

THE BANNER

Dr. No Pain, M.D.

Prescription Drug Abuse is Just a Doctor's Visit Away

BY IAN FELDMAN
STAFF WRITER

As of 2008, 6.2 million Americans were reported for prescription drug abuse. Combine that with the high volume of controlled prescriptions written by Staten Island doctors and it raises the question: Who needs a drug dealer when you have your friendly neighborhood physician?

The 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), which was released September 2009, reported that 2.5% or 6.2 million Americans over the age of 12 had used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons. Of those prescriptions, 1.9% were classified as opiate painkillers, such as OxyContin and Vicodin. With all of the prescription drug abuse cases that have occurred in Staten Island, the accessibility of these drugs concerns doctors and pharmacists alike.

Marissa Maurino, a physician assistant in the Pain Management Center at the Health Care Associates of New York Medicine, writes about eight to ten prescriptions for painkillers daily.

"I treat a lot of young people who come here after seeing their primary doctor," said Maurino. "It should not be



Photo by pceakikuyuhospital.org

A 2008 report states that 2.5% of Americans over age 12 abused prescription drugs. "Teens and gangsters are stealing it from the parents," said Dr. Ramachandran Nair.

left in the hands of the primary doctor to decide to give the patient these drugs but should be left for pain management to make that decision."

Pain management centers like Health Care Associates take certain measures to attempt to prevent prescription drug abuse. They include a urine toxicology report before medicine can be dispensed. Other methods of prescription drug abuse prevention include the

push for physical therapy, exercise, psychological evaluations and non-controlled anti-inflammatory prescriptions.

Many of the patients who are sent to a pain management center have already become addicted to painkillers because of their primary doctors. This makes things tougher for pain management clinics as they struggle to find ways to wean patients off the medications.

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Annual Safety Report Shows Rise in Burglary

Public Safety Shows Active Response

BY JAMES PLUNKETT
STAFF WRITER

CSI released its 2009 Annual Safety Report, showing few changes in the college's long streak of low crime. However, among the low-profile incidents that did increase, burglary jumped from none to a total of 10 incidents from 2006 to 2008.

No robberies were reported, only burglaries. What constitutes these misdemeanors is the subject of contention among some students, who feel that burglary is an all-too-common phenomenon on campus.

A report put out by President Tomás Morales said an Israeli flag was discovered on the outside of 1-L's second story. According to the report, "The flag had been defaced with a swastika and anti-Israeli statements." Public Safety discovered the flag on September 19th, and is working with NYPD.

In another campus alarm, a female CSI student was harassed by a male student. On September 8th, a female student was approached by a male student and was asked the time. As she went to check her phone for the time, the male grabbed her arm. According to the release, "The female student yelled several times 'get off me.' When another student entered the stairwell, the suspect released the female and fled out the exit door."

College students across the nation have also followed the murder of Yale University graduate student Annie Le.

At CSI, reported incidents are recorded in the Daily Crime Log at the Public Safety Office. But anecdotal reports of burglary are not always reported. How CSI classifies a burglary is also in dispute amongst some students—are missing locker items cause for identifying the incidence as a burglary? Or are only more serious cases rendered as such?

Public Safety's website does not yet clarify its classification of crimes, except to say that "crime statistics for this report are compiled on a calendar year basis and in accordance with the definitions provided by the FBI for use in Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system."

Public Safety has increased its presence with some changes. One noticeable implementation in the Fall 2009

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Photo by grrplanet.com

Exit Strategies for Bad Dates, Page 8

How You Can Dodge The Flu

Preparing for the H1N1 Virus on Campus

BY JOHN ADRIAN
ARTS EDITOR

Last Spring's premier political football, the H1N1 virus, is, we are told, set for a come-back this fall.

As of this writing, a vaccine to protect against Swine Flu (which has practically nothing to do with pigs) is being tested. Hopefully it will be available by late Fall 2009.

It is expected that the H1N1 vaccine will require two inoculations to fully protect you from the virus. These two shots will be in addition to the regular flu shot you should get every fall.

Terianne Darragh, R.N., Director of the CSI Campus Health Center said, in August, that she had no information on shots for H1N1 or the regular flu at that time. She expected to know more about CUNY's plans by late September.

In the meantime, she suggested consulting the Centers for Disease



Photo by Collegian.com

Control and Prevention website, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>, for up-to-date information.

Among the more salient points are that anyone who falls into one or more of these categories should be inoculated against H1N1 because they are considered to be 'at risk':

- Pregnant women.
- Household contacts and caregivers for children under six months.

Continued on page 3

STATE OF THE UNION

A Statement of Principles for the American Democracy Project by the Page's New Editor

BY MICHAEL YOUNG
ADP EDITOR

On November 4th, 2008, New Yorkers went to the polls and voted for their next president. While the other four boroughs voted Democrat, Staten Island voted John McCain.

Uh oh, you're probably thinking. The American Democracy Project has been taken over by liberals.

Discussing the election, a friend of mine, who lives in Queens and attends Hunter College, said, "Shouldn't that be reason alone for Staten Island to secede from the city?"

Maybe I'm being a bit harsh. John McCain is a man of principle, and I understand his messages resonate with a more conservative population. But the point is this- can we prove that our borough can enter the debate in a well-considered, nuanced way, and not fall into the same stereotype?

Here at The Banner, we have had our share of conservative writers. When Barack Obama stepped into office, inheriting the worst financial crisis since men wore Stetson hats in public, Banner writers clamored endlessly about Obama's smooth, silky, deceptive rhetoric.

Enough rants that shout, "open your eyes, people!" into the void. This year, let's try to have an intelligent debate about politics and current events, both national and local. We encourage both sides of the debate, as long as partisan views are thoughtful and weigh the pros and cons of an argument.

I would love for people to write letters to the editor, contribute editorials, and participate in the discussion. Regardless of your level of expertise, your opinion is valued here. If you are a freshman, come on board! People at The Banner care about giving a voice to CSI, and our editor-in-chief, Bill Kline, works very hard at reporting, selecting dedicated writers, and writing high-quality stories.

The Banner is your school newspaper, so take ownership of it. Keep reading!

E-mail your compliments, grievances and articles to:
the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com

HEALTHCARE SPECIAL

No Option on Public Option

BY MICHAEL YOUNG
ADP EDITOR

As five different health care reform bills float around Congress, President Obama is hurriedly supplying his bait for 60 fishing lures.

On Wednesday, September 9, Obama gave a speech to a joint session of Congress—the first joint session convened since the winter months—as a last ditch effort to reach across the aisle and make a legitimate plea for health reform.

His words: "I'm not the first President to try getting health reform passed, but I'm determined to be the last."

The Republicans were easy to distinguish among the sea of people in the crowd, with their slouched posture and sour faces. One member was on his Blackberry, presumably Twittering his distaste for the plan, while another held a hand-scribbled "What plan?" sign on his lap.

What plan? Obama was determined to tell us.

The president and his planning committees are aiming to implement a marketplace system, in which the public can choose from a menu of private insurance plans as well as a public option, an affordable government-run healthcare plan to compete with the private insurers. The Baucus Bill, which seems to be gaining the most traction in Congress, does not contain that public option, a measure which would have kept the other companies in check.

Obama raised a great comparison. The existence of affordable, public universities, such as CUNY, does not affect enrollment at private colleges. Why should a public option severely threaten the private insurers? But all hope isn't lost.

The reform in the Baucus Bill would serve an important purpose by creating incentives for doctors and hospitals to provide preventative treatments. It would prevent insurance companies from dropping their aging, debilitated clients who need healthcare the most and denying

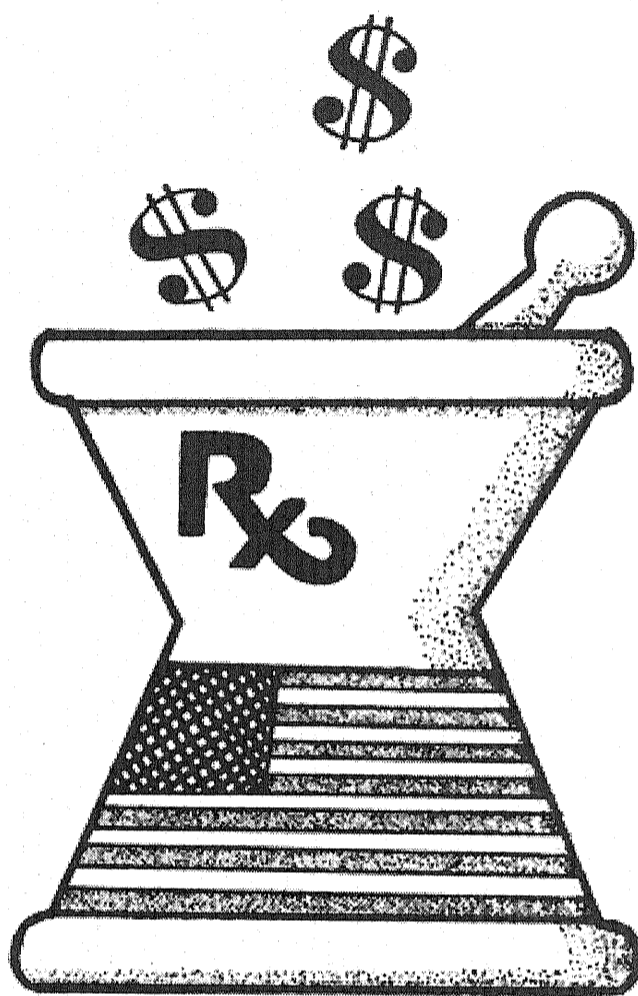


Photo by Collegian.com MICHAEL OSBURN

coverage on the basis of pre-existing conditions. These provisions seem to at least meet some of Obama's minimum requirements for an autograph.

This plan is not the shift to socialism that conservatives feared and progressives may have wanted, but it does create a web-based, competitive marketplace. Sounds like free-market capitalism isn't going anywhere.

It almost sounds like a pragmatic solution to one of the most serious problems our country faces. In an editorial written the day of Obama's address, "New York Times" columnist Thomas Friedman wrote that while a single-party autocracy, as seen in China, allows things to operate smoothly, a single-party democracy does not work. With Republicans almost unanimously against health reform, Obama needs to win over at least a few of them to get the

majority he needs, just in case any Democrats flake out. Unfortunately, the concession of the public option didn't attract Republican support.

Towards the end of his address, Obama invoked the deceased Ted Kennedy, one of the most tireless advocates for health care reform. Kennedy wrote to Obama in the months before his death, saying that health reform is a moral issue, and the "character of our country" is based on helping our fellow man.

Perhaps both parties can find it in themselves to be decent human beings, not be swayed by conservative fear mongering about death panels and endlessly waits at doctor's offices, and ultimately support what is right. Let's not see health reform fail as it did in the during the Clinton administration. Not this time.

THE BAUCUS BILL



Photo by AP
Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont)
Senate Finance Committee

OVERVIEW:

- Cost: \$856 billion
- Seeks to reduce the number of uninsured by 29 million in a decade.
- Many of the bill's major provisions will not take effect until 2013, or after next election.

AREAS OF CONTENTION:

- Republicans*
- Proposed taxes
- Mandate for individuals to purchase Health Insurance.
- Expansion of Medicare.
- Democrats*
- Public option not included.
- Too many concessions.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Commuter vs. Community

BY BILL KLINE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

If you want to find a parking space at CSI, come during Club Hours. On Wednesday at 2:30 pm and Thursday at 1:30 pm, you'll witness a mass exodus of Ford Explorers and Honda Civics as the campus empties. At this point, you're probably expecting a tirade on inadequate parking or student apathy. To a large extent that's probably correct, but my intent is not to cast guilt or blame, but to pose a running thesis, or at least debunk a deeply entrenched myth.

There is a perception that CSI suffers because it lacks a sense of community. Many have defined the college as a commuter school because many students simply come from their classes and leave when they're done. That theory would seemingly be demonstrable on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Because of this, CSI supposedly lacks that 'college experience.' Low turnout at campus events, low enrollment in student clubs, and poor voter turnout for

Student Government elections often serve as metrics. And so the stigma sticks, that CSI has an apathetic student body.

Many groups and individuals have forged efforts to engage the college community, or have at least offered implausible solutions during random drunken gatherings. "The college needs a football team," says one. "The college should serve alcohol on campus," chimes another. "The college will be better when it gets dorms."

"Residence Halls," I correct them. Don't get me wrong. I think the implementation of any of those half-baked policies would elicit an enthusiastic response from students. If CSI introduced college football and student-discounted Heineken, all within walking distance, I'm fairly confident that The Banner Opinion page would pledge its support. I just think that the measure by which we evaluate student engagement at CSI is flawed. Not to mention the obvi-

ous trouble I foresee with proposing those items to CUNY's Board of Trustees.

Those engaged in clubs and student activities shouldn't use their sphere as the measuring stick for the rest of the campus. As a leader of a student club, I empathize with the struggle that one wages to recruit impressionable students. I identify with the near-Pavlovian methods it takes to elicit a response of some club members. If you say pizza, they will come. But the frustrations of a student organization stem from the flawed paradigm by which we view the college.

We often view CSI as a case of Pink Floyd's "Us vs. Them." 'Us' represents the small but tight knit community of Campus Center dwellers, and 'them' symbolizes the flock of exiles who desert campus when Club activities occur. A gulf separates these two far-fetched worlds. On the contrary, I view CSI more as a cluster of communities that some-

times overlap, but are nevertheless dispersed.

If CSI lacked a community, even the unengaged wouldn't see at least three people they know every time they walk from the cafeteria to the library. The bootleg Starbucks wouldn't overflow with chatty and perky co-ed crews until closing. And there wouldn't be an inside joke among Communications students about a professor so infamous, I don't even have to mention their name in print and many of my classmates would guess the name. And if they do, they know where they can get a free slice of pizza every Thursday at 1:30 pm.

Check Out The Banner On The Web

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- Find Us on Facebook
- The Banner on Twitter: twitter.com/thebannercsi

Annual Safety Report

(continued from page 1)

Public Safety outfit is the segway. According to a Twitter update on CSINEWS, the segways intend to reduce Public Safety's "carbon footprint" and add visibility to the job.

Among other changes, the organization introduced new portable radios for improved communications, as well as smaller vehicles that eliminate congestion and improve overall speed. In addition, an improved website launched over Summer 2009, with policies, messages, tips, as well as the CSI Annual Safety Report. An Anonymous Report can be filed, thereby protecting the identity of the witness. Among other things, the website includes a new interface that links to the Emergency Management Plan—the master plan behind Public Safety. According to the website, the improved web site navigation can advance communication between parents, students, and security personnel.

Students may opt into the school-wide emergency system, CUNY Alert, by registering at the Public Safety website: <http://web.cuny.edu/news/alert.html>.

How To Dodge The Flu

(continued from page 1)

- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel.
- All people from six months through 24 years of age.
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

The CDC website also suggests: "Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be

gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick."

"Spread of 2009 H1N1 virus is thought to occur in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something — such as a surface or object — with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose."

"The symptoms of 2009 H1N1 flu virus in people include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue."

"People infected with seasonal and 2009 H1N1 flu shed virus and may be able to infect others from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after. This can be longer in some people, especially children and people with weakened immune systems and in people infected with the new H1N1 virus."

For more information, visit the Campus Health Office in 1C-112.

Nationwide

■ A twenty-year-old Cornell student succumbed to complications related to the H1N1 virus. Cornell reported that "influenza-type illness" had been reported in 250 students.

■ An outbreak at Washington State University left at least 2,200 students with flu-like symptoms, but has since "tapered off."

■ In order to stop the virus from spreading, universities including St. John's University and Carnegie Mellon have set aside quarantine areas for students afflicted with the swine flu.

■ More than half of the 189 colleges that responded to a American College Health Association survey reported the existence of a swine flu case. The survey states that over 2,000 students have fallen victim to the swine flu.

(Source: New York Times)

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Dr. No Pain, M.D.

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"Unfortunately, some doctors want to get rid of the patient and their complaining, so they'll just write the prescription," said Dr. Maurino.

Dr. Ramachandran Nair, a doctor who specializes in infectious diseases at the Staten Island Medical Center told a slightly different story.

"Teens and gangsters are stealing it from the parents," said Dr. Nair. "When the doctor sees patient, it's a one to one thing and the doctor is not responsible whether or not the patient chooses to take the medicine."

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) keeps records of every prescription written by every doctor and the DEA reserves the right to investigate a doctor if suspicious activity is suspected. A statement, which proves that the doctor is partially responsible for the

One Doctor Reported Writing Eight to Ten Prescriptions for Painkillers a Day

patient's decisions and can result in serious consequences for a physician.

Dr. Mathew Mani, an internist at Heartland Medical Center, refuses to write controlled prescriptions for his patients. "You want my honest opinion," said Dr. Mani, "They should ban it all together like marijuana and cocaine." The street value of prescription drugs doesn't compare to other illicit drugs. "On the street, Oxycontin goes for about \$50 a pill and Vicodin is about \$10 to \$20," said Dr. Mani. "One bottle of Oxycontin is equal to five joints of marijuana."

Pharmacists are concerned about the accessibility of these prescription drugs. Chain pharmacies, such as Walgreens, CVS, and Rite-Aid and private pharmacies try their best to prevent prescription drug abuse.

Peter Sabados, a pharmacist who owns Woodrow Pharmacy in Rossville, comes across 15 to 20 controlled prescriptions a day in his pharmacy. "This is definitely an issue and we constantly have to investigate it," said Sabados. Woodrow Pharmacy runs into problems with fake prescriptions four to five times a week, with most of the people being males between the ages of 18 to 30.

One step, which seeks to limit prescription drug abuse, requires all scripts, including non-controls, to require a bar code that must be scanned. This would help prevent the over-prescribing of controlled medications. Some doctors deem that insufficient.

"We try our best to prevent these problems," said Sabados. "You have to make your own judgments when filling these prescriptions."

The 2008 NSDUH shows a slight decrease from the 2007 report, which concluded that 6.9 million Americans abused prescription drugs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, (SAMHSA) predicts that the number will not stay down for long and the DEA must take further actions to put a stop on this crime.

"[We] as a whole [have] to be careful when writing, filling and taking prescriptions," said Dr. Maurino. "We all share the responsibilities of this issue and must remain aware of it."

Learning A Painful Lesson

Doctors have to be aware when they write controlled prescriptions because if they are not careful then they could run into trouble with the law. Just ask infectious disease specialist, Dr. Ramachandran Nair.

Dr. Nair happened to practice internal medicine until August 2003, when he was arrested and charged for selling a controlled prescription to an undercover DEA agent. As a result, Dr. Nair's license was suspended for a total of three years and could not practice internal medicine.

Dr. Nair is not the only doctor that has been guilty of this crime and the DEA has been trying to keep a tighter grip on these physicians.

Six years later, you can find Dr. Nair, who practices in his office at the Staten Island Medical Center, doing what he loves best. However, he remains wise when it comes to prescribing medications. "It's all about keeping proper record keeping," said Dr. Nair.



Photo by rxforsong-beach.com

BANNER BRIEFS

NEW ADMINISTRATORS APPOINTED

Kenichi Iwama, Esq. was appointed as the new Director of Compliance and Diversity at CSI. He is an attorney with experience in Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employment, and education law. Prior to CSI, he worked in the State Operated School district of Jersey City in NJ.

Dr. E.K Park was recruited as the new Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. His background is in industrial experience in computer systems and software related projects. He is an accomplished scholar, teacher and administrator. He is the founder of the International Conference on Computer Communication and the International Conference on Information and

Lastly, Dr. Jerald Jones-Woolfolk, the new Vice President for Student Affairs, holds a PhD in Urban Higher Education, a Bachelor's in Psychology from Jackson State University and a Master of Science degree in Counselor Education from Iowa State. She has also won many professional awards and honors. (CSItoday.net)

Fresh Faces At CSI: They're Not Just Students
CSI added 43 new faculty members, all which have advanced degrees, won awards, and have industry experience that, Dr. William Fritz says, "...this diverse group of experts is poised to make significant contributions to the College, CUNY, and their respective academic disciplines." (CSItoday.net)

Compiled by Katiria Lopez

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Science & Technology

Biodiversity in the University

Global Warming Endangers Many Species That Inhabit CSI

BY BRIAN KATEMAN
SCIENCE WRITER

Have you ever observed swarms of worms slithering on the sidewalk when it rained on campus or taken notice of the cow birds and robins soaring through the sky?

A quick glance outside the window of any academic classroom at CSI will reveal a world that too often goes unnoticed. While biology lessons inside the classroom would certainly help students understand the relationship between organisms and their environment, they do not need to have a nuanced understanding of biology to recognize that a massive biodiversity exists at the CSI. Hundreds of species of varying degrees of complexity, from insects to mammals, share with us our glorious campus, and thus deserve to be treated with as much

respect as we demand from one another. We, both human and non-human, are all part of one ecosystem, and it is our moral obligation that we coexist with one another harmoniously.

Our campus is a microcosm of the entire planet—we do not go to school in a bubble. All the species that have made a home for themselves at the CSI, including us, are affected by the same phenomena that jeopardize the stability of ecosystems around the world. Among these issues, global warming, a human-induced rise in the global mean surface temperature triggered largely by burning fossil fuels, is a danger to the preservation of all biodiversity. Organisms facing external temperature changes are unable to adapt to their new environment and may go extinct and disrupt natural cycles. Some species of birds for example depend on wetlands that are being dried up by global warming; other migratory birds travel thousands of miles to find insects, which have unexpectedly

had their breeding cycle several weeks earlier. Without a habitat or food, these precious birds may die. To combat global warming, we must not only accept responsibility for its existence, but we must also take an active involvement in halting its pervasiveness.

It starts with recycling. Landfills produce a dangerous greenhouse gas called methane, which heats up the planet. Placing aluminum cans, glass bottles, and pieces of paper into their proper receptacle is therefore a painless way to mitigate global warming. Despite this fact, they are constantly discarded into non-recycle receptacles on campus. A recent study conducted at The University of Oviedo showed that recycling among the participants was inversely correlated with the distance they had to walk—the more steps they had to take to arrive at a recycling bin, the less likely they were to recycle. While the CSI would clearly benefit from placing a recycling receptacle in every room of every building, observation tells me that one is guaranteed to exist on every floor.

Let us examine a hypothetical stu-

dent, who discards two cans of carbonated soda and one glass Snapple bottle into a non-recycle bin. Had this student recycled these few objects, he would have saved countless hours of otherwise wasted energy. How many exactly?

Help-Stop-Global-Warming.com offers a measure to help put the saving energy power of recycling into perspective. Two aluminum cans would save enough energy to run a television for over six hours. One glass bottle could light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. That is ten hours of energy saved for a few seconds of effort. Imagine how many animals you could save if you recycled on an everyday basis. The numbers are staggering.

Before you throw out a piece of paper into a standard black garbage can, ask yourself whether it is worth taking a few extra steps to help conserve. We do not need superpowers to save the planet.

Brian Kateman is a Macaulay Honors Student and biology major. He also is a Jeannette K. Watson Fellow and a Goldsmith Scholar. Send comments to the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com

Systematic, Hydromatic, Nano-matic

Take that, Zune HD!
Huzzah!

BY ANDREW DILORENZO
GEEK ON THE STREET

9.9.09. What does that mean exactly? Is that a warning from Nostradamus regarding the imminent perishing on earth? Or could it be a marketing ploy to open that new movie "9" from Tim Burton and Timur Bekmambetov? Well no and yes, respectively. Nostradamus warned people for July 28th, 2099 at eleven-seven pm and "9" did open on that day. But for us geeks out there, 9.9.09 is known for the latest keynote event from Apple Inc. On this day, we learn what is making the cut for this Christmas and what is getting the boot.

Held in San Francisco, the person taking center stage in all this was Steve Jobs, the CEO of Apple. Jobs made headlines earlier in the year by announcing he would take a five-month leave of absence to undergo a liver transplant. Wearing his trademark black turtleneck and jeans, the 54-year-old spoke with a gravelly voice, but appeared excited. Receiving a standing ovation from those in attendance, Mr. Jobs said "I'm very

happy to be here with you all." He explained that he had received the liver of a young adult who died in a car accident. "I wouldn't be here without such generosity," he said, urging others to become organ donors, too. He then added "So I'm vertical, I'm back at Apple, and loving every day of it." After that, he started talking about the new things Apple planned, which include a price cut to the iPod Touch and giving it more gigabytes, adding a camera to the iPod Nano, and releasing a new version of iTunes.

The iPod Touch will get price cuts? Stop the presses! (Wait, only our fearless leader, the mustachioed man Bill Kline, can say that.) That's right, they cut the prices of the 8-gigabyte, which is now at \$199, as well as the 32-gigabyte at \$299. Unfortunately, the 16-gigabyte did not make the cut, so we bid you adieu. However, a new 64-gigabyte Touch is out now at \$399. What does it do? The same things like the others, but with more memory. On that same day, Jobs also announced a free software update to iPhone and touch users which gives users a Genius playlist for your applications based off of similar apps you already have.

Jobs also mentioned that he wanted

the iPod Touch at the forefront of video games. He described the iPod Touch as a portable computer that will become a major force in gaming, which is historically a weak spot for the company's computer business. Jobs also stressed the success of games and applications on both the iPod Touch and its big brother, the iPhone, comparing it with devices like the PSP and the Nintendo DS.

The Touch wasn't the only thing that made created a buzz there. The iPod Nano, Apple's bastard child of MP3 players, also received a new makeover, with a video camera. That's right, kids. Now you can listen to your Push Play and Miley Cyrus music while shooting a standard "Facebook Mirror Pucker Kissi-Poo" video montage. It's all the rage nowadays. Starting at \$149, it also offers an integrated FM radio and a pedometer to keep track while you're working out.

But what about iTunes? What about that program that Apple never pays attention to, kind of like the kid in the fourth grade that you never talked to nor picked when playing softball? Well, it's your lucky day iTunes. Grab a 'bat, because you are getting a makeover as well. iTunes 9 boasts features, which includes a greater ability to share music and other digital content between multiple computers in a single home and a feature called iTunes LP, which brings additional content such as lyrics, videos and artwork to albums purchased on the site.

Investors were already expecting this overhaul, giving the slowing sales of the models and stiffening competition. According to Gene Munster, a industry analyst with Piper Jaffray and Co., he said "They're just trying to segment the product line, and they're trying to get people to buy multiple iPods." He also noted a rumor that Apple laid to rest regarding a camera in the touch and also the lack of a still camera in the Nano.

These products are already in stores nationwide, and Apple has authorized retailers to slash prices on the old inventory to move these bad boys in.

What have we learned today? Well, on 9.9.09 I have learned that Apple is going to make my day with new products. It's kind of like my Christmas, except without the tree or the spiked eggnog. For you kids, you have learned a valuable lesson: to stand in front of your bathroom mirror and make "Facebook Mirror Pucker Kissi-Poo" faces without jamming out to Miley Cyrus' "Party in the USA" and tape it all for YouTube on the ol' Nano. Now if you excuse me, I have faces to make and songs to listen to. Goodnight, America!

Andrew DiLorenzo is a tech analyst for RadioShack and a DJ for WSI Staten Island, 88.9 fm. EMAIL THE GEEK @ emailthegEEK-thestreet@gmail.com. You never know, your response could be the Geek's next article!

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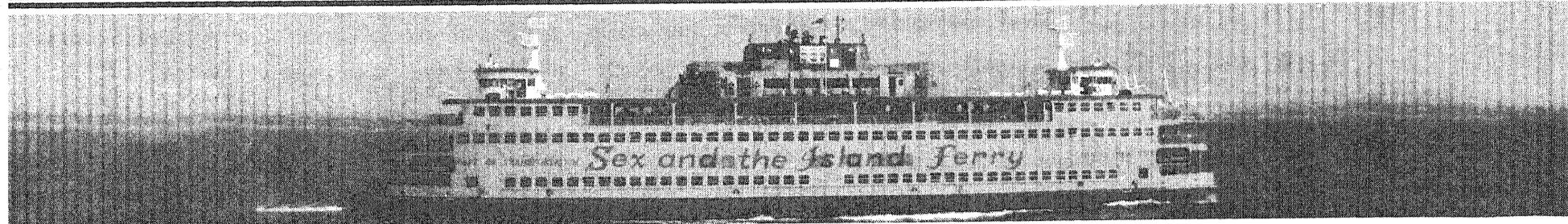
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LIFESTYLES



First Date Fail

Tips and Tricks for Getting Out of a Bad Date From the Master Herself

BY EMMA HERNANDEZ
SEX COLUMNIST

The word "awkward" is often synonymous with the words "first date". As painful and unsuccessful they can be, only 48% of first dates end in a good-night kiss (and whether the kiss is a reciprocation of mutual interest on behalf of both parties involved is debatable).

The words "I", "want", "to", "kill", and "myself" should never run through your mind as you're sitting across from your date. Neither should you have to resort to drinking yourself numb by gulping down the cranberry and vodka he bought you while trying to maintain a somewhat lady-like pose.

Having endured the single most unfortunate dating experience of my life this past summer, I want to impart some advice to help other ladies (or guys) who might find themselves in a similar situation. Here's how to get out of a really, really bad date.

First: Don't make the mistake I made. Just because you kind of knew someone before he went away to school, chances are that four years and living in a small city upstate will have had an affect on his personality and he probably won't be the same person you thought he was.

Second: If you know you're not into the person from the start, don't lead them on by agreeing to go on a date in the first place. If your pursuer is persistent, then by all means, exhaust every excuse in the book: "I got called into work," "I have plans on Friday, but thanks," or "My grandmother died." (Come on, as long as you use a family member who's already dead, it's not that big of a deal.) If you're comfortable with being honest, just tell the truth: "I hate your guts" or "You creep me out."

If none of that works, get creative. If they let you plan the date, suggest a movie and get seats far away from the dark corners of the theater, preferably in the middle of the row. There you won't have to spend time actually interacting. If you're not in a dark corner (a prime spot for make-out sessions), you're already avoiding whatever moves they

were planning to make. If things get too unbearable, excuse yourself to use the restroom and just leave. Make sure you do this in the middle of the movie, not near the end. You don't want your date to catch you leaving the parking lot.

Let's say your date insists on taking you to dinner. Call in reinforcements. Give one of your friends a heads up beforehand. At some point, excuse yourself. Call your friend from the bathroom stall and tell them to call back in exactly five minutes with an "emergency." (If you need a ride, tell them to wait outside with the engine running.) When your phone rings, take the call.

Answer in front of your date, if you're a good liar. If not, tell them reception is bad and take the call outside. Try not to laugh when you feign genuine regret as you tell your date "something came up" or "there's a really big emergency." Try to walk (don't run) as fast as you can to the nearest exit. You're going to have to ignore calls and texts from the person for about a week afterwards, especially if they're concerned about what happened. But after that, they'll get over it and you're off the hook.

Or, you can try my shameless

approach. My date left the planning up to me, so I suggested we hang out with my friends.

It started at a bar and ended with an impromptu party in one of their houses. As if his company at the bar wasn't excruciating enough (I seriously contemplated using the serrated edge of a paper towel dispenser in the bathroom to slit my wrists), his socially awkward banter was embarrassing. Around 1:00 a.m., I announced that I had "work really early in the morning" and was "leaving," then offered to drive him to the nearest train station. After I dropped him off, I turned right around and went back to my friend's house to enjoy the party without my date looming over my shoulders.

Mean? I know. But, as I leaned in to give him an air-kiss on the cheek, he snaked me and stole an undeserved kiss good night. I was horrified, but at least we both got what we wanted: he got his kiss, and I got rid of him.

Have a suggestion? Need advice? Send all love mail, hate mail, and questions to:
The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com

Get Carried Away!

Ways to Carry Your Schoolbooks with Style

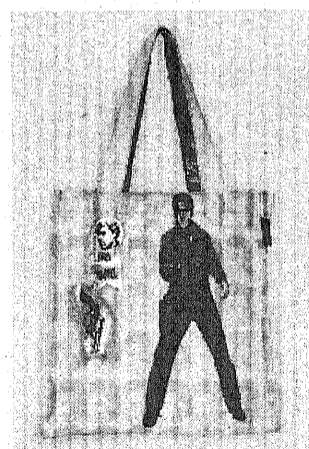
BY DANIEL WATSON
FASHION COLUMNIST

School is charging its way back into our social lives. Let's take the bull by the horns and step into fall with style! Every semester, the canvas JanSport backpack rears its ugly head. Some students rely on this fashion NO-NO as a must-do to transport their books, but I strongly beg to differ! Here is an easy guide to trendsetting with your books behind your back, and your head in the game.



Betseyville

Photos submitted by Daniel Watson



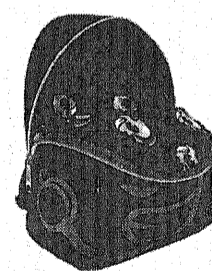
Andy Warhol Tote Bag

Ladies, how can you study in style, while snagging a bag that's funky, fashionable, and functional? Betsey Johnson has the answer: Betseyville! If you're going to shell out \$100 bucks on a bag, ladies, it should serve a dual purpose. With its vintage patchwork, a large compartment for your textbooks, and its metallic silver sheen (a trend that was big in the 80s and even bigger now), this bag hits a home run for this fall, and will have you shining like a true silver dollar.

Applying art to fashion is a trend that



Kid Robot



has consumed the fashion industry. Paint the campus red when you step in class sporting the latest Andy Warhol tote bag. This company has never shied away from pushing the envelope with its festively decorative designs. Andy Warhol's painting "The Elvis" inspires this bright yellow, classic-shaped tote. Its vibrant color and pattern makes the figure of Elvis pop! With a simplistic design and low maintenance fabric, this tote is a must-have to lug around your belongings all semester long. At \$39, you can't

lose.

Here's a little number for the fellas out there looking to can their East Pak. The influence of Japanese anime and cartoon characters has become the biggest movement in menswear in years. Designers such as BAPE, Louis Vuitton, and BBC all collaborated with Japanese artists to feature specialized versions of their signature collection piece to adopt the eclectic style of the Japanime culture. For a hot bag with a cool look, try Kid Robot on for size. With its basic and minimalist graphics, the character on the outside implores for attention. The purple satin lining makes things seem a little brighter when opening it each day in class. (Guys, don't be afraid venture in uncharted areas of the color spectrum.) This bag will only run you about \$89, so get it while it's hot!

There are numerous options that can serve as backpack alternatives. As long as it's fresh, fun, and you, it will make a statement. Have fun with it, and be creative.

VIN FORTE IS NOT FUNNY

[HUMOR SECTION]

Photo by rcrdlbl.com



BY VIN FORTE
PITCHFORK SNOB

What do you do when your band has amassed 95,000 web hits on MySpace, has been featured as "Best New Music" on Pitchfork Media, and is on the verge of playing the ATP Festival in London this Fall?

Run far, far into the obscurity of Stapleton.

The band formerly known as The Gay Blazers, now known as Flaming Knights, has blown up across the Internet on blogs and social networking sites—all in the span of the past three months.

Lead singer and bisexual heartthrob Justin D'Augustino describes the band's frantically fast-moving success as "Horrible. I can't believe this is really happening. Our melodies are crooked, our lyrics arbitrary and full of obscure Radiohead references, and our mascot is a giant Rip Taylor cut-out wearing a hockey mask."

With a sound equivalent to Thom Yorke, Jay Reatard, and LCD Soundsystem, all blended with Brian Wilson production, Flaming Knights have come a long way from practicing for siblings in drummer Dave Gilman's

Indie Band Hits Big; Loathes Self

North Shore Band on Track for Success; Woe are They.

basement.

"I want to kill myself," said Gilman, 32, of Eltingville. "Why do people like us? I hate that a lot of people find us enjoyable enough to pay to see us perform at MSG next month. Now we have to tour on a bus and it's really cumbersome. I mean, we're a serious band [EXPLETIVE], we shouldn't have to work this damn hard for bountiful results!"

During their last hometown show at The Cup in Stapleton this past Wednesday, the Knights cursed their fans and scolded them for their everlasting support and devotion over the past 12 years.

"Why the [EXPLETIVE] do you like us?" Said Ritchie Goddard, the band's bass player, "Who the hell do you think we are, Green Day? Do we have 'Timberland' production and Lady GaGa pizazz?"

Getting ready to take the dank, wooden stage in the backroom of The Cup, all three members could be seen smoking

hand-rolled tobacco and sipping Pabst Blue Ribbon in a backstage ritual dating back to their early days.

"We just want to be trend-setters," said D'Augustino. "I was the first teen on Staten Island to popularize the use of hand-rolled tobacco. Now every Tom, Dick, and Gavin does it; it makes me sick."

Strong words from a man who seemingly subscribes to a policy of damned if you do and damned if you don't.

"I hate you." Said Goddard after being pressed by The Banner for comment on their upcoming European tour.

"We hate capitalism." Said Gilman, "All we want to do is make music for ourselves..I'm not exactly sure why we play for people; I guess we..wow..I've never really thought about it. Why do we....wow."

After pondering that thought for a week, Gilman was found dead in his studio loft of an overdose of Entenmann's cookies and LSD.

Humor Correction BY DENNIS GAFFIGAN YO PUSHER MAN

In The Banner dated 4/12/09, a student editorial stated that heroin would be supplied in vending machines on campus. This is not correct.

Ira Perskey from the CSI Auxiliary has control of all vending machines on campus.

Mr. Perskey said, "As far as I know, heroin is an illegal substance and cannot be vended on this campus."

He continued, "Although it would be a highly profitable item and would help increase badly needed revenue, we are unable to vend heroin at this time."

Heroin, LSD, and other mind-altering drugs will still be available for sale in the heavily-wooded area behind 1P on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30am until 3:30pm, weather permitting.



COOKIE MONSTER MOLESTATION CASE DISMISSED

BY VIN FORTE
COOKIEPUSS

This past week, the case against Cookie J. Monster, real name Cookington Monsievawitz, was thrown out due to lack of DNA evidence.

Monster had been charged with child molestation and carrying a handgun without a license.

Initial police reports had claimed that Monster had lured two toddlers into his neighborhood with promises of cookies and then proceeded to fondle them until they escaped.

Semen found at the scene of the crime initially came up inconclusive dur-

ing lab tests, but was later revealed to be that of Ernie Rodriguez, owner of the local nightclub, T.G.I.Fisting.

This new discovery, while raising questions about Mr. Monster's sexuality, leaves the prosecution without a leg to stand on, thus exonerating Mr. Monster.

At a press conference outside the courthouse on Monday, Mr. Monster stated "I'm just a man who loves cookies. I'm looking to simply move forward and put this horrible ordeal behind me."

Witnesses have reported seeing Monster at Nobu drowning his sorrows in Merlot and crying into a chocolate cake.

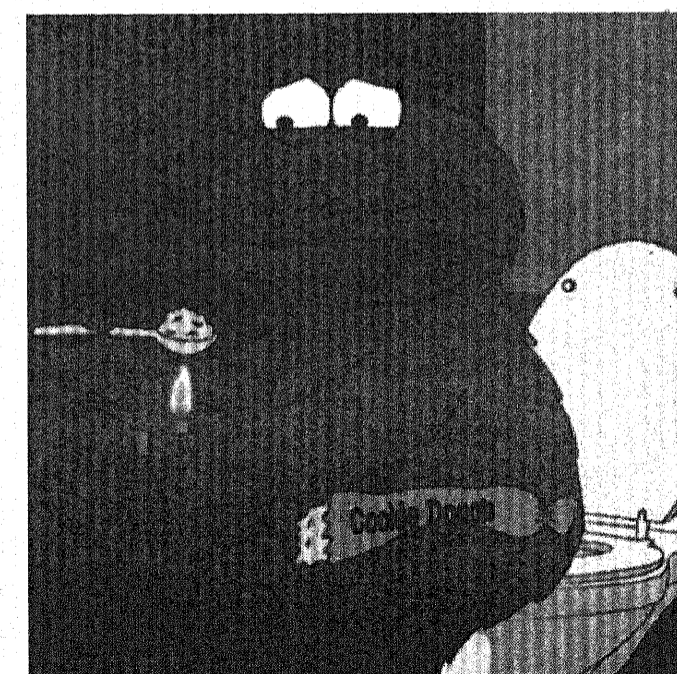


Photo by LIFE magazine

C is for child-molestation. That's good enough for me.

DISCLAIMER:

The views expressed here are those of "The Banner" Humor Editor, Vincent Forte. All content on this page, unless clearly marked, represents (or attempts to represent) fiction and/or parody.

Editors

BANNER SPORTS

New Interim Athletic Director Spells New Vision For Department

President Morales Brings in an Old Friend for a One-Year Stint

BY EDNITA LORENZO
SPORTS EDITOR

After months of waiting and ongoing search committees, CSI President Tomás Morales and Vice President for Student Affairs, Jerald Jones-Woolfolk, appointed Paul Bobb as the new Interim Athletic Director for a one year term, beginning on September 1st, 2009.

Bobb, a long-time friend and colleague of President Morales, was pulled out of retirement and accepted the position this past summer. The position, which was previously held by David Pizzuto (from August 2008- 2009), was offered to Bobb in hopes of establishing a new vision for CSI athletics.

"I was more than happy to provide any assistance that I can," said a cheerful Bobb. "President Morales has confidence in me and I share his vision of enhancing the department."

The vision of which Bobb spoke of consists of an in-depth analysis/evaluation of the department including operation, performance, repair, resources and such.

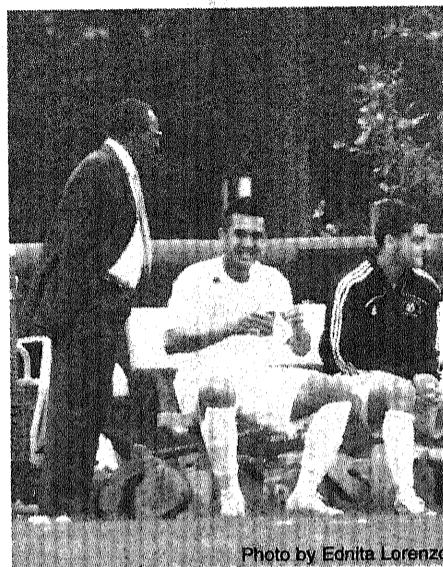


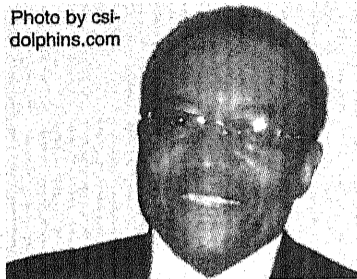
Photo by Ednita Lorenzo

"[Morales] has a strong view of the department. He wants to evolve into a Division III program of national stature. Since we had worked together in the past, he felt that I was seasoned enough to give him some objective opinions on how the program might be enhanced," explained Bobb.

Bobb will only be around for a year but in that short period of time he looks to make changes where they need to be made and include community involvement.

With the department in need of resources, repairs and more, Bobb will look to involve members of the campus,

Photo by csi-dolphins.com



coaching staff, administration and student-athletes in all his evaluations.

"We are looking more for collaboration," said former interim AD, David Pizzuto, who resumed his position as Associate Athletic Director. He continued, "take from him and learn from him just as much as he will with us."

Bobb comes to CSI with a great deal of experience. Athletic director in both Medgar Evers College (his alma mater) and City College of New York (CCNY) plus one of the founding fathers to the CUNY Athletic Conference are some of his contributions to the CUNY Athletic Conference.

With only one year on board, Bobb hopes to do his best. As to why he will only be with us for a one-year term, only time will tell how much need the president and the department will ask of him.

But as Bobb put it best, "Well [President Morales] was my old boss, and when the boss speaks, people listen."

Kickoff Time

All that Matters in New York Football (Except the Bills)

BY DAVID GINSBERG
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

New York Jets

Offense: The big question for the Jets is will rookie QB Mark Sanchez live up to the lofty expectations of Jets fans? If the preseason or the 3-0 start was any indication of what's in store, then the Jets must be downright giddy. Besides a few miscues against a ferocious Ravens defense, Sanchez has been sensational.

The receiving corps isn't amazing, but there are some solid options. Jericho Cotchery is a big play threat every time he touches the ball. Second year TE Dustin Keller should have a big year as Sanchez looks for reliable receivers down the middle of the field. Thomas Jones led the Jets in rushing yards and Tds last season and Leon Washington has a great change-of-pace style that can swing the momentum of any game.

Defense: With a new defensive-minded head coach (Rex Ryan) and some key free agency signings (Bart Scott, Jim Leonhard), the Jets defense looks

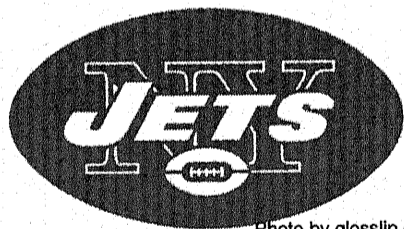


Photo by glosslip.com

steady. The suspensions of Calvin Pace and Shaun Ellis hurt the Jets, so they will need to find help elsewhere. Expect the Jets to look for last year's #6 pick, Vernon Gholston, to step up.

The Jets are in a tough division and face some stellar out-of-division teams (Tennessee, Carolina, and Indianapolis). As good as the Jets look, and even after their huge victory versus the Patriots, I don't see them with the upper echelon teams.

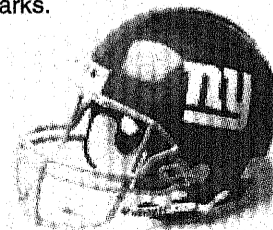
New York Giants

Offense: The offense is a legitimate concern of any Giants fan. With the \$100 million man at the helm, you'd think that the team would be in good hands. But how far can the QB lead you when you have a rag-tag bunch of receivers

(Smith, Hixon, Boss, Moss, and Nicks)? The key to the Giants' success on offense rests on the shoulders of RBs Brandon Jacobs and Ahmad Bradshaw, who will assume a bigger role this year after Derrick Ward signed with the Buccaneers.

Defense: The loss of defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo hurts, however, with the return of Osi Umenyiora, who missed all of last season, it's hard not to be optimistic of a defense that was already one of the league's best. There's no reason to think that they won't come through like they have in years past.

The Giants play in the toughest division in football, however they luck out since they get to play the AFC West and NFC South, who are riddled with question marks.



Dolphins Digest

Your Cliff's Notes on CSI Sports

BY EDNITA LORENZO
SPORTS EDITOR

Weeks into the start of the new semester, the fall sports teams have already mingled with some top competition. Here's a quick look at what is going on in your own backyard.

WOMEN'S SOCCER:

Coming back as defending CUNY champions, the Dolphins look to add the 6th title to the shelf. Standing at 2-2-1 and returning with a record of 8-7 last season, the team looks to better that and take down their opponents.

The Dolphins began the season with a three-game scoring slump, losing to Drew University (0-6), Mount Saint Mary College (0-7), but tying against CUNY-rival, City College of New York (0-0). Though scoreless in these match-ups, the Dolphins didn't give up. The team turned things around in the third week of contest with back-to-back wins—first with Polytechnic University, 5-0, and then with the College of Mount Saint Vincent, 6-1.

The Dolphins will now be challenged with several more non-conference match-ups and three more CUNY Conference contests. Let's see how far the team will go this year. Action will run into late October and championship slated for the first week in November.

MEN'S SOCCER:

The men's team looks to make a huge comeback after ending their season at 4-14-1 in 2008 and losing in the CUNYAC quarterfinals to Brooklyn College. With just five returning players from last season, and starting a bench full of fresh faces, second-year head coach, Armen Simonaints, has a lot of work to get the men ready for tough CUNY-rivals.

Standing at 2-9, the team can only go up from there. Tough losses against nationally ranked Montclair State University, two hard tournaments at Drew University and Jersey City University, the Dolphins are showing that they can play on the same level but need a lot of work.

The team finally got on the board with a score of 1-0 against Lehman College. The Dolphins will look to retrain the rest of their opponents after the hard beating they withstood.

Post-season is slated for the last week of October and will run straight to Championship day in the first week of November.