

The Banner

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

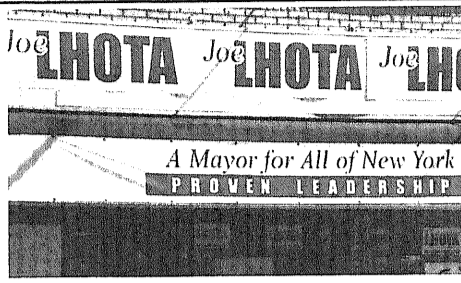
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Issue # 3



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse
Page 3 - CSI's Welcome Back Fair



Politics Page 5 - NYC's Race for Mayor

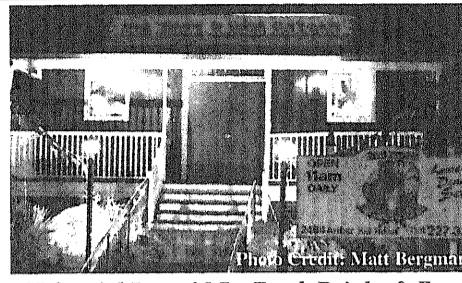


Photo Credit: Matt Bergman
SI Special Page 6&7 - Food, Drinks & Fun



Photo Credit: Google Images
Sex & the Island Page 11 - Female Condoms

A Gym Fit for CUNYAC Champions New Home for CSI Dolphins

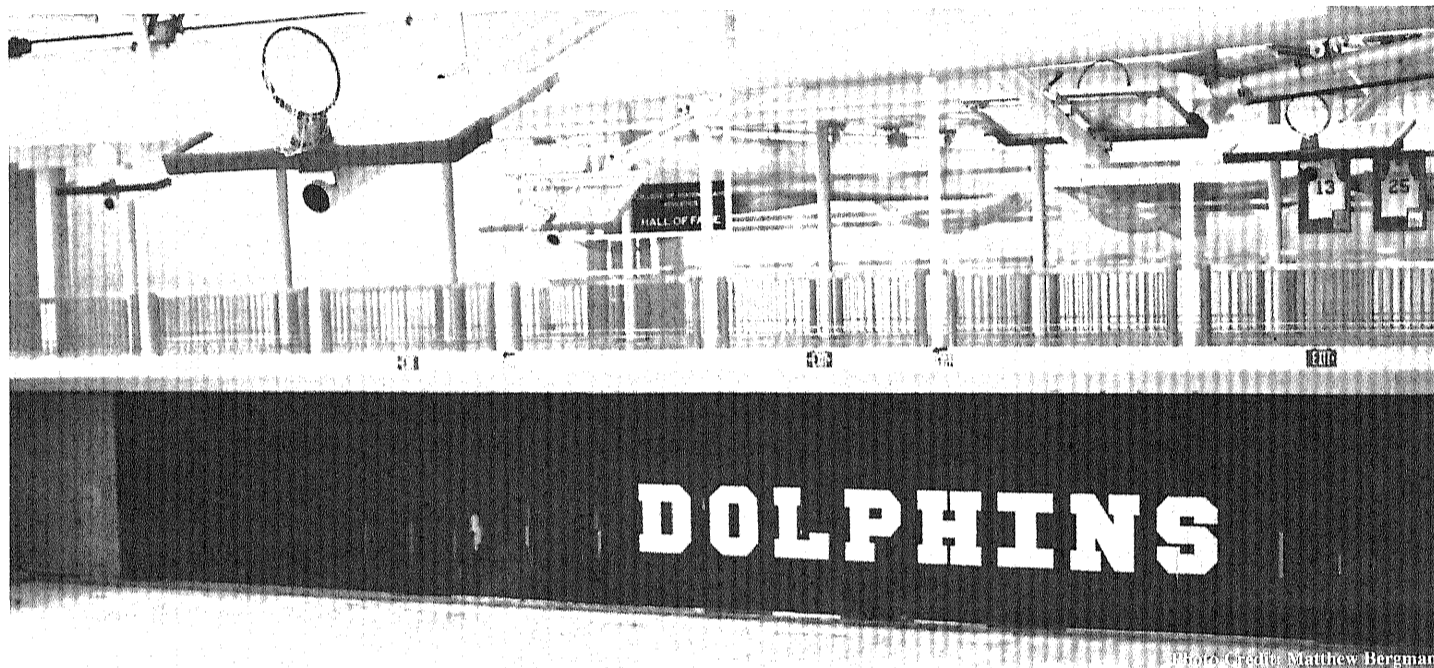


Photo Credit: Matthew Bergman

Renovations to the 1R gym are projected to be completed before the Women's Basketball team first home game

Recreation Center Fights for finished Construction

BY CLIFFORD MICHEL

A court fit for CUNYAC (City University of New York Athletic Conference) Champions. That's what the College of Staten Island set out

to build on August 26 when contractors began renovation of the CSI's basketball court, projected to be completed in time for the Women's Basketball first home match on November 19.

CSI's Men's Basketball team won back to back CUNYAC/Con Edison Men's Basketball Championship in 2012 and 2013, leading some to link the gym's reconstruction with the team's

success. Not so, says Director of Athletics, Charles Gomes.

"Several years ago, there was a major leak in the gym that totally compromised the floor. The old floor had to be taken out and what we've been using for the past five or six years was only meant to be a temporary floor," said Gomes. "So

Continued on page 4

CBS and CSI

Adjunct Professor John Bentley lands in CSI

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

John Bentley, Journalist at CBS News and new Adjunct Professor at CSI, talks about his experience in the field including, where he got his start, the pros and cons of being a journalist and how he ended up teaching at CSI. Bentley, the Oklahoma native and Columbia University graduate, had spent years interning at local news stations before landing his first job as a Videotape Editor at a television station in San Antonio, Texas.

The Banner: Can you start off by telling me when and where you were born?

John Bentley: I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on September 27, 1972.

TB: Growing up did you know what you wanted to be?

Bentley: I had no idea. I was literally a generation off of the farm. I always expected I'd stay in Oklahoma. I got lucky, I was working as a lifeguard at a summer camp and a friend of mine there had an internship at a local TV station in the sports department and said it was a lot of

fun and really interesting. I was in college at the time and thought that sounds kind of interesting. I never realized you could just walk up to a TV station and ask them to let you work there for free and get college credit for it. I started out as an unpaid intern at the ABC affiliate in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Ended up getting a degree in Communications from Trinity University in San Antonio. That's kind of how I got into it Journalism.

TB: What brought you to New York?

Bentley: After I worked in local news for a while in San Antonio, I got a little tired of the grind of local news. There's a lot of good local news stations out there but there's a reason why movies like Anchorman get made because there's a lot to make fun of in local news; sometimes you want to do something different. I wanted to work at the network level; one of the paths to do that is to go to graduate school. Somewhere with a good journalism program in NYC; I ended up at Columbia University and got a Masters Degree in Journalism. From some

contacts I made there, they hooked me up with some people at CBS News. I started there right after graduation in 2003 and have been there ever since.

TB: Were you always good at writing? When did you decide on the broadcast aspect over print?

Bentley: I wasn't always good at writing. It was something I really had to work at. Everybody has to work at it, especially writing for broadcast. It's a different skillset than writing for a newspaper, blog or website. You write for the ear instead of the eye. You have to write in a way that people can digest easily and can listen and get what you're saying the first time. Most of the time people watch TV or listen to the radio and they hear it once and have to understand it as opposed to a newspaper, a book or something on the internet where they can go back and say, 'Did he say how old he was?' or, 'Did he mention that point already?' You can go back and read it again.

TB: What was your first job?

Bentley: My first network job was at 48 Hours. The first job I've ever had was a part-time Videotape Editor at KSAT-TV; the ABC affiliate in San Antonio, Texas. I was working overnights

Continued on page 4

If You Pop Molly, You'll Do More Than Just Sweat...

The Dangers of MDMA

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

Electronic Dance Music (EDM) has created major waves within the entertainment industry. With hundreds of new artists permeating the airwaves, multi-million dollar concerts selling out venues, and a new era of Woodstock-esque followers, the genre of EDM has revolutionized not only music, but also a whole generation of listeners.

Unfortunately, EDM has been creating a negative buzz in the media as well.

Many artists are being criticized for promoting drug use in their music and at their concerts. Earlier this month, the famed Electric Zoo (E-Zoo) music festival cancelled its third day after the deaths of two young people. Aside from the deaths at E-Zoo, a number of other fatalities have been making headlines throughout the country.

Drugs have always played a major role in club culture and reports of overdoses are nothing new. However, a popular club drug called MDMA, or "Molly," is striking fear into the hearts of parents and authority figures nationwide.

"It has become part of EDM culture and it's really stupid," Senior Biology Major, Sophia Oliviera. "If you can't enjoy music you like without MDMA, you're a scrub."

MDMA is a "club drug" that can induce euphoria, intimacy, diminished anxiety, and mild hallucinations. Developed by a German pharmaceutical company, the substance was originally prescribed by psychiatrists to help patients speak more openly during sessions. In the 1980's, MDMA made it's way to the nightclub scene and became known as Molly.

MDMA activates three key hormones: serotonin, a contributor to wellbeing and happiness, dopamine, which induces reward-motivated behavior, (such as flirting with a girl and taking her home at the end of the night) and norepinephrine, a "fight-or-flight" hormone released when you're startled.

Once it hits the bloodstream, MDMA directly affects these hormone receptors, causing the user to "roll." While rolling, one

Continued on page 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "NFL Season Preview"

I recently read the article entitled "NFL Season Preview" As an avid sports fan I must say the writing in this article was also very good. I am a subscriber to Sports Illustrated, I have every sporting news app on my phone; and compared to their writing I almost couldn't tell the difference. It was thought out and well organized.

Luis Fonseca

Re: "Dare to Bare in the Season's Modernized Midriff"

Love this article! And I love cropped tops, never felt comfortable wearing them before but now I do... the right way of course. Your article is great! Although I have to disagree with wearing a cropped top to school. I think that's silly. This was my first time reading the Banner and I flipped through the pages so quickly to look at your fashion article. I must say I am impressed with this article. Keep up the great work.

Ejona Xhiani

Re: "Low Calorie Meals With High Calorie Taste"

In regards to "Low Calorie Meals With High Calorie Taste" by Victoria Carocchia, I thought she did maintain a good flow of structure while discussing a clear-cut idea of how to accomplish a healthy diet. However, the reference to adding more seasoning in the study at the University of Colorado does lead me to think this could have been left out or elaborated more since a risk of someone consuming too much sodium without a better understanding of the study is likely to occur.

Alyssa Marcirak

Re: "E3 Officially Ushers in New War of Next-Generation Consoles"

I've just recently read your article on E3, and I'd like to say that you were spot on. I really like how you emphasized the strong points on each console. However I am a Sony fan so I probably will be picking up the PS4. But as I said the article was great, very informative. I will be looking forward to more gaming news in The Banner.

Joey Castellano

Re: "Life After Death: The Birth of a Supersun"

The title of Jean-Claude Quintyne's article was what caught my eye. It was the first article in the

The Banner I had seen whilst thumbing through that had the topic of something more than pop culture, gossip, or the entire two pages dedicated to health and beauty. "Yes!" I thought to myself, something new to learn, something concrete, scientific, important. I had failed, however, to read the category above the title labeled "Banner Opinions." I stopped reading once I saw this, puzzled on how the discovery of a Supersun could be one's opinion, and then I read the subtitle "A Stellar Way to Accept Your Morality." The subject matter itself is deserving of a full page article. A sun five-hundred times the mass of our sun? This is certainly news worth giving on its own stage. Understandably, this is not the type of news that would catch the eye of the student demographic, as opposed to the full page spread of celebrity outfits on the previous pages. However it should be made important, without the need of the overly poetic digression made by Quintyne that followed.

Christine Rondina

Re: "Don't Get Lazy in the Off Season"

My interest in the stay in shape during the off season article took most of my attention in The Banner. One reason why it took most of my attention was because I am one of those (few) people who eats right and works out and also encourages others to do so as well. One of the reasons I enjoyed it was because it was very well written. It gives good examples by the writer of what athletes should do when they are not playing. It even had quotes from athletes from CSI, which is clarifying. If an athlete does that to stay in shape, then anyone can do it, not just get in shape but to improve their health and overall wellness.

Frank Guardavaccaro

Re: "E3 Officially Ushers In the New War of Next-Generation Consoles"

Stephen Klein, I was able to not only find an interesting article but also enjoyed his facts and findings about the controversial next-gen debate. Being an avid gamer, I appreciate that the professional world admires those who devote their lives to late night graphical adventures with friends through either button mashing or PC gazing. I took a special notice to Stephen's accrediting to each companies specific detailing of each of the consoles. Even though I had already watched E3, I felt as if even if I hadn't that this article would have suf-

ficed.

Andrew Simontacchi

Re: "Dare to Bare This Season's Modernized Midriff"

The article brings out many points about the summer guide on how to shop for Crème de la Crop. I enjoyed how this article brought about the 90's coming back as far as the dress style. I for one like the style that has come about today. I am very into dressing into today's style. I overall like this article.

Arianna Borrero

Re: "NYPIRG Sweeps Coney Island"

This story is definitely front page worthy of The Banner. It represents the student body of not only CSI, but of other CUNY schools and how they help the community. It represents the many news values that a reader is looking for. It is a story of human interest as it demonstrates the awareness and safety of families and children on the beaches. It addresses the fact that the beaches need to be kept clean, so that families can enjoy their family outings during the summer. Although I wish I had heard more about the actual event other than straight facts about NYPIRG, and the opportunities that it gives. This is great but, in reality the headline made me believe that I would be reading a story about the beach cleanup. I think it should have included many more details about the project and what it has done.

Milena Kovlaoska

Re: "Dare to Bare This Season's Modernized Midriff"

I like that this topic is in The Banner. I'm guilty of being one of the girls that love fashion. Although I know that not every trend corresponds to my body. I always find a way to make it my own fashion based on the current trend or "what's in style." I'm Dominican so we are known for being wide in the hips section. I'm not very slim but feel confident in my body. Why put myself down because the current style doesn't go with my body? I find a way around and make the styles my personal way. One thing I believe would have been better and an eye catcher for this article is if there way a picture of a thick girl "rocking a fashionably in style outfit." Hey, curvy girls need love too.

Diana Cordero

Welcome Back Carnival and Involvement Fair Barbeque, Games, and Rock Climbing Outside 1C



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

Members of the Green Thumbs handed out potted flowers and information to students about volunteering in the campus garden
Left to right: Kevin Geecos, Alex Hsu, Sajid Ahmed, Dennis Lam, Lakeisha Seaforth and Ayat Odeh

BY LUCY FARFAN-NARCISSE

Fun, laughter, and school spirit filled the air at this year's Welcome Back Carnival and Involvement Fair on September, Tuesday 10, 2013.

The festivities attracted over 500 students which featured a variety of activities such as a rock climbing tower, caricature artists, a balloon artist, a bubble tea bar, temporary tattoo artist, fortune-tellers, palm readers, a photo

booth with dress-up props, and a picnic-style barbeque with all the trimmings.

The carnival not only gave students a chance to socialize but it provided a glimpse of some of the clubs the campus has to offer which encourages student involvement and participation.

Many clubs such as CAB (Campus Activities Board), Green Thumbs, United African Students in the United States of America, Serpertine/Artifacts Magazine,

Top Left: Krystal and Kristie Delgado, both Sophomores enjoy the carnival
Bottom Left: Students Skillfully scale the rock climbing wall outside 1C

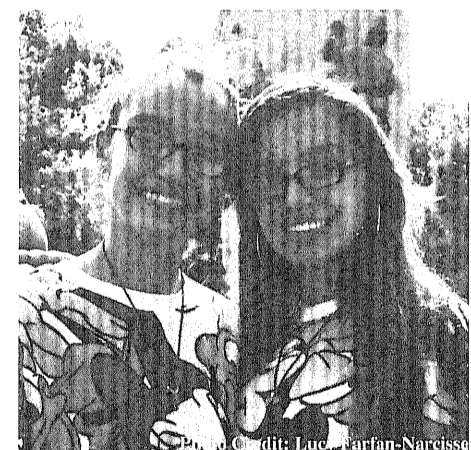


Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

Top Right: Cassandra Emery
Bottom Right: Raymond Tancredi, Juan Potes, Elizabeth Che & Jovilyn Caballero



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

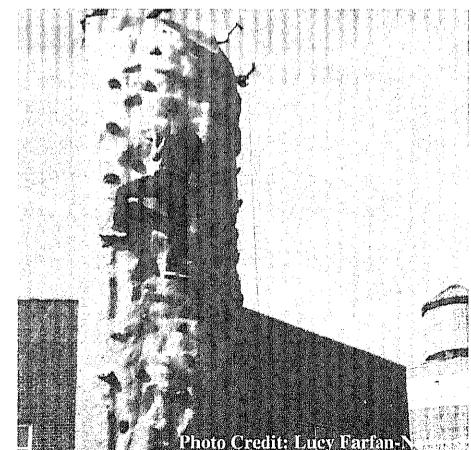


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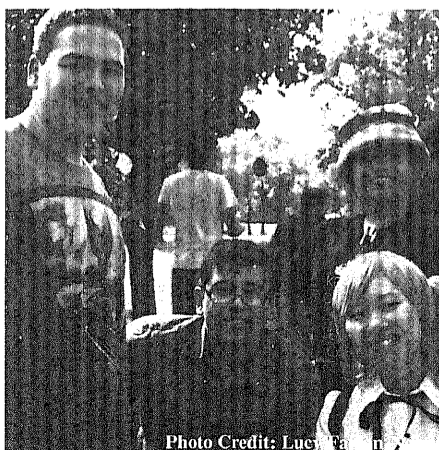


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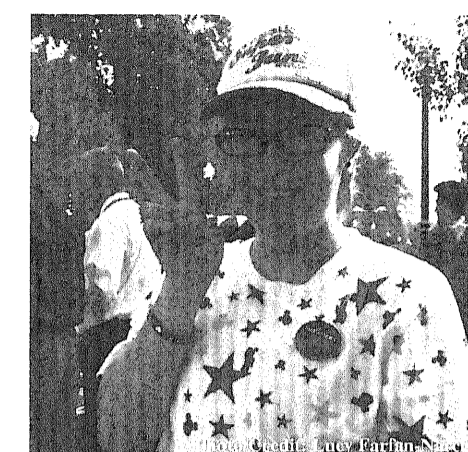


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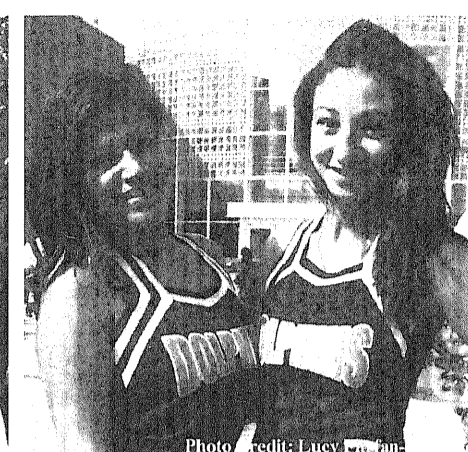


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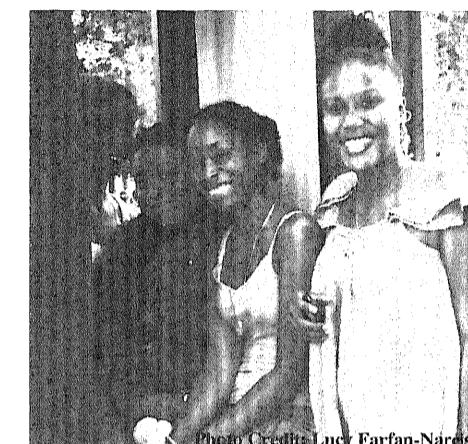


Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

Top Left: Deborah Francisco
Bottom Left: Senece Roldan, Divine Manzano, Taylor Campbell-Allen and Tiffany Hutchinson

Top Right: Cheerleaders Justine and Stephanie Jimenez
Bottom Right: Mattea Farfan-Narcisse and her balloon dolphin

American Sign Language Club (ASL Club), Art Club, DREAMers, Japanese Visual Culture Club, Student Government, Medical Technology Club, WSIA and A Reason to Write were on hand to generate interest and recruit new members.

"Student Housing has definitely made students more interested in campus and I have noticed a huge change in attitude and the environment at CSI," said Junior Stephanie Jimenez.

"Carnivals and Involvement Fairs give students a chance to socialize, have fun and be involved on campus and in the community," said CAB Chairperson and Special Events Coordinator Kelyn Potes.

Potes is extremely excited and encouraged by this event's great turnout and is looking forward to the Halloween Carnival and Involvement Fair on Thursday, October 31, 2013.

Bottom: Debi Kee, Monica Sibri, and Sandra Taranto work tirelessly for the Campus Activites Board (CAB) which hosts many events for all CSI students to enjoy featuring a pinwheel of prizes for students to win such as candy, highlighters, or screen cleaner



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

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

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

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"John Bentley"

Continued from front page

cutting videotape and then sort of worked my way up from there. It was a few months out of college before I could find anything in the TV industry. All together I probably had two and a half years of local news internships.

TB: Do you have any recommendations for a journalism student on getting their foot in the door?

Bentley: Internships are one of those things that people have a lot of opinions on. I certainly understand that it's hard to get an internship and it's hard to spend 20, 30 hours, sometimes 40 hours a week doing something that you're not getting paid for. I think there are some fairness issues with that and I think the system may need to be reformed. Having said all that, it's still the way people get jobs in the media industry. You show people that you're willing to work for very little, sometimes no money, but hopefully for college credit. Nobody is going to say, 'Yeah, do this internship and we'll give you a job'. What you want is just a chance at that job; a chance that people will remember your hardwork and give you a start. For the time being, it's sort of the way we're stuck with. Try and do an internship. Try and do something in the field you want to do, make sure that's what you really want to do. If it's something that you want to do, talk to the right people, make sure you're doing good work and make people want to hire you once you get out of college.

TB: Can you list some of the pros and cons of being a journalist for me?

Bentley: It's a fascinating job. You get to do something different everyday. You get to tell interesting stories. Hopefully for me, the most important thing is you get to change the world for the better. What I mean by that is, you're always digging for the truth. There's a lot of people that will cover that up and lie to you. When you tell a story in a way that effects change, even it's for one person, or for a whole group; that's what you're doing it for. The cons are the hours. It's not a 9-5 job. It can be a job that's very hard on your family. I travel a lot. All those things are outweighed by a job that I think



Professor Bentley Corresponding on a CBS News broadcast

is very important and is also a lot of fun.

TB: You touched on probably the most important aspect, the time constraints, it's tough managing that right?

Bentley: Absolutely. This week I got the chance to go fly with NASA down in Texas. How many people get a chance to do that? It's rewarding, incredibly rewarding. It's a lot of fun. I'm married, I have two kids. I want to spend as much time with them as I can but I still have a job that I really like and feel is important. I try to balance that and do both. There's no off switch, you don't work bankers hours. You're not always promised weekends off, you're always on call and that can be tough.

TB: Can you tell me in this new day and age, what is a good way to make a name for yourself? Do you feel like blogging is the right way to go?

Bentley: I think blogging is good because if nothing else, even if the only people that read your blog are your parents or your girlfriend, that's still practicing writing. Like I say, there's not a lot of born writers out there you just have to work really hard at it. If you're writing every day, sometimes several times a day, that's great practice. Twitter is great. Even if there's only

always deserve good facilities and CSI's programs have produced time and time again. And more people might come out to check out the courts," said Freshman and basketball tryout Moise Accede.

While the construction of the court won't interfere with CSI's basketball schedule, it has already interfered with CSI's Women's Volleyball schedule. The squad played their home opener on September 19 against John Jay College of Criminal Justice in the auxiliary gym, which lacks seating for fans.

CSI Baseball and Softball will be making use of the gym during the winter for batting practice.

The auxiliary gym is also only open to the public for an hour on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. But with colder weather approaching, more players will want to play indoors.

Because of all this, Gomes is trying his best to make sure the construction crew stays on pace for the Basketball team's home opener.

"The tough part is that it's outside contractors who do the work, so we don't have a lot of control over them," said Gomes. "I try to monitor every day and we meet every other week with the construction group to get an update on the progress."

ten people following you, you're still tweeting and trying to keep things short and to the point, which is the essence of broadcast journalism.

TB: When did you start at CBS News?

Bentley: I started at CBS in May of 2003.

TB: Of your time spent there, you've covered John McCain in his race for presidency and spent some time in Kabul, what has been the highlight of your career thus far?

Bentley: I'm really lucky. I've been able to do a lot of interesting stuff. Certainly covering the war in Afghanistan; I've done four trips over there. It's really interesting and really important. I've covered the Arab Spring in Libya and Tunisia, that was also fascinating stuff. Covering the presidential race was amazing. 2008 of course was a historic year. I was embedded on John McCain's campaign, also covered President Obama and Hillary Clinton. You felt like you were getting a PhD in Political Science just by being there everyday and watching it close up and right in the same car; the same plane with guys who are making history as you watch it happen. There are other stories that may not receive the international or national attention, that are just as important. I remember I did a story in local news about a kid

who was going to make his football team and did, then a few months later (he) ends up passing away in a car crash. I talked to his parents afterward and they said, 'Nothing made him happier than seeing the story that was done on him on the local news; we'll always have that as memory of him'. You just never know what ways your work is going to effect somebody.

Professor Bentley is currently teaching Broadcast Journalism at CSI



The new Dolphin basketball courts sport a new logo of a darker blue and much more realistic depiction of our mascot

Gomes hopes that the gym will excite not just athletes, but the entire student body and showoff the school's commitment towards athletics and intramural sports.

"One of the biggest things we want is for all of our student athletes and all of our students to have a building that they take pride in, I want the student athletes to compete on that floor and feel good about playing for the College of Staten Island."

Along with the gym are other changes in

athletics, first being the change in CSI's logo. Gone are the days of the cartoonish angry-faced dolphin. The new logo features a more realistic depiction of a dolphin, colored menacingly in a metallic dark gray. The athletics department was also happy to unveil their redesigned and easier to navigate website.

TB: Can you see yourself teaching here for years to come based on your schedule?

Bentley: I don't have a 9-5 job. Hopefully, I've worked out with the school; being able to teach in the evening is good for me usually. So far CBS has allowed me to be here on Monday nights. I'd love to keep doing it, I think teaching the next generation of journalists is more important now than ever because we're going through such a change in how journalism is conducted. Hopefully, I'll be able to keep working here as long as CSI will have me.

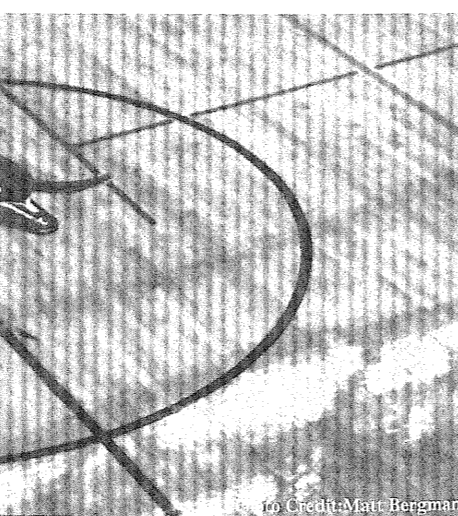
TB: So if the phone rings in the middle of class and you're called to jump in your bat mobile are you going to have to fly away to Europe or some other...

Bentley: Yeah, that doesn't excuse you from doing the homework though. That happens; it has a potential to happen. I've gotten calls in the middle of the night. I keep a bag of clothes and a passport at my office and in my car. I keep that stuff on me at all times. It doesn't happen regularly but it does happen. Working for CBS News, I'm one of the people that they want to get there as soon as possible. That's always a reality.

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BANNER POLITICS

Examining the City and Voter Concerns in the Race for Mayor

The State of New York City at the Dawn of Change

BY MARTY CLIFFORD

With the primaries behind us, we now turn our gaze to the rapidly approaching mayoral election. Residents of New York City will soon decide whether Democrat Bill de Blasio or Republican Joe Lhota is most suited to lead the city after Michael Bloomberg leaves office. Though traditionally a stronghold of Democratic politics, NYC has not elected a Democrat to City Hall since David Dinkins in 1989, nearly a quarter century ago.

As with all elections, the decision is an important one, especially considering what is at stake. NYC, the most populous city in the US, is also an important city on the global stage. It is home to cultural icons, tourist attractions, diverse neighborhoods, the headquarters of the United Nations, as well as being the seat of the New York Stock Exchange, the largest such financial institution in the world.

This has made New York prosperous. By itself, the city takes in more revenue than the rest of the local governments in New York State combined. It also contributes more

taxes to the state and federal governments than any other city in the US.

The splendor and spectacle of the city is not cheap; New York has an annual fiscal budget of around \$70 billion, and fiscal year 2014 (the current budget year) carries an estimated deficit of \$811 million. Compounding this problem, there is a looming crisis with the 300,000+ workers employed by the city.

By January 1, 2014, inauguration day for Mayor Bloomberg's successor, all of the city's more than 100 contracts with municipal workers will have expired. This includes police, firefighters, teachers, and many other municipal employees. The labor negotiations with these workers has the potential to add another \$7 billion to the deficit, meaning that whoever becomes the new Mayor will be met with a huge financial crisis on his first day in office.

Layoffs or hiring freezes might not be an adequate solution to the problem. August saw the national unemployment rate reach 7.3%, the lowest it has been since 2008. New York suffers 8.3% unemployment, a number more

Jobs, Education, Taxes: The Issues NYC Voters Want to Hear About

BY AHMED AHMED

The City's mayoral election is entering its final phase, and many New Yorkers are questioning the remaining candidates about how they will deal with issues they feel have been unaddressed over the reign of Mayor Michael Bloomberg or during the run-up to the Mayoral primaries.

Our next mayor will be inheriting perhaps the most complex and varying set of issues ever facing a new mayoral administration. Renegotiating the city's major contracts, a looming budget crisis, an affordable housing crisis, income inequality which rivals that of developing nations and topped off with a failing public school system, the candidates have much to discuss.

We've heard from each of the candidates during the run up to the primaries on how they will deal with the major issues. Because of this, some voters may already be decided on whom they'll elect, however, having a plan to persuade the voters that have not yet been convinced will be key.

In this competitive mayoral election every vote will count. If any of the candidates want to secure the edge, these undecided voters are the key to success, and the coming weeks will be their final chance to convince them.

So what are some issues these undecided voters need convincing on?

For starters many voters want a concrete plan on how to generate jobs that doesn't

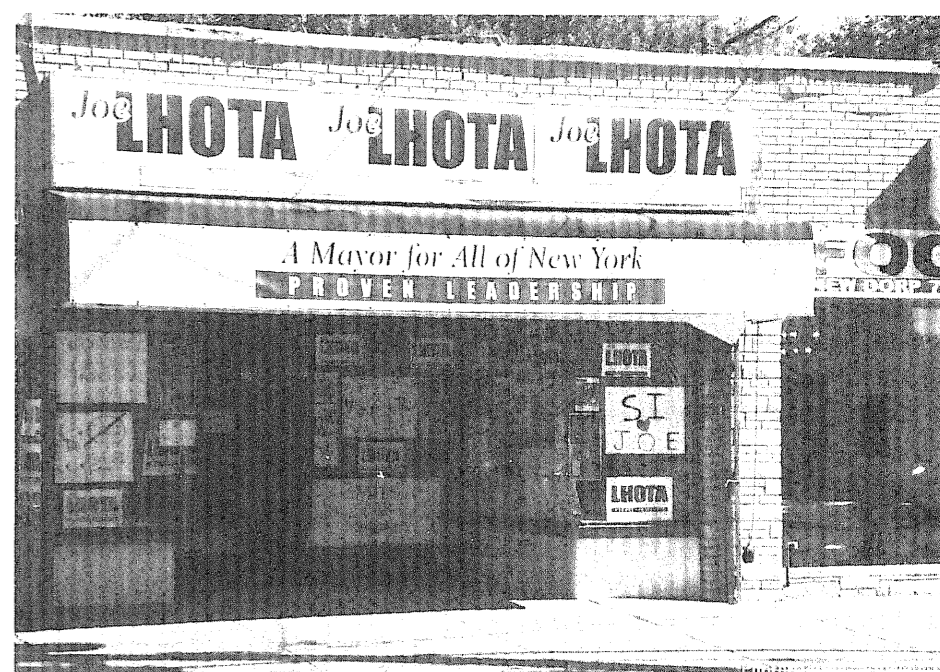
involve arbitrarily creating more city jobs. Even though the U.S. Bureau of Labor reports the city's unemployment rate to be hovering around 8.3%, the majority of the jobs created over the twelve years under Mike Bloomberg were entry-level low paying jobs.

The candidates have an idea on how to create jobs for the city; corporate attraction. They are pushing forward the idea of turning New York into the next Silicon Valley. How? By urging large tech companies to come open up shop in NYC, but that will take time and many job seeking New Yorkers aren't putting their hopes on the fact that those campaign promises will ever amount to anything fruitful.

An alternative to this could be to turn attention from large corporations back to a small business platform. This can help secure the vote of those who favor local business. For years NYC has been investing resources into small businesses.

The NYC Department of Small Business claims on its website that it has provided "10,000 small businesses with over \$63 million dollars in financing". Expanding those services further could help jump-start New York's economy and help yield results quicker.

Education is another recurring issue for every mayoral hopeful. Solving it is as hard as describing the problem. Bloomberg's policy of closing schools that receive failing grades has parents, teachers, and students demanding a



Republican Mayoral candidate Joe Lhota has planted his flag on SI with headquarters at 345 New Dorp Lane

in line with the national average two years ago

In addition to economic troubles, the new mayor could also face significant legal hurdles upon taking office.

The NYPD's controversial stop-and-frisk policy, aggressively supported by Bloomberg, was ruled to be unconstitutional this August.

However, the NYPD has no plans to stop the practice, and Mayor Bloomberg initiated an appeal against the court's ruling, another issues that will, most likely, fall on the shoulders of the next mayor.

The state of our city is strong at the moment, but the next mayor will have to act boldly and decisively to see that it remains so.



Democratic Mayoral Candidate Bill deBlasio does not have a campaign headquarters on SI and strangely the Democratic Committee of Richmond County's headquarters does not have a single sign visible in support of deBlasio

change of course. Additionally, teachers will tell you of the pressures of having to apply a one-size-fits-all solution. Implementing a diverse and localized public education program could change the negative effects of the past decade of city policy. Securing the trust and votes of the teacher's union could help one candidate jump ahead in polls, and make it easier when they renegotiate their contract next year.

And of course taxes. Anyone living here knows the pleasure of living in this great city comes at heavy cost to the individual. NYC

boasts the highest tax rate on apartments throughout the US, and where in the city where people rely so heavily on apartment buildings the tax burden might be reaching its tipping point. With the city's rent guidelines board recently approving rent hikes on subsidized apartments, affordable housing in NYC will soon become a story of myths and legends unless a reverse in policy is taken.

With Election Day fast approaching, the candidates have little time to persuade you they can tackle these issues of such importance effectively.

The Banner's Guide To Tackling Staten Island

While Stranded in The North...

...And When Stuck in The South

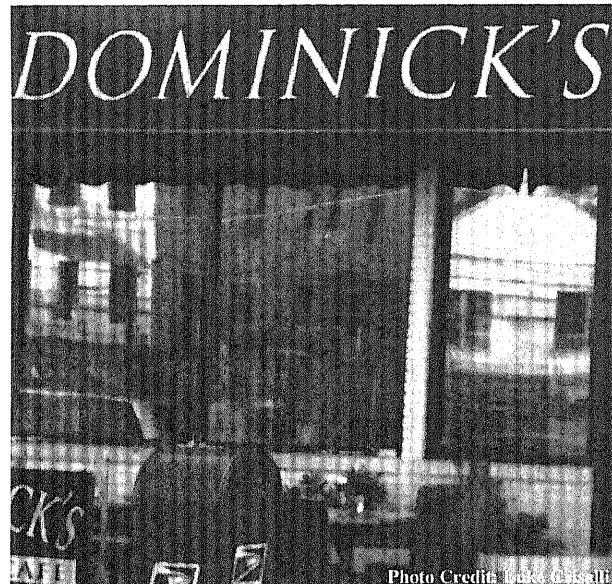
RESTARAUNTS

BY LUKE CRISALLI
Denino's Pizzeria

For those seeking Staten Island's, perhaps even the city's, best pizza, Denino's on Port Richmond Avenue is legendary. On an island overflowing with pizza places, that's a tough title to live up to, but Denino's more than measures up to it. While the lines can sometimes be long, this is all indicative of the quality of this Staten Island staple. While the decor might be plain for an Italian place, you won't be looking at it for long as the pies offered here will change your opinion of every pizza you've had before. For those looking to finish off their meal with dessert, Ralph's Italian Ices is just across the street and is open in the spring, summer and early fall and with a flavor list that is longer than a Manhattan telephone book.

Dominick's Bakery and Cafe

Dominick's Bakery Cafe in New Dorp is one of Staten Island's up and coming places to eat at. With easy public transportation access, the New Dorp train station on the Staten Island Railroad is just across the street, as well as seasonal outdoor seating, this bakery's appeal is growing. With reasonable prices, an average meal will run you about \$11. The New Dorp eatery is a more than an acceptable place to go for any meal. Dominick's atmosphere, resembling a European cafe, is warm and welcoming, and the place is often packed. Dominick's true claim to fame, however, is



its bakery menu with everything from warm baked pies to Rainbow cookies and fresh baked brownies. The true star of the bakery menu is the incredible cannolis. It is a treat so popular among its patrons, Dominick's has a service, lovingly nicknamed, "The Cannoli-gram" that can ship a bit of Staten Island across the globe.

Trattoria Romano

For those looking for a good Italian eatery, Trattoria Romana in Old Town offers a terrific menu, with excellent service and just as excellent ambiance. Full of Italian staples, such as pastas and fish, some of the highlights of Trattoria's are its delicious, lemony Chicken Piccata, and Penne Vodka, a classic Italian staple. While the prices might be a little up there for a cash-strapped college student, for a special occasion it is very much worth the price to pay a visit to Trattoria Romano. Bringing a date to Trattoria, and dressing to impress, will definitely score you some bonus points. With a very respectable 26 from the Zagat Review, Trattoria Romano is a Staten Island classic located at 1476 Hylan Blvd 10305.

ATTRACTIONS

BY LUCIA ROSSI
The Staten Island Zoo

The Staten Island Zoo is a wonderful experience for anyone. The zoo has improved its exhibits over the years and still continues to do so; soon it will be the home of one of the largest Amur Leopard exhibits in the United States. Also, how can you miss the most adorable Zoo nursery? Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children, and free for children under 3 years old. On Wednesdays after 2PM, admission is free! Parking is also always free. The zoo is open 7 days a week from 10AM-4:45PM and is located at 614 Broadway in West Brighton. If you have any questions call: 718-442-3100.



The Greenbelt Conservation Areas

Two Greenbelt parks that are a must see on Staten Island are Willowbrook Park and High Rock Park. Willowbrook Park, located right next to the CSI campus, on Victory Boulevard has a serene fishing pond, picnic tables, and a carousel open for children. The park is free and the carousel only costs a \$1.50 per ticket. High Rock Park, also free, although known for its six major Greenbelt trails used for hiking and running, is also great for picnics, bird watching, and climbing "Moses Mountain". The entrance is located at 200 Nevada Avenue off of Rockland Avenue. If you have any questions about Greenbelt Parks call: 718-667-2165.

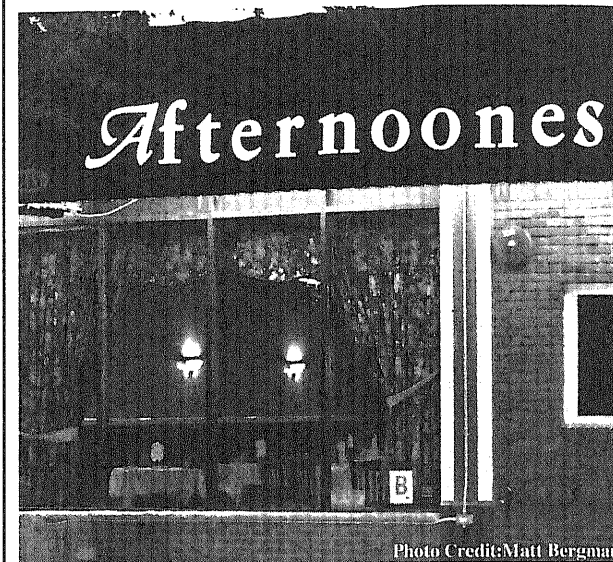


St. George Theater

The St. George Theatre is one of Staten Island's historic jewels that regularly feature all kinds of entertainment. On October 19 is the musical "Spank! The Fifty Shades Parody," on October 26 there is a concert by the Flesh Junkies before the screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," also featuring a costume contest. A comedy act by John Pinette is on November 1, and a comedy show by Kevin James is on November 9. Ticket prices vary depending on the event and the location of the seats. You can also purchase show tickets through Ticketmaster. Box Office hours are 9:30AM-2PM on weekdays and the box office phone number is 718-442-2900.

DRINKS

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA
Afternoones



Afternoones Bar and Restaurant

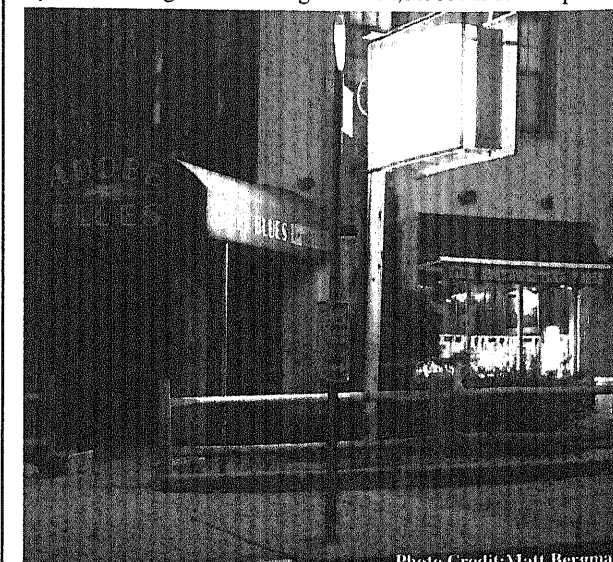
Forest Avenue is paved with a number of excellent bars, but on a Friday night there's no place like Afternoones. Since 1992, Afternoones has been a Forest Avenue favorite, known for cheap beer and a great time. Happy Hour is from 4PM to 7PM and offers half priced drinks on Wednesdays and Fridays. Spin the Drink Wheel Mondays is like an alcoholic's version of Wheel of Fortune, but instead of word games and cash, you win your beverage of choice and excellent drink specials. On Friday nights, patrons come for the \$2 Bud Lights but stay for the local DJ's and packed dance floor.

Black Dog

A few feet away from Afternoones is another Forest Avenue staple that draws in both old and new bar-hoppers. Black Dog has daily BOGO Happy Hour specials from 4 p.m.-7p.m. If you show up at 7:05, you can still reap the benefits of \$10 Coors pitchers, \$18 sangria pitchers, and \$2 off mixed drinks. On weekends, there's a DJ, who spins everything from Top 40 to classic rock to house music. Just be careful where you dance: the L-shaped bar can get a little cramped on a busy Saturday night. (When that happens, feel free to migrate up the block to Afternoones.)

Adobe Blues

If you're not into the fist-pumping, wall-thumping crowd that flocks to Afternoones or Black Dog, then Adobe Blues will be your sanctuary. Located a few short minutes from the Staten Island Ferry Terminal off of Richmond Terrace, Adobe Blues is a Tex-Mex restaurant that boasts one of the most extensive beer selections on the East Coast. With over 187 beers from all over the world, 12 margaritas, 30 types of tequila, and premium sangria, the bar offers a beverage for everyone's taste. Friday and Saturday nights feature live music from jazz and blues artists. So if you're looking for something different, Adobe is sure to please.



DRINKS

BY MARK REVELLO
Talk of the Town



Talk of the Town

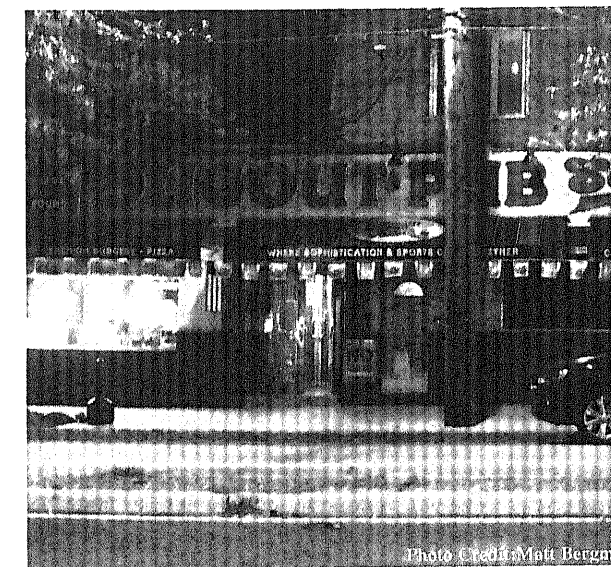
Talk of the Town, located right next to the Great Kills train station on Gifford's Lane, is a great place to drink for cheap as you can walk into the place with \$20 in your pocket and still get to leave with a nice buzz. Draft beers, usually of the standard Bud/Coors variety clock in at \$3 and change while 'imported' bottles, like Heineken or Guinness, will cost you around four. Though the beer prices are about average, mixed drinks are the real winner here; for \$5 you get liberally poured drink into pint glasses by guys who have been drinking longer than you've been alive with the added bonus is that you'll get at least one buyback.

Z2 & Big Nose Kate's

It seems like every other day that a bar in the South Shore of SI offers some Thursday drink special aimed at luring women even if most of these places won't. Two places guaranteed to be packed with more bodies than a high-school dance on a Thursday night are Big Nose Kate's and Z2. The two are nearly identical to each other on these nights and speaking of HS dances, the two are kinda similar; the maturity levels are about the same, but there's a lot more alcohol. Bit of a warning though, if you're allergic to the normal SI crowd, socially inept, or an agoraphobic, avoid these places.

Dugout South

Dugout South, the South Shore version of the one on Forest Ave, is one of the best places to drink while you're out in Guam because it has something for everyone. The selection of beers on tap is varied but not mind-boggling, with something for your cheap and classy friends. Mixed drink prices are between \$5 to \$7 and pitchers range between \$12 to \$18. If it's a slow night, there are nearly a dozen TV's guaranteed to have at least one dedicated to each sports event that evening. The crowd and the food are decent but get more attractive the more you drink and with the chance to win a lobster dinner in crane style game, you can't go terribly wrong.



ATTRACTIONS

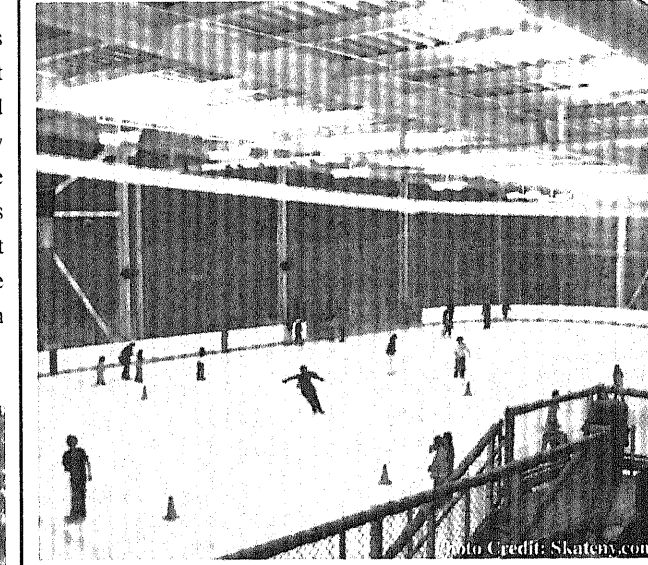
BY EDWARD ANGELL
Cousins Paintball

Cousins Paintball, located on 2727 Arthur Kill Road, is relatively new to the island. The field itself is twenty acres with hills, streams and bunkers. The field is open all year round with hours from 9AM - 5PM in spring through fall and 9AM - 4PM in the winter, open to the public on weekends. You can call and reserve the field with a party of ten or more. Rental equipment is always available as well as paint and air. Prices are \$50 per person and \$10 for air refills. Admission gets you play for the entire day and 500 paintballs with the option to buy more later. Another popular location is Bloomingdale Park located



Bloomingdale Park

between Bloomingdale Road and Lenevar Avenue. A vast park with a variety of fields. It sports one of the biggest soccer fields with new turf and two baseball fields located on opposite ends of each other. The soccer field doubles for a football field during flag football tournaments that are common throughout the year, a basketball court is also on premises as well Frisbee is also very popular during periods of warmer weather. Bloomingdale Park has many visitors throughout the seasons and also has a variety of events, including movie screenings. A very popular attraction for the south shore is the



South Shore Skating Pavilion

Pavilion skating rink located on 3080 Arthur Kill Road. The Pavilion itself offers a wide range of skating activities from skating lessons that consist of figure skating or hockey. Prices are \$11 for adults and \$10 for children, on Fridays however there is a buy one, get one free admission promotion and the rink is on most major holidays. More information on the rink is provided on their website thepavilion.org.

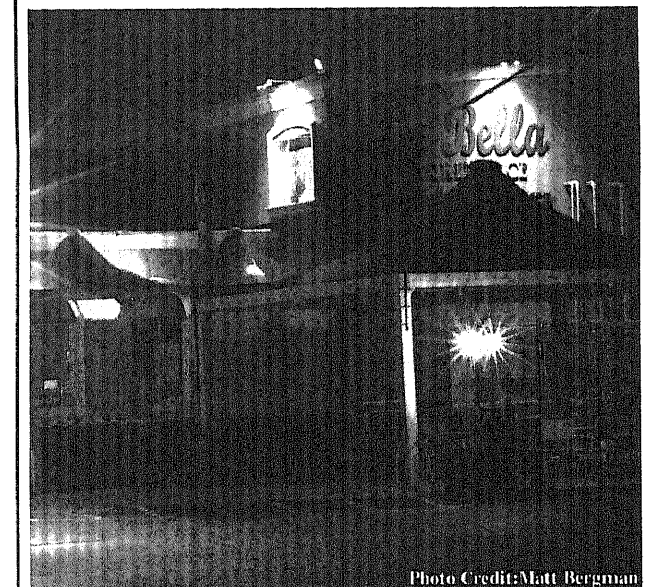
RESTARAUNTS

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA
Daddy O's Smokehouse

Daddy O's is Staten Island's first and only smokehouse located on the dark, winding backstreets of Charleston. Although it's practically impossible to find on your first try, Daddy O's Southern style cooking is worth getting lost in the boondocks for. Their menu boasts every type of meat you can imagine, from chicken to pulled pork, all smothered in their signature BBQ sauce. The bar has various domestic and imported beers on tap, as well as homemade root beer, orange, and cherry-vanilla sodas. The dessert menu, which is pathetic in comparison to their dinner offerings, is worth saving room for. Dinner at Daddy O's will run you anywhere from \$10-\$20, but that's a small price to pay for awesome Southern food in your own backyard.

La Bella Restaraunt

Italian restaurants are a dime a dozen here on the island, but every so often one stands out among the rest. La Bella is a family style restaurant that specializes in Southern Italian dishes, including homemade gnocchi, veal marsala, and of course, fried calamari. While these and other traditional dishes fill their menu, the restaurant is known mostly for it's delicious wood burning brick oven pizza. Their margherita pie makes for an excellent appetizer, while their specialty pies like prosciutto di parma and sliced roasted egg plant are hearty enough as an



entrée. Pizza may be their forte, but judging by the ambiance of the restaurant, you might think you stepped into a chic Roman café rather than a Staten Island pizzeria. Luckily, a meal at La Bella won't cost nearly as much as Italian airfare. Their large pies are roughly \$14 before toppings, and entrees run between \$14 and \$20.

Tomo Sushi

It's hard to drive more than two blocks without running into at least a handful of Japanese restaurants along the way. Exactly like Italian restaurants, sushi joints run rampant here on SI with menus that are nearly identical, the exception being the house specialty rolls. Japanese restaurant owners need to work extra hard to cater to the palettes of Staten Islanders. Some go with overly sophisticated menu options and decor, while others promote take-out and dirt-cheap prices. Tomo Restaurant, nestled in the deepest corner of a tiny Eltingville shopping center, executes both techniques without even trying. What they lack in square footage, they make up for in atmosphere, food, and Drink. The full bar offers various types of sake, along with traditional mixed drinks and beers. Tomo offers a considerable amount of specialty rolls made from the freshest ingredients, but are famous for their spicy salmon and tuna rolls. If you're looking to snack on more than complementary edamame, try their coconut shrimp for an appetizer. Tomo's food looks and tastes like it should be more expensive.

"MDMA Dangers" Continued from front page

feels happy as a result of the serotonin, confident due to the dopamine, and excited from the norepinephrine.

This combination can lead to excessive dancing, flirtation, and overall shenanigans. Other symptoms include pupil dilation, Bruxism (grinding and/or clenching of teeth), insomnia, loss of appetite, lack of urination, and unfortunately for some males, erectile dysfunction.

Many people feel that Molly isn't life threatening, so long as it's used responsibly.

"Anything in excess is harmful to you," said Senior Music Major, Jocelyn Cruz. "If I ate ice cream every day of my life in un-recommended dosages, I would end up with a morbidly obese plethora of health problems. Think about that when you hear of all this anti-drug propaganda."

Cruz claims that she's never had a bad experience on Molly, but reports of unfortunate, irresponsible young adults are drawing negative attention.

The effects of MDMA on the human body are complex and subjective for each person. Because of MDMA's ability to mask normal thirst and exhaustion responses, these effects may be amplified in people who become dehydrated, particularly if the user is dancing or engaging in other physically demanding activities for long periods of time.

While these symptoms are not necessarily life threatening, pre-existing medical conditions such as high blood pressure and heart disease can be a lethal combination.

MDMA decreases the body's ability to regulate heat by causing constriction of blood vessels near the top of the skin. Your heart rate

HAVE YOU SEEN MOLLY?



MISSING

She makes me want to dance...

Source: Google Images

MDMA or Molly has rapidly assimilated into popular culture including musical festivals, song lyrics, and everyday conversation

and blood temperature increase, causing you to sweat. In addition, it can increase heat production by muscles and the brain.

Other possible causes of death include hyponatremia, low blood sodium level as a result of drinking too much water, and hyperthermia, raising the core temperature of the body to 107 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, causing organs to shut down.

Despite the health threats that this drug

poses, MDMA has been very prevalent in pop culture.

Both Miley Cyrus and Madonna have received backlash for commenting on Molly usage in their music. Rick Ross was recently dropped from a Reebok endorsement after rapping about Molly and spiking a woman's drink with the drug.

In the face of bad press and countless deaths, MDMA and EDM still go hand-in-

hand, with celebrities and club-goers continuing to "pop" Molly.

It's hard to say whether or not pop culture figures are influencing young people to try the drug, but it certainly isn't stopping them from doing so.

In a recent New York Times article, author Irina Aleksander interviewed a group of young professionals who have taken MDMA. Most of them never attended a rave, nor have they experimented with any kind of drugs, but were curiously drawn to Molly.

"I've always been somewhat terrified of drugs," said a 26-year-old woman who worked in film. "But I'd been curious about Molly, which is sold as this pure, fun-loving drug. This is probably completely naïve, but I felt I wasn't putting as many scary chemicals into my body."

Whether we like it or not, drugs are always going to be around. While it is important to know the facts and medical threats, no amount of scare tactics or scientific information is going to deter our generation from experimenting with them. If you decide to participate in this increasingly popular, yet potentially dangerous fad, take the necessary precautions.

A night of screaming and dancing at a concert can take a toll on your body, especially if you have Molly in your system.

Remember to keep hydrated by drinking enough water, but no more than two bottles throughout the night. If you feel like you're getting overheated, just step outside for some air.

It doesn't matter if the DJ is playing your favorite song, you can dance to it in your room at home. It's certainly not worth cooking your organs over.

Season Two of HBO's The Newsroom Signs Off

BY LUKE CRISALLI

If one watched an episode of this seasons HBO drama, "The Newsroom" and got confused as to whether or not they were watching an actual episode of an evening news program, you couldn't fault them.

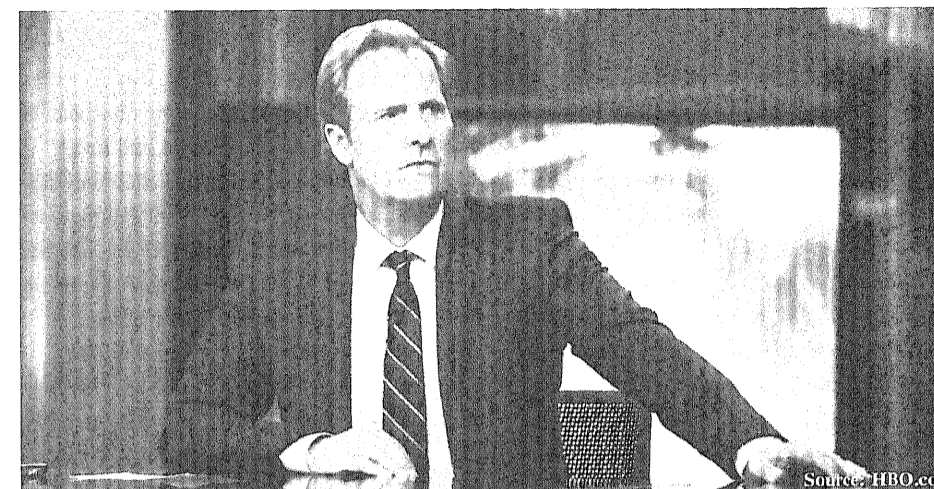
It is a storyline, quite literally, "ripped from the headlines," a term used often on the legendary NBC procedural, "Law & Order", which featured Sam Waterston as unflappable district attorney Jack McCoy. This time around however, Waterston plays the somewhat flappable news director Charlie Skinner, boss to Jeff Daniels, a problem plagued, yet publicly stoic lead anchor Will McAvoy. Casting respected names was what initially drew audiences into "The Newsroom" in season one.

Daniels acerbic McAvoy is everything a television journalist was and needs to be again. He effortlessly blends Edward R. Murrow with Jon Stewart in the wit and retort department. In light of a massive scandal where the future of not just his but his entire staff's careers are put

in jeopardy, Daniels who has the utmost faith and confidence in his crew (and is also hilariously taking a break from the reality of the situation) dryly appoints himself, "Chief of Morale," much to the chagrin of an overstressed staff.

Olivia Munn, who in the sense of full disclosure, I was not a fan of, completely turned my opinion of her around. Her portrayal of business anchor Sloan Sabbith is not just a full on exercise in sassy behavior, it is a clinic, and is made only better when paired with her executive producer/sidekick Don Keefer, played by Thomas Sadoski. He just might be one of the unsung heroes of the cast. Sadoski went from, at the start of season one, a jerk to the, at the culmination of season two, almost but not quite underdog you want to root for.

Season 2, which just ended, is the ultimate example of the, "Butterfly flapping its wings" theory, in which if one specific moment hadn't happened, a larger series of subsequent events would or wouldn't have happened. The larger



Lead Anchor and Managing Editor Will McAvoy sits at the anchor desk in a recent episode HBO's "The Newsroom"

event in this case revolves around a story in which the U.S. government is alleged to have used Sarin nerve gas on a group of civilians during classified mission called, "Operation Genoa."

We gradually learn, however, that not everything was as it seemed with the story. As the story begins to unravel, seen through sometimes confusingly timed flashbacks, the viewers are given a front row seat to, what in most cases would be, the downfall of any news organization.

Yet, in the midst of this massive storyline, the rest of more than a years news stories take place, everything from the 2011 Washington D.C. earthquake right up to the 2012 election. You see, while the characters on the show are fictional, all but the "Genoa" story have actually happened, and that's where the brilliance of the show lies.

Despite essentially having it easily laid out for him, Sorkin still makes the stories more

compelling than they originally were.

This brilliant idea is initially handled very well, yet as the storyline climaxes, it begins to crack, and by the finale, while it is still a major factor in the eventual outcome, it feels as though its quickly being shoved aside to focus on the characters personal lives...which I find ironic seeing as how this could play a major factor in them. New storylines were introduced late in the going and swiftly resolved before they could really get running. Despite the overall well done season, the ending felt a bit rushed.

Like most HBO shows, it has developed a following, and also like HBO shows, it has a short season. This has viewers salivating for more, which is why, despite the shortcomings of the finale, this writer was happy to hear that it had recently been picked up for a third season. Third seasons can be "make or break" for many shows, even on HBO, so it should be interesting to see what Sorkin can bring to the anchor desk.



Cast from left to right: Dev Patel, Olivia Munn, Thomas Sadoski, Sam Waterston, John Gallagher Jr., Jeff Daniels, Emily Mortimer, and Alison Pill

School Supplies Aren't Just Notebooks, Pens, and Pencils Anymore

Back to School Technologies You Do Not Want to Miss

BY EDWARD ANGELL

Let's face it, college is expensive. Even if you pay your tuition and get your books, you're still left with a hole to fill. What computer should I get? What suits me for the kind of work I have to do? As a tech person it pains me to go to class and walk into an apple orchard.

You do not need a Macbook to have a successful college semester. So if you're thinking about getting an upgrade from your current laptop or simply looking for a computer and don't want to break the bank then here's a few suggestions.

You really can't go wrong with Hewlett and Packard's line of equipment. They have an assortment of laptops specifically targeted at college students.

You also don't want a computer that is too heavy; weight can play a big role in what laptop you buy.

HP ENVY 15 series and up. The HP ENVY is hands down one of the best choices for a school computer in this generation. With high performance processing power that will run anything from the simple to the sophisticated and a discrete size weighing

less than 5 lbs. HP ENVY laptops start at \$549 with the option to customize the internals to your desire. Battery life is about nine and a half hours.

DELL 14z/15z -- Dell has always made quality laptops for students on the go, and the 14 and 15z are no exception to the rule. With high performance graphics and serious on board memory the series makes a strong case for student laptop of the year. Dell also aims many promos and sales at students. These laptops also weigh less than 5 lbs. and also start at \$549.

But let's say you're not the laptop type and are looking for something even more portable. What tablets are good for school?

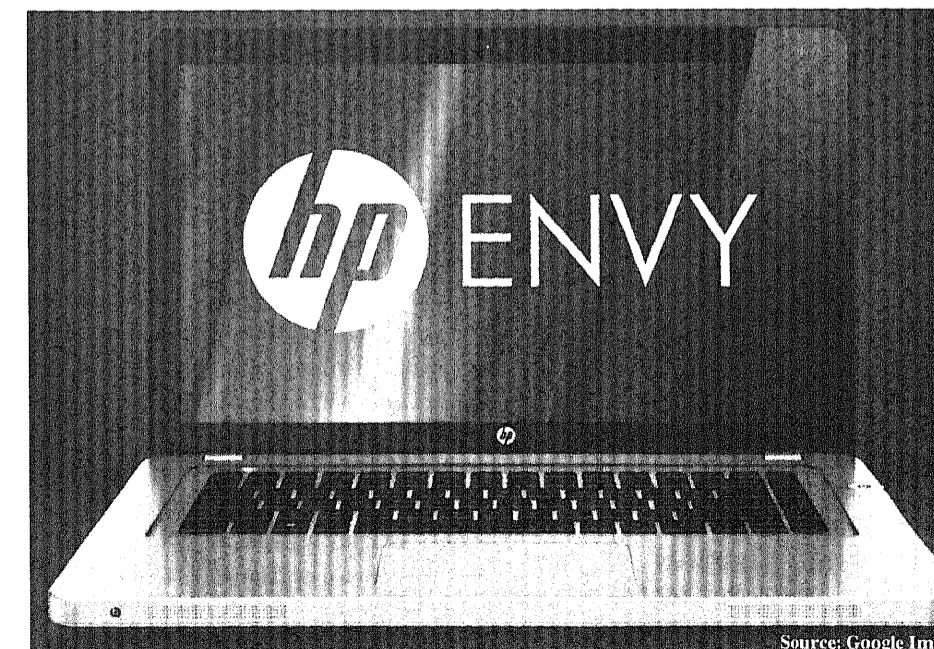
Honestly, the best tablet on the market for students is Microsoft's Surface RT by a landslide. It comes pre-installed with office home and student and the price makes it the best option at \$349. It is sleek and ridiculously light. A detachable keyboard which also doubles as a screen cover and an average battery life of about seven to eight hours, makes this tablet a steal.

However if you're not much for Microsoft's products, you could always take

a look at Google's solution to your problem. There response is the newest Nexus 7. At \$229 and weighing less than a pound, the portability factor in this product is in a league of its own.

As with the last Nexus 7, this one is pow-

ered by android and sports up to 32 gigs of memory and a ten-hour battery life span. With Google's wide range of apps available you are sure to find something that will help you make your classes more bearable.



The HP Envy can make that overwhelming workload during the semester much easier and not leave you broke by the end of the semester

Top Shopping Apps & Websites for Students

Best Deals, Steals, and Selections

BY LUCIA ROSSI

Online shopping has become unavoidable for our technological generation, to the point where you can even order your groceries online. There are many apps and websites that seem so promising but everyone wants to see those bargains and have it delivered to their door. Preferably with free shipping and handling.

The two biggest shopping staples of the market have to be Amazon and Ebay. When searching for a particular item, its best to use these two sites first and cross-reference the items prices and quality to see where you get the best deal on what you are looking for.

Amazon is great for students because students get free Amazon Prime which has free two-day shipping. Also, you can sell back your books to the website for good sum of money. Ebay has free shipping as a filter but depending on where the item is located, it probably will not take two days to get to you. Ebay however, might have better prices compared to Amazon.

Etsy is similar to Ebay and Amazon, but is more expensive since most items are sold from independent businesses or are hand-made. Etsy certainly has the most unique selection.

If you are fonder of the finer things in life, then the apps Fancy and Wanelo are for you. Fancy is very useful for cool gadgets and house-

hold items. You can shop by category and use filters to find what's new and for how much. Fancy has the most random and interesting items, but is usually very expensive because let's face it, it's not easy being fancy. Fancy also has a monthly box subscription.

Wanelo is similar to Fancy but you can follow your favorite stores, and you can follow people to see what's trending. Their products are just as cool, but at a more affordable price. You can also see what website each item came from incase you want to explore the store.

Shopping apps and websites aren't just for women either. Guys, the best apps for you is Gilt and Jackthreads. Gilt is the most expensive because it contains more of high quality fashion

products. They have a great selection of clothing if you're feeling fancy, but don't want to shop on Fancy.

Jackthreads is more affordable in price range and has a more casual, laid-back selection that's great for everyday wear. This app also has special sales everyday so you can browse what-ever catches your eye.

Ladies, if you're looking for the best website and apps for makeup that is high quality and cheap, then StrawberryNet and AllCosmeticsWholesale is a must-have. On StrawberryNet, you a get a percentage discount for every order you make, and on top of that, a percentage discount on the number of items you buy. If that wasn't enough, they have discounts

off makeup, skincare and fragrances from 50-70% off all the time. They have a variety of brands to choose from that are high quality. There is also free worldwide shipping for makeup and skincare.

The All Cosmetics Wholesale website, is the holy grail of cosmetic shopping. One scroll down that page and your jaw will drop. They have a great selection of high-end brands like Mac, Benefit, Clinique, Smashbox etc. The website also provides promotional codes for discounts like 20% off site wide. All the products are real from their brands as well.

Currently, everyone at The Banner is raving about the shopping app Wish. The premise is you wish for items you're interested in, recommend the app to friends on Facebook one time, and then you receive Wish gift cards electronically based on your wish list. You will get notifications and emails saying you have a \$5 or \$10 gift card off certain selected items. Because of this great asset, you just buy items on the list that are only \$5 or \$10 and then just pay the shipping, which can be as low as 99 cents.

The downside is most of the products are from China and can take over two weeks to be delivered to your house. Personally, I wouldn't mind the wait with such low prices.

Happy Shopping!



Source: Blogspot.com

BANNER OPINIONS

Should Obama Rely on the Public to Defend Morality?

The President's Syrian Proposal Falls on Deaf Ears

BY JEAN-CLAUDE QUINTYNE

President Barack Obama seems to be the only person who cares about having Bashar al-Assad's regime pay the consequences for the Sarin gas attack that killed hundreds of innocent Syrians on August 21, 2013.

Chemical weapons are lethal and can kill on a mass scale. In 1997 an international agreement in order to prohibit the use of these weapons was overwhelmingly approved by the United States Senate. Joined by one hundred and eighty-nine governments since then, which, according to the president, "accounts for ninety-eight percent of humanity", pinpoints one reason for the need of a response.

On top of the fact that hundreds of innocent men, women, and children died as a result of the attack, in his address to the nation on September 10, president Obama stated that a failure to act not only threatens national security but allows Assad and his regime to, "see no reason to stop using chemical weapons" while allowing other terrorist organizations "to have no reason to think twice about acquiring poison gas, and using them."

With Obama's failure to get Congressional support for airstrike, he has since moved away from going in that direction, with the controversial Russian-American deal to destroy the chemical weapons instead, the reaction from the American public has been negative, with only twenty-nine percent of Americans in favor of airstrikes, according to a September 3, Pew survey.

The reason for this lack of support stems mostly from the United States' involvement in the Gulf War, Afghanistan, Libya, and Iraq.

This conflict in Syria has elicited an emotion in American minds and hearts that the possibility of intervention would add yet another infamous chapter to the United States' role in the Middle East, which heightens skepticism.

The United States President doesn't deserve to go on a global stage and stand up for the country and the sense of common humanity with no support from the people who elected and put their trust in him.

However, what the American public has overlooked is the fact that Assad completely ignored and violated international law, which both displays a massive lack of morality and spits in the face in the pursuit of world peace.

President Obama has made it very clear that this is the primary reason for action and has stressed this point since the very beginning. His point has failed to connect to the American public, which has remained silent and has left the debate up to politicians and media outlets.

American enthusiasm increases when the nation is attacked. According to a Gallop poll conducted in October 2001, President George W. Bush received ninety percent of support from the American public.

When national security isn't threatened, support is significantly lower, as was the case with the occupation of Haiti in 1994, with

President Clinton receiving thirty-one percent of support.

The one thing that President Obama received feedback for from the public and the media was for how "sloppy" his plan for action was.

"Had we rolled out something that was very smooth and disciplined and linear they would have graded it well, even if it was a disastrous policy", said The President in an interview on September 15. "We know that, 'cause that's

exactly how they graded the Iraq War until it ended up blowing [up] in our face."

The United States President doesn't deserve to go on a global stage and stand up for the country and the sense of common humanity with no support from the people who elected and put their trust in him. He responded immediately to an incident that he thought the country would be equally outraged by, something a president should do, and was left to articulate his response to the world alone.

Michael Ignatieff, in an editorial published in the New York Times entitled, "The Duty to Protect, Still Urgent", stresses that "rebuilding popular democratic support for the idea of our duty to protect civilians, when no one else can or will, is a critical challenge in the years ahead."

Nations all over the globe have a tendency to dislike the United States and everything that it stands for. These nations even go as far as labeling us the "World Police".

But when situations arise such as the one in Syria has, with violent debates and outright confusion that puts everyone on the edge of their seats, all those nations look to the United States to become the savior that supplies the resolution that is desperately needed.

President Obama and the nations of France and Turkey were the only ones who wanted to stand up for the hundreds that were gassed to death in Syria on August 21.

He was willing to stand up for morality, justice, and the defense of peace, but where was the public?

addicted to alcohol and did not have an affair. Eugene and Helen only had one son, named Charles, who served in Vietnam and is still alive and well. The film gives Gaines two sons, the youngest is killed in Vietnam and the oldest joins the Freedom Fighters and then becomes a member of the Black Panther Party.

One of the most memorable moments of "The Butler" arrives with its conclusion. Gaines is on his way to meet President Barack Obama for the first time while wearing a tie he received from Jackie Kennedy and a tie bar he received from President Lyndon Johnson.

Though Mr. Allen was at President Obama's swearing-in ceremony in 2008, it is unclear as to whether or not he met him. And the tie that he received from Jackie Kennedy was framed, not worn.

There are other scenes in the film that teeter between reality and fiction, but it is clear that the story has been manipulated in such a way that it cannot be seen as historically accurate.

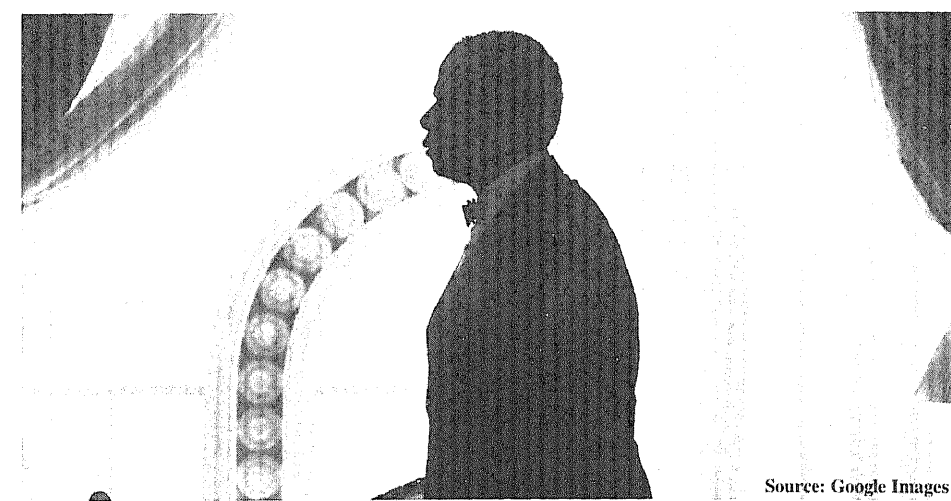
Perhaps I am being too optimistic, but maybe one day, Hollywood can produce a film of this nature that doesn't need to hyper-stylize history in order to make money, or a point.

cotton and following orders. Gaines, according to the film, lived on a plantation in Georgia where he and his parents work. He sees his father murdered by the young white master and watches his mother get raped.

None of these traumatic events occurred in Mr. Allen's life. He lived in Virginia and never recounted any such happenings, according to Wil Haygood.

Gaines' wife Gloria, played by Oprah Winfrey, is an unfaithful alcoholic who bares the issue of trying to hold together a family that is slowly falling apart.

Helene Allen, Eugene's wife, was not



Forest Whitaker plays Cecil Gaines, butler to The President

point of view of Cecil Gaines and not from the non-fictional account of Eugene Allen, who, as we will see, did not have as rough an experience. To put it bluntly, audiences sit through another example of Hollywood's bloodlust to twist reality to its own ends.

By having a slightly fictionalized version of Allen, the film makes it clear that it will present a highly stylistic melodrama. Again, the film is touted as "Based on a True Story", which allows anything to be thrown up on the silver screen.

For the four-millionth time, viewers get to see submissive African Americans picking

Hollywood Gets Away with Botchery in Daniels' "The Butler"

Based on a True Story VS. Inspired by a True Story

BY JEAN-CLAUDE QUINTYNE

Lee Daniels' "The Butler", is an ambitious and highly fictionalized account of the life of Eugene Allen, a White House service employee who worked with eight administrations, from Harry Truman through Ronald Reagan.

The film is touted as being based on the life of Mr. Allen, while the story was, and should be advertised as, inspired by an article published in the Washington Post entitled "A Butler Well Served by This Election" by Wil Haygood on November 7, 2008.

Though "Based on a True Story" and "Inspired by a True Story" are very similar in that both heavily rely on fiction to carry the narrative, "Inspired" takes a small event and smears it in fiction, while "Based" uses true events with a smidgeon of fiction to fit the screenplay's needs.

In the case of "The Butler", things get very complicated. The historical biopic traces the three decades that Cecil Gaines, played by Forest Whitaker, worked in the White House and the changes he witnessed the United States endure, starting from the Civil Rights Movement all the way to the War in Vietnam.

The disturbing thing about this film is that audiences see the story from the fictional

SEX AND THE ISLAND

Contraception That is Revolutionizing the Way Women Have Sex

Female Condoms: A Girl's New Best Friend

BY SELENA PATINO

It's a moment we all know too well. That moment where everything feels so right and you're ready to take the next step. Whether it is on your bed or in the alley behind an IHOP, the time is now and you can't wait one more second. Everything is falling into place and you're just about to release the beast when the realization hits you both... neither of you have a condom.

You find yourself driving around to find a local convenience store trying to get your hands on those Trojans. Unfortunately, by the time you do, the moment is lost, the beast is tamed, and you are left sitting in the passenger seat of a disappointing ride home.

It doesn't help that college students are also extremely impulsive. Combine it with the guy you sit behind in biology and you are ready to take a visit to the backseat of his Honda. Obviously, there are other forms of contraception from those little small pills to skin-colored patches but their not very convenient for a stressed-out, forgetful female college student.

Forgetting to pop one those suckers or put on that patch is not a mistake you can afford to make right now. You need something that you can use in a moment's notice if you need to or if you know you'll be getting lucky before the date starts, its something you can put in well in advance so there is no scrambling for that rubber later. In comes the solution to all your problems, female condoms.

The female condom is a pouch used in sexual intercourse to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The great thing about female condoms is that they are easy to use and can be inserted up to eight hours before intercourse. The pouch attaches to your uterine wall, giving the feeling that there is nothing there. Also, female condoms can be used by some who are allergic to latex, and just want to change their sex life up a little bit.

Another great thing about the female condom is the pricing, reaching between \$2 and \$6 nationwide. However, two of the disadvantages of female condoms are that they can cause irritation to the vulva or can slip into the vagina during vaginal intercourse.

However, the female condom is perfect for the guys who are self-conscious about using male condoms. Male condoms can put pressure on the guy to ejaculate or maintain an erection because otherwise the condoms slips off. Others find it frustrating to have to stop and put the condom, possibly losing their sexual excitement.

A guy does not have to maintain an erection when using a female condoms and most agree that the feeling of of the female condom actually provides more sexual excitement.

Finding out all this information on females condoms had been questioning why they are not more popular. With such advantages I would think that they would be the

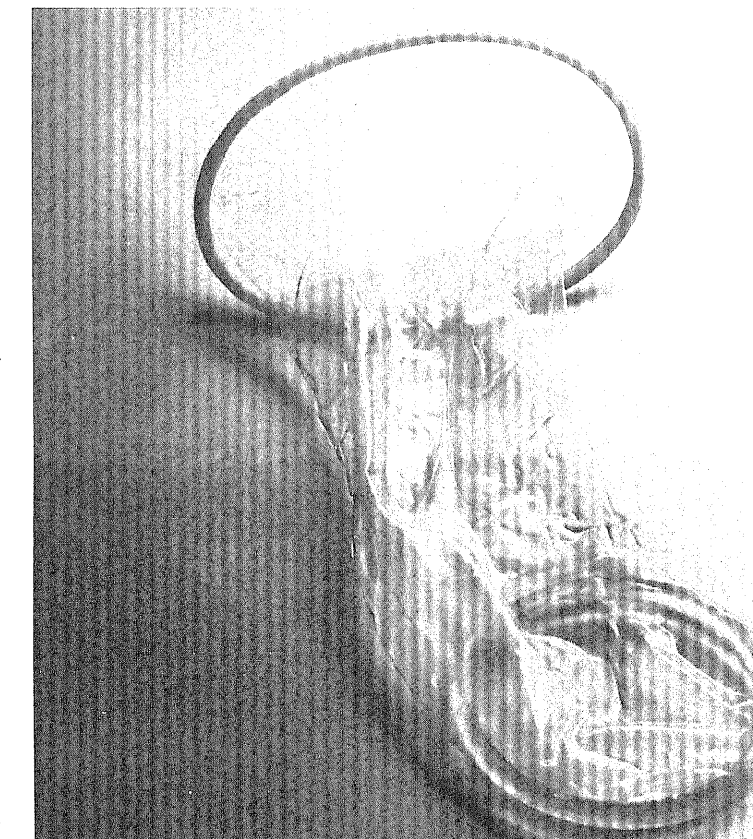
contraceptive of choice, especially among the college society.

Living at the dorms of the College of Staten Island gave me the option to find out and as I went door to door trying to get some answers, the response have me falling off my chair in laughter. Approaching students, I began asking them if they knew what a female condom was and most had no idea.

"I think it's something you glue on," said Freshman Nyah Smith.

After taking an opened female condom out to show her and other students, they all begun to roar with laughter.

"No wonder no one wants to use them, they are huge," yelled Freshman Irina Heimerle. Irina's response was repeated frequently among other students, surprising me.



Source: Google Images

Female Condoms like these are available for free to students of CSI in the Health and Wellness Office of the Campus Center

PRODUCT DETAILS AND USE

1

The nitrile outer ring covers the area around the opening of the vagina

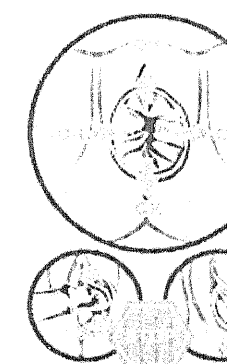


The polyurethane inner ring is used for insertion and to hold the sheath in place during intercourse

Made of Nitrile - Latex Free

2

Be sure that the penis is not entering on the side or between the sheath of the vagina with. Make sure that the outer ring is not pushed into the vaginal opening, it should remain outside, covering the labia



Source: Google Images

Can the size and look of a female condom be the only reason that people are so hesitant to use one? Why would the physical characteristics of a contraceptive matter so much, shouldn't the main concern be that it does its job and prevent a surprise nine-months later?

After more research and a few rants to my roommates, a realization overwhelms me. It does matter. The same way women are specific about the color and shape of their vibrator, the physical look of any object having to do with sex is important to the overall sexual experience.

Female condoms are large and mostly a simple form of white, which gives off the appearance of being uncomfortable and boring. One look at that piece of rubber and it

can dull anyone's horny excitement in seconds. The idea of have to stuff a piece of latex up your vagina is equally unpleasant, however the experience is nothing as imagined. Those who actually has used the pouch are major advocates of its advantages and their experience.

Anyone who dreams to be a good writer have to know what they are writing about or else no one would give a second thought to reading anything they put out. Before writing this piece, I've never had my own experience with a female condom but I was determined to have full knowledge on this topic or at least use it as an excuse to experiment in my own sex life. After harrasing my boyfriend about it full almost a full six hours, he reluctantly agreed to try it.

Trying to make it as least awkward as possible, I decided to put the condom on about three hours before he came over. Conveniently enough, I have a roommate who works at a sex clinic so she showed me how to put it on, using a tall glass to demonstrate.

After ten minutes and some fits of laughter, I was ready to go. It felt like putting on a tampon for the first time but after only a few minutes I stopped noticing it was there. Once my boyfriend came over and my roommates left, it took very little time to get in the mood. Unfortunately, in the heat of the moment, I failed to warn him that I already put the female condom on and his reaction was less excited and more weirded-out when the clothes came off.

"Does it hurt?," he asked. I immediately laughed off his concerns. I had no expectations to start with because I've heard both sides of the possible experience, but I was definitely surprised when it actually happened.

It felt amazing, more than amazing. Like nothing was there at all. I felt empowered and in charge, with not a single worry about anything falling off him. On his end, well let's just say he never wants to go back to using male condoms again.

So instead of having to deal with that awkward scramble for a condom bit, ladies just put one on hours before the big moment next time and you can just get right to it when it happens.

Remember your options besides birth control and male condoms. The accessibility for the female condom is almost unlimited. Not to mention, with the use of the female condom, if used correctly of course, only 5 out 100 people will become pregnant which is an outstanding statistic for condoms.

Luckily, women have a vast amount of stores and facilities that carry female condoms. Areas that sell these products are usually convenience stores, clinics and OB/GYN offices in your surrounding locations. Looks truly are deceiving when it comes to these babies, so think less vain and more improved sex life.

SPORTS

Men's Soccer Ties in Battle Against Berkeley College

BY MICHAEL PAPANDREA

It was a physical and defensive matchup between CSI and Berkeley College of New Jersey, as both teams failed to score a single goal, resulting in a 0-0 tie in a double overtime thriller. The Dolphins record now goes to 1-5-1.

In the final seconds of regulation, the two sides got into a scuffle after the goalie for Berkeley picked up the recently shot ball and threw it at CSI's, Nick Bacarella's, head. Players from both sides swarmed the field and Yellow cards were given out to multiple

players involved in scrimmage.

"The game was heated due to their rough physical play," said forward Mike Kissi. "Elbowing and kicking which made the referee give them a lot of fouls, thus making the goalie angry. I wasn't surprised, I could hear him scream and shout the whole game so I had a feeling he would do something like that."

After an extra twenty minutes of game play, the match resulted in CSI's first tie of the season, making it the fourth straight game in which CSI failed to capture a win. Despite

finishing in a tie, CSI did look like the better team, and that also showed on the stat sheet.

The Dolphins outshot their opponents 18-8 on the day, including three shots on goal by Bacarella and two from Alfonso Castaneda.

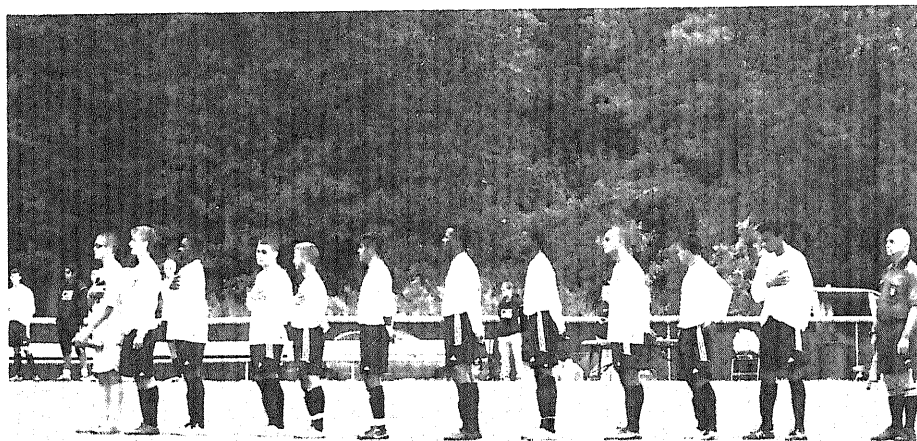
The goalie for Berkeley, Pierce Langlois recorded eight saves on the day while freshman, Antonio Lynch, totaled three saves in his first start as goalie for CSI.

"The draw did feel like a loss," said Kissi. "Because we were better than the team and we missed a lot of chances but it felt like a win because we did not lose like in our previous matches."

CSI did have numerous opportunities to close out the game, including a shot at the 85:48 mark by Marcin Klim and two shots with less than a minute remaining by Bacarella. With every missed shot came a sigh from the home crowd.

There were some positives to be gained in this match. CSI was able to control the tempo against their opponent and play good defense for a full 90 minutes.

"The double over time just made us stronger," said Kissi. "Now we know we can last 110 Minutes without getting tired. But now we need to work on finishing the chances we create to score."



After heated emotions during play, the Men's Soccer team draws with Berkeley

Women's Soccer Storms Past Purchase College Dolphins Improve to 5-0 Overall in Non-Conference Play

BY JESSICA PIFALO

Key communication and pressured defense would be the answer for the Dolphins as the CSI Women's Soccer team would grab a 3-1 win against the visiting Panthers of Purchase College in non-conference play Saturday September 14, 2013 at the CSI Soccer Complex. The Dolphins rose to 5-0 while the Panthers fell to 0-5.

Hitting the field, the Dolphins came out strong, but struggled on some key plays early in the first half. Nevertheless, the Dolphins netted their first goal at the 10:16 mark when Melissa Gerlardi who found teammate Jennifer Cosenza. Cosenza launched it to Samantha Wysokowski where she was fouled, sending Wysokowski for a penalty shot. Wysokowski capitalized and put the Dolphins at a 1-0 lead. From there the teams would go back and forth a bit in possessions, struggling a bit on some opportunities that is, until the Dolphins struck again. This time it was a perfectly launched corner kick from Gelardi to Wysokowski, who then headed the ball past Purchase's goalkeeper to put the Dolphins at a commanding 2-0 lead going into halftime. CSI would dominate the Panthers in shots in a commanding 10-2, however the Panthers were still on the hunt.

Communication was something that the Dolphins really needed going into the second half.

"We just really need to communicate more," said Amanda Perccacio. "Other than that I think we are playing much better this

game."

Settling the ball was a factor for Head Coach John Guagliardo.

"We need to settle the ball more," said Guagliardo.

Jumping into the second half, Purchase came out strong. The Dolphins would see their lead be threatened by a goal by Purchase just at the 3:00 mark, making the score 2-1. However, CSI would answer by kicking up the defense and the communication tremendously, only allowing Purchase two more shots on goal. The Dolphins then stormed back in the 65th minute with another superb corner kick goal from Gelardi, putting the Dolphins back up 3-1.

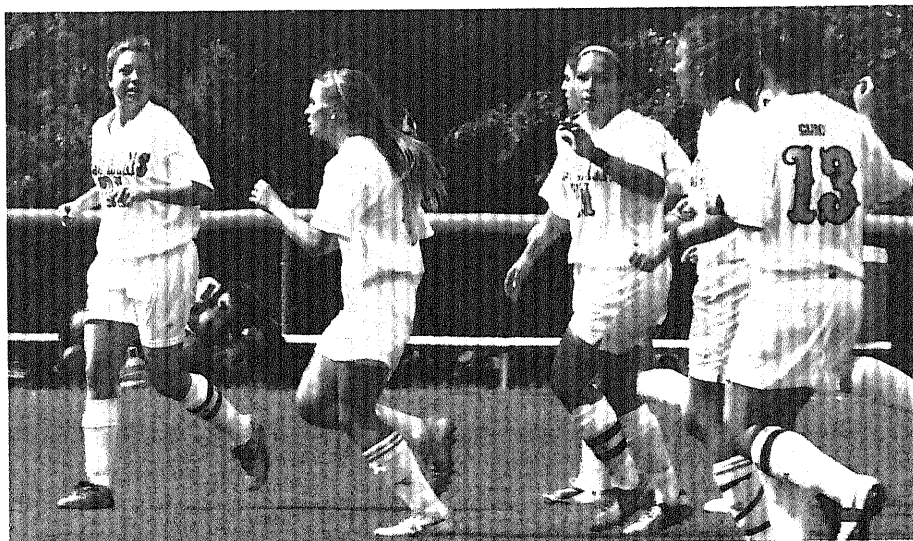
Despite the Panthers' attempt to come

back and cut the lead, the backline of CSI kept the Panthers contained, securing the win for the Dolphins. Fast playing and stronger play was a key factor for the Dolphins in the second half.

"There was a lot more talking, faster play, and we just played a lot stronger in the second half," said Samantha Wysokowski. "We stuck to the ball a lot more this time."

Wysokowski added that the extra communication was a big aid. "We knew where other girls were going to be so it was a lot easier and a lot better second half."

The Dolphins will hit the road September 18, 2013 as they take on their first CUNYAC opponent of the season against Lehman College. Game time is set for 7PM.



Second half defense pushed the Dolphins to a 3-0 win over Purchase College

Inside the Dolphin Tank

A Play-by-Play with Men's Soccer Coach John Tardy



Head Coach John Tardy

BY JESSICA PIFALO

John Tardy is in his second season as Head Coach at CSI and has made tremendous strides. In the 2012-2013 he lead the Dolphins to an ECAC win over top contender Rutgers-Newark. The team went 11-11-1 overall and 4-4 in conference play, making it to the semifinals of the 2013 CUNYAC Championship. Well it's a new season; let's take a dive inside the Dolphin Tank with John Tardy.

The Banner: How do you think your team is doing so far, are you where you want to be?

John Tardy: I think we started out a little slower than expected, lots of new faces. We have about 6 or 7 new freshman. It's been a slow process, but we're getting there.

TB: Do you think that you can go further than you did last season by the way you guys have been playing so far?

JT: In the last game yes, in the one before, not so much. You see it in glimpses the talent that we have, it's just not as consistent as it needs to be, and at this level consistency is everything. If we find a way to play our top level consistently then I think we can accomplish more than what we did last year.

Fun facts about Coach Tardy

Personal Soccer Career: St. Johns and Clemson University

Awards and Honors: Two-time High School All-American, Big East Second Team his senior year.

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorite Thing About CSI Athletics: Men's Soccer Team

Favorite CSI Team (other than your own): Men's Baseball Team