Welcome Sight for the College Community.

BY: DECLAN KAASLER

If you were to walk around this college campus for more than a few minutes, one change in the scenery is abundantly clear.

More so than in previous semesters, the CSI campus is currently undergoing wide scale renovation efforts to improve both appearance and safety.

Past and present students understand that maintenance cannot always be conducted on a regular basis.

Fortunately, \$368 million was set aside in 2016. The results of that \$368 million investment are at last coming to fruition.

Some of the more exciting aspects of the renovation include a new school of

business in 2M, heightened support for track and field athletics, and resurfaced roads and pathways.

2M is most commonly known by its massive smokestack with the school's abbreviated name hung on the side. The building is a miniature power plant that can provide the campus with its own independent electrical grid.

However, construction is underway to add another building to 2M's footprint. The school promises a totally state-of-the-art academic building.

Why exactly the school of business will have exclusive ownership is still unclear.

This college is famous among the CUNY system for having both the larg-

est campus in terms of area, and the greenest campus. While many think that the grassy lawns are natural, it actually takes a great amount of money and effort to keep the lawns looking neat and even.

In our warmer months, the lawns usually grow long enough to resemble a savannah, which is due again in part to the inability of the college to conduct frequent maintenance.

This fall, work is taking place to re-store living grass to areas where heavy foot traffic has destroyed all life.

Unfortunately, students and visitors like to take the shortest routes across campus. This often results in unofficial dirt trails being carved out over time. Once this happens, the soil needs to be

actively re-seeded by a gardener.

With the increased attention being paid to the lawns, the athletic track will see additions to the sport of track and field.

This could include sand spaces for long jumping, and perhaps an area devoted to the tossing of shotput and discus.

What should come as a relief to our pedestrians is that many of the campus pathways are being repaired at last.

The main avenue running north to south between 1C and 1L has gotten very patchy in several spots, with bricks either crumbling or missing entirely.

Of course, these patchy pathways need to be safe to traverse, especially at night when it is harder to make out the ground.

Another example of safety-motivated renovation taking place is right outside 1N.

The front steps and courtyard at this particular academic building are significantly deteriorated.

Areas of concrete are crumbling and rusting, and even the automatic door button for handicapped students has rusted. It will be entirely replaced.

Clearly, this is an exciting time to be a student here in CSI. We can look forward to many more improvements to the appearance and safety as we go about our studies.

Now, it would be even better if somebody could finally go and destroy that huge wasp nest outside the Dolphin Cove buildings. Wasp stings could ruin anyone's day!



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Josiah Akhtab

Jo Kapernick is and, to the best of his knowledge, always has been a loner, fighter, and survivor. Gifted with the ability of an exceptionally quick, even superhuman, sidestep, Jo travels the land in search of a way to unlock the powers hidden deep inside himself. Along the way, he meets and befriends other talented fighters with superhuman abilities who may just help him find what he's been searching for.

Josiah Akhtab is an English major at the College of Staten Island. An avid writer, Akhtab aspires to be one of the greatest fiction writers of his time, captivating the world and filling it with possibilities through the lens of imagination. In his spare time, Akhtab also enjoys playing basketball.

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BANNER POLITICS

Joel Osteen Shuts Church Doors Amid Hurricane Harvey

The Pastor Blames the Closure on Flooding

BY: PRISCILLA DE SILVA

On Friday, August 25, thousands of Texas locals were left with no other choice but to leave their flooded homes and evacuate to local centers as Hurricane Harvey barreled through the state.

One location, however, that was not found on the list of evacuation centers was Lakewood megachurch lead by celebrity Pastor, Joel Osteen, who initially decided to keep his church doors closed to Harvey victims.

Notice of the pastor's decision was posted to the church's Facebook page two days after Harvey landed and claimed that the Lakewood Church was inaccessible due to severe flooding.

Despite Osteen's listing of other available centers, many went to Twitter angry and criticized his church closure as "un-Christian."

Even fellow pastors took time to decry Osteen's actions. Pastor Greg Locke of the Global Vision Bible Church in Tennessee tweeted: "Joel Osteen, as a Pastor you have a huge obligation to show the love of Christ at this very moment. OPEN THE DOORS."

Others, such as Facebook user Gary D. Coleman, were quick to point out the legitimacy of the ownership of the church as he goes on to comment: "Remember who gave you that arena."

Joel Osteen continuously rebutted allegations raised against him, saying in an interview with the New York Times that he was only looking out for the safety of the people.

Don Iloff, spokesman for the Lakewood Church, told The Washington Post that the building had been flooded during the weekend, with water close to spilling over the facility's floodgate.

Pictures showing the church's entrance

Houston's @michalobla... is acquainted with @JoelOsteen's Lakewood Church. They took these pics about an hour ago w/ commentary.



Charles: This is the Lakewood Church main entrance. There are about 20 cars parked out front. There is no flooding here. There is no flooding on the roads anywhere around the

It is confirmed that Osteen has now reopened the doors to let in people in need of supplies and resources, but some twitter followers were unsatisfied with the lateness of his response.

"#JoelOsteen decides to open his church

and parking lot without any sign of flooding also surfaced Monday afternoon.

"Those were taken after water had receded," Iloff said, adding that photos taken from inside and outside of the church the day before show significant flooding.

Iloff claimed that taking in a crowd of storm evacuees would have been unsafe, although he maintained that the church's doors were never closed.

as shelter for Houston Flood victims! Hmmm! God didn't change his heart twitter did!" tweeted by DL Hughley.

Osteen told the New York Post that he does not let social media run his life or ministry and he knows he did the right thing, and then expresses that it was no fault of his own, but Houston itself for the shelter confusion.

The city runs the shelters. They asked for a distribution center. We could've been a

shelter from Day One if they needed that."

The controversial situation has left people questioning the legitimacy of offering contributions to church.

Offerings are money contributions to churches by the congregation of people attending. These offerings make up the church's allowance, in which they use towards the upkeep of the building as well as the pastor's salary. They are regulated by the amount of people that make up the congregation.

Formerly the home of the Houston Rockets, the Lakewood Church has over 52,000 attendees per week, making it the largest congregation in the United States. Besides personal endeavors of published writing, this mass popularity has led John Osteen to gain a net worth of \$60 million.

Since opening the church for evacuees, Osteen has requested donations to the church which has led to prominent people, such as filmmaker Tyler Perry, to donate \$250,000 to Lakewood.

But others are opposing the gesture, and accuse Osteen of pocketing the money.

"You have taken so much money away from your people to live like a king," entertainment publicist Danny Deraney said.

Houston officials continue to rebuild in the aftermath of Harvey. Thousands have been rescued since the Hurricane made landfall on Friday.

Seventy people have died as a result to Harvey in the Texas area. With restoration still under way, the number is expected to increase.

John Kelly is Elected Trump's New Chief of Staff

Previous Overseer of Guantanamo Bay Intends to Stop Illegal Immigration

BY HAZIQ NAEEM

On July 28th, President Donald Trump replaced his then Chief of Staff Reince Priebus with Homeland Security secretary John Kelly.

John Kelly, like President Trump, believes in strict immigration and border controls, viewing the southern border as a potential threat to the security of the country.

Like Trump, he also brings in limited political expertise and experience and a brief understanding of the many domestic issues that Trump will be facing.

Kelly was born in Boston, Massachusetts and enlisted in the United States Marine Corp in 1970. He served for over forty years and retired as a four-star marine general. His service includes multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He is the highest ranking military officer to lose a child in Iraq or Afghanistan. His extensive military service and knowledge, along with his intimate experience with the costs of war makes him a valuable asset on Trump's team.

Kelly has also assured senators of his moderating influence on many of Trump's

extreme positions.

John Kelly was in charge of the US Southern Command for four years before retiring in February of 2016 from the post, which entailed overseeing military operations in the Caribbean and south and central America.

During this time, Kelly was also responsible for the oversight of Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba and facilitated the prisoner exchange for U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl. He was often at odds with former President Barack Obama on his position to close Guantanamo Bay prison and its use as a recruiting tool by extremists.

A startling example of their diverging views on the issue was when Kelly sought funds of up to 200 million dollars for various uses at the prison at a time when former President Obama was saying that the prison would be closed.

He also did not see force feeding prisoners through a tube, a process that is very painful and garnered international attention, on a hunger strike at the prison as inhumane or extreme treatment.

In response to the news coverage at

Guantanamo, Kelly enforced a press blackout.

Kelly also expressed concern with the Obama administration's decision to open combat roles to women, stating that this would lead to a decrease in military standards in order for women to be accepted into military roles.

Initially, Trump appointed Kelly to be the secretary of Homeland Security, stating that he would "spearhead the urgent mission of stopping illegal immigration and securing our borders."

According to the Homeland Security website, the responsibilities of the organization are:

"counterterrorism, cybersecurity, aviation security, border security, port security, maritime security, administration and enforcement of our immigration laws, protection of our national leaders, protection of critical infrastructure, detection of and protection against chemical, biological and nuclear threats to the homeland, and response to disasters."

While secretary of Homeland Security, Kelly expanded the category of immigrants

being targeted for deportation, floated the idea of separating mothers and their children at the border to discourage further illegal immigration and threatened ending the DREAM act.

This would get rid of protections put in place for children that were brought over the border illegally with their parents.

Under Kelly's short tenure as secretary of Homeland Security, arrests of immigrants rose forty percent which earned him praise from President Trump in a tweet.

Once Kelly was chosen by Trump to be his new Chief of Staff, his first act was to fire Anthony Scaramucci who had spent less than two weeks as the White House communications director.

Although the Chief of Staff serves at the pleasure of the President and does not require confirmation from congress, it does entail a significant amount of power, as demonstrated by the firing of Mr. Scaramucci.

It remains to be seen what role Kelly plays as part of Trump's administration, but so far, with the ending of the DREAM act, Trump's goals seem like they will not change.

CSI's Social Work Department Bands Together With Backpacks

A drive for the children of Houston since Hurricane Harvey

BY: LUCIA ROSSI

In a time of crisis, climate change and natural disasters, it is college campuses like ours that can make a difference for those who have been forced to evacuate and abandon their homes.

With Houston, Texas recovering from the devastating flood damage, there are many different populations of people who are now vulnerable and in need of assistance in an attempt to get back some feeling of normalcy.

The CSI Social Work Department as social justice warriors and advocates for change and relief, knew this was the perfect opportunity to take action.

Sending money would be easy, but there is always a risk of it being unfairly

and activity books, travel games, stuffed animals, toys, a small ball, toiletries, that can keep them entertained and engaged.

Foreshee was inspired to make this drive a reality due to his past experiences. "In my own personal history, I have first-hand knowledge how devastating floods and hurricanes can be; I knew that I wanted to be a part of something to help and make a difference."

This drive was not only encouraging and inspirational to students, but to staff as well.

Professor and Chairperson of the department, Dr. Christine Flynn Saulnier said, "I was proud to be associated with students who would take time out of their intensive social work academic

imperative for students like those in the department and beyond to get involved. "It is important for professionals and pre-professionals to respond to the needs of the community and to demonstrate to those affected by this and other disasters that their suffering is witnessed, and that people care enough to respond to the obvious need."

When asked why children and backpacks were chosen for the drive, Foreshee responded with, "Children are one of the most vulnerable populations. Many will now be out of school and not have a structured daily schedule, which can be a source of stress on top of them losing their homes and physical possessions. My hope is that the backpacks

the office informed them that their items were already sent.

"Thankfully, Congressman Steven Matteo's office was able to take our donations and add them to his own drive to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey," said Foreshee.

Both Foreshee and Saulnier confirmed that no further drives will be done due to requirements for the programs and the size of the department, but they do hope the rest of the college will get involved now and in the future.

"The College of Staten Island is responsive to disasters. Like many people, we acknowledge human need in times of crisis and our instinct is to help. While I am proud to be a member of a depart-



or improperly distributed. In light of that, Shannon Foreshee and Amina Perez, the student representatives of the MSW and BSSW program put together a backpack drive in the department.

On a flyer emailed to students about the drive, it stated that there are children in Texas who are going to be out of school and have lost all of their belongings who could benefit from social and educational activities that may provide some comfort.

This includes simple things like backpacks filled with books, notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, coloring

schedules to organize this drive.

They are enacting the segment of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics principle of service, by volunteering their skills with no expectation of financial gain for themselves."

Foreshee would agree with her statement because he said, "The social work profession is about assisting those in need when they are in require it the most. I figured the drive would be a great way to integrate the theories and skills we are learning into practice."

Saulnier went on to say why it is

filled with items can be something that will allow them an opportunity to escape through a book, or play, which could provide them with some small amount of relief from their traumatic situation."

Within just a week, 40 backpacks were collected and ready for donation. However, there was a bump along the way.

At first, it was planned that Congressman Dan Donovan's office would come and pick up the donations to send out, but unfortunately, there was no reply to their initial email and when called,

ment that engages in such compassionate and concrete work, I believe other departments will also respond in kind," said Saulnier. "I hope that we will all remember that no disaster like this ends when the rain stops. People will need encouragement, support, and donations for some time to come."

So far, CSI Student Government is also currently having a drive for relief for Hurricane Harvey, collecting diapers, toiletries and feminine products. If you are interested in donating, their drop off point is 1C-207.

This Up-And-Coming Author Is One Of CSI's Own.

Josiah Ahktab Scratches the Surface With his First Novel, What's New, and What's Next.

BY: BRIELLE SPARACINO

Unbeknownst to many, J.K. Rowling, author of the infamous "Harry Potter" series, published the book that would turn into a worldwide phenomenon at the age of 31.

Rick Riordan, creator of "Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief," didn't get the first book of his series published until he was 41 years old.

Luckily, Josiah Ahktab, who is currently a senior at The College of Staten Island, is on the fast track to a bright future in publishing; at the age of 22, Ahktab has already published his first book, "Confession."

"My book revolves around a character who is searching for his sense of self, who he truly is. The setting is in the woods, in nature.

He searches the land for clues or anything that possibly relates to his past; he meets some people who at some point agree to help him out and so the journey begins there," said Ahktab.

The idea for "Confession" first came to fruition during the summer of Ahktab's sophomore year.

After writing nothing but academic papers for most of his college career, he toyed with the idea of writing his first novel for a few weeks into the summer and had officially made up his mind to put pen to paper by that August.

He had never planned on writing or actually publishing a story by the time he turned a certain age.

"...I just figured it was about time I go out there and do something instead of just living in my head all the time," said Ahktab.

Ahktab had originally written "Confession" keeping the action/adventure genres in mind, but there are elements of sci-fi thrown in as well which, unfortunately, he didn't have too much control over.

Although his publishing company was calling some of the shots, he still did his best to remain true to himself.

Television shows "Supernatural" and "Dragon Ball Z" were prominent influences while writing the novel, so including characters with superhuman abilities was pretty much a given.

Human influences, however, consist of J.K. Rowling and Rick Riordan. Both are successful Young Adult Fiction writers, but Josiah was truly inspired by Riordan's ability to write a great story while Rowling served as an inspiration through the way she carries herself. Rowling made Ahktab realize that "writing isn't for me, it's for the people all around the world."

Becoming a published author at 22 years old isn't as uncommon in this day and age, what with young poets and prose writers constantly on the rise, but Ahktab brings some-

thing to the table that many novelists don't, despite their age; Ahktab doesn't confine himself to one genre or style of writing, nor does he feel he has to.

According to the CSI senior, he doesn't get writer's block, or at least he hasn't yet. He's always coming up with new ideas, but his preferred genre of writing is fiction above all else.

Speaking of new ideas, Ahktab already has some new projects in the works.

The first he speaks about is "The Jake Matthews Saga: Tales of Figueroa," which is already completed, but doesn't divulge any actual details; he's waiting to see how well "Confession" sells before he sets his next release in motion.

"I just gotta see how this novel does first,

also plans on his next works being longer in length than his first.

As happy as Josiah is about having his first novel officially out, the road to achieving his goal was somewhat of a headache.

While the story itself was easy to write, dealing with the payments was the biggest pain. "I've never had to contact someone and make sure they took my money, the company usually does the calling and harassing.

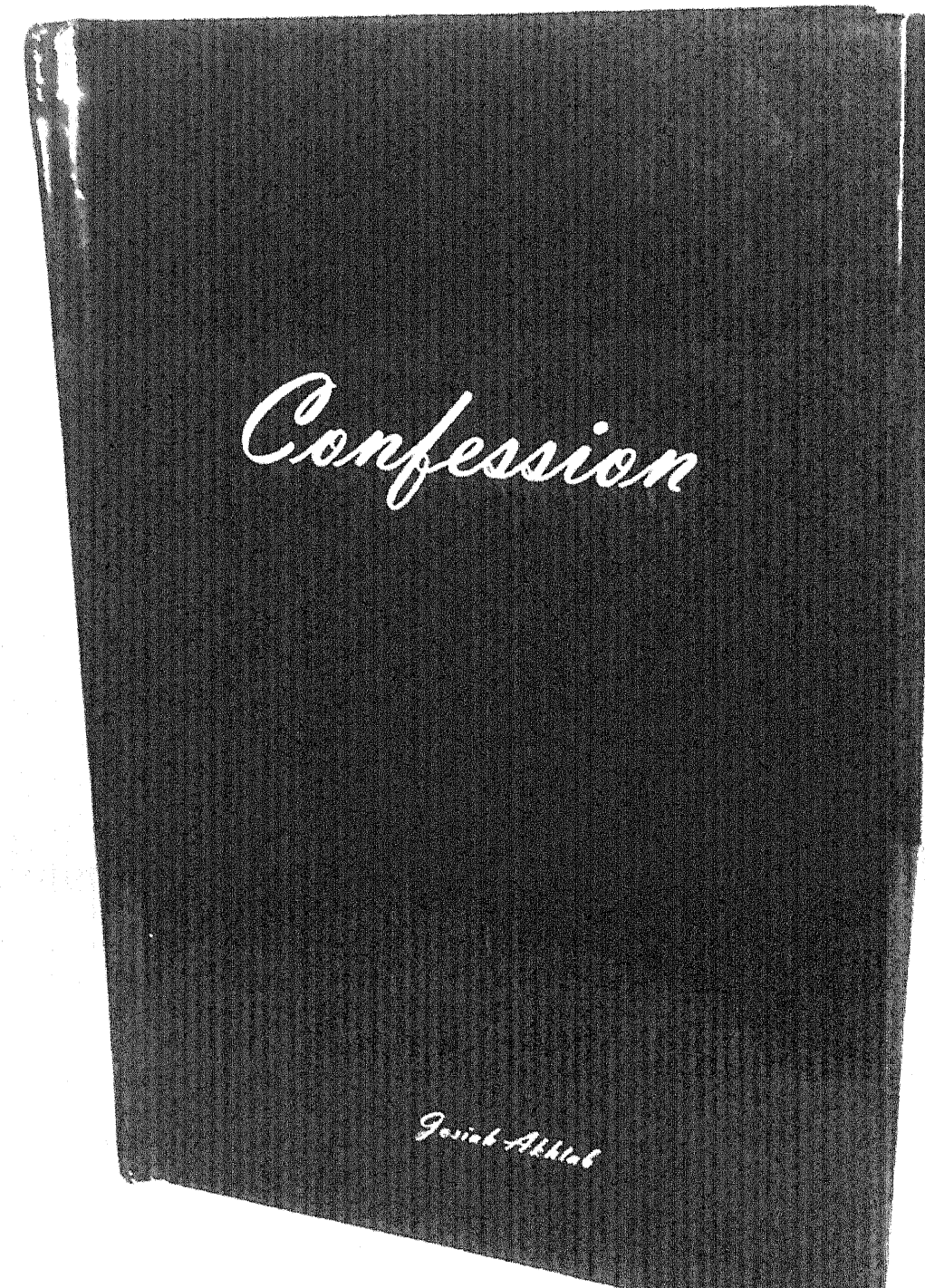
There was a little hassle about price, but that got solved quickly."

Ahktab is adamant on letting aspiring writers looking to become published know to read contracts thoroughly and pay close attention to pricing.

"...full payment, full service! Don't do a payment plan unless you ABSOLUTELY

"writing is bigger than just you,"

"...I want people to understand that writing is bigger than just you, it's about everybody, all over the world and hopefully, I can write novels that'll reach those people and



don't wanna move too fast and rush things." The second project is "The Adventures of Fleeting Grace," which he's still working on. This story fits more easily into the action/adventure genres than his first does, and he

must; if you can pay it in full, do it! Trust me, you have enough to pay on a daily basis, don't add any more expenses."

The money issues did nothing to take away from Josiah's passion for writing and

show them through the lens of imagination that life's what you make it and the world is not so bad."

LIFESTYLES

Does Your Job Define You?

BY: BEREN SABUNCU

Some people prefer tea, and some coffee. This is one of the simpler decisions in life. We are faced with many.

Should I wear jeans, or shorts? Should I get soup, or a salad? We go about our lives, changing the course of events one little decision at a time.

Are soup eaters better than those who prefer salad? The mere question is ridiculous, and inferring the superiority of one individual over another just from a preference is absurd.

As a society, we tend to group people based on their preferences. Career-oriented people are seen as the sharks of our society. The alpha male and the alpha female are often times portrayed as those adamantly working long hours, overlooking personal relationships and with eyes on the corporate prize.

Those who are familiar with alpha-beta human models know that you cannot tell what type an individual is just by their job. An Alpha could be a mechanic, a teacher, a musician or an athlete. He or she could be staying home.

Assertiveness has nothing to do with

Break Old and New Conventions, Just By Being You career aspirations, and everything to do with what type you are. You are not better or less than other people for any aspirations you may have. This needs to be very well understood. We need to empower each other, not bring each other down. Now, empowerment is a strong word.

All genders, and all individuals should feel empowered. Self-confidence does wonders for one's life, and it is blatantly obvious why an empowered individual would be very self-confident. Once a person feels good about their life choices, and who they are as an individual, they are more driven.

It is a positive cycle. Empowerment leads to confidence, which then leads to empowering others. Sadly, there has been a faux-trend of empowerment lately. This faux-trend cloaks itself, thinly if I may add, as empowerment. It is in fact "othering," and "belittlement."

How many times have we seen career-oriented people portrayed as better individuals than those with different values? It is "in" to have career aspirations, and while that is indeed amazing, those

with different plans are looked down upon. Truth be told, what really looks good on an individual is happiness.

We harshly judge people. Women are "real" feminists if only they want to work. Men are not "real" men if they want to stay at home. Why is the society we live in so hell-bent on controlling its members lives?

Destroy conventions. Destroy the old ones, and the new ones. Don't marry or have a kid if you don't want to. Have several, if you please. Work as a waitress, as a lawyer, as a referee or don't work "professionally."

Your aspirations are your aspirations, and please realize that the opinions of others do not mean anything in the grand scheme of things. Your happiness depends heavily on whether or not you realize your aspirations.

It does not matter what you want to be in life, you are successful as long as you're genuinely happy. People need to realize that there is no norm. There should be none.

We are the tailors of our own happiness. Relying on what society's idea

of "fulfilling" is simply illogical. Don't aspire to be anyone or thing other than yourself.

Nowadays, we are so worried. We are worried about what we should be, what our parents want us to be and what the more respectable profession is. We are more concerned about what people would think about us than we are with our own aspirations when it comes to choosing a life path.

What does my job say about my personality? Will this job make people respect me more? Will I be seen as a bum for not working and just being a parent? Stop. We absolutely need to stop. Life is precious.

Life is more than what others will say. Life is more than people's impressions of you. Life is more than the gender role you're expected to play. Life is more, and way too short. Be who you want to be. Be where you want to be. Be what you aspire to be. Be you, and be unapologetic. Your job does not define you, you define it.

Four Budget Friendly Trips to Take During a Semester

Traveling Made Easy

BY: JENNIFER WEEKS

Weekend getaways always seem impossible when you're in school, especially in the middle of the semester.

Between school work, studying and money, it seems impossible. Well, it's surely not, you don't have to be rich to go away for a weekend or far to get a little time for fun.

So, here are four budget friendly destinations to take during the semester.

Destination number one for recommendation is: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This is one of the most inexpensive trips you can take without going too far in the region. Whether you're carpooling, driving, or even grabbing a greyhound from Grand Central Station, the trip is approximately an hour and a half.

There are many unique and exciting activities to do in the city of Philly.

For instance, if you're into history, as well as supernatural explorations, then the Eastern State Penitentiary is the place to go. They do offer student rates, so bring your student I.D. to get in for \$10 per person.

When staying in Philly, I recommend booking a room through Expedia.com or even through Airbnb. Both sites are affordable and will work on any student's budget.

Destination two is one of my personal

favorites: Boston, Massachusetts.

By car, it is approximately five to six hours. If you take a flight, it's half an hour. You could also be fancy and catch a greyhound bus from Grand Central Station for a roundtrip ride, which costs \$50 per person.

Hotels in Boston are pricey, unless you do Airbnb. If you're not familiar, it's a site where homeowners, or people who own apartments, flats etc. can rent their houses per night at an affordable rate, which can be cheaper than a hotel.

If you are not comfortable with those ideas, I recommend staying outside of Boston, it's a lot cheaper.

When in Boston, they have a great transportation system where you can pay one price and have an access pass to travel on their railroads for the day or weekend.

This makes for easy commuting if you don't want to drive into Boston.

There are tons of things to do in Boston, like their museum's which all have student discount rates, and even Groupon rates.

There is also a four-hour Freedom Walk Tour-- it is a guided tour around Boston where they highlight some historical monuments. For example, they take you to where Martin Luther King Jr. gave a speech, as well as the burial grounds of some of the founding

fathers and presidents of America.

At the end of the tour, they bring you to Harvard Square market. It's a farmer's market and indoor food market with all different cuisines from around the world.

Destination number three would have to be Washington, D.C. That's a great place to go if you're into American history.

This is another easy commute as well. It's about a five to six-hour car ride, and again, another location that's pricey to stay in. So, I recommend staying in Maryland and driving over to D.C.

In D.C., all tours run from their mall, where you can easily park your car and catch a tour. Some tours even use the double decker buses. The prices can range from \$17-35 a ticket and they do offer student discounts.

In most cities, they offer a city access pass which, for one price, it allows access to top attractions and museums without additional costs.

Another alternative is doing tours by yourself, which can be easy and efficient if planned right. You should map out where you would like to go beforehand. Luckily, each tour is no more than 10 minutes away from each other, which makes taking an Uber cheaper.

Destination four is Niagara Falls, Cana-

da. By car, it is around five to six hours until you reach the border. Be aware you must have a valid passport to enter.

Many people don't know this, but since it is international, American currency is worth more there, making costs there cheaper for us when making purchases.

This is also a great spot if you are in the age range of 16-21, since the drinking and gambling age is 19. There is a casino within walking distance from the falls if you're interested in trying your luck.

Obviously, Niagara Falls, don't cost money to view but if you want the closest experience possible, then take the Maid of the Mist tour. It is a boat tour that brings you up close and personal with the falls, you even get to wear a free poncho.

With a city access pass in Niagara, you can get the four top attractions for \$55 a person, well worth it. It also includes a shuttle bus to bring you to each destination, as well as into the town, where you can explore local eateries and gift shops.

The hotels there are quite inexpensive and catalogues that offer coupons inside are readily available.

So, don't stay home this weekend, you have choices to make a mini-adventure.

LIFESTYLES

A Book Lover's Uneventful Trip Through Amazon's First NYC Bookstore

Warning: Not Suitable for An Average Book lover

BY: JENNIFER WEEKS

Amazon has opened its seventh brick-and-mortar book store right here in New York City.

It's featured at The Time Warner Center in Columbus Circle and surprisingly, it was a devastating disappointment.

Although Amazon has been a strict website-based platform since their birth, over the past few years, they've opened several physical book stores over the globe.

Upon entering the store, you get the look and feel of the bookstore.

All the books face outward, so customers can get a look at the cover and genre of the section. There are signs underneath each book display with the number of stars the book received on Amazon.com as well as the number of reviews the book has.

Similar to how Amazon showcases a book's success on its website based platform. Each book being sold in the store was rated four stars and higher.

Also, each book doesn't have a price on it, the price is varied on whether you're a prime member or not. Prime members pay a few dollars less than those who do not have a prime account.

Customers must take their purchases to a scanner that is placed around the store.

The store was extremely tiny and could make you feel claustrophobic when trying to navigate your way through the sections

of books. All the display tables and sections were too close together.

There was just enough space to get through the rows of books and corridors of the store, but it was not big enough for more than one person to get by at a time.

Not only was the store tiny, the sections of books were even smaller. Despite the store surprisingly carrying 3,000 books on its shelves, it lacked variety in every section.

Each novel on display was by an author who was a well known bestseller. In fact, all books being sold in the store was a mixture of best sellers, Amazon's most rated, books written by celebrities or books that were eventually adapted into TV shows and movies.

The romance section was particularly disappointing. The section was a single wall, four shelved area, where there were no more than three books on each shelf equaling out to only twelve books in total being displayed.

This seemed somewhat unfair since all the other genres included had bigger sections. Especially since the biography area had four sections and six shelves of five books on each. That seemed a little excessive for a biography section, even though all the books were based on celebrities, like actress/comedian Amy Poehler.

Besides books for the pleasure, they did have a couple of sections of informational books such as travel guides, books for dif-

ferent regions and countries, languages and reading and writing. Those books alone had taken up a handful of shelves and space.

It was baffling to see those types taking up so much room and shelving that could have gone to other genres or areas that readers would want to see or perhaps read.

There is nothing wrong with those books, but there should have at least been a section with staff recommendations or most voted/ viewed/rated. Its absence took away the experience of picking out a book, it could have added more variety and broaden the customer's interests.

On the bright side, not only does the store sell books, they have a separate side for Amazon-based electronics such as the Amazon Echo, Dot, Firestick, Tablet and Kindles. They were all on display with star ratings and reviews underneath each item, like the books.

It did give a chance for customers to test the products out which is a good marketing technique for those who are skeptical about buying their products. But, this also happened to be the biggest section of the store, taking up half the occupied space.

Beyond the books and electronics, they did have a small table featuring other Amazon sold products. In their section of miscellaneous items, they sold a variety of journals, office supplies, small décor, as well as portable keyboards and the iconic modernized typewriter.

Just after the table was a little reading nook consisting of two leather chairs, giving customers a chance to sit and enjoy a book or just to sit and test a product.

Yet, even the sitting area was minuscule. It would have been more engaging if customers had a bigger area to lounge in, making them visit often by providing a more comfortable space.

That would also allow them to read and sample books in the store, leading to spending more time and money.

Overall, the store lacked in places that needed the most attention while focusing attention on unnecessary areas.

It takes about fifteen minutes to walk through the entirety of the place. Despite the store looking and set up as a bookstore, it was closely reminiscent of an airport bookshop, enticing enough on the outside to invite customers in, but extremely limited on the inside to then scare them away.

The look and structure of the store make you feel welcome at first, but under no circumstances reader friendly.

This was set up more as a tourist attraction and as another way for Amazon to broaden their company, not a place for a reader to escape reality. If you're a passionate reader that loves to lounge in bookstores, avoid at all cost.

Top 10 DIYs For You to Try This Fall

Pumpkins, Pumpkins Everywhere

BY: KINZA KHAN

Fall is approaching us shortly and before you know it, pumpkin spice will hit you in the face. Now you don't have to go out and buy all new fall décor, you could DIY it just by adding little touches such as leaves around the house, decorated pumpkins and pinecones with glitter.

There's a number of creative ways you could make your space like the inside of pumpkin spice latte.

You could start by using things around your house. Decorative candles with ribbons would look lovely at any dinner table, especially when using fall colors. Start with a plain white candle and add gold and orange ribbons. Also, adding a bow makes a cute accent.

Speaking of the dinner table, you could go the extra mile by setting up corresponding dinner plates and napkins. If you're setting this up for company, the napkin ring holders could be a ring of leaves wrapped around each napkin.

Make your home smell like fall, there are so many scents associated with autumn. Try using scents like cinnamon and apple.

You could also try getting incenses or maybe even scented oils, placing just a few

drops of the essential oil in various parts of the home.

If you really want to spark your inner Martha Stewart, make your own candles and soaps in different kinds of leaf shapes.

Both candle making and soap making require a few tools from the craft store. You would need a wax or soap base essential oils like apple or cinnamon. You could also try mixing two or three different scents.

Once you have your supplies, start by heating up the wax or soap base in the microwave. Then slowly add the oils in, making sure to completely incorporate the scent in.

Another interesting thing you could do with the soap is mixing in some oatmeal to give it an exfoliating like texture. Once you have everything mixed in, pour it into your molds. It usually takes about 24-48 hours for everything to be completely set.

Now, if you're interested in creating your own autumn wreath, start with this: take a plain wooden wreath base and wrap a string of fake leaves around the wreath.

Use dots of hot glue to help secure the leaves in place. You could also add small pinecones and a touch of glitter to complete the look. The colors that would look great with this would be brown, orange and hints

of red and yellow.

You could also try hitting up the local dollar store, great finds for fall there. Just grab a few plastic pumpkins and go to town decorating them.

You could decoupage a faux pumpkin with images that correspond to your personal taste. Try printing out an image of an interesting pattern, or design, and add a thin layer of glue to the back of it.

Then gently place the image on the pumpkin, smoothing out any air bubbles. Once it's dry, add a layer of sealant, such as mod podge, to preserve your artwork.

You can turn any basic cookie recipe into a fall inspired cookie recipe. For instance, instead of using chocolate chips in cookies, use butterscotch chips in place.

There's also ways to make homemade pumpkin spice, using that in oatmeal cookies or even shortbread cookies would give it makeovers.

And you definitely can't go wrong with cinnamon, a dash of cinnamon would be the perfect addition to any recipe.

You could add a cozy fall touch to any room by adding a throw blanket or a throw rug in a color that works best for autumn and because many of the colors tend to be neu-

trals, they work well with any room.

A cute quick DIY idea would be to grab a canning jar, fill it with acorns and add a tealight candle to illuminate the room.

And for those cold early fall mornings, why not make your own scarf out of old sweaters.

Start by making a long cut across your sweater. Then by stretching out the remaining fabric you should have a wide circle scarf. Perfect for those chilly mornings.

A delightful treat, especially for kids, would be pumpkin pretzels. Sounds a bit weird, but it's just mini-pretzels covered in candy melts, which can be found in the candy aisle at the craft store.

Get orange and green candy melts. Then dip the pretzel, almost all the way to the top, in the orange melted candy. Then once that's hardened, dip the remaining part in green. You could also do this with red candy melts, making tiny pretzel apples.

I hope you enjoyed these DIYs. Feel free to add or omit any of the materials or ingredients. These are just suggestions. You can make something completely unique out of any of these DIYs.

Netflix's Death Note Film Noticeably Disappoints

Another Mediocre Americanized Remake Bites the Dust

BY: LUCIA ROSSI

Have you ever heard of americanized remakes of original Japanese animes, like Dragonball Evolution, or Ghost In The Shell, receiving such praise that people begged for a sequel? No? That's because it doesn't happen.

There are several reasons why these films don't succeed, and clearly American filmmakers have not learned their lesson.

Netflix's Death Note was possibly doomed from the start with people already judging it for its "whitewashing" of the characters just from watching the trailer.

However, that may not have been among its biggest issues.

Death Note is an extremely popular and beloved manga and anime that is known for its dark tones, genius interactions and strategies, plot twists, complex characters, and suspense. Most of which were severely lacking in the American remake.

Generally, it's about a high schooler, Light Turner, who is given a supernatural notebook by the death God, Ryuk, in which he has the power to kill whoever he wants just by writing their name in the book.

He then shares this with his girlfriend, Mia Sutton, who also writes names in the book and together, they become this force for justice called

"Kira" who is praised by the people but is hunted by L, a genius consultant for the FBI.

Death Note was never meant to be a teen-horror-romance, but that is what it turned into.

The director of the film, Adam Wingard, stated his difficulty in making the adaptation in an IGN interview stating, "It's one of those things where the harder I tried to stay 100 percent true to the source material, the more it just kind of fell apart..."

You're in a different country, you're in a different kind of environment, and you're trying to also summarize a sprawling series into a two-hour-long film.

For me, it became about; what do these themes mean to modern day America, and how does that affect how we tell the story."

The thing is, american culture clearly diminishes the quality of a Japanese-created story because cliché cinematic conventions targeted at teenagers were included.

For example, death scenes were very gorey but in the anime, deaths were swift with heart attacks because the focus was the characters. This effect made the movie feel very much like Final Destination.

There was also a strange and confusing romance between Light Turner, based on Light Yagami, played by Nat

Wolff, and Mia Sutton based on Misa Amane, played by Margaret Qualley.

You don't really know if he truly loved her or not, and she ended up being the antithesis of Misa by being a complete sociopath, which is a shame for such an admired character by female viewers.

Light and L were not given their due justice in this film. Race controversy aside, what really ruined the characters was the poor script that made Light sound creepy and L sound like a cry-baby, and the lack of integrity to their original counterparts.

The best part about the Death Note anime and manga is seeing L and Light constantly one upping each other in a brilliant game of wits.

L, however was overcome with emotion which is unlike him, and Light was not cool, calm, and meticulous. In fact, he made many crucial and thoughtless mistakes.

This was just lazy writing. It was also lazy when the character chose the name Kira because according to Light Turner, in means light in the Russian language, but that is not accurate at all given a simple google search.

Also, what was with all the 80's music? That was most of the soundtrack and yet it felt out of place.

The only real saving grace of the film was Ryuk, voiced by Willem Dafoe. The graphics used made this char-

acter seem more realistic compared to the anime and manga version, and paired with Willem Dafoe's Hobgoblin from Spider-man voice, it was terrifyingly perfect.

It is understandable that the aim of the film was to pay homage to the original anime and to open up an American audience to Japanese pop culture.

However, the reason this may have failed both missions is because telling this story "the American way" completely took away what people loved about it and the "whitewashing" was just an excuse to make it more "acceptable" to American viewers.

Do you think Americans would be open to watching an American film starring only Asian actors in Japan? We may never know and maybe the filmmakers did not want to take that chance.

However, we do know that the 2006 live-action Japanese films of Death Note were more successful and definitely gave the fans what they wanted. Watch this version instead to see what Death Note is really supposed to be like.

Overall, the intentions were in the right place, but the execution was ultimately a failure. The ending was open because a sequel is expected to be made if they get enough viewership.

So, please do yourself and everyone else a favor and don't bother.

Netflix's The Defender's: Our Heroes...Or Are They?

An Unlikely Collaboration Does More Than Their Fair Share

BY: JOSIAH AKHTAB

Marvel's The Defenders takes a refreshing spin on a predictable storyline, a group of neighborhood heroes who just want to do their part end up having to save an entire city from a maniacal organization.

It's like The Avengers, but on a 'right across the street' scale.

The season starts with an interesting recap of the four characters (Luke Cage, Jessica Jones, Matt Murdock and Danny Rand), though Marvel wasn't thorough enough as to revisit the entire life story of each character; they were thorough enough to give the audience a basic understanding of where each character was coming from, as well as their emotional state at the time.

This aspect of The Defenders allows people to understand what's happening, even if they hadn't seen all four-separate series'.

Luke Cage (Mike Colter), Jessica Jones (Krysten Ritter), and Matt Murdock

(Charlie Cox) share a single commonality amongst all their differences: they all want normal lives despite their supernatural abilities.

Danny Rand (Finn Jones) however, seems to be all in for the superhero gig. The characters meet in rather unexpected ways as the proverbial twists of fate connect them through being arrested and thrown in interrogation rooms, investigating rings of upstart drug lords who are really a part of a mythical organization, indoor killings leaving them at the scene of the crime, just the life of an average hero.

As the story progresses and characters begin meeting each other, they continue to go against the grain of the superhero archetype, fighting for the normal lives they desperately want to lead.

Audiences have seen this storyline in many forms but never has it been so clearly stated, the writers at Marvel seem to make it a

point to spoon feed the audience on what the story behind the characters was truly about.

In any other series, audiences would pick up on the characters' emotional state and disposition as their seasons progressed; in this series, however, everything is laid on the table bare, for all to see.

This expression of disdain towards heroism poses certain questions such as, why don't they want to be "heroes"? What do they have against heroism?

These questions aren't directly answered in the series but the characters' personalities seem to address it indirectly.

Jessica Jones' laid back, alcoholic and sarcastic personality suggests she doesn't want the tantamount obligations and responsibility of being a 'superhero' as she demonstrates aggravation when people expect any level of heroism or altruism from her.

Luke Cage, who is also laid back but not as sarcastic and rude, does have an affinity

for helping people. However, he draws the line at full-time heroism, as he understands it wouldn't just be about Harlem anymore, that he'd have to help everybody across New York.

Matt Murdock and Danny Rand are an interesting combination throughout the series, their personalities are polar opposites.

Danny wants to save the world, he has a spring in his step and a naivete that makes him all the more childish. Matt Murdock, is the experienced hero who knows the risks and dangers presented to himself and others; as he remains the most skeptical out of the four.

Marvel has succeeded yet again in taking a tried, true and utterly predictable story line and turning it into something refreshing and binge-worthy for the audience. The only question left is if there will be a second season.

The Light Shines Brightly With Only a Bit of Darkness Showing

"Destiny 2" Fixes its Predecessor's Mistakes While Preserving its Fun Roots.

BY MATTHEW MCKENNA

"Destiny 2" continues its quest with players fighting off the Darkness as Guardians, either as the warrior Titan, the space mage Warlock or the rogue Hunter, and is one of the best shooter games this year so far. It offers up new armor, weapons and places to explore, but like all great games, they have their flaws.

After players make their mark in Bungie's first "Destiny" game with their Guardians, if they had played it, everything seems safe with only lingering threats to deal with.

That all changes when a faction of the Cabal Empire known as the Red Legion launches a surprise attack on the Last City on Earth.

Their leader, Ghoul, captures the Traveler and takes away everything from the Guardians: their powers, loot and their ability to be resurrected by their Ghosts.

Left defenseless, the player's Guardian and their Ghost—voiced by veteran voice actor Nolan North—must find a way to re-take their power that was given to them, find the Vanguard members who have scattered across the Solar System and defeat Ghoul before he claims the Traveler's light as his own. Fairly straightforward.

"Destiny 2" is one of those games that has a lot of great elements to it, but has a few downsides.

With everything being taken away from players, such as the hard work they put into obtaining loot and leveling up in the first game, it sounds like a character that has am-

nesia from the very beginning and must learn everything he did in the past all over again.

But that isn't to say the game isn't fun. "Destiny 2" focuses more on its story compared to its predecessor. Every mission you do is involved with the story and has a mission reacting to the previous mission, allowing it to not feel repetitive.

Obtaining new weapons and armor is also part of the fun as there are more rewards to obtain after completing missions, random boss battles and public events.

The additional fun part of restarting from scratch is regaining your abilities, using them is part of what makes the game fun as well as the new leveling up system which makes it easier. "Destiny 2" offers up new subclasses for each type of Guardian while also keeping old ones.

For the Titan, there's the Sentinel subclass which replaces the Defender subclass from "Destiny." Players wield a void shield that they can use to bash enemies away and toss them like Captain America.

The Striker class is still playable and it is pure fun slamming the ground with Fists of Havoc and shoulder charging enemies.

Hunters gain the Arcstrider subclass which replaces the Arcdancer subclass. The Arcstrider uses a staff made of arc energy—lightning and with great agility kills enemies with style. Gunslinger also makes a return and allows players to act like a cowboy of the wild west.

As for Warlocks, Dawnblade subclass swaps the Sunsinger subclass. Dawnblades will float in the air with wings made of fire

and send flaming swords down on their enemies. Voidwalker also makes a return to "Destiny 2," allowing people to send a bomb of energy and make enemies explode.

To unlock the third subclass, players must find relics that will eventually unlock a quest that will allow them to obtain their final subclass.

Aside from the story, the other strongest aspects of the game are the visually stunning cinematic cutscenes, world building, weapons and especially the supporting NPC characters.

Some of the new places to explore are the Farm which is equivalent to the Tower, the European Dead Zone on Earth, the moons Io, Titan and Nessus. They all offer up new and more beautiful environments filled with vibrant color and expand the lore of the Traveler and the universe.

With the supporting characters, players are able to see how the Vanguard Guardians react to having their light taken away, showing their vulnerable side and their power that they have been taking for granted for a long time, opening up to each personality.

Like the Taken King DLC, Cayde-6—voiced by Nathan Fillion—steals the show again with his witty and humorous dialogue along with random moments that allow ease during a dire situation.

One of the newest characters known as Hawthorne, voiced by Sumalee Montano, isn't a Guardian and views the world differently than from what the Vanguard see it as, offering a fresh and different perspective on things.

Even the main antagonist Ghoul, voiced by Neil Kaplan, is a strong character. He's a more fleshed out and complex in-game villain than previous enemies where players had to research the lore outside the main game.

Firing the weapons feels so satisfying when unloading its magazine on various enemies. The weapon system has changed from the first game as well.

The weapons are split up into three different categories: kinetic, energy and heavy. Kinetic is standard bullets, while energy is a bit more powerful and is really useful for taking out enemy shields. Heavy is self-explanatory.

Strikes and patrol missions make a return with the new addition of challenges that help progress your character. There have been no raids which will be expected to come in the future and will sure to be a blast.

"Destiny 2's" version of multiplayer—the Crucible—adds to the fun, but instead of six on six battles, it's four on four.

The weakest factor of this game is that there are hardly any new enemies of the Darkness for players to face. Meaning it's still the Fallen, Hive, Vex, Taken and the main antagonist, the Cabal. The only difference players will see is their design.

Overall, "Destiny 2" fixes its predecessor's mistakes with a more central and grounded story, fleshed out characters, new weapons and leveling up systems, and of course offers up fun and exciting combat. This game is worth at least four out of five Cayde-6's chickens; a must buy.

The Dragon Riders Race Again in its Fifth Season

Prepare for the Next How To Train Your Dragon Film

BY: MATTHEW MCKENNA

Hiccup, Toothless, and friends take flight again for season five of Netflix's original series Dragons Race To The Edge, based on the popular Dream-works film series How To Train Your Dragon.

Season five has the same thirteen episodes in seasons past and delivers the same amount of humor and action, but to a new level. Epic.

The season also sets up the events in How To Train Your Dragon 2 by having little easter eggs in certain scenes.

At the end of season four, Hiccup, voiced by Jay Baruchel, and his Night Fury and best friend Toothless defeated Viggo, voiced by Alfred Molina, and his evil band of dragon hunters, but at the cost of losing a valuable artifact, the Dragon Eye.

Fans were pleased that their two

favorite dragon riders, Hiccup and Astrid, voiced by America Ferrera, who shippers call Hicstrid, officially became a couple. The season ended with a cliffhanger of a volcano on their island awakening, setting up a danger for season five.

In season five, three months have passed since Hiccup's victory over the dragon hunters and everything seems well, except for the active volcano on their island.

After they deal with it, they find that the dragon hunters haven't vanished, nor have they given up. Under the new leadership of a ruthless bounty hunter named Krogan, voiced by Hakeem Kae-Kazim, he helps them to take revenge against Hiccup and his friends, with some help.

To make matters worse, the dragon hunters have learned how to ride dragons and use them for combat.

The animation for this season is as

stunning, colorful, and detailed as the previous seasons.

Viewers are introduced to new dragons that have not been seen, such as the Sanbuster, the Slitherwing, Sentinels, and the Grim Gnashers.

Not only that, but more lore is added to the world, which added more depth, and more interesting facts about dragons we have already seen.

The characters remain true to their personalities and had some episodes dedicated to them, which helped them undergo great development.

Hiccup remains as the riders' leader and stays true to his love for dragons, wanting to be a peacekeeper, and sticks to his morals about not harming dragons by finding other ways to deal with them.

His relationships with his dragon Toothless and his girlfriend Astrid grow stronger in this season.

However, going from a happy new

couple to being betrothed within three months sounds rather rushed.

Astrid remains a headstrong warrior, but does show her softer side at times. Her companion, Stormfly, continues to fly by her side and learns some new tricks to help her fight foes.

The rest of the group, Snotlout, Fishlegs, Ruffnut, Tuffnut, and their dragons all remain the same.

However, Ruffnut and Tuffnut seem to be the show's primary source of comedy with their mischief and lack of intelligence. Though at times, they surprise their friends by what they do know.

They are given a bit too much screen time, and quite frankly, the more they open their mouth, namely Tuffnut, the more you wish they wouldn't.

At times, the episodes in this season can feel like filler, and don't really advance the plot.

BANNER OPINIONS

The CSI Shuttle System is Bus'ted and Students Know It

It's Time to Grease the Wheels of Change

BY: BRENTON MITCHELL

As such, it is a reasonable expectation that the school should provide an efficient means of transportation for the hundreds of students that commute to the island every day.

This effort is provided through the CSI ferry shuttle, a set of busses running a twenty minute schedule on full class days.

Though in classic CSI fashion, these shuttle busses that many students and faculty rely on every day are plagued with a multitude of issues and inconsistencies.

Such circumstances frequently cause commuters to arrive late to where they are needed most, and force them to sit in the uncomfortable purgatories that are the shuttle bus stops.

Their reasoning behind a twenty minute schedule is twofold, the first is to work within the usual ferry schedule to leave as little wait time as possible. The second is to keep this steady flow of students to stave off overcrowding the busses with large amounts of students.

This is the ideal and expected

function of the shuttles, though if the current state of campus development is any indication, CSI has trouble keeping to schedules.

In practice, the ferry shuttle either comes late or not at all. Forcing two "sets" of commuter students to squeeze onto the same bus, packing an unsafe and illegal amount of people on at once. Those that were reluctant to throw elbows to make it through the doors are simply left behind to hope that the next shuttle arrives as expected.

An especially infuriating circumstance was experienced firsthand last year.

During one of the peak morning times, one of the scheduled busses never arrived for their designated time. This resulted in the aforementioned scenario of two sets of commuters waiting for the next bus to arrive.

Interestingly, when the next bus arrived, it was followed by another shuttle bus, presumably the one that missed its previous moment of action.

The first of the duo pulled to

the stop and opened the door, after which the driver looked the waiting students in the eye before stating that the bus was out of order. Then, he promptly shut the door and drove back to campus.

How an "out of order" bus manages to drive safely back to campus grounds, is a true mystery, but perhaps the vehicle possessed magic similar to the type that broke the heating system in the north side buildings.

Even the driver of the second bus was confused with the actions of their predecessor, but forced to deal with the resulting situation, they refused to compromise the safety by allowing an overflow of people on the bus.

Which, while being an excellent display in integrity, also had the unfortunate effect of leaving close to thirty students behind to wait for another twenty minute stretch.

That's also assuming the next bus even came on time.

Situations like this happen frequently. Far too frequently, in fact, for a service that is needed by a significant portion of the school's tui-

tion paying students.

The lack of a properly functioning bus service routinely causes students to arrive late to classes, jobs, and events.

Also, although busses can arrive on time, they sometimes still leave late because the driver decides to take time to smoke a cigarette or answer a phone call before leaving as scheduled.

The recent loss of 300 parking spots to construction have created a plentiful amount of issues for students who drive to campus, an influx of students using public transportation would be beneficial for everyone.

However, this benefit isn't feasible if the main means of public transportation provided by the school is barely functioning.

I'm not sure what it will take to grease the wheels of change and improve the quality of the ferry shuttles, but until it happens there will surely be more tales of late arrivals and grand inconveniences.

Streaming is Like Paying for Air

Why You Shouldn't be Paying for Streaming Services

BY DECLAN KAASLER

If you're like most young people today, you likely get your music, movies and TV shows through some sort of streaming platform.

It's true that streaming has grown into the dominant form of media consumption in 2017 with no end in sight to its influence. Even the video game industry is moving towards a streaming approach.

Streaming has been propelled forward by the perception by many that it is convenient and accessible. While it is true that streaming can be quick and easy to use, there are tradeoffs that are taking place by your use of it.

Streamers of CSI, you need to stop and think about you're actually doing by streaming. Why is it that all the big corporations are jumping on the bandwagon and wholeheartedly embracing this? The truth is quite grim. Streaming is a fantastic deal for the big record labels!

With streaming services, companies are able to charge you money simply to listen to their sub-par audio recordings.

A subscription service eliminates the once-prominent threat of music piracy and also lowers costs substantially compared to when they manufacture a phys-

ical album.

Streaming offers huge profits for record labels, while ripping you off. The songs on most streaming services are not even of high audio quality.

They could be compared more accurately to lower grade mp3 files. Of course, you won't be streaming anything at all if you find yourself without access to the internet.

When you are streaming music, you likely are shuffling individual songs on some arbitrary criteria. Perhaps the program itself is randomly streaming for you. This style of listening effectively renders concept albums useless.

Concept albums are albums which revolve around a central, singular theme. In some rare cases, a concept album may even have a mild musical plotline woven through the songs. You would never pick up on this through random streaming.

The Compact Disc, which entered the market in 1982, revolutionized the music industry. At the time of their inception, the fully digital format offered the best audio quality available, with a lifetime of enjoyment provided the disc was properly cared for.

Indeed, even today there has yet to be another format that truly bests the CD's

audio quality. If you really care about enjoying the full experience of music, and not just passive entertainment, then you are losing out by not getting the best audio possible.

I must be honest, there is one way to get high fidelity audio through streaming, but it is much more expensive than the rest of the bunch. Tidal is marketed as the ultimate streaming service for the audiophile community. It is owned by famous rapper Jay Z.

While technically this can enable musical enjoyment, the bandwidth costs it will impose on your internet connection will be astronomical. Why pay Jay Z all that cash for something you can get for cheaper on a CD?

I have mostly talked about music thus far, but everything that I just said can be easily applied to video streaming and video game streaming as well. There is a difference between pressing an on-screen button in Netflix and actually owning a quality movie.

While Netflix does have some interesting niche programs that cannot be found on live TV, it doesn't really leave you with anything should you choose to cancel your subscription.

This subscription system forces you

to either excessively use the service or feel guilty about wasting money on a service you barely use.

The entire concept of sitting around your house and binge-watching shows seems centered around the innate desire to cram as much viewing as we can into the shortest timeframe possible.

At least with the purchase of DVD or Blu-Ray, your discs aren't just going to vanish one unfortunate day. They are your property forever.

For those of us who truly cannot be bothered with physical media, then whatever happened to Television and Radio? Both of these great media offer endless entertainment and information. Also, they are live feeds coming to you, for free!

In conclusion, I am likely going to wind up on the wrong side of history in this debate, but I will never accept the concept that I should line some company's pocket and get nothing tangible in return.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

Has Dating Got You Down?

10 Mistakes We Make When Dating Someone

BY: BRIELLE SPARACINO

Whether you've been in a relationship with someone for two months or two years, you're bound to make mistakes.

Some are more of an issue than others, like being too clingy, but there are many mistakes people make that are common but aren't spoken about as often.

A common mistake, especially in modern society, is lack of communication with your partner.

Due in part to the rapid advance in technology, communication between two people is done primarily through messaging and social media.

When there's an actual issue within the relationship, one or both partners will post on social media about how they're dissatisfied about something the other did, but when they're approached about it in real life, and they can't seem to properly convey how they feel.

Being honest with each other and talking about what's really bothering you in person is one of the best ways to ensure a happy, healthy relationship.

A second way to ensure a happy, healthy relationship is to allow yourself to trust the other person.

Even if you aren't officially in a relationship but are headed in that direction, you want to trust that that person cares for you the same way you care for them and wouldn't do anything to hurt you.

This can be difficult to achieve, especially if you deal with mental disorders like anxiety or depression, or if you feel a certain way based on previous relationships that never worked out.

However, new relationships are new beginnings; this is your chance to shed your old ways and start fresh.

Failing to keep your past relationships in the past is another mistake many continue to make.

This includes comparing your previous partner to your current one, doubting their feelings for you as well as their actions, etc. Leave all of that old, unnecessary baggage behind and let things develop naturally with that special someone.

Being overprotective is the fourth mistake one has the potential to make when in a relationship or dating someone.

If a partner becomes overprotective of you, that is the foundation of a more serious situation, such as various forms of abuse and gaslighting, which is when someone manipulates another person to believe that something was their fault, even though it wasn't in any way.

Being overprotective can be avoided if you're up-front about what you're feeling, but if it continues, that relationship isn't worth pursuing.

The fifth mistake, which has become extremely common in the modern age, is pettiness.

The Importance of Individuality

Retaining Individualism in Relationships is Key to Keeping the Passion Strong

BY: BRENTON MITCHELL

We live in a world of labels.

A society of categories, definitions, associations, organizations and anything under the sun that someone may subscribe to.

With so many ways to define ourselves, it becomes easy to get lost in them. To trade sovereignty for allegiance to whatever label captures our attention the most.

Normally this is not an issue, as there is nothing wrong with associating yourself with concentrations you are genuinely interested in.

What to be fearful of is the black hole that can swallow all labels: being in a relationship.

We have all encountered this beast at some point, whether as witnesses to close friends slowly consumed or as victims ourselves.

It is scary how stealthily it can creep, starting as innocent as stolen sweatshirts only to grow as gross as joint social media accounts.

In extreme cases, the corruption can grow so severe that partners only refer to themselves as "us" or "we." Even when

their "other half" is completely unrelated to the subject at hand.

At this point, it may be wise to cut all ties with the afflicted individual, cleansing them with fire or prayer if other options are exhausted.

While an entertaining thought, there is truth behind the comedy. Maintaining individualism in a relationship is important to maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and it is likely that these individual qualities created the spark of the relationship in the first place.

Sexiness and passion go hand in hand, and that passion is bountiful enough to relate to other interests as well as your partner.

There are few things more enticing than watching someone you care for focusing intensely on something they enjoy. To be with them as they strive to achieve, growing as an individual, but choosing to share their experiences with you.

There is love in that choice, and it only serves to bolster the bond that both parties aim to nurture.

A team will succeed more often than

In case anyone forgot, we are all grown-ups. We are fully-fledged adults; we aren't in high school anymore where if someone did something mean to you, you'd have to get even or hold a grudge.

We've already got Taylor Swift in this world, and she's petty enough for everyone. Don't be her.

Another mistake is being too dependent on your partner whether it's physical, financially, emotionally, etc. Your partner is not supposed to complete you; they are there to support you, care for you and help you grow as your own person.

Being able to share your life with someone else and grow together is simply a bonus.

Mistake number seven has got to be overthinking everything while you're dating a specific person.

If you are constantly doubting how you feel towards someone or how they feel about you, refusing to believe them when they compliment you, or jumping too far ahead of where the relationship is in real time, you're going to have a problem.

As I said before, dealing with this kind of issue when also dealing with a mental disorder is difficult, but you've got to get out of your own head. Ninety percent of the time, you're making a huge deal out of nothing.

The previous statement leads to mistake number eight, which is failing to trust

your gut.

Ninety percent of time, you're most likely making a huge deal out of nothing, but the other ten percent of the time, you could have a much more pressing situation on your hands.

If you feel like something isn't right, that's because it probably isn't. Don't hesitate to talk to your partner about how you're feeling; it will ease your mind and usually prevent a bigger problem from happening in your relationship.

Yet another mistake we make in relationships or when dating someone is believing we can change them.

Everyone believes they can be that one person who will make a girl bad or a guy good, and that is simply not the case.

You cannot change someone who does not want to be changed; that is a personal decision they alone have to make. If they don't want to change, they aren't worth your time anyway.

Last but not least, is one of the most common mistakes of all: failing to realize that perfection doesn't exist.

I'm not saying you should settle, but you also have to remember that no one is perfect.

We all have our flaws; that is what makes us human, and as humans, all we can do is be ourselves and do the best we can, and possibly find a meaningful relationship along the way.

usually arise to become warning signs of impending doom.

They could be success based for instance if one partner has a clear career goal they aim to achieve, while the other meanders about with a lack of ambition.

It could also be an imbalance in intelligence, interests or achievements.

Essentially issues can form from anything that could create a divide between the two or creates a significant amount of unequal input.

It is the difference between functioning as a team and "hitching a ride" on someone else's success.

Of course this is not to say that every instance of either scenario ends in heartbreak, but by knowing about potential causes for contention steps may be taken to alleviate potential issues before they arrive.

Through knowing possibility there is clarity, and through clarity there is understanding.

At the very least, remember to tread carefully, as one false step may tilt you from being lost in love to losing yourself in the process.

SPORTS

Kyrie Irving Traded to Celtics for Isaiah Thomas, Jae Crowder

After Much Controversy the Mega Trade is Complete

BY: ERIC RANSOM

Following his stunning aspiration to be traded from the Cleveland Cavaliers, Kyrie Irving got his wish- and it almost didn't happen.

The Boston Celtics are the winner of the Kyrie Irving sweepstakes, at the cost of trading 2x All-Star point guard Isaiah Thomas, forward Jae Crowder, center Ante Zizic, and a 2018 first-round draft pick, all to Cleveland.

In return, the Celtics receive Kyrie Irving, 25, a 4x All-Star, Rookie of the Year in 2011-2012, and member of the 2015 All-NBA Team.

Just one year after winning his first NBA title with LeBron James and company, Irving informed the Cavaliers front office he wanted to be traded.

Irving's reasoning for the trade comes from his desire to play on a team without LeBron James as the focal point, having his own team to be the main star.

Controversy surrounded how the news was leaked, as individuals close to LeBron may have revealed the information to the

masses. Nonetheless, the rumors were true, and Kyrie was quickly put on the trading block.

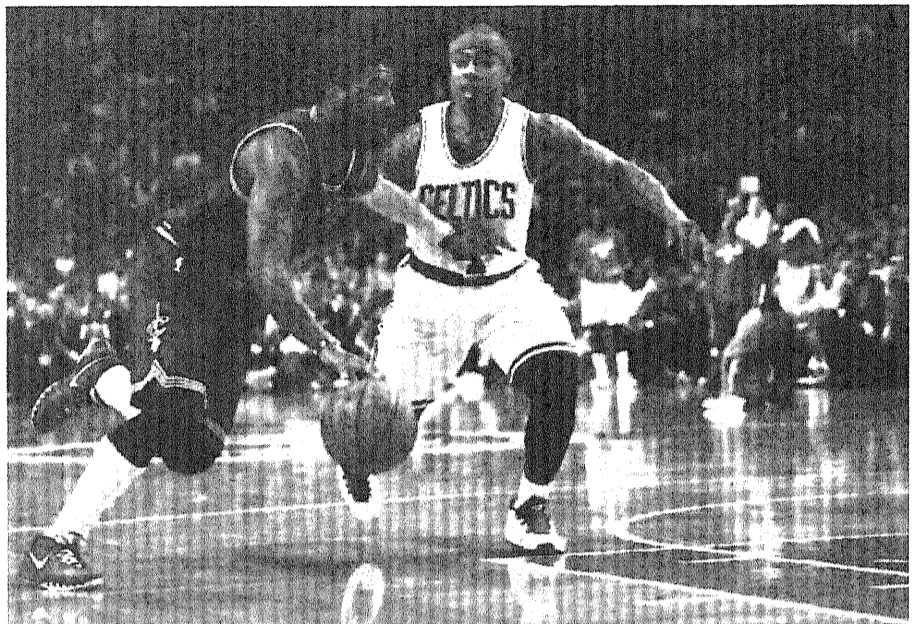
Teams including the Spurs, Knicks and Heat all had interest, until the Celtics recently stepped in, looking for another star to compliment the arrival of their new forward from Utah, Gordon Hayward.

The deal was set in place to trade Thomas and Crowder to Cleveland for Irving, until a snag halted the swap. Medical concerns over Thomas's hip injury had the Cavaliers put the trade on hold, and nearly voided the move all together.

Members of the trade had already sent and regretted texts saying their "hellos" and "goodbyes", until the Cavs requested one more piece in the trade as compensation for Thomas's hip problem.

As the days went by, a deadline approached for the agreement, to which Boston eventually included a 2020 second-round pick, completing the trade.

Kyrie Irving said of the trade, "Boston came at the right time" and is "glad to be here".



Despite the incredible haul for both teams, Isaiah Thomas won't not start the season with the Cavaliers due to his hip injury. His timetable for a return could be as far as February before he can play in any games for the Cavs.

Cleveland does have a viable option at point guard in the meantime, with the signing of former Bull and Knick star Derrick Rose back in July.

Although he was slated to be Kyrie Irving's, the former MVP

will be thrust into his familiar role of starting point guard until Thomas is healthy to play again.

Irving averaged 25.2pts and 5.8ast per game last season, and has played every year of his career with Cleveland before the trade.

Thomas, just as viable an NBA star, averaged 28.9pts and 5.9ast per game last year, finishing 3rd in the NBA in points per game, behind James Harden and Russell Westbrook.

Question Marks Surrounding the Rangers Heading into Training Camp

Young Players That Can Push for Open Spots

BY ANTHONY RUSSO

On October 5, the New York Rangers will play their regular season opener against the Colorado Avalanche on home ice. There are still some uncertainties of which players will make the Rangers, but there are still some open spots.

For one, the loss of Derek Stepan has now created a vacancy in one of the Rangers top 6 center slots. Kevin Hayes will likely be asked for an increased role from the Rangers 3rd line center to the 2nd line center, while Mika Zibanejad will be asked to increase his role to the Rangers 1st line center.

"It's time to prove that I'm capable of being that guy," Hayes told Dan Rosen from NHL.com. "You don't want to be in the same spot your whole career. I have a really good opportunity and I need to grab that and show the coaches and Rangers fans that I belong there."

The Rangers also signed former Montreal Canadiens center David Desharnais, assuming he makes the team that will leave one more center position slot open on the roster.

The Rangers could give J.T. Miller a shot, as he was drafted as a natural center, but since the Rangers moved him to the wing, his game has thrived. This was especially true

last season when Miller recorded 56 points in 82 games, mostly on Hayes's wing on the 3rd line.

The Rangers could also experiment with 18 year old, Lias Andersson, whom the Rangers drafted at 7th overall in June. Andersson will join the Rangers for training camp and



will try to prove the coaches that he's ready for the NHL.

Another player that can push for the opening center spot is Crisotval Boo Nieves, who spent last season in the AHL. Twenty-three year old, Nieves, may be closer to being NHL ready than Andersson, but he

missed much of last season due to injuries.

Nieves also fits the Rangers up tempo system head coach Alain Vigneault prefers his team to play with his strong skating ability.

The Rangers defense appears nearly set and stone with Ryan McDonagh, Kevin Shat-

defensemen in order to acquire a no-doubt top 6 center, as they now have surplus at defense. As it goes for wingers for the Rangers, they have 11 players who will make the team including Jesper Fast, who is expected to miss the first month due to receiving hip surgery in June.

Still remaining unsigned is 45 year old Jaromir Jagr, who has still managed to play at a high level despite his age and 36 year old Danis Zaripov, who received a 2 year ban in the KHL for the use of an illegal substance, although legal in North America.

Zaripov unlike Jagr, has no NHL experience, but has been one of the KHL's top league producers.

It's unknown if the Rangers have expressed interest in Jagr, but according to Eliot Freidman, a journalist for Sportsnet, the Rangers have expressed interest in Zaripov.

If the Rangers are to sign Zaripov or Jagr, then their plans likely consist of experimenting with Miller at the center and moving Hayes up to the 2nd line, rather than trading one of their defensemen for a top 6 center.

Or the Rangers could give 18 year old Lias Andersson the opportunity, but he may not be deemed to be ready just yet.

tenkirk, Brady Skjei, Brendan Smith, and Marc Staal—all locks to make the opening night roster.

Two spots are open, for the 6th defensemen, which may go to Nick Holden barring a trade and Anthony Deangelo.

The Rangers could dangle one of their