

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

ELECTION SPECIAL

Panel Informs First Time Voters For November

Event Covers Relevant Issues of the General Election

BY LARRY ZAKHARENKO

CSI hosted an election panel to connect first-time voters with political experts as the 2012 General Election approaches. The panel was an open discussion for all but fell short of attracting the attention of students.

"This is exactly the kind of event we should be hosting," said President Fritz in his opening statement. "It really connects the faculty expertise we have on campus with community interest."

The panel covered a wide variety of topics. Tax reform, healthcare, voter identification, voter suppression, and the importance of staying informed were all covered on the night of October 2nd.

Fannie Conner of the League of Women Voters opened the discussion. She reminded attendees the last day for registration is October 12 and that people who change their place of residence need to fill out new registration forms. Conner also reminded attendees that voting will take place from 6AM to 9PM on Election Day.

Each panelist was then given ten to twenty minutes to discuss their topic. Professor Calvin Holder of the History Department was the opening panelist.

"Democracy is not a spectator sport," said Conner. "This election will arguably be one of the most important this country has had since perhaps 1936."

Professor Conner followed with a discussion a history of lynchings and voter suppression in the African-American community during in the early 1900's as the context to compare contemporary voter suppression with government issued I.D.'s.

"Democrats have argued that there is an effort to implement voter suppression, directed primarily at minorities. The Republicans have argued that their intent is to prevent voter fraud," said Holder. "I'd like to put in historical context what voter suppression has meant for a minority group in the United States before, specifically blacks."

Professor Holder went on to explain tax reform, an issue that both presidential candidates have arguing over since the conclusion of the Republican Primaries.

"The tax system really is a window into the soul of our nation," said Holder. "It is becoming increasingly evident that an oligarchy is emerging in the United States, and an oligarchy is a direct threat to any democratic system, such as

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The United States Economic Meltdown

CSI Experts Point The Finger At The Banks



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images

President Obama and Presidential Nominee Mitt Romney have two competing views for fixing U.S. economic woes

BY JEREMY PASKER

Political Scientists and Economy Professors at CSI place blame on the banks for the worst financial meltdown in over 75 years.

"Good solutions are hard because banks are really good at evading them," said Political Science Professor Roshen Hendrickson. "If they're doing things behind the scenes they're more likely to take risks."

Capitalism works when people, businesses and governments have easy access to salary, credit, or investments. Money flowing towards markets that create jobs and distribute

resources is more important than the total money available within an economy.

Sustaining markets involve the purchase of resources between connecting industries, such as when timber, cement, steel industries integrate with the construction labor industry. When one builds a home from scratch it helps the economy more than purchasing a home already built.

"The real price of everything...is the toil and trouble of acquiring it," wrote the credited inventor of Capitalism, Adam Smith.

When a person qualifies for a loan, and

then purchases a home from a previous owner, money is only moving from one bank to another. That is a non-sustaining market. Before the recession, the majority of the world's income was channeled through housing mortgages. These transactions create meager ripples in the economy, as they are a non-sustaining market.

These transactions occurred thousands of times artificially inflating them in value, along with homes of similar value that weren't on the market. The systemic rise in artificial values created a conflated economy. This happens

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Voter ID Laws Under Fire

Solution to a Problem that Does Not Exist

BY AMANDA V. GRANBERG

The attempts at passing new voter ID laws in Pennsylvania, Mississippi, and South Carolina to prevent voting fraud drew criticism from Democrats and the American Civil Liberties Union for being unconstitutional. The laws would require a voter to possess valid identification to be able to register or vote in the 2012 General Election.

"It is an open secret that the express purpose of Voter ID laws is to discourage or prevent people from casting a ballot. Numerous studies show that voter fraud is statistically nonexistent in the United States," said Political Science Professor Cary Karacas. "Given that relatively few votes can determine which candidate emerges victorious in an election, a law that effectively suppresses the vote of minority and low income groups makes

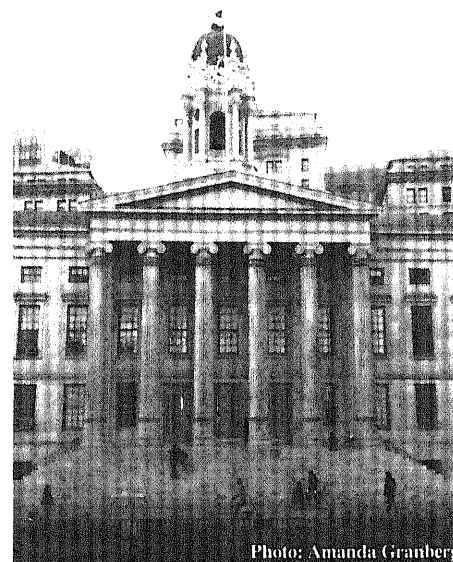


Photo: Amanda Granberg

Brooklyn's Borough Hall will be a polling site for the upcoming General Election

strategic sense for Republicans. It does not bode well, however, for our democracy."

If the laws are passed students, minorities, veterans, and senior citizens would find themselves able to register but unable to vote in the election because they lack a certain form of ID. These groups do not have the same access for acquiring proper identification before an election or lack the money.

"More than 10 million eligible voters live more than 10 miles from their nearest ID-issuing office," reported The Brennan Center for Justice at New York School of Law. "Many of the offices maintain limited hours."

Congressional Republicans have defended these laws. Republicans believe that they will stop fraudulent voting.

Democratic legislators say they have less

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Debatable Debate Procedures

Major Media Outlets Failing to Hold President Obama and Presidential Nominee Romney Accountable for "Facts"

BY JOSEPH POTENZA

When United States Presidential Candidates, President Barack Obama and former Governor Mitt Romney, met on stage to discuss economic issues facing the nation in their first debate, the eyes of the nation and media were upon them.

Minutes after the closing statements the major news networks declared victors and criticized both participants, as well as the moderator, on their performance. After the commotion, choruses rang out "Governor Romney Wins!" and "President Obama needs to do better."

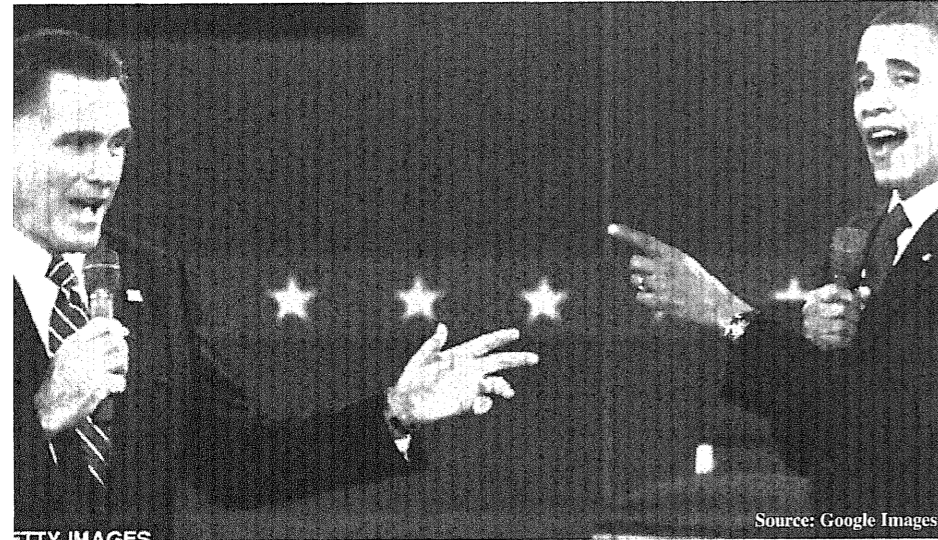
What was not said was actual journalism. It is not the media's role to tell who won or who lost. Journalists are meant to give facts and hold people accountable for what they say and do so the public is properly informed.

The concept of this fell by the wayside as comments over hair and smiles took prominence over the presentation of facts and evidence. Yes, attitude and demeanor play a part when both sides are committed to facts and truths, but that does not give any bearing on winners and losers. You cannot declare a winner of a debate minutes after it concludes.

In the background were the glimpses of

responsible journalism. Politifact.org ran live fact checking of the statements and arguments made by both participants. The days following the debate, other sites, such as The Washington Post, caught up and began checking the multitude of lies and exaggerations that the constituents spouted and leaned on through the debate.

Unfortunately, even as these other media outlets began to pick up the slack, very little attention was paid to fact and consistency checking by the national players. Instead, people were just treated to the news making up



Source: Google Images

their opinions for them.

When the Vice Presidential debate took center stage the moderator Martha Raddatz did her job keeping Vice President Biden and Congressman Ryan in check while focusing on the facts and specifics.

For this she was criticized by major news sources. When Candy Crowley stood up to the candidates and tried to enforce time restrictions and correct Governor Romney on the issue of the speech the President gave on the Benghazi attacks, she was attacked by certain news stations as being biased, while those

doing the criticizing were ignoring the role of the moderator in a debate.

Making sure facts are straight if possible is part of the job Crowley was tasked. Some even said that the time for fact checking is after the debate, which is a bizarre concept. To not hold the participants accountable is a dangerous behavior that defeats the purpose of the discussion.

By ignoring facts, the words said, positions held and arguments made lose all purpose, and opinions would be better formed on what color tie the viewer likes more.

Between broken analysis, news networks and sites are focusing more on the public's reactions. Both Fox News and CNN ran articles and segments on Twitter reactions to the debate that are still popular and advertised through their sites.

After the second debate, they reported on what terms were trending on Twitter instead of crosschecking numbers and statements.

Reaction stories are fine, but they should not be the forefront of journalism and reporting. Reports such as these are just distractions to keep people from formulating their own opinions.

Bankrupting the American Political System

BY MIKE MILEY

As the election nears we see more and more exactly how bankrupt the American political system truly is.

By this I'm of course referring to, my oft repeated statements of how incredibly similar the Democrats and Republican parties really are, especially in the realms of economic policy and the absence of Third Party political candidates from any of the debates and the American political discourse in general. Really how democratic can a country really be if ever "serious candidate" for office are interchangeable on 90% of their policies? This is why I like to term America as a one and half party State, that at the fundamental level both parties are functionally the same, with a window dressing of enough difference for people to fall for it and back them, as if they were two entirely different entities.

You may of course thing I'm entirely off base with this, "Mike", you might say, "But what about the fact that Democrats favor policies beneficial to minorities and women, while the Republicans are more than fine casting them off and suppressing their rights and ability to vote?" That is a very important point to make, that one difference between the Democratic and Republican platforms is that, Democratic platform is at least acknowledges that women, minorities and the poor are people deserving of respect and human dignity that any person deserves, while the Republicans pretty much wish they would go off and die in the gutter and not bother the "Job Creators" with their petty problems of "health issues" and "civil rights abuses." These are

important issues that the Democrats say they champion, or course the Democratic politicians that support these issues come mainly from Northern liberal urban areas, while the party members from the South, rural and conservative areas, termed "Blue Dog Democrats," became notorious during the 2009-10 Healthcare reform debate and in the end were more responsible for the weak kneed, Healthcare "reform" we got than the Republicans. This is the thing to remember about "Obamacare," a term I hate with a passion for being glib, is that it's a rehash of the Heritage Foundation sponsored Republican Healthcare package from the Clinton era. But we have to look at how often the Democrats actually stand up for their so called base, which is rarely, they are far more willing to throw them under the bus in order to get something "bipartisan" passed with the Republicans. The whole concept of bipartisanship should be anathema to the American political process since it is based on competition, people fighting one another till something gets passed. If we look at the history of compromises made by the early American congress and senate, they all came back to bite us in the ass, since they just kept pushing the problem of slavery down the road until it exploded into the Civil War.

Which brings me to the point that in America, we have one conservative party and one far right nationalist party. Since they are both obsessed with the idea of "bipartisanship", though in the Republican mindset, compromise means agreeing 100 percent with them, we have two parties that look more and more alike. I've said it before, I'll say it again, the Republicans represent a steep dive

crash right into the ground, while the Democrats represent a long slow decline into the side of a mountain. They are two sides of the same coin, just look at their economic policy.

Both parties agree on the tenets of Neo-Liberal economics, the Democrats just try and take a nicer approach to it, extreme capitalism with a human face. While the Republicans just don't care. The proof of this comes right out of the second presidential debate, when President Obama agrees that with Romney about lowering corporate tax rates. At a time when corporations are pulling in record profits, where the wealth disparity in the US is at a level unseen since the "Gilded Age," were saying the wealthy need to pay less? Of course the rational always cited is the need to "stay competitive" in the world market. The problem being there is no way for US workers to compete with the third world with paying them equivalent wages, meaning we want factories back so we can have a real economy, were either going to have to raise tariffs and taxes on imports and incentive buildings things in America with a decent wage, or start paying wages of 20 cents a day. These are the only two options we have under a capitalist system, they are far from perfect, but unless we decide to finally get tired of dealing with the same bullshit every 5-10 years when the market implodes, but that's up to us. The problem we arrive at is that paying American workers slave wages (though they would never outright call them that) is more acceptable to our political system then doing something that would actually benefit the middle and working class.

Why are things like this? Simply because we

only have "two", though I think we've discussed enough to call it one party to choose from, because so called third parties are left out of the political discussion. Mitt Romney and Barack Obama are far from the only people running for president, so why are they the only two that debate? Why not invite the candidates from the Green Party, or any of the other political parties? Hell when Green Party candidate Jill Stein and her vice-presidential candidate Cheri Honkala from the Green Party, tried to enter the grounds of the Presidential debate at Hofstra University, they were arrested and held for 8 hours. This is what the face of American democracy is, anyone not supported by the corporate aristocracy, the oligarchs of the one percent are not allowed to be near the "serious" candidates. There is something wrong with the political system in this country, and come the day after Election Day when someone has been chosen the 24 hour news networks will croon about how we've had another peaceful handover of power/incumbent and the system works, while it rots around us. I urge everyone, please, look up who the third party candidates are in your district, look up what they stand for and if you agree with them, vote for them, not just for President, but the local level, too. The odds are stacked against us, with the massive amount of money at the beck and call of the "two" major parties, but just maybe we can counteract that, maybe we can actually change things in this country for the better. Just remember change does not come from above, it must be forced from below, and they only way to do that is to show that we want actually choices in our democracy.

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MARIE SCARSELLA,
DIANA PORCELLI,
LARRY ZAKHARENKO

CONTRIBUTORS:
BRITTANY FERONE,
MEGAN BRENNECK

FACULTY ADVISOR:
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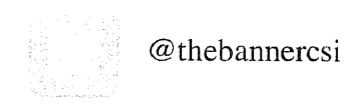
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: All Hail the King

I really enjoyed this article. As a big fan of the show, my attention was immediately drawn towards it. However, one thing to point out is the spoiling warning in the beginning. It states not to read unless you're up to date, but then 3/4 of the article is things fans would already know if they were to read it. I was hoping for more for more speculation or theories on the show rather than just one or two graphs at the end. Alec Montalvo Junior

Re: Bringing the Polls to the Classroom

The article that focuses on the registration of voters was well written and for a good reason. It keyed in on an issue that is a real problem for a movement going around campus. The story was well reported and encouraged more people to register to vote. Paul Stimop Junior

Re: Third Time's The Charm

I found this article to be a very enjoyable read. Victoria's story is one many students out there can relate to. It reminds us that the fantasy of losing our virginities and the reality of doing so are far from being similar experiences. We did not all begin our sexual journeys as masters of the art. I think more stories about uncomfortable situations such as this one would be great. Teddy Feaser Junior

Re: Do Not Let Sleeping Dogs Lie!

I really enjoyed the video game review. I liked how Steve listed all the cons first and then the positives. I thought the comparisons to other video games were very well written. Adding a rating was a very cool touch. Stefano Bartolone

Re: Do Not Let Sleeping Dogs Lie!

I enjoyed Steven's article about the game "Sleeping Dogs." Mostly because I had agreed with what he had to say for the most part. I have played very little of it but his review was good enough to influence me to buy it or not. If you could please tell Steven to include more description on his favorite parts or weaknesses the game puts forth. Go into more detail about levels, missions, or glitches. Big gamers want to know that stuff. Bradley Popkin

Re: 50 Shades of Grey

I thought this article was the perfect explanation of the book. I also read the book and agree that there were enjoyable parts but the writing was "typical" and obvious. My opinions were right there with Lucia Rossi. Samantha Fink Junior

Re: 50 Shades of Grey

I really enjoyed this article written by Lucia Rossi. The book written by EL James gives women the opportunity to talk about sex and sexual experiences freely. Because of this book, sex is no longer a secret subject or a topic of conversation to be shy about. Mellssa Oviedo

Re: Green Thumbs Club Lends Mother Nature A Helping Hand"

I enjoyed the piece on the garden beside the Campus Center. However, I do not like the led to the article. It is a person opinion and expresses my views alone. I feel it is too cliché and be improved to draw the reader in. Chris Carregal Senior

Re: Green Thumbs Club Lends Mother Nature A Helping Hand

I read with interest the article by Lucy Farfan-Narcisse. Her piece about the garden of beauty on the campus seems to me that a vast effort is being applied to promoting "green projects" and its nice to see that CSI is no exception. Perhaps Lucy could be an inspiration for other students to "go green" by creating new groups, or at least writing about them using models and examples from other schools that improve the environment and add to the "clean air" is a positive thing. From "green thumbs" to tobacco free air to boost other clean projects. Lynn Matteo Sophomore

Re: Sex and the Island

Dear Banner Staff, I am a 19 year old guy and I read the Sex and the Island piece all the time. I can't help but notice that the guy who writes it rarely gets laid in the end. What's up with that? I'm writing to you guys asking for help on what I can do to succeed in that department. After countless times of not getting it in with girls. I ask you guys for help or any tips. Thank you. Dan Porcello Sophomore

Re: Sex by Another Name

How can you expect people to want to share their stories or opinions in the "Sex and the Island" page if they must publish their names? I'm sure many people have fantastic stories that they seem ambivalent to share if their name is published as well. Contributors should have the option to remain anonymous or write under an alias. Personally, I would use the pom name technique (name of your first pet and the street you live on) to determine my name for the byline if I submit an article. Elizabeth Krawczun Junior

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:

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BANNER STYLES

Fashionable First Ladies

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

As the late, great James Brown once said, "It's a man's world, but it would be nothing without a woman or a girl." When it comes to discussing the wives of Presidents past and present, this statement could not be more accurate.

Although the title of First Lady is an unpaid, non-elected title, it is still one of the most coveted and highly visible positions in the United States Government.

It is the First Lady's responsibility to uphold her husband's policies and protect his good reputation. Due to these obligations, the

First Lady often finds herself in the public eye, and is always sure to dress to impress. All 44 First Ladies have made their nation and their husbands proud with poise, grace, and impeccable style.

However, there are a select few who stand out above the rest. Regardless of your politi-

cal beliefs, there's no denying that these four ladies served up flawless public appearances with a side of fierce realness during their time in the White House. Hopefully, the future of politics will bring us even more fashionable First Ladies.

Dolley Todd Madison (In the White House from 1809-1817)

Dolley Todd Madison was the wife of James Madison, the fourth President of the United States. Madison is noted as the originator of First Ladyship; making headlines for helping battered women and orphans, as well as risking her life to save historical artifacts during the War of 1812. Despite her great community efforts, Madison is mainly remembered for her fashion sense. Bored with the New World fashion, Madison introduced various European styles to the White House. Her most noted ensemble included a turban adorned with peacock feathers.

Jaclyn Kennedy Onassis (In the White House from 1961-1963)

Married to John F. Kennedy, Onassis was known for her effortless style, love of rich fabrics, and tendency to show a little skin. Jackie O perfectly captured the essence of 1960's fashion with her tailored dress suits, oversized sunglasses, and jewelry. With color television on the rise, women all over the country were inspired by Onassis and imitated her casual yet classic style. Jackie O's legacy as a First Wife, though short, will forever live on in the fashion world.

Nancy Reagan (In the White House from 1981-1989)

Former actress Nancy Reagan knew exactly what it took to be in the public eye. During her tenure, Reagan hosted a total of 55 state dinners and went out of her way to order expensive "Nancy Red" china for these occasions. Reagan adorned herself in couture gowns by Oscar de la Renta, which prompted him to say that Reagan "never made a single faux pas" in regards to fashion. Always ready for her close-up, Reagan would often color coordinate her outfits to match the setting she was to be photographed in.

Michelle Obama (Currently in the White House)

Before the Obamas took office, the fashionable First Lady had taken a hiatus. In 2008, Michelle Obama made her debut sporting affordable fashions from J. Crew and White House Black Market. In 2009, she was featured on the cover of Vogue, photographed by famed fashion photographer Annie Leibovitz. Known for her sculpted biceps and love of floral print, Obama restored feminine and effortless style back into the White House. We can always count on Michelle Obama for her reliable, selfless attitude and great fashion sense.



Campus Style

BY DIANA PORCELLI



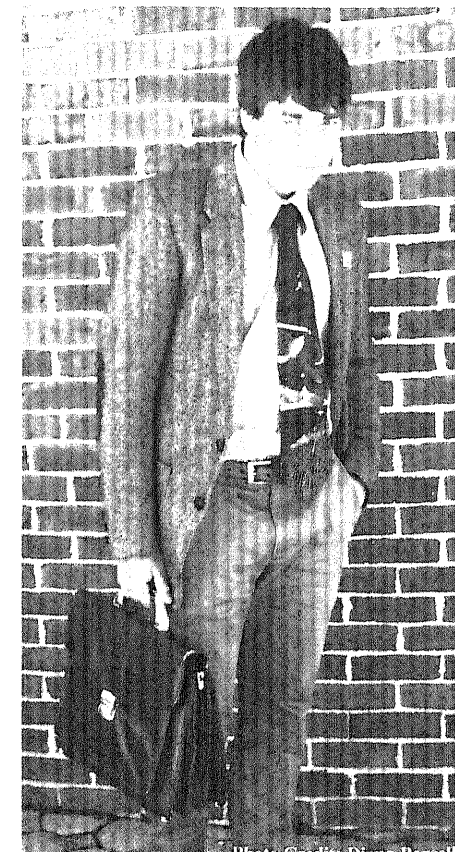
Justin Chavez
Sophomore



Elizabeth Krawczon
Junior
Style: High Boots, Michael Kors Shirts



Monica Sibri
Sophomore
Style: Calvin Klein and Michael Kors



David Charles
Sophomore
Style: Prada Briefcases

BANNER STYLES

Democratic and Republican Fashion

What's the Difference?

BY NICOLE PAGANO

As we all know, there are major differences between the Democratic and Republican parties. Fashion is definitely one of them, but how

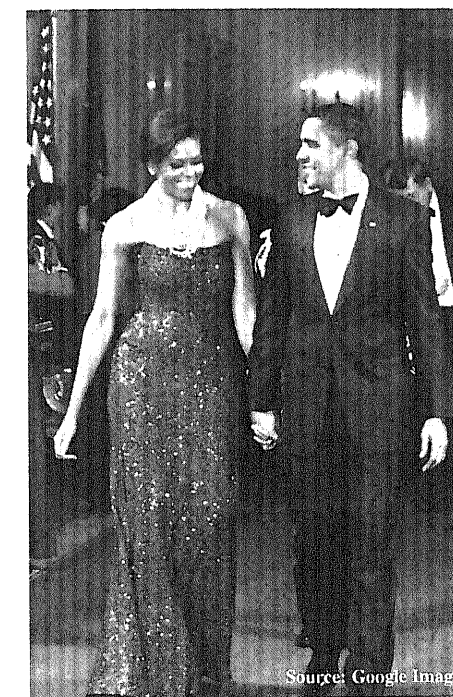
so? I am going to take an in depth look at outfit choices, colors, patterns etc. of our Presidential candidates and other people in office that I have randomly selected.

When I first took on this assignment, I really didn't think there would be any difference; Suits and ties and for men and dress suits and boring skirts for the women. I was wrong. I

realized that the Democrats are riskier with their outfit choices. They choose more colors and patterns, and the to Republicans tend play it safe.

The Democrats...

President Obama and his wife Michelle are known as a very fashion forward couple. Both have graced the covers of Vogue and Men's Vogue magazine. Obama has been seen outside of the White House in designer jeans and jackets, and he has also sported khakis and polo shirts. Maybe his laid back style is due to the fact that he is a dad to two young girls, or maybe he just wants to show America that he's a real guy.



President Obama and Wife Michelle

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi is another fashion forward woman in office. She is known for wearing pearls with her dress suits, which are perfectly fitted for her. She is not afraid to play up her outfits with different color patterns and necklines.



Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

Mrs. Obama is known for her very classy and elegant dresses and she is definitely not afraid to take some risks with bold colors and designs. Though she has been saying since day one that she does not use a stylist, there have been rumors that say otherwise. Vice President Joe Biden has not been seen in laid back outfits as much as Obama, but he is definitely very clean cut. He is known for wearing black designer suits that are perfectly tailored, and occasionally changes up his look with his ties.



Vice President Joe Biden

Fashion risk taking doesn't prove true for all Democrats in office.

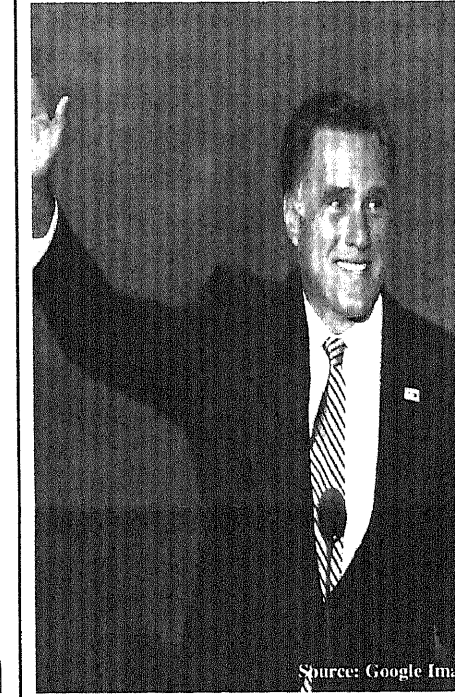
Congresswoman Debbie Wassermann Schultz proves to be the epitome of boring political fashion. Her dress suits look like they barely fit her, and the color palette she chooses to wear could not be duller. Her blonde curly hair looks like it is stuck to her head, and it is easy to see that she does not believe looking good is part of her job.



Democratic Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz

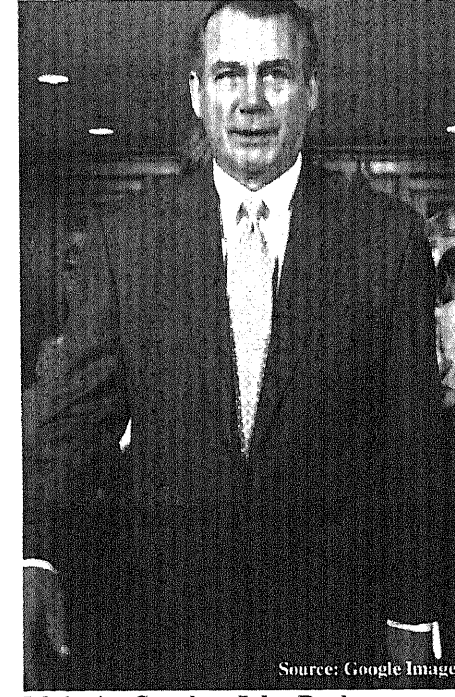
The Republicans...

Moving to the Republican side of fashion, Mitt Romney and his wife Ann stick to more traditional fashion choices. Navy and dark grey suits are a favorite for Mitt Romney. He has been seen wearing plaid shirts with khakis for his laid back style, but all that really proves is that his fashion sense is dull.



Presidential Nominee Mitt Romney

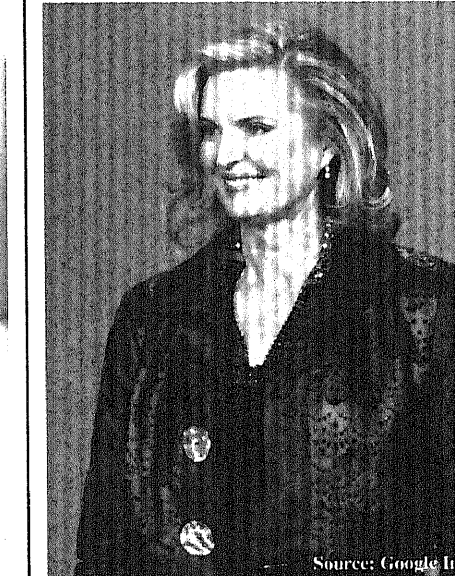
House speaker John Boehner is more fashion forward than both Romney and Ryan combined. One thing that always leads to a great fashion choice for him and oozes office readiness is his use of pinstripes. His black and dark grey suits are always a good choice; they show conscientiousness, yet still look good.



Majority Speaker John Boehner

Ann Romney definitely has some fashion sense, but does it stand out? She did wear that bright red 50's style dress for the first debate, but that's about all the risk she has taken so far. Yes, she plays with color and accessories, but her wardrobe isn't that adventurous. It's all very traditional and played safely.

Vice Presidential nominee Paul Ryan is another conservative fashion doer. His grey and blue suits and white undershirts look like they are too big for him, and they just scream boring.

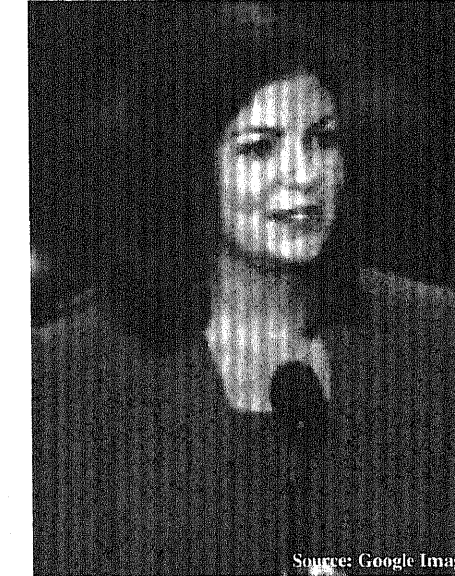


Ann Romney

US Senator Kelly Ayotte is another stuffy dresser. Boring dress suits seem to be the go-to choice for women in office, but once again, just because some color is added does not make them pretty to look at.

So we can see that there are similarities in dressing for both parties. How can you make a statement when suits and dress suits are required to make you look professional?

The Democrats are more of the risk takers in this sense. As for the Republicans, well, they just stick to what they know.



Senator Kelly Ayotte

BANNER ARTS

Election Essentials: A Presidential Playlist

A List of Rock Music's Most Thought Provoking or Revolution-Inspiring Political Tunes

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

With a presidential election right around the corner, it isn't unusual to see musicians who

speak out and share their political views. While their opinions and lyrics might not sway your vote, they do provide some good tunes to

rock out to in the privacy of your own room. Here's a playlist of some of rock music's most politically charged tunes. Just make sure not

to sing them too loudly in the shower. People might think you're going to incite a riot... or that you're just a little crazy.

Bright Eyes - "When the President Talks to God"

Folksy frontman Conor Oberst is no stranger to political activism. Known for his role in the fight against illegal immigration, and his performance at an Obama fundraiser during the 2008 election, here he is at his finest, railing against ex-POTUS George W. Bush.

Sleater Kinney - "Combat Rock"

The fine ladies of Sleater Kinney have some beef with America, and on "Combat Rock" they shout it loud and clear. A fiery charged indie-charmer, the track questions the country's actions. "Since when did skepticism become un-American?"

NOFX - "Separation of Church and Skate"

Fat Mike and Co. are quite possibly some of the most politically-charged artists on this playlist, and "Separation of Church and Skate" off of The War on Terrorism proves it. Fast punk riffs combined with feisty lyrics about "hatred of authority," it makes sense as to why the band is monumental within their genre.



Desaparecidos - MariKKKopa

Conor Oberst makes the list for a second time - this time with his punk moniker and immigration-based tunes. "MariKKKopa" rails against Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio and his extremist immigration policies, calling him out on his support for racial profiling.

Gogol Bordello - Think Locally, Fuck Globally

What could be more politically charged than a band of gypsies preaching about the purchase of local goods? Gypsy king Eugene Hutz feels that the global economy sucks, and he's got a bunch of accordions and violins to back him up.

System of a Down - BYOB

What would a political playlist be without a song about war? System of a Down brings the anti-war sentiment to close off the playlist, jam-packed with heavy riffs and lots of yelling. The song's title stands for "bring your own bombs," all while dropping its own on the American pro-war sentiment.

BANNER ARTS

The Political Machine - The Most Polemic Game of 2012

A Light Hearted Game with a Distinct Visual Personality Doesn't Make Up for The Lack of Core Play

BY ANTHONY TILLELI

This PC only title is a very unique game. The basic concept is to become President by campaigning and winning a fictitious general election.

The first major complaint comes even before the start of the game. You are forced to create an account with Stardock to play and thus, in order to play this game, I must first log into Steam and then into Stardock. There is no reason for this. Steam already provides built in digital rights management into its platform.

Community services and multiplayer are possible without the need for an account and again, the Steam network already covers this. This appears like a blatant and dishonest attempt to accumulate email addresses so that they can send "exclusive" offers to them. To Stardock's credit, I opted out of emails, and true to their word my inbox is offer free.

The first element to grab your attention is the art style. They use bobble heads to represent the candidates and everything has a distinct toy feeling to them. I found it humorous that the designers included President Obama's extremely large ears and Governor Mitt Romney's long chin.

The sound follows suit with a similar cartoony soundscape; for instance, during news segments you would hear a dateline style intro. The bobble heads can even be clicked on and would nod in response. The game feels like a political cartoon you would find in the news-

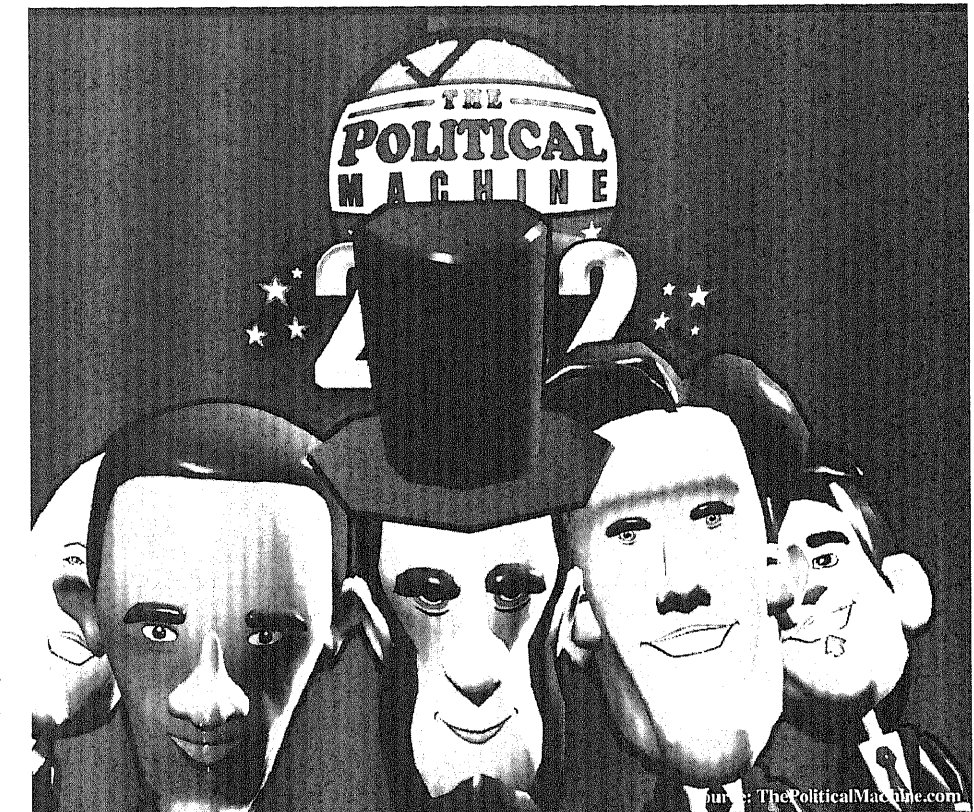
paper.

The game play is a mixed bag. It is well thought out and has a major focus on the little details but the execution and game play feel half-baked. The main menu offers a tutorial instruction manual that covers the basics and has some nice artwork to compliment the instructions. The tutorial fell short in that it should have been more in depth explaining how each element works together. The accompanying artwork is fun but don't help to explain the concepts. I would have liked an interactive tutorial as people learn better through doing.

The game setup menu provides many options, such as game length, difficulty and starting funds/resources, allowing for more play variety. The character creation screen is where the game shines. Here, you can pick a predefined character, such as Obama, Romney, Abe Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson, or create a custom candidate.

The custom candidate can be extensively modified, both visually and their political platform/attributes that affect how the game responds. If you happen to have a bobble head fetish then this is the game for you. The main game is a campaign simulator and similar to turn based strategy games.

Here is where the game really falls short, it has the elements for a complex and intense game, but it lacks the critical pieces. The developers focused too much on the small



details and overlooked the overall game play. The general lack of player feedback is the main issue. As the game progressed, events and items in the game aren't immediately understood. A lot of information is hidden behind sub-menus or you don't know how many resources are required to do an action. More importantly, on your opponent's turn, he will zip around the map doing various actions and on each turn you will spend time figuring

out exactly what he did and hoping you don't accidentally tell your candidate to do an action, wasting a precious resource. Final verdict: I don't want to dismiss this game as a simple cash grab, as it has many interesting attributes and a unique charm, but it feels very rushed and unfinished. I don't recommend this game and it suffers from problems that can't simply be patched out in the future.

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The Political Conspiracies of Metal Gear Solid

The Metal Gear Solid Series Contain Hidden Political Undertones

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

While the Metal Gear series is no stranger to political conspiracies and ideologies, its narratives and messages are wide open to interpretation.

Similar to the rest of the world of gamers, I saw the latest eleven minute trailer for Metal Gear Solid: Ground Zeroes. Was I amazed by the phenomenal graphics? Yes. I did not think that was possible for a multiplatform game on current-generation hardware to look so good.

Metal Gear Solid has always been known for more than just incredible visuals. The franchise is known for intricate storylines, revolutionary stealth game play, and themes of political conspiracy.

Speaking of political conspiracies, let's start off with Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty. While the script covers several post-modern themes and a number of taboo subjects, there are still heavy allusions to politics being acted out as a show. The President is the puppet and figurehead while the rich and powerful, known as the Patriots later discovered to be an AI network, being the real party in charge of everything.

Now MGS: Sons of Liberty is an eleven year old game, but conservative talk show host

Michael Savag said that the rich and powerful, such as George Soros, brought down the economy on purpose so that their puppet, President Barack Obama, could get elected. There are people, and I know some of them, who actually pull the strings and are the ones controlling us.

In Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater, Naked Snake is chosen to defeat his mentor after she defects to the Soviet Union. Snake later discovers that it was all a ruse for America to receive the Philosopher's Legacy, a virtually unlimited amount of money.

Again, game by that is about eight years old but could the Philosopher's Legacy be an allusion to the equivalent of oil today? Some would claim that America wants it all and that is why we put ourselves in conflict with the Middle East.

Fast forward to Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots, and you will come across politics being unraveled in a different light. From the very beginning, Solid Snake, or Old Snake in this case, states that "war has changed" multiple times. He often references how, "the age of deterrence has become the age of control, all in the name of averting catastrophe from weapons of mass destruction."



This sounds mysteriously like President George W. Bush's reasoning for invading Iraq for deterrence; the supposed Iraqi threat of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq did not declare war on us, but we invaded this oil-rich country due to empty threats.

The Metal Gear Solid family of games are beloved not just because of their game play, but because of the backdrop for political conspiracies. When Metal Gear Solid: Ground Zeroes is released, and hopefully that will be within the next year, we will all experience for ourselves the next era of political intrigue along with getting to sneak around the first open world Metal Gear, of course.

BANNER SPORTS

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Look to Push Forward

With A New Coach and Added Depth to the Team The Dolphins Look to Make A Statement in the 2012-2013 Season

BY MIKE PAPANDREA

With the 2012-2013 season about to kick off, the dolphins will have their head coach Mike Ackalitis for a full season. He believes there are a few keys to the season that can lead to a more successful one than the last. One stand out on the Women's team, is the addition seven freshmen.

"They're becoming very close already," said Ackalitis. "Two of them are sisters, three of them know each other from high school, and it's becoming a very positive atmosphere because they're always coming on time."

The added freshman boosts the girl's roster from a low 11 last year, to a full roster of 18 this year. This depth will give coach Ackalitis more options for rotations and a can focus on an individual swimmers strengths and weaknesses for specific matchups.

Returning swimmers from last year have another season under their belt and should only improve from here. CUNYAC Diving Champion Stephanie Collyer plans to keep her titles this year in the Conference.

Key returning swimmers are Juniors Vasiliki Stergioula (Freestyle), Elaina Lei (Breaststroke) and Lauren Overeem (Butterfly).

Senior Jessica Pifalo (IM/Backstroke) returns to the pool after an 8-month shoulder surgery recovery knocked out her 2011-2012 season. This year, the senior aims to stay in the pool.

"I feel confident going into this season," said Pifalo. "Between our freshman class and our strong pre-season that we had, we definitely are going to look to make a statement this year in the conference."

Ackalitis made sure that his pre-season practices included lots of running. He also pushed his team into the pool as much as he could in the month of September to get the team in shape for season.

"Practices are a lot more structured," said Pifalo. "He [Ackalitis] really pushes us in the best way possible and always encourages us to put 100% in each practice."

On the Men's side, four swimmers who made nationals last year return. Sophomore Timur Rakhimov, Junior Yury Zimarev, Andrey Tarasov and Junior Danila Novikov are all trying to build upon last season's personal success and turn it into team success for men's swimming.

Alongside Collyer, Sophomore CUNYAC



Source: CSI Athletic Dept.

Head Coach Mike Ackalitis Pushes the Lady Dolphins Swimming Team to A Successful Season.

Diving Champion John Pignatelli plans to keep his medals for the Dolphins this year. Junior Mitchell Lovell, and Sophomore Nolan Reece will join in contributing extra points and scoring for the Dolphins.

Ackalitis has made some achievable goals for the men's and women's teams. It starts with the men beating their conference rival, Baruch, who got the best of them last year.

"Last year Baruch beat us even though we won every single event," Said Ackalitis. "So,

we're hoping we have enough depth to kind of offset that and win the CUNY Championships."

On the women's side, Coach is not setting the bar to winning the CUNY Championships. A finish within a certain rank can mean a successful season and something to build upon for the upcoming years with this new freshman class.

"On the women's side I would like to be top 3. Being a big team I think we have a shot at that."

2012 MLB Playoffs Preview

A Quick Look at What is Ahead For This Year's Post Season

BY ANTHONY GUANERI

The 2012 MLB season has been an eventful one. With the addition of a second wild card in each league, more teams are in the hunt for playoff contention than ever before. This has also been a memorable season for other reasons. Washington has stormed to the top of the National League standings to bring playoff baseball back to the nation's capital for the first time since 1933.

The Baltimore Orioles have returned to prominence, currently in control of the top wild card spot and fighting for their American League East division title in fifteen years.

Familiar faces like New York, Tampa Bay, Detroit, and Texas are all vying for a return to postseason play as well. It has been a big year for individual players. Los Angeles Angels rookie outfielder Mike Trout has already established himself as an elite player at the age of twenty years old and is a front-runner for the American League MVP award.

Detroit star Miguel Cabrera is on the verge of the of the first triple crown in baseball since Carl Yastrzemski since 1967. Cabrera currently leads the league in batting average, runs batted in, and is one home run shy of the league lead (behind Josh Hamilton).

In the National League it seemed Giants outfielder Melky Cabrera had established himself as a top player, until a failed test for banned substances landed him a fifty game suspension. Pitching phenomenon Stephen Strasburg rebounded from Tommy John surgery with an exceptional season, but has been controversially shut down for the playoffs due to reaching his innings limit. This season was not without its disappointments either.

Perennial playoff contenders Boston and Philly struggled all year to maintain any kind of consistency. The Dodgers got off to a very strong start but faltered as the season wore on, even after acquiring several notable players from the Red Sox (Josh Beckett, Adrian Gonzalez, Carl Crawford).

Looking ahead to October, pitching is the name of the game. With the best staff ERA in baseball, Washington is well position to make a run at the pennant despite the absence of Strasburg. In the American League, Texas appears to repeat as league champions for the third year in a row. This is in thanks to a strong blend of high-powered offense, stellar pitching, and a great defense. Not to say that these are foregone conclusions.

The Yankees are the most experienced



Source: MLB.com

team in October, even with injury concerns and questions about starting rotation depth.

Tampa Bay and Oakland have arguably the best starting rotations in the American League.

Detroit is an offensive powerhouse and Justin Verlander remains one of the most feared pitchers in baseball.

Cincinnati has also blended good offense with strong pitching this season, and a healthy Joey Votto should go a long way towards their championship dreams. Atlanta has bounced

back from their monumental collapse of last season, San Francisco is just two years removed from a title, and St. Louis is looking to defend their thrilling World Series victory of 2011.

No matter how things play out, this is sure to be one of the most exciting MLB post-seasons in recent memory.