

THE BANNER

September 5, 2006

Candy from Bables?

STUDENTS FIGHT BACK

Kevin S.P. Mamakas

There were only two days of finals left in the semester when, at the May meeting of the CSI Association, the 13 members began to discuss the College's deficit of \$1.2 million. In the middle of the meeting, the Administration came up with a novel solution: Let student activity fees cover the deficit.

The college claimed the appropriated funds were going to be used on student related affairs.

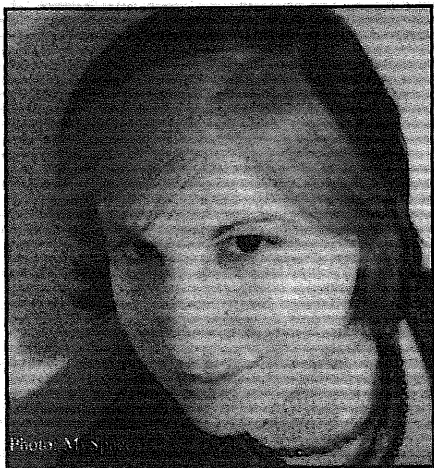
"Why don't you explain specifically what it's being used for?" demanded A.J. Ramphal, who has since been elected Student Government President. "To come to make a proposal, you're supposed to outline, 'this is what we're using the money for.'"

To justify the lack of a line-by-line budget, Vice President Jackson claimed that the Association would only be reimbursing the college for services to Student Life. "It would be legal to reimburse the institution," she said at the meeting.

Under pressure to approve numer-

Continued on page 5

Recent CSI Grad Loses Life-long Battle With Asthma



Matt Safford

In the summer of 1998, a cute, vivacious, driven 18 year old named Andrea Batista arrived on Staten Island, after departing her former home in Havana, Cuba. With the help of her devoted mother, Andrea enrolled in English classes, where her hard work paid off and she was soon enrolled in GED school. Time passed, and with more diligence, in the early summer of 2000, Andrea was about to receive her GED.

That's where I came into the picture. Your average small town slacker, at the time I was working in a small video store, a local newspaper mailroom, and peren-

nially putting off college.

Andrea happened to find me through AOL. We began talking online, were soon calling each other, and amazingly, our personalities fit together like a lock and key. The next thing I knew, I was on a five hour bus ride, my first trip to New York City. I visited Andrea for a few days, in which we discovered we worked even better in person than over the phone. After a few more long bus rides, she convinced me to enroll with her at the College of Staten Island, and by January of 2001, I was a new New Yorker, and a slightly dizzy, if amazingly happy college student.

Of course, Andrea started at CSI with me, originally as a Cinema major. Putting the same verve into college as she invested in just about everything else, Andrea excelled. After a time, like so many of us, she decided to change her major, to Drama, and proceeded to throw herself into CSI's theater productions, working on everything from lighting to sound to costumes and more. She did pretty much everything but act, largely because she wasn't comfortable with her accent, though her English was amazing. A couple of her theater reviews even made it into the pages of this paper.

Continued on page 4

Greeks Invade CSI

Judge Rules in Favor of Fraternity



Photo: AEPi

Allison Ryder

In mid-August, the United States District Court ruled that CSI must recognize the all male fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi), making it the first ever Greek organization on campus.

"The college, at this point, is reviewing the decision. We'll see what the next steps will be," said Robert Huber, Director of Communications and Marketing. "At this point we will not be held in contempt at court but we are reserving the right to analyze the case and take future legal action."

Founded in 1913, Alpha Epsilon Pi, went unrecognized at CSI since November 19, 2002. According to court documents, "AEPi's basic purpose is enabling a Jewish man to be able to join a Jewish organization whose purpose is not specifically religious, but rather social and cultural in nature. Fraternities and sororities have existed as single sex organizations for over 200 years on North American college and university campuses."

"We choose our members and they so happen to be male; it's a male fraternity," said Alpha Epsilon Pi's President, Alex Khaychuk. "The school thinks everyone should join but fraternities are for males just as sororities are for females." The plaintiffs explain in the court document that "...Maintaining the Fraternity's brotherhood is best achieved by maintaining an all-male membership."

Neither Carol Jackson, VP of Student Affairs nor Carol Brower, Director of the Office of Student Life, were available for comment due to the fact that the case is still pending. However, in the court documents, Brower denied the fraternity's application on March. 29, 2004 because

Continued on page 3

Center For The Arts Director Off To Manhattan For New Job

AnnMarie Costella

After four years of loyal service, CFA Artistic Director Lisa Reilly is leaving the College Of Staten Island to become the first Executive Director of the Westbeth Housing Development Corporation. The CSI Administration will be conducting a national search for a replacement whom they hope to find by December 2006/January 2007.

In the interim, John Jankowski, Associate Director of the Center for the Arts, whose previous responsibilities included technical tasks such as lighting and plant management, and Jeannette Vuocolo, a private consultant, who specializes in artistic and performance affairs, will be filling in.

"I am excited to be going to a won-

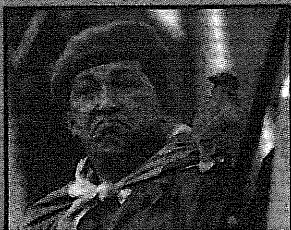
derful organization, to work with a vibrant arts community," said Reilly. "The four years I have spent with the CSI Center for the Arts have been extraordinary for me, both professionally and personally, and I am very grateful to the CFA's many constituents for their myriad parts in making the CFA such an outstanding success. The CFA is a gorgeous and important facility for Staten Island and the College, and will continue to play a prominent role in the cultural life of the community."

The Wesbeth Center for the Arts provides an assortment of 343 studios, galleries, and theatres to aid a large community of artists in showcasing their work. Their purpose is to establish "a place for the arts to flourish that will

serve to enrich us all." Lisa Reilly will be in charge of their daily operations. "She was the enthusiastic and unanimous choice from 147 candidates" said Ben Green, president of Westbeth. "I speak for all Wesbeth directors in saying we look forward to Lisa's arrival and know she will make a creative and exciting contribution to the future of America's premiere artists' community."

The CFA has consistently suffered from a lack of student interest. Reilly came under scrutiny in recent issues of The Banner for her failure to book performances that specifically target students. The new 2006-2007 CFA calendar, which is always booked one year in advance, will consist of acts that were

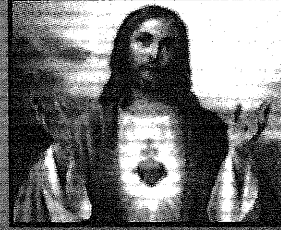
Continued on page 4



A potential war brews in South America as Chavez ponders his next move. Page 2



Sometimes life is better when you're single. Check out the single girl's guide to living fabulously. Page 10



Jesus offers his views on MTV's Laguna Beach in the new issue of The Beacon Page 8

Chavez's Cold War Front Against America

Lucie Lauria

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez drives Bush and his White House hawks crazy. In February, Condi Rice called him "the greatest danger for democracy in Latin America" and appealed to the countries of the region to form a unified front against Chavez.

Chavez, a former career military man and revolutionary, gave away a state secret when he called President Bush a donkey, a drunk, a coward, and a mass murderer during his weekly address *Alo Presidente*. He answered Condi's call during his summer crusade to form a cold war front against the US.

While the US has its hands full with the "war on terrorism", "the long war," and the Middle East crisis, Chavez put together an alliance against imperialism, as he calls it. In the last century, the US allegedly backed more than forty coup d'etats in South America, including the 2002 failed assassination of Chavez. Since White House hawks appear to be fully occupied with the Middle East now, Chavez has his hands free.

Much to Condi's aggravation, the countries of the region - Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela, and Cuba - appeared to have formed an anti-US

alliance in Simon Bolivar's nationalistic style. The Washington consensus and its neoliberal globalization might break its back trying to subjugate Chavez and the Venezuelan oil fields. However, the Venezuelan President showed his diplomatic skills and signed contracts on mutual cooperation with a number of other countries this summer.

Chavez survived not only a few years of jail time, but also an unsuccessful attempt on his life. Now he laughs at the CIA and US evangelists' calls to assassinate him. According to the Russian daily Pravda, "Chavez accused the US of meddling in the modernization of the Venezuelan armed forces and warned that he, the leader of a self-denominated peaceful democratic revolution, has an obligation to fight a war against the US imperialism."

Despite the US's successful prevention of Spain and Brazil from selling a military technology to Venezuela, Chavez signed a contract with Russia for a shipment of thirty Sukhoi Su-35 fighters, thirty helicopters, and other conventional weapons. Pravda stated, "President Chavez personally took delivery of the first shipment of 30,000 AK-103 Russian rifles in Caracas."

The prospect of these military shipments gives Washington a

headache. But Chavez doesn't seem to care. On the contrary, this summer, he worked on deepening the wrinkles on the forehead of American diplomacy.

On his way around the world, Chavez made a brief stop at Hanoi and signed contracts concerning mutual cooperation between the two countries. Hanoi, obviously sees this alliance with Caracas as an alternative to the American vassalage.

Chavez signed another treaty of friendship and mutual assistance with the Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. Belarusia, another thorn in Bush's flesh, has defied all the attempts to subvert its regime into a "democracy."

The circle completed itself with Chavez's support of Teheran, the closest target for Bush's "long war." Chavez received a friendly personal welcome by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, allegedly, the most powerful man in Iran. Chavez compared Bush and Olmert to Adolf Hitler and stated that he would support Iran under any circumstances and at any time.

Has Chavez awoken the dozing giant of the Cold War? Mixed together, the Cold War and the Long War might create an explosive substance. What happens if it explodes not only in the Middle East - WWII or Armageddon?

We're Here and We're Queer

AnnMarie Costella

Rain did little to dampen the spirits of thousands of New Yorkers who attended the Gay Pride Parade in Greenwich Village. Colorful costumes and rainbow flags were in abundance. Music filled the air and same-sex couples proudly held-hands, kissed, and posed for photos. It was a day filled with love, acceptance, and remembrance.

The Gay Pride Parade originated in 1968 and commemorates the Stonewall riots.

In the early 1960's police raids of gay bars were common. Many homosexuals were arrested on indecency charges, which included everything from kissing, and holding hands to cross-dressing. On June 28, 1968 at 1:20 a.m., police raided the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. Many of the patrons resisted arrest as a form of protest against an unjust system. The Stonewall riots mark the first and most significant rebellion in the struggle for gay rights.

The theme of this year's parade was "The Fight for Love and Life." It commemorates the 25th anniversary of the start of the AIDS epidemic. "AIDS has taken the lives of nearly 90,000 New Yorkers," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "We should never forget that for too long, fear, ignorance, and neglect allowed AIDS to flourish, contributing to its deadly tolls in our communities." Housing Works, an organization that helps provide affordable housing to homeless people suffering from HIV/AIDS, carried a banner which eloquently stated: "AIDS Isn't Over Until It's Over For Everyone."

Tolerance, unity, and acceptance were heavy on the minds of many New Yorkers and everyone had their own personal message to convey. One woman proudly wore a t-shirt that read "I love my gay child." While a drag queen dressed in a red evening gown and multicolored hat waved a placard proclaiming: "Gay bashers can kiss my ass."

Politics also loomed large, as many gay activists blamed President George W. Bush's ultra conservative views for setting back gay rights several decades. He has consistently supported a constitutional ban on gay marriage. Many same-sex couples protested the policy by carrying banners proclaiming: "Marry Me - It's About Time."

Another hot topic of great concern was a recent Pentagon document that classified homosexuality as a "mental disorder," along with mental retardation and personality disorders. It comes as no great surprise that one of the most popular articles of clothing worn at the gay pride parade was a black t-shirt with the slogan "Dykes Against Bush" printed on it in large white letters.

Many politicians, however, including

Continued on page 7

STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MELLISSA SEECHARAN

CO-MANAGING EDITORS

KEVIN S.P. MAMAKAS
ANNMARIE COSTELLA

ART EDITOR

ENRIQUE INOCENTE

ADP EDITOR

LUCIE LAURIA

SPORTS EDITOR

JENNIFER MILLER

STAFF

NICOLE BONELLI
DOMINIC FIDDUCCIA
ALLISON RYDER

PERI FISCHER
MATT SAFFORD

FREDERICK KAUFMAN

Frats

Continued from page 1

"it did not comply with CSI policy: Membership in a chartered club must be open to all students. Because your constitution appears to exclude females, it contravenes the College's non-discrimination policy."

Many Greek organizations were negatively affected by CSI's refusal to recognize them. Andrew Ross, the former President of Delta Tau Omega (DTO), stated that the obstacles they face by not being recognized include discrimination. "It is harder to build the fraternity because the school doesn't allow you to participate in rush or get your name out there," Ross said.

Katie Morelli, who is a part of Sigma Delta Tau (SDT), stated the obstacles faced by this sorority include no promotion of letters anywhere on campus and the inability to use the college's name when taking part in events like New Student Orientation.

There is a fine line between discrimination and a bonding experience between a certain sex. As there are fraternities where males can acquire a certain kind of brotherhood, there are sororities where the females can find sisterhood. The Chi Iota Colony reserves the right of "freedom of intimate association and freedom of expressive association." The court document clearly states, "[W]hen the state interferes with individuals' selection of those with whom they wish to join in a common endeavor, freedom of association in both of its forms may be implicated."

Nick Mond, the Vice President of DTO, feels that Greek organizations face certain obstacles because of a wrongly conceived image.

"Since they have the wrong impression of us, it is hard to recruit because they think we are only looking for people so that we can haze them," Mond said. "They just kick us off campus before anything even starts."

"CSI chooses to shun greek life," commented Nicole Morales, a sister in Chi Iota Omega (XIO). "There are plenty of people who don't take frats and sororities seriously, and don't know that it's not just about throwing parties, but doing philanthropy events, fundraising, donations to charities, and bonding with your same sex peers."

Mond describes the fraternity as a band of brothers who "like to have a good time, meet new people, and obtain a social life on and off campus. The people in charge have a different opinion of us and no matter how many times we tell them what we stand for, they don't even give us a chance." Mark Kormicki, the President of Alpha Phi Delta (APD), called the treatment of Greek organizations an "injustice."

"CSI can get a lot more people and they should want to offer as much as possible," commented Kormicki. "If the fraternities and sororities are organized correctly then it can bring up a lot more char-

ity than what is already done."

The document also stated, "Fraternities and sororities, with their focus on promoting brotherhood and sisterhood, are distinguishable from other student groups centered on non-gender based interests. There is no law deeming single-sex organizations per se unconstitutional or against national policy." Although groups at CSI are intended to be open to all students, it is understood



Members of the sorority XIO participated in the "Light the Night Walk."

that some groups are looking for people of a certain religion, nationality, or interests.

"It is a form of discrimination on CSI's part because there are groups that discriminate against certain religions or sexual orientation and certain requirements," said student, Jamie Desposito. "If you want to look at Greek organizations as a form of discrimination, we can do the same by saying that the high honor society is a form of discrimination because they don't allow people who have a lower GPA than the requirement."

Agreeing with Desposito, Khaychuk noted that the school violated its own anti-discrimination policy. "Fraternities and Sororities are allowed to pick and choose the members - we are an exception to the rule," he said.

According to the document, "The exception for fraternities, sororities, and other traditionally single sex organizations was added specifically in 1974 to protect these organizations." Even though CSI denies not recognizing the fraternity due to the non-discrimination policy it does not change "the fraternity's right to intimate association." In order for the school to force this organization to include members they do not want to, they are violating "the groups freedom of expressive association."

Not only has CSI's failure to recognize Greek life, and their fight to make it seem like fraternities and sororities are a form of discrimination but the court's ruling on this case has greatly affected the students who attend this CUNY school. Peter Shea, the current President of DTO, expressed his mixed opinions on AEPi's victory over CSI.

"While I am happy for them and think it is a step in the right direction for all of us, I am angry that at the current time it is only AEPi being recognized until others move forward with lawsuits," Shea said.

Khaychuk added his feelings on the historic victory. "It's about time. Instead of the school being against us, they can work with us. Hopefully we can both provide a good college life."

Ayal Wolkowitz, who is a brother of those in AEPi, stated that the verdict "will be beneficial to the international fraternity and also to CSI."

Despite the celebration, other Greek organizations were excluded when Alpha Epsilon Pi filed the lawsuit. "It's good that Greek organizations are getting some kind of recognition on campus," said Lindsey Engelson, President of SDT.

"However, I think it would have been more productive if more Greek organizations were involved."

In agreement, Ross stated "AEPi shouldn't have filed the lawsuit by themselves. They should have gathered all of the Greek organizations who would like to be recognized and do it as one. Because now the ruling is only for AEPi but if you recognize one, you have to recognize the other." Mond also shares these opinions. "If one fraternity, as in AEPi, gets recognized, I believe that other fraternities and sororities should as well."

Khaychuk's feels exclusion of other Greek organizations in this case would have made winning more difficult. "We wanted to do it as an AEPi organization," Khaychuk said. "It may have been easier to do it the way we did because every national fraternity/sorority has different regulations and it made it easier on the case because the outcome is for everyone. AEPi was the building block. We don't want to be the only ones recognized. We want other sororities and fraternities to follow through."

Moshe Zeitouni, former President of AEPi, feels the case will not help other Greek organizations on campus become recognized. "Though we took a step forward for other people, unfortunately everyone has to have their own judgment, their own court case, and everyone has to have their own decision made," he commented.

Sororities and fraternities do not only encourage students to attend CSI but they encourage them to stay. Jamie Desposito tells her story of how joining a sorority kept her in CSI. "I was originally supposed to go away but plans fell through and I wound up going to CSI. I was very upset about this and wanted to transfer as soon as possible. During my freshman and sophomore year, I started looking at other colleges. A friend of mine started receiving e-mails from a sorority and asked me to accompany her. After attending the first event, I loved these people and I decided that if I got to be a part of them, then I would stay at CSI. I'm sure other people will experience this and feel exactly the same."

The members of CSI's Greek organizations believe that in order to understand the benefits of being a part of Greek life, one must be involved in it. "What it comes down to is sororities and fraternities are something you can't experience from the outside, and can't explain from the inside."

Editor's Note: Allison Ryder is affiliated with the sorority SDT, which is not in any way associated with CSI.

Congress to Cut Troop's Brain Injury Funding by Half

Matt Safford

According to Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center co-founder George Zitnay, "Traumatic brain injury is the signature injury of the war on terrorism." Affecting up to 20% of frontline infantry troops, upwards of 100,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, one would think that any politician with a heart, or a hope of reelection would do everything in his or her power to assure increased, or at least continued support for, treatment of so many of our troops being grinded through the war machine.

Yet, according to a recent USA Today article, Republican controlled congress is on the verge of cutting brain injury funding in half, from last year's paltry \$14 million, down to \$7 million in the 2007 Defense appropriation bill. This outrage, enough to raise

the ire of nearly every veterans association, even stirred up rancor from the editors of the conservative Washington Times. In a August 17th editorial, they write, "Pentagon officials and congressional appropriations have missed a colossal opportunity to do the right thing. They continue with 'A cut for brain-injury programs would be outrageous, especially in light of the many lower-priority projects now emerging in bills under consideration.' Indeed, they point out that in the \$468 billion bill, they \$7 million needed amounts to 'a rounding error.'"

Yet according to an appropriations committee staffer quoted in the aforementioned USA article, "[The appropriations committee] would have loved to fund it, but there were just so many priorities." Apparently treating the injuries of our brave, dedicated men and women just isn't high enough up that list to make the cut.

Thankfully, Democrats have derailed passage of the bill until

September, which should give anyone who truly supports our troops to contact their elected officials and make their opinions known. Thankfully, Paul Rieckhoff and the non-partisan Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans for America have set up a page where you can make your opinion known to any number of local newspapers. It takes less than two minutes; so how much do you really support our troops?

An even better way to voice your opinion? Do some research so that you're somewhat informed, and go to the polls in November. Anyone who can't find \$7 million dollars in a nearly \$500 billion bill for the treatment of our soldiers doesn't deserve to be running our country. Sadly, our troops may not be going home anytime soon, but with your vote you can send some callous, undeserving politicians back to theirs.

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans for America can be found at www.iava.org

THE BANNER IS PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. ALL WORKS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THE PROPERTY OF THEIR CREATORS, AND ARE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW. NO MATERIALS WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRINTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART IN ANY FORM WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE EDITORS. OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 2800 VICTORY BLVD., BUILDING 1-C, ROOM 228, STATEN ISLAND, NY, 10314. OUR NEWS BUREAU CAN BE REACHED AT (718) 982-3116 OR BY E-MAILING OUR WRITERS. FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION DIAL (718) 982-3116. FAX (718) 982-3087. OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY SHARED BY THE BANNER STAFF OR THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. THE BANNER IS NOT A PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND AND THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE BANNER.

Andrea Batista

Continued from page 1

While still conquering our Drama department, earning the respect and friendship of nearly everyone she met, Andrea decided that Drama wasn't challenging enough on its own. She began work toward a second major in Spanish, focusing on the literature and cultures associated with her native language. She wowed that department as well, and was soon employed in the Modern Languages Media Lab as a Spanish tutor. There, she was reunited with the Department's director John Esposito, who was one of the teachers who years earlier, had helped Andrea get her GED. As a tutor, she excelled as well, finding fun new ways of helping students get through their language requirements, which for many students can be among the most difficult classes. She also was an invaluable addition to the faculty and staff of the language department, assisting and suggesting ideas for tests, as well as organizing clue events.

Time passed quickly, as life too often does, particularly when times are good. I worked as a writing tutor upstairs in 2S, while Andrea tutored on the first floor. We both continued to excel at CSI and before we knew it, Spring 2006 snuck up upon us and we were both graduating with several honors and awards, though Andrea far more than me.

With her parents and my grandmother on hand, June's graduation was the happiest, most rewarding day of our lives. Andrea was asked to speak at both the Drama and Language Department graduation ceremonies. Though they were held at the same time, she somehow managed to attend parts of both, receiving some of her awards on the front lawn of 2S, with a very proud boyfriend looking on, happier for her than I was for myself. I'll never forget that day as long as I live, for nothing more than the beautiful smile that refused to leave her face despite the repressive heat.

After graduation, while Andrea grappled with the daunting decision of what to do with her future, and I prepared to enter the new CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, we took a wonderful weekend trip to Washington D.C. where we took visited several monuments and the Smithsonian museums.

Upon returning, Andrea delved deeper into the dilemma of her future. While tutoring during the summer semester, she considered many schools and directions, eventually settling on a tentative plan to continue tutoring and perhaps teach Spanish at CSI next year, while working toward a PhD in Spanish Literature at CUNY's Graduate Center.

Unfortunately, she never got the chance. Just days after finishing the summer semester's tutoring, Andrea's chronic asthma, the one thing she never seemed to be able to attack with the energy and tenacity with which she lived the rest of her life, caught up with her. During the first long heat wave of the summer, she begrudgingly went to the emergency room.

A little over a day later, while blessedly still asleep from medication, her heart stopped due to pressure caused by her asthma-affected lungs. Though her heart did eventually start beating again, she never woke up. A little over a week later, I found myself at her funeral, surrounded by the most amazing group of

friends that two people could ever hope to accumulate in an entire lifetime. Amazingly, Andrea and I gathered them all in just five years at CSI. Simultaneously, I felt the most profound loss, and the most amazing amount of love and support. That support hasn't left me in the several weeks since that day and I now have twice as many friends as I did before Andrea's death. It is only with the strength gathered by all those who stood and continue to stand with me that I can conceive of continuing on in search of some sense of a tomorrow. To all of those friends and my family, as well as Andrea's, I offer my most heartfelt, deepest thanks. I hope to one day repay you all for your kindness, both to Andrea and myself.

I am sure there are many important people and events I have left out in this account of Andrea's life at CSI, because she accomplished enough within the walls of our buildings to fill a book. One day perhaps, when my heart isn't so raw, I will write it. At this point, these vastly insufficient paragraphs are all that I can bear to type into this laptop which used to belong to her. Andrea's life should serve as an inspiration to all CSI students, and immigrants everywhere.

Her death, while infinitely tragic, can teach each of us that life is far too short, sometimes cruelly so, and we need to take care of ourselves in every way we can. A mind can be amazingly strong, but our bodies are tragically frail.

A Message from SG President AJ Ramphal

Andréa was a sunny young lady with a sweet disposition. She was always ready and able to help with many student oriented activities. I remember the first time I met her; it was an early Friday morning 5 minutes before my Spanish assignment was due and I hadn't finished, so I asked her to help me. Although she was just heading to class, she immediately stopped what she was doing and assisted me. Ironically, I got to class on time, but Andréa got to her lecture 15 minutes late. Did she get angry? Well, the answer is, we became good friends. Come to think of it I never saw her angry. But I am glad, since she had the most wonderful smile that could light up the duller of days.

Andréa will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She was truly a charming, devoted and intelligent person who was full of enthusiasm. On behalf of the Student Government and my fellow student of CSI, I offer our heart felt sympathy to her parents, relatives and her boyfriend Matt.

CFA SHAKEUP

Continued from page 1

all chosen by Reilly, The performances include: The Philharmonic Quintet of New York, "Ethel Merman's Broadway," Blue Oyster Cult, and Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. Adam James and his 17-piece orchestra will be returning to the CFA for the 2nd season in a row as will the Shangri-la Chinese Acrobats.

"The future is very bright for the CFA," said CSI Vice President Carol Jackson. "The Center itself is in good fiscal shape and has a solid reputation on Staten Island. We will continue to work very hard to provide cultural programming that the diverse population both on and off campus will appreciate. We will work closely with students and faculty to collaborate on new ideas and initiatives."

It remains uncertain whether the new artistic director will maintain the same style of performances that have consistently filled the CFA calendar or whether we can look forward to some refreshing changes. "The CFA has a responsibility to students and the community," said Director of Communications and Marketing, Robert Huber. "Finding an appropriate balance that satisfies both these constituents is ideally what we are looking for and hope to achieve."

Editor's Note

We never appreciate the things that matter. I'd like to meet someone who does. Everything we do has selfish ends. We forget to stop, breathe, and take a good look at the people and world around us.

These philosophical commonplaces took on a new meaning for me when, at the end of July, I received a phone call from one of my good friends, Matt Safford. He told me that his longtime girlfriend and recent CSI graduate, Andrea Batista had been hospitalized; the outlook wasn't good. I spent the next week contemplating the twists and turns of life. Better yet, the incomprehensible why?

Although the answers were unclear, I realized how great the CSI community really is. Sure we've all ragged on the college, but like so many other times it takes a tragedy to open your eyes to see the beauty within. During her hospitalization, Andrea's family and Matt were never alone. The continuous show of love and support from friends and professors at CSI proved to be overwhelming, as seen in Matt's article, "Recent CSI Grad Loses Lifelong Battle With Asthma".

It's a new school year, a new start for incoming students and especially those who couldn't wait to get out of whatever dreadful class you took last semester. The Banner is also about new starts this year with fresh faces, and some old ones too. I'm excited to have two Co-Managing Editors, Kevin S.P. Mamakas and AnnMarie Costella, helping me out. The ever talented Enrique Inocente is back providing brilliant layouts, The Beacon, and every now and then, one of his infamous comics.

Newcomer Nicole Bonelli explores the always popular world of sex and all that it encompasses, while Allison Ryder takes us inside the ongoing battle between CSI's frats and sororities and the administration—oh, it's a throw down. Jennifer Miller will keep us up-to-date on how CSI's sports teams are doing and we'll find out, will there be less mention of cronyism and Republican scandals on the ADP page with its new editor, Lucie Lauria? Then there's me, Melissa Secharan, your new Editor-in-Chief. That's right, a chick is back in power.

For students wanting to be a part of CSI, I urge you to join a club, team, or publication; there are more than enough. The Banner is always looking for new writers, photographers, and artists. If you're interested, check out one of our meetings held every Thursday (1C-228) from 1:30-3:30.

And remember, college is what you make of it. Learn to appreciate your classmates, professors, and CSI itself. They'll be there when you need them.

-Melissa Secharan

CSI Steals From Babies

Continued from page 1

ous proposals the Administration had now linked to their deficit proposal, the Association unanimously agreed to the proposal.

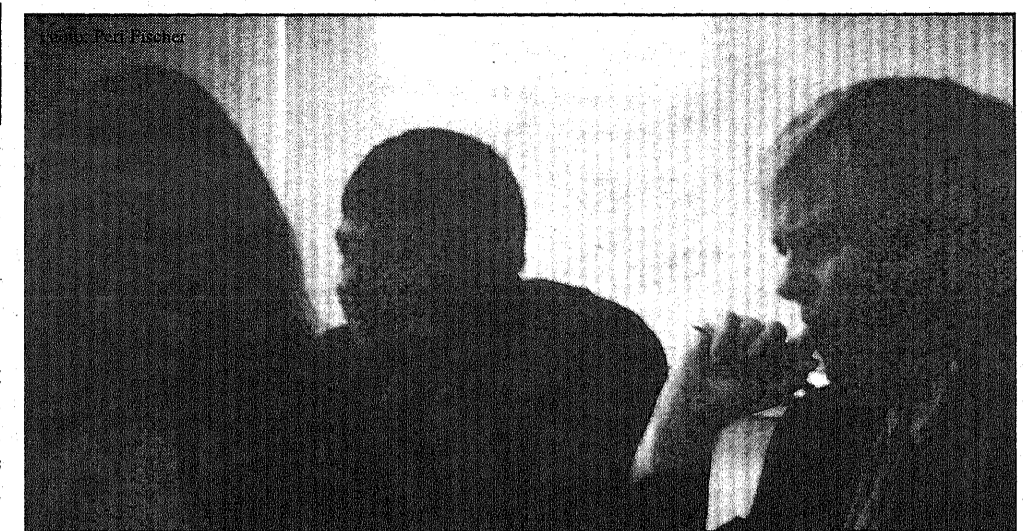
A.J. Ramphal quickly acted on the outcome of the Association meeting and threatened to file a lawsuit and told the Staten Island Advance about what occurred. The Advance's article on the following day declared that the Administration was on the borderline of breaking the law by taking Student Activity Fees away from students and for taking money from the Children's Center.

President Marlene Springer immediately withdrew the administration's proposal stating, "We have listened to and considered the input of our student leaders who have expressed concerns. I have directed the college administration to quickly design an alternative plan."

The CSI Administration will not be taking money from the Children's Center or from Student Activity funded groups. Instead, the budget deficit will be covered by money coming from the Center for the Arts, the sports bubble, and other places that charge for events on campus. "We will balance this budget," said CSI spokesman Robert Huber. "The question is, what resources we will use to do that."

"We didn't make the deficit," said Michele Payton, student and chair of the Association's budget committee. "They're coming to ask us for our money because we handled our money the right way. It's not going to hurt faculty and staff, its going to hurt students."

Even with an \$815,000 reserve, taking \$100,000 from the Children's Center would have sunk an upcoming \$300,000 dollar renovation. Plans to increase the amount of service to students who need cheap daycare for their children—\$2 an hour—by hiring more staff to watch more children will also be spoiled as a result of



AJ Ramphal, SG President, fought the Administration for trying to take money from the CSI Association.

the administrations mismanagement of funds.

"We've really given back to the college in many ways," said Cynthia Murphy, the director of the Children's Center, while trying to figure out why the children were being attacked. "It seems very unreasonable. This is a lot of money to us."

REASONS WHY

A record number of students attended the college a year and a half ago. Since then, enrollment has dropped by almost 3 percent, straining the \$62 million operating budget of the college. Meanwhile, the college changed admissions policies, which raised the standards for the schools and attributed to the drop in admissions.

The administration claimed that remediation attributed to the shortfall. "Last year, the College provided students who were unable to pass any of their Freshman Skills Assessment tests an opportunity to participate in a program designed to focus on these skills, one at a time," said Vice President Carol Jackson. "These students were offered classes at CSI sponsored by the Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center in writing, reading and math. These students were not admitted directly to coursework, therefore they did not pay tuition or use up

financial aid; once they passed at least one of the three skill exams they were automatically admitted to coursework."

According to the Association's Marianne McLaughlin, the shortfall affected the Association as well. "We had less revenue for expenses this year," said McLaughlin. Currently, students pay \$74 or \$48 for Student Activity Fees, depending on how many classes they take. The groups that use this fee money try to keep a consistent budget. As the fee money increases and expenses stay consistent, reserves can build.

Off the record, one senior member of the CSI administration expressed disapproval for the way in which student activity funded groups build reserves, and the way the Administration sought to take the money for themselves. The Banner's anonymous source asserted that student activity fee should be used for students. Yet a reserve is used for occasions when the college has a lower number of students attending than expected. Groups like PDC have a set budget based on an estimated amount of students that will be attending the college for the year. If a 3 percent drop in enrollment occurs, the committee needs the reserve so they don't fall into a deficit like the administration did with last year's budget.

The U.S. and Globalization

Deconstructing the Iraq war

Students and the Staten Island community are urged to join the CSI FACULTY UNION (PSC) as we view a series of films that question the war in Iraq, oppressive globalization patterns and the role that the United States plays in international politics.

Fall 2006 SEMESTER

Thursday, September 14, 2006
The Secret Government
Directed by Bill Moyers

Bill Moyers is one of the most recognizable and celebrated journalists whose approach to investigative journalism is highly respected. Known for his award-winning PBS documentaries, in this film he interviews several different people involved with the CIA and other government agencies who speak about various U.S. foreign policy covert and overt operations that took place during the Cold War era. This documentary gives quite an overview of what has actually happened in the last 50 years regarding the founding of the National Security Agency and the CIA.

Thursday, September 21, 2006
Fahrenheit 9-11
Directed by Michael Moore

Fahrenheit 9/11 is Michael Moore's searing examination of the Bush administration's actions in the wake of the tragic events of 9/11. With his characteristic humor and dogged commitment to uncovering the facts, Moore considers the presidency of George W. Bush and where it has led us. He looks at how - and why - Bush and his inner circle avoided pursuing the Saudi connection to 9/11, despite the fact that 15 of the 19 hijackers were Saudis and Saudi money had funded Al Qaeda. Fahrenheit 9/11 takes us inside that war to tell the stories we haven't heard, illustrating the awful human cost to U.S. soldiers and their families.

All Films will be shown at the College of Staten Island
Center for the Performing Arts - Recital Hall (IP-120)

From 1:25 pm to 3:20 pm

Discussion To Follow Each Film

CSI to Host First Ever History Day

For the first time, CSI will host "History Day" on Saturday, October 14, 2006 from 1pm to 4pm. The event will take place in the rotunda of the library.

"This day is about helping people to get through if they want to get involved in the local history," Professor James Kaser, Coordinator for Archives and Special Collections said. "The History Day is for all the people interested in history of their family, particular ethnic groups, or their house."

Unknowingly, by taking pictures, writing letters, saving family memorabilia and newspapers, people take part in conserving history. The CSI Archives and Library prepared six twenty minute presentations of research techniques related to the local history, memorabilia preservation, and genealogy.

Vendors of archival supplies will offer various sophisticated tools, such as software for genealogy or paper-based memorabilia preservation aids. Historical organizations, including the Irish and the Italian American heritage societies, will sell history books at table displays.

"History Day is an opportunity for people to meet each other and find out about each other's interests," Professor Kaser said. "Students, who want not only to participate, but also to plan the event

-Lucie Lauria

STATEN ISLAND REGION ACA
presents its
30th Annual Antique Car Show & Flea Market
Sunday, September 17, 2006

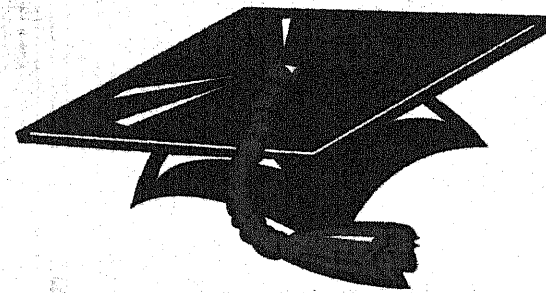
- Antiques • Classics • Customs •
- Street Rods • Trucks • Motorcycles •

Dash Plaques for First 200 Registered Vehicles

NEW! BIGGER AND BETTER LOCATION!
The College of Staten Island - Willowbrook Campus
2800 Victory Boulevard

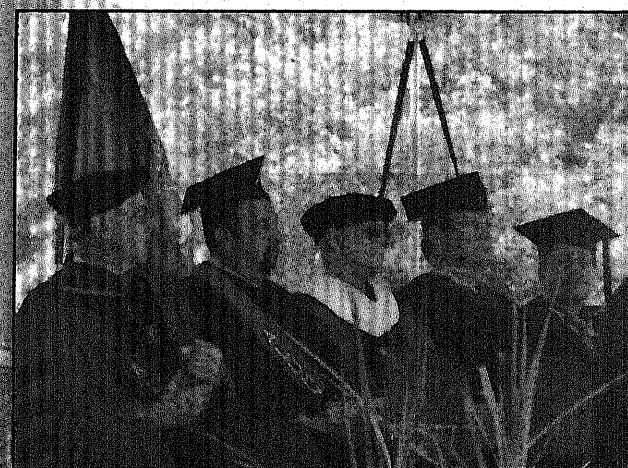
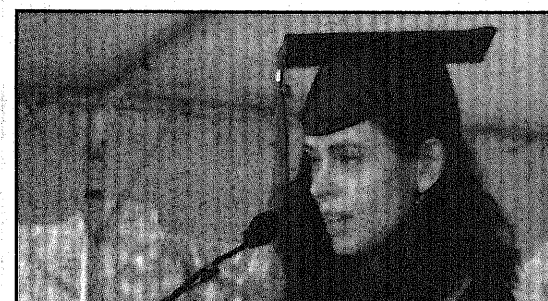
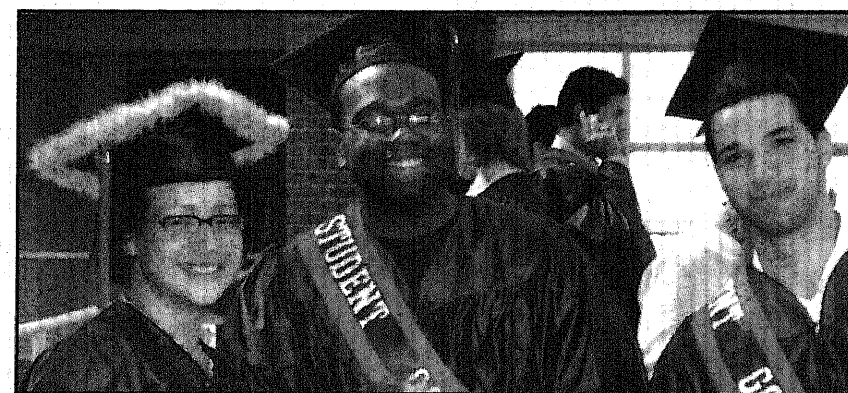
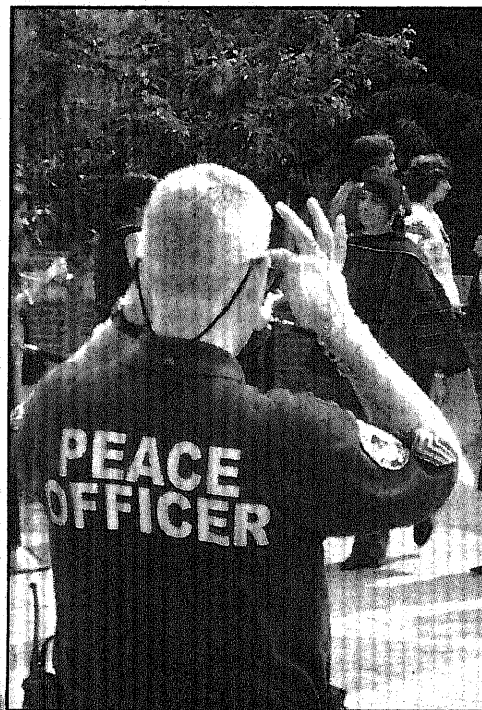
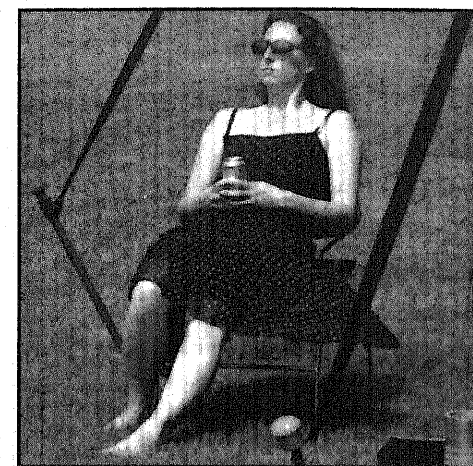
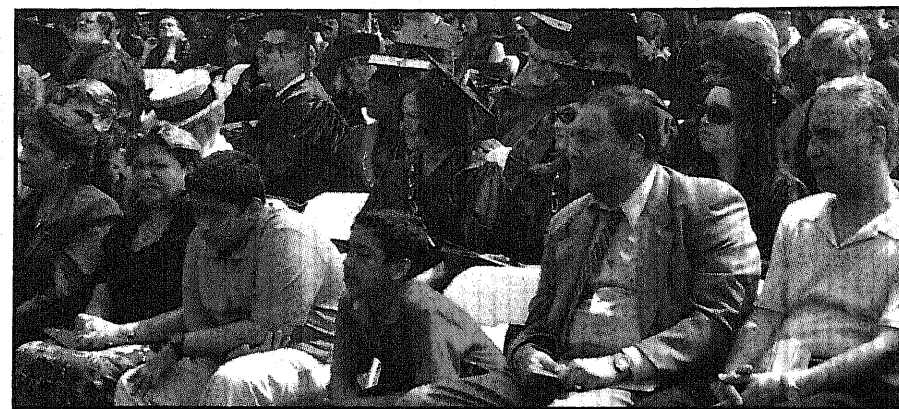
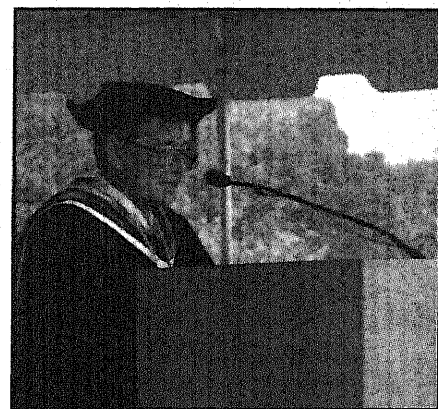
FEATURING THE RETURN OF THE "RAFFLE CAR"!
SOME LUCKY WINNER WILL DRIVE HOME A 1966 MUSTANG!

• Multiple Awards for All Classes Through 1981 • Judging Extended to All Classes Including 1982 - 2006 •
• Food • Raffles • Music •

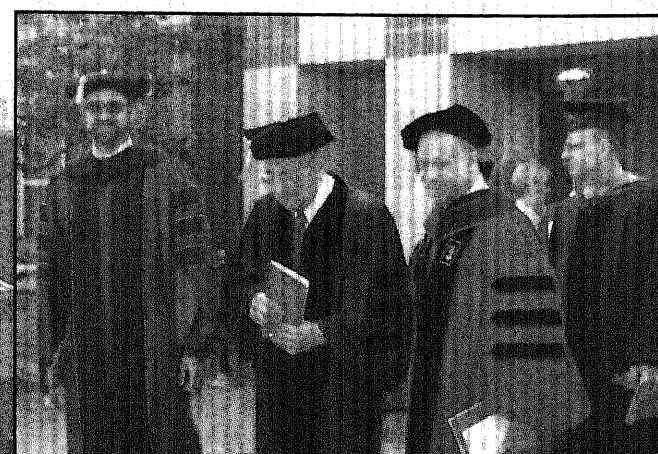


GRADUATION

June 1, 2006



It was just another CSI graduation. Look at all of the happy faces.



Have a Gay Old Time...

Photos: AnnMarie Costella

Continued from page 2

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senator Chuck Schumer, Congressman Anthony Weiner, and Attorney General candidate Mark Green, "came out" to show their support for the gay community.

As the festivities came to an end and people wearily shook dry their umbrellas and headed home, hopes remained high for a bright future. "Today is our day," said Peter Boruchowitz, 48. "The rain won't stop us. Mother Nature is a Drag Queen."

There are over 40 student clubs currently chartered at CSI. For the past several years the Gay/Straight Alliance has existed in various incarnations, but recently a lack of interest has caused it to disappear completely. "The need for something on the campus to support the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) student population is great," said Director of

Student life, Carol Brower. "They are somewhat of an invisible group because nothing exists such as a club or an organization that meets their needs or addresses their issues."

Even though chartering a student club is a relatively simple process, no one has yet taken the initiative to start up the Alliance again this semester. "I think the coming out process is a difficult struggle for young adults, so to join a group that clearly identifies them as gay or lesbian feels risky," said Brower. "I think that's one of the reasons why the club has had a hard time."

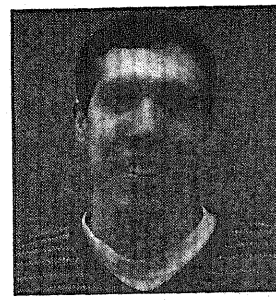
Any student who would like to start a club can pick up a chartering packet at the Office of Student Government (1C-207). After they have filled out the forms they must get a minimum of ten students to join the club. Next, they will need to recruit a

faculty advisor, if they are experiencing difficulty in locating an advisor, the Office of Student Life (1C-201) will assist them. After the club is approved, they are assigned a room on campus during club hours to hold their meetings. Clubs may also vote on and plan events by filling out a student event request form, which they can obtain at the Office of Student Life.

The PDC is in the process of planning a series of events to celebrate National Coming Out Day (October 11). The holiday marks the 1987 march on Washington, when over 500,000 people marched for gay and lesbian equality.

The Counseling Center at CSI (1A-109) offers academic and personal counseling including aiding gay and lesbian students struggling with sexuality and sexual identity issues.





Known Quitter Shocks Friends and Family By Not Quitting

"I've given up on giving up."

LOCAL, page 12L



Scientific Study Finds That People Who Listen to Coheed and Cambria Are Indeed Retarded.

SCIENCE, page 4D

Jesus Weighs in on new cast of Laguna Beach.

"By far the ugliest of any season."

OPINION, page 3A



If you can't get the news, make it up.

The Beacon

\$1.87

An Enrique Ignacio Inocente Joint

September 5, 2006 | Volume 5 Issue 1

American Workers Offshore Themselves Looking For American Jobs

Beacon International Bureau



Three unemployed Americans scour Bombay in search for the countless US tech jobs offshored around the globe.

BOMBAY, INDIA—With jobs being offshored at an alarming rate, thousands of Americans have been left unemployed. In an act of what can only be seen as desperation, US citizens are flocking to places as far as China and India to get offshored jobs.

India in particular has recently seen an increase in its illegal American population. Janice Tiller, 43, worked for Gales Industry and came to Bombay attempting to get back her job as systems analysis. "I worked for the company for twenty years, but that came to end when they shut down their US offices and moved operations to India," said Tiller. "All the jobs I'm qualified for have been shipped

abroad. It was either working minimum wage at Wal-Mart, or leave America to chase my job to India. I'm too proud to work retail."

A tight nit community of US migrants has risen in the heart of Bombay where college graduates, and the recently laid off come together to coordinate job searches. Harvey Humperdink, 24, lives in this community, which has been dubbed Little America. He just graduated from university with a BS in engineering, and has found it impossible to find an occupation in the US. "I came to India because that's where all the good tech and engineering jobs are going," said Humperdink. "Hell, even customer

assistance gigs are being off shored here. There are no more white-collar jobs left in the States. If you want to make a real living, your only hope is to offshore."

The Indian government has not taken too kindly to the steady increase of US migrant workers. Labor and Employment Minister of India, Ram Singh Ola, especially doesn't like the flood of illegal Americans. "Our nation has worked tireless in conjunction with the US government and US corporations to get US jobs to India," said Ola. "It's discouraging to see unemployed Americans coming to this country to take back their jobs." The

see OFFSHORE, page 4

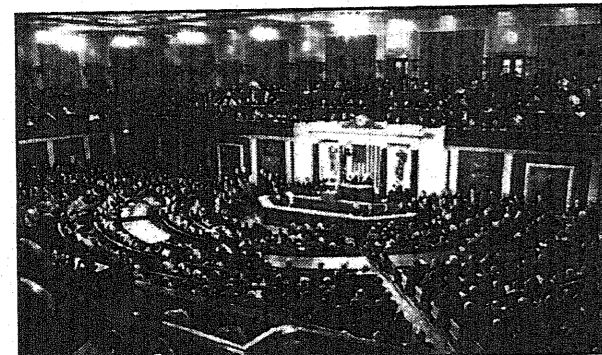
Constitutional Amendment Banning Foreign Gay Clone Marriage Passes

Beacon Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, DC—A constitutional amendment to ban foreign, same-sex, clone marriage, backed by President Bush and conservative groups, was soundly passed in the Senate yesterday after opponents failed to persuade a bare majority of all senators to oppose the measure.

Although most states have acted to prevent same-sex clones from marrying, seven Senate Republicans were wading into the politically risky issue but still voted for bringing the proposed amendment to a final vote. Their gumption paid off.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (Tenn.) and other GOP leaders had



US Senate applauds new amendment that hinders the civil liberties of undesirable citizens.

sought the vote as a way to help galvanize their party's conservative base at a time of flagging public confi-

dence in the Bush administration and Congress. "If there is one thing I don't like besides a foreign clone," began Frist, "it's a foreign gay clone that wants to get married. I won't stand for it and neither will the American people."

Recent polls show Americans oppose foreigners, clones, gay men, and lesbians. An ABC News poll released this week found that 62 percent support a constitutional amendment to ban all of the above. "It's important we maintain the sanctity of marriage, and treat these undesirables as second class citizens," said

see AMENDMENT, page 4

Democrats Cede Defeat on All Issues

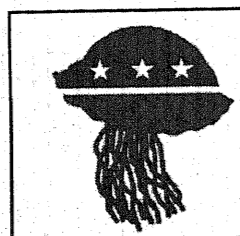
WASHINGTON, DC—Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid held a press conference on behalf of the Democratic Party where he ceded to the Republican Party on every major issue facing the United States. "It's been well documented in the press, but it's high time we finally admit to ourselves that the Democratic Party is broken, and we have no solid agenda except to undermine everything the president does," said Reid.

Senator Reid went on to explicate his party's ineptitude, and how

Democrats tend to be divided on issues whereas Republicans band together and exploit the situation. "If I could do it all over again, I'd be a Republican," said a teary eyed Reid. "The only reason President Clinton was elected was because he ran on a Republican agenda of eliminating welfare and deregulation. Republicans have their shit together, and Democrats just stand by and simply react. It's clear we have no platform."

Although the jackass seemed to capture the essence of the Democratic Party, Reid unveiled the party's new animal logo: a jellyfish. "Americans

are disillusioned by the direction our country is going," Reid began, "yet we have been unable to sway popular opinion our way. Democrats don't have the spine to stand up against the Republican machine, and we need a logo that personifies us as a party. What better animal than the spineless jellyfish."



Spineless jellyfish. The new Democratic Party logo.

because the Democrats would fail to differentiate themselves from the Republicans yet again. "We today are

see LOSERS, page 10

In This Issue

FILM

Pandas on a Bus page 3G



"There's a motherfuckin' panda on this motherfuckin' bus!"

SPORTS

A-Rod is an A-Hole page 6E



Alex Rodriguez contemplates his own assholeness.

LOCAL

Teens Beat Nun With Sack Full of Doorknobs For Her Finest Cheeses. page 9L

CHILDREN OF VALHALLA

CREATED BY ENRIQUE IGNACIO INOCENTE

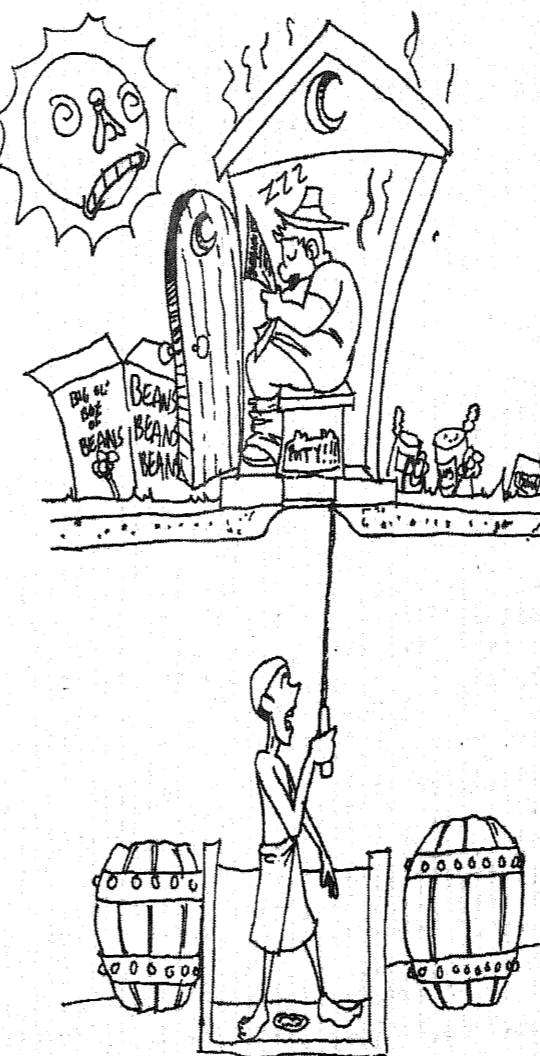


Didi Does Iraq

An Inappropriate Comic By Enrique Inocente



LAFF QUICKIE



"Ah, This must be for the shower."

ASK

someone who cares

Have a question? Send it to The Banner and we'll find a clever way of replying to you.

Dear Ask, My boyfriend of two months wants to have sex, but I'm a virgin and want to save myself for marriage. He's been very persistent lately, and I don't know how to handle this.

Sincerely, Virgin Queen

Dear Virgin Queen, Do you like him? If you do, then you'll have sex with him. Nobody likes a prude.

Dear Ask, Recently I've been experiencing a burning sensation in my hoo-ha. What should I do?

Yours truly, Ring of Fire

Dear Ring of Fire, What the hell is a hoo-ha? If it's anything I'm thinking of, then it seems to me you need to go to a friggin' doctor.

Dear Ask, I'm depressed. I feel my family doesn't understand me. I'm not confident in my looks and personality. I have no luck with girls. I feel like a loser. It's as if nobody likes me. Can you give me any advice on what to do?

Desperately Seeking Anyone

Dear Desperately Seeking, I don't know you, but I can literally hear you whining, and it's grating my nerves to no extent. Please kill yourself. Nobody will miss you.

Dear Ask, I sent in an article to The Banner, and it never got published. On top of that, they never sent back my floppy disk. I want my article back, dammit.

Lovingly yours, Disgruntled Journalist

Dear Disgruntled Journalist, You ain't getting back shit. We're using your disk as a coaster.

Dear Ask, I think this new advice column sucks. And what's the deal with Mamakas?

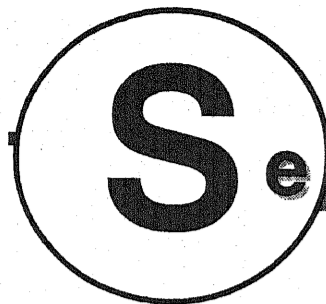
Cordially, Dave Maltz (Boston Rulez)

Dear David Maltz, You're right. This column does suck, and Mamakas is still keeping his pimp hand strong.

Dear Ask, I'm kind of overweight. Do you know of any good diet plans?

Signed, KMFD

Dear KMFD, Yes. Anorexia or bulimia. Either diet is pretty good.



Nicole Bonelli's



A Single Girl's Guide to Living a Fabulous Life

I think I can speak for every single girl out there when I say that I am sick of people always asking me why I am single. The fear of being alone causes so many of us to fake more than our orgasms and bra sizes. This fear though, increases the risk of losing site of who YOU really are. You know, the fun, fearless, independent female with a healthy sex drive. I'm not protesting love or relationships, because I myself am on the quest to find "true" love. But, until you find the one worth settling for, don't be afraid of letting your hair down and getting dirty.

Join the Mile High Club

Take a look to your left, and there is probably an overweight sweaty business man passed out drooling on your favorite new shirt. Take a look to your right, and there is most likely a screaming baby throwing Cheerios at you. Worst of all, the passenger in front of you has their seat back so far that he or she can see what you ate for breakfast. It's no surprise that flying is no walk in the park, so why not make the most of it? Although pulling off a stunt like having sex on a plane might seem impossible, it is definitely "doable". So, instead of sitting through one of those boring in flight movies, grab the hottie from a few rows over, and earn your frequent flyer miles.

Let go of the past

Moving on is easier said than done, but once you put the past in the past it is almost as satisfying as eating a pint of strawberry ice cream. We can sit here thinking about "the what ifs" and the "maybe if I didn't act like that life would be different right now", but why add unnecessary stress to your life? I personally already smoke enough, do I want to bring on lung cancer sooner than I already am? The past is what holds up back from our future successes and happiness. Don't mop around with a head full of regrets, because you can't regret something that you once made you smile. I feel strongly about this, strong enough that I tattooed the Chinese symbols for "no regrets" on my body, (it's hidden, and I hope it really means no regrets). Sure I have made mistakes, but my mistakes have only made me stronger mentally and emotionally.

Sex with an ex

There is a saying, "The best sex is with an ex." You would be lying to yourself if you never got the urge to pick up your phone and call your blast from the past for one more roll around in the hay. I can tell you from personal experience, that there is a huge chance that this can backfire. I was left more confused than a virgin on the night of her prom. First of all, it seemed that the sex was over before I even got into the room. Old feelings came back, and even though neither of us would admit it, we both got attached. On the other hand though, maybe you'll have better luck and rekindle those old feelings. Who knows, maybe it'll work out better the second time around. Just remember, people rarely change, and you'll probably come to realize why you broke up in the first place.

Make a Sex Tape

Lights, camera, action! Put aside the fact that you are a little camera shy, and let your inner porn star shine. Most homemade sex tapes tend to be as boring as those surveillance tapes managers watch in order to catch employees slacking off. Live out your wildest fantasy, role play, or even try out some kama sutra sex positions. Celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Pamela Anderson used this stunt to try to break out onto the "A" list and to stir up some controversy. I wouldn't suggest doing the same unless you were looking to star aside Ron Jeremy. Just make sure you have full custody of the tape, or your costar will probably host a private viewing for all of his buddies. And the next time you return that movie you rented to Blockbuster, make sure you don't mix up the tapes.

Own at least one pair of sexy underwear

It's the garment of clothing hidden away, but if you wear the right pair you will most likely be walking with an extra bounce in your step. I'm not trying to advertise for Victoria's Secret or Frederick's of Hollywood, but spending ten dollars on that lace thong will boost your confidence level higher than the number of men Paris Hilton slept with. And on the days you are feeling extra sexy, go commando. Make people wonder what you are really smiling about.

Take care of YOU

Wouldn't it be nice if we could travel back in time? I am speaking for a lot of people when I say it would be a breath of fresh air to go back to the good old years of high school. Although they probably weren't that grand when we were living them, life was just a long route down easy street. We had no responsibilities, and our priorities consisted of partying, and drinking 40's on a random street corner every weekend. As the years pass, life only gets more hectic and stressful, so it is hard to just take a second and relax. YOU though, are your main priority, and it so important that you take some time to yourself. Read a book, get a pedicure, or go on a random road trip with friends. Whatever it is, just make sure you get some satisfaction out of it. One of life's most important lessons is never to rely on anyone else to make you happy, or you'll just be setting yourself up for disappointment.

One of life's most important lessons is never...

Chicks Before Dicks

Chicks before dicks is the motto all girls swear to live by, but at least half abandon it as soon as they get the "butterflies in the stomach" stage. I have been screwed over by my friends who were so infatuated with their significant others, that they were blindsided by everything else in their lives. I am not trying to play the innocent card here, because being a girl, I am sure I have done the same at least one time during my (almost) twenty years of existence. As I have gotten older, I have come to realize who will catch a bullet for me, and who will watch me bleed to death. I hope I am not alone with this, and for the ones who have not caught on, I hope they open their eyes and see life for what it really is. If you don't make time for your friends, watch how fast they disappear when you need a shoulder to cry on.

rely on anyone else...

Buy a Vibrator

Buzz buzz will no longer be the sound that sends you running because of your fear of bees. Girls up until this day are still afraid of venturing off to explore themselves in order to find out what really makes them tick. If you can't satisfy yourself, how can you expect anyone else to? I'm not about to go anti men because of "girls new best friend", but unlike men, vibrators don't lie, cheat, or constantly call wanting to know where you are. I can say Precious, (my vibrator, and yes I named it), give me a run for my money, and the best orgasms. So, drop everything, (most importantly your pants), and find out what the buzz is really about.

to make you happy.

Flirt Like Crazy

If there is one great thing about being single, it's the fact that you can keep your options open. This is great for people like me who are insanely picky, and won't settle for less than what they want or deserve. The next time you are out for a night on the town with your girls, go crazy. I'm not encouraging anyone to go out and act like a slut, because it is possible to go out and have a good time without finding your number on a bathroom wall a week later with the words, "if you are looking for a good time" underneath it. Flirt like crazy; the male attention is good for your ego anyway.

NO POP, NO APPEAL? THE CHALLENGE OF WSIA

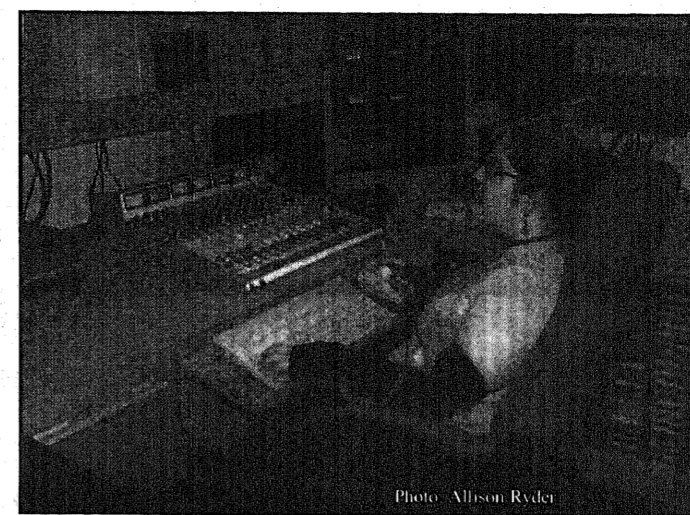
Allison Ryder

Celebrating its 25th year of operation this month, WSIA, Staten Island's only radio station, has received more mentions in the past five years from Arbitron, a radio ratings research firm, than in its entire history.

Though the station plays various music which sometimes includes unknown artists and unsigned bands, it is not well known throughout Staten Island, whether it be by students or people who live here. This problem can be attributed to the lacking promotion of the station and a disinterested audience with specified music taste.

"The very nature of college radio is to present new and diverse music that you're not going to hear other places," said John Ladley, WSIA's chief engineer and operator. "WSIA has always strongly believed in that ideal. Unless a listener has a taste for new, diverse, and sometimes just plain weird music, then they might not know about us."

While some students think the radio station just doesn't want to play what they feel is "up to date" music, the reality is WSIA can't.



Laura Pamizari, Engineering/Production Director of WSIA.

"If WSIA were to attempt to appeal to the largest majority of either the student population or community, then most likely we would be playing commercial or pop music," said Ladley. "The most important reason why we don't is because the license granted to WSIA by the FCC (Federal Communication Commission) is a 'class D' noncommercial, educational license."

Students fail to connect with the types of music played, and don't take the time to look into WSIA and all that it has to offer. "The students who are here have interest and dedication towards the station," Phil Masciantonio, WSIA's General Manager. "Many students don't

realize how easy it is to get involved, or how much there is to do here besides going on the air, such as the news department, sales proposals, marketing, or people who are coming here for business."

Although they cannot satisfy everyone's taste for music, according to student, Lisa Perrotti, the station does very well promoting itself. "The neon sign outside the campus is great promotion," Perrotti said. "I've seen flyers around camps, and free CD's being handed out. I would imagine that anything further than that, in this highly competitive area would be very expensive."

While some students say WSIA lacks the advertising of other big time radio stations, others feel a lacking interest from the students is also to blame.

"You only know about it if you know someone who works for it or pass by it on campus," commented student, Jamie Desposito. Student Renee Kraiem refers to majority of the student

body as being "apathetic about anything that has to do with CSI."

"You either have the extreme people involved in everything, or the people involved in nothing, there is no middle," Kraiem stated.

Peter Shea, Sports Director for WSIA, agrees that the reason people are unaware of the station is due to disinterested students. "Lack of appreciation, not lack of promotion. We're out there, having a good time but we're a college station in a major market with so many other options that we don't get the respect that we deserve."

According to Ladley, "any organization can always do a better job than it's doing but the students and the paid personnel at WSIA are very focused on promotion at all time. Reaching all CSI students has always been our challenge."

No matter the type of music they play, there will always be people who do not like the music and will not listen to it. Everyone on Staten Island and within the CSI community will never be completely accommodated. WSIA promotes any chance they can get. If students are just not interested and are not willing to put in the time to see what CSI and WSIA has to offer with this station, then they are missing out on new and diverse kinds of music.

Mama Mia! 25 Years Already, Paisanos!

Dominic Fiduccia

It may be hard to imagine, but one of video game's biggest stars is celebrating his silver anniversary this year. It's none other than everyone's favorite Italian plumber, Mario. This past June marked the 25 year debut of one of the greatest Arcade games of all-time, Donkey Kong, which was also the debut of Mario. The story of Mario starts with his creator, Shigeru Miyamoto.

Miyamoto was 28 years old at the time and was just hired by Nintendo as a game designer to help create characters and game concepts. At the time, Nintendo wasn't doing so well; they had already released two arcade games, Radar Scope and Sheriff. Neither of these Arcade games were successful in a world of great arcade titles like Space Invaders, Missile Command, and Pac-Man. Nintendo needed a hit game, and soon. Miyamoto came up with the idea of having a plumber who has to rescue his girlfriend from a giant ape. While the idea of the damsel in distress is a common storyline in videogames today that wasn't the case 25 years ago.

Many arcade storeowners looked at Donkey Kong as a joke and thought it could never be a success. Nintendo proved everyone wrong as Donkey Kong became the biggest hit of 1981. Nintendo introduced another revolutionary concept at the time which is now common in video games. They released a sequel with Donkey Kong Jr. in 1982. It was the only time Mario was ever portrayed as a villain. That same year Coleco released their home video game system, Colecovision, and paid Nintendo \$250,000 to have the exclusive home console rights to Donkey Kong. Having Donkey Kong as an

exclusive title helped make Colecovision a success.

In 1983, Mario starred in another Nintendo arcade title, Mario Bros., which introduced the world to Mario's younger brother, Luigi. The co-op gameplay of allowing two players to play the game at the same time helped make Mario Bros. another arcade success for Nintendo.

By 1985, America wasn't interested in video games like they used to be due to the video game crash a year earlier. At the time, there was an overstock of low quality video games made by fly-by-night publishers like Apollo, U.S. Games, and many others. While the legitimate publishers like Atari, Activision, Konami, Sega, Nintendo, and others were undergoing hard times. Nintendo found success in Japan with the release of their home videogame console, the Nintendo Entertainment System. Nintendo decided to release the system in America, but when it was featured at the Consumer Electronic Show in Las Vegas and the New York Toy Fair it was met with much criticism. Nintendo moved forward anyway because of their secret weapon, Super Mario Bros. At the time, Super Mario Bros. was the most revolutionary game of all-time. It featured everything that future video games would have: Power-ups, multiple levels, secret areas, multiple villains, boss levels, a simple yet strong storyline, and a definite ending. Many of these features weren't featured before because videogames were designed to see if you can receive the highest score at your local arcade. That was the biggest difference of all. Super Mario Bros. wasn't made for the arcade; it was made for the home video game market.

Since then, Mario became the biggest star for Nintendo and even became the com-

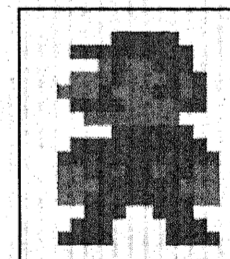
pany mascot. Other Nintendo games have joined Mario in Nintendo's Pantheon roster of titles like Legend of Zelda, Metroid, and even Pokemon. Mario has been featured in every video game system Nintendo has released (including the ill-fated Virtual Boy). Mario has starred in over 60 games and, when including cameo appearances in other Nintendo titles, the list is over 100 games (the most memorable of those cameo appearances being the referee in Mike Tyson's Punch-Out!).

For his 25th birthday, Nintendo has Mario in six different games this year with five of the titles being on Nintendo's widely successful new handheld system, the Nintendo DS. Earlier in the year, the roles were reversed as Princess Peach had to save Mario from Bowser in Super Princess Peach.

Nintendo also released New Super Mario Bros., which posed into the question "What if Super Mario Bros. was released in 2006 rather than 1985?" On September 11, the Mario Sports titles continue with Mario Hoops 3-on-3. This title was made by Square Enix rather than Nintendo and there will be characters featured from Square Enix's Final Fantasy series like the White and Black Mage, Moogles, and Cactuar as secret characters. Mario and Donkey Kong show that old rivalries don't die with the sequel to the 2004 puzzle game, Mario vs. Donkey Kong 2: March of the Minis on September 25. Mario has his swan song on the Nintendo GameCube before moving onto Nintendo's newest home console, the Wii with the third

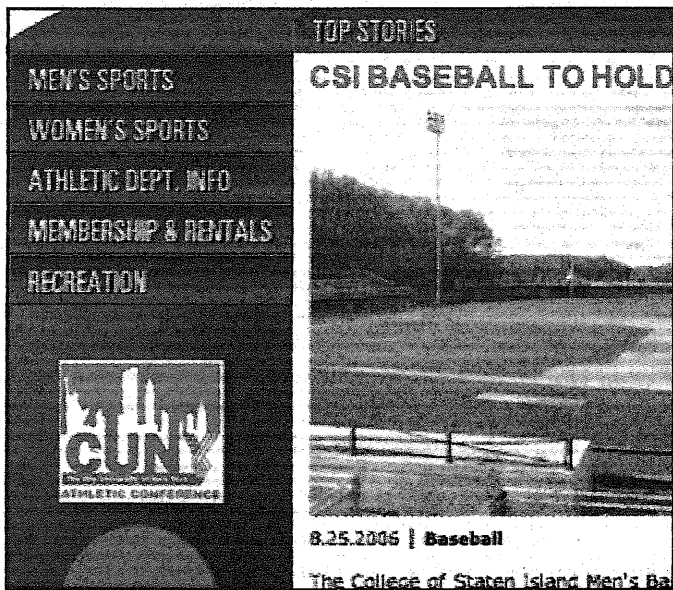
game in the Paper Mario series with Super Paper Mario on October 9. Finally, the sequel to the Super NES classic Yoshi's Island will be released November 13 with Yoshi's Island 2.

While graphics and gameplay may improve over time Mario's adventures whether they are in the videogame genres of Platformers, Role Playing Games (RPGs), sports, racing, and whatever else, have always remained All-Ages Friendly. In the modern day of video games, with violent first person shooters, gory monster horror games, and sports simulations ruling the video game world, Mario remains as popular in 2006 as he was in 1986. Mario remains unaffected by current changes showing that in a world of Grand Theft Auto and Resident Evil, Mario represents untainted playing. Proof that no matter what may be going on in the world, both in real life and video games, the classics will always be loved by both old and new fans. Happy 25th Anniversary Mario.



SPORTS

CSI ATHLETICS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



WE HAVE AN ATHLETICS PROGRAM!
Here's a screenshot of that redesigned website. Now will you attend a game?

Jennifer Miller

The CSI Athletics Department has redesigned its website. The new site, www.csidolphins.com, highlights the school's twelve sports teams. Visitors can gather scores, schedules, statistics, rosters and photos on the new site.

Designed by Internet Consulting Services (ICS), users can also get information on group fitness classes, rental offerings, and gym hours. The new designs give Dolphins Athletics a unique voice and will showcase the sports teams as an important part of the college. Fans can find biographies of the student athletes, coaches, and administration.

"ICS takes pride in treating every client like family. We are thrilled to have increased our client base across the nation and we are looking forward to our partnership with the College of Staten Island," said Jeff Rubin,

President of ICS.

"Our partnership with ICS means that visitors to our site will now have a wealth of information at their fingertips, complete with a sleek design and user-friendly interface," said Jason Fein, Acting Director of Athletics.

The Dolphins's team colors, blue and maroon, make up the backdrop of the website. The main page features the school's star athletes of the soccer, baseball, basketball, and softball teams on a revolving masthead of photos.

Prospective athletes have access to forms required for participation in athletics and contact information for coaches and administration.

"We are extremely pleased to have such a professional and comprehensive new website for use by our students, faculty, staff, and Dolphin fans," CSI President Marlene Springer said.

ABROAD IN NYC: CSI STUDENTS WITNESS WORLD CUP MADNESS

Jennifer Miller

World Cup fever struck most of the world in the summer of 2006 as CSI students travelled to the farthest reaches of New York City to watch Italy defeat France in penalty kicks on July 9. Soccer fans at CSI were divided when it came to team loyalties. Some cheered for the United States but were disappointed by their early elimination, while others rooted for Italy, Portugal, Argentina, Germany, as well as many others. Students and staff each had different traditions when it came to watching and celebrating the final game. Some chose to enjoy the game with family, others watched alone and those who had to work tried to keep up with the game whenever they could.

"I watched the World Cup with my family," CSI soccer player KK Kvetkoff said. "My father was rooting for Germany so when they lost he was devastated.

He was in mourning for a week. I was rooting for the US and then Germany and then Italy."

Francesco Oddo, assistant coach of the Men's soccer team, estimates he saw more than 50 of the 64 games. "I enjoyed it," he said. "Italy vs Germany was good. I don't know which I liked the best, there were so many games I can't remember them all."

After watching the final game with his family at home, Oddo then went to 18th Ave. in Brooklyn with his father and friends, where the Italian population of the city was celebrating the victory. "It was crazy," he said.

Fiosa Begai also watched the game with her family. "We all separated according to which team we were rooting for and we were trash talking each other the whole game," she said. "We made a bet that whoever loses gets thrown in the pool. My sister, two of my cousins and I wanted Italy to win and the rest of my family all wanted France. We couldn't throw my father into the pool because he would have yelled at us so we only threw in the little kids."

"I wanted Portugal to win but when they were winning towards the finals and playoffs they were getting a little dirty and a little fake," Daniella Otaiza said. "They would throw themselves on the floor, they were very desperate and dramatic." Otaiza worked during the Italy-

France final match but watched during her lunch break and tried to keep up with the score throughout the day.

Lucy Farfan-Narcisse rooted for Trinidad and Tobago, but like the United States, they did not make it past the first round. "I like the underdog," she said. She and her family were visiting the Statue of Liberty on the day of the final game. "They announced that Italy had won in a shootout," she said. "There were a lot of Italians there and only a couple of boos."

"I wear my Italian jersey and stay in front of the TV by myself. Superstition," said CSI coach Vito Veneruso. "One game I watched with other people because they invited me. It was Italy vs. USA and that's when Italy tied a game so I said never again."

Coach Veneruso went to Brooklyn after the final game to celebrate his team's victory. "On my motorcycle I had the Italian flag hanging around the back of my backpack," he said. "I will celebrate for the next four years. When the next World Cup is going to start then I'm gonna stop celebrating."

"In Italy since the World Cup started, every single town had flags going across from one balcony to another," Veneruso said. "It was green white and red all over.

"They did have flags like that," said Shorok Hassan, who spent part of her summer on a study abroad in Italy. "They would also drive around with their flags and scream 'ITALIA' and beep their horns." She recalled seeing Campo di Fiore, a popular get together center in Rome where the Italians would celebrate by singing and drinking after a winning game.

"Every time Italy was winning a game it was a party," said Veneruso.

The tournament began on June 9 in many cities throughout Germany. The first round featured thirty-two teams across six continents. The teams were divided into eight groups (A-H) with four teams per group. Each team played three games and earned three points for a win, one point for

a tie and zero points for a loss. The two teams with the highest number of points would advance into stage two of the tournament. Round two, from June 24- 27, featured eight games and a loss knocked a country out of the competition. Germany, Italy, England, Ukraine, France, Portugal, Brazil, and Argentina advanced to the quarter finals that took place June 30 - July 1. In the semi-finals, France and Italy defeated Portugal and Germany. Germany then defeated Portugal on July 8 for third place in the World Cup while Italy came out on top the following day. Italy has won the World Cup three other times since it began in 1930 with their last win coming in 1982. The next Men's World Cup will take place in 2010 and will be hosted by South Africa

CSI INTRAMURALS

Fall 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Activity	Event Starts	Event Ends	Time & Place	Info
Outdoor Tennis Lessons	Thursday September 28 th	Thursday November 2 nd	Tennis Courts 1:30 - 3:30pm	All levels welcome, quality instruction
Handball-Singles	Thursday September 28 th	Thursday November 2 nd	Outdoor Handball Courts 1:30 - 3:30pm	Best of 3 knockout competition
3-On-3 Half-court Basketball	Thursday November 9 th	Thursday December 13 th	Main/Auxiliary Gym 1:30 - 3:30pm	Round-Robin then Championship
Table Tennis Tournament	Thursday November 9 th	Thursday December 13 th	Auxiliary Gym 1:30 - 3:30pm	Double Elimination Tournament

Sign-ups for these events will take place in 1R-Room 204k. If you are interested in signing up for an event both individual or with a team, please contact Intramural Coordinator Kim DeRitter at deritter@mail.csi.cuny.edu for more information. Support your school by participating in the Intramural/Recreation Sports Programs here at the College of Staten Island.