

# THE BANNER

September 8, 2003

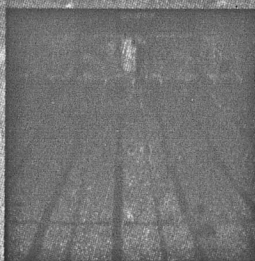
## WELCOME FRESHMEN TO THE FALL 2003 SEMESTER



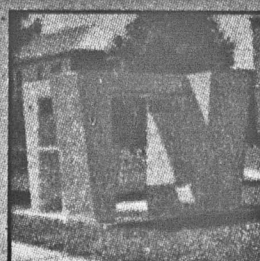
U.S. Senator Charles Schumer showed for Commencement 2003. For more photos, see pages 6-7



CSI's new hot wheels are electric, street legal, and produced by Daimler Chrysler. Top speed: 25 MPH.



What's the best health club on Staten Island? Hint #1: It's here. Hint #2: It's free. See sports.



The Banner is offering free lunch (soda included) to anyone who can tell us what this is.

### Sex and the Campus

Jessica Mendez

Pssst! I know your secret. Flap your lips all you want about higher education and first steps to a career and everything else your guidance counselor drilled into your head, but I know better. You're here hoping to get laid.

Hey, I understand. College is Sexual Experimentation Central. You are now in lust-ridden limbo, the one chunk of time when hedonistic debauchery is practically expected of you. But wait! you say. This wasn't in the catalog! How do I get started? Oh, you poor, misguided child. Let CSI's resident sex guru (why, that's me!) provide you with a sexy supplement to your orientation packets.

Professors are potential matchmakers. Yes, you read that right. Picture it. You're in class, reading through your syllabus, wondering what the hell possessed you to pursue higher education in the first place when you see the personification of your filthy, XXX rated fantasies sitting right next to you. You're at a loss; what do you say? (I'm partial to "Nice shoes, wanna screw?" said with heavy irony, but not everyone's as enlightened as I am, nor can many people actually pull that off.)

Suddenly, a voice breaks through your reverie "—blah blah exchange numbers and email addresses with a classmate in case blah blah—" and you now have your official opening line. One word of caution: have a backup for class information just in case the object of your lust is prone to skipping class and considers assorted doodles of geometric shapes "notes."

Continued on Page 10

### Where Does It Go?

#### A complete account of your fee money

Jennifer Hermus

To devoted students, the luxury of education is worth the hard labor for the magic of a degree. Yet all students, at one point or another, question how their tuition money is being used. Other than pieces of paper and a nifty alloy-leather case for the eventual diploma, what's really being paid for?

Yes, Professors need to eat, but like the feeling of looking at your first paycheck and noticing half has been taken for taxes, students tend to speculate about other fees on the most

dreaded of all end-of-term papers: the semester's bill! And the most common complaints at CSI have to do with the elusive Student Activity Fee (SAF) and the new \$75 Technology Fee.

Mary Maclaughlin, the energetic Executive Director of the CSI Association has been working with the college since 1976 and says the activity fee "basically started when the college started. All CUNY's have the SAF, but not all are the same amount." As of last year, CSI had the third highest student activity fee of the 13 CUNY Senior Colleges: \$74 for full-time students

Continued on Page 2

### Center for the Arts

Nicole Bascovich

The Center for the Arts (CFA) is in the center of CSI's campus and is often overlooked by many Staten Islanders. Lisa Reilly, the managing and artistic director of the CFA has tough decisions to make when it comes to booking events and performers. She bases all of her decisions of what will work and what

won't on past years performances.

Reilly needs to plan things that appeal to a wide variety of people. "If you like everything I plan, then I've done something wrong," she says.

The assortment of shows that are performed at the CFA each year truly shows how culturally diverse a place like Staten Island really is. "These acts are determined by looking at the genre and ensuring that the demographic factors are served," says Reilly.

The CFA publicly opened its doors

Continued on Page 3

### Behind Open Doors A glimpse of what goes on in Student Government

Enrique Inocente

Early this past April saw another student election come and go. If past elections are any indications, the majority of CSI students weren't even aware they took place. To these indifferent students, those voting booths littered around campus may have seemed to be nothing more than low-budget portable toilets. In fact, they may have seen more use if they were toilets—because hardly anybody used them to vote. "There's never a big voting turnout," said Shereen Kandil, Elections Commissioner (and the new President of Student Government). Only 15% of all eligible voters actually vote.



Student Government President, Shereen Kandil

Those who didn't vote should not feel too sad about neglecting their civic duty. This election year saw no losers. Reason: there were more seats available in Student Government than candidates hoping to fill them in. Only four candidates ran for one of the nine empty seats in the Freshman/Sophomore Division, and three candidates vied for the six seats offered by the Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee. The Junior/Senior division had exactly nine candidates running for the nine seats available.

When a majority of students don't seem at all concerned about campus politics, one has to wonder what

Continued on Page 4



Congratulations  
**NOW GET A JOB!**  
more graduation pics,  
pages 6-7



# A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF YOUR FEE \$

continued from page 1

(12+ credits) and \$48 for part-time (8- 12 credits).

It sounds simple: the Student Activity Fee goes to student activities and the tech fee goes to technology. But sometimes the simplest answers are the most obscure.

The easiest way to find out about the SAF is in your student handbook. If you lost it, you can go to the CSI website ([www.csi.cuny.edu](http://www.csi.cuny.edu)) or get hold of the student super-guidebook, the Gazetteer. In either of the listed sources you can find a chart of earmarked expenditures that come from the SAF which looks like this:

	Full-Time fee	Part-Time fee	Funding/ Allocating Body
Student Senate	\$ .85	\$ .85	USS
NYPIRG	\$4.00	\$4.00	NYPIRG
Children's Center	\$7.75	\$7.70	Association
Program Development Committee	\$6.35	\$3.25	Student Gov./ Association
WSIA	\$4.90	\$2.65	Student Gov./ Association
Student Government Association	\$11.90	\$3.80	Student Gov. Association
Sports and Recreation	\$17.45	\$12.25	Association
Clubs/ Organizations	\$2.25	\$2.25	Student Gov.
Publications	\$2.25	\$2.25	Student Gov.
Health/ Wellness	\$3.00	\$3.00	Association

## Doing The Math

During this past semester (Spring 2003) there were 6,365 registered full-time Undergraduates and 81 full-time Graduates. Since both levels pay the same amount for the SAF, that would equal \$477,004. For part-time Undergraduates and Graduates, there were 5,255 enrollees, making the part-time SAF total: \$252, 140 and the semester grand total: \$729,244, making the yearly total revenue around \$1.5 million! And all of that started with \$74 out of your pocket!

If you want more numbers, imagine the first semester's calculated earning of the tech fee: \$1,784,250. But that fee is something outside of the SAF, controlled by a board of faculty, students and administration called the CSI Technology Fee Advisory Committee.

With all of the calculations starting to show the larger revenue, the chart of the singular fees would make more sense if you looked at it like this:

Spring 2003 (one semester only)	
University Student Senate	\$9,945.85
NYPIRG	\$46,804
Children's Center	\$90,420
PDC	\$58,010.85
WSIA	\$45,511.15
Student Government Association	\$96,676.40
Sports and Rec.	\$117,261.80
Clubs/Orgs.	\$176,856.45
Publications	\$26,327.25
Health/Wellness	\$26,327.25
Health/Wellness \$35,103 (year:\$71,370)	

## Meeting the SAF Spenders:

The University Student Senate (USS) is an outside organization handled by the City University of New York (CUNY) as is NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group) whose main office is also in Manhattan. NYPIRG is a non-profit organization devoted to student activism for fighting chosen worthy causes for civil rights and is voted to stay at CSI each year. The \$4.00 per student fee is refundable through either the CSI chapter of NYPIRG or the main office where all money is handled after being sent by the mega-circuit, the Association.

The CSI Association (1C-202) is a major source of accounting information and the Queen Mum of the allocating bodies. It is here that all of the SAF money is pooled and then divided. It is here that budgets are approved and checks are made.

According to a student director on the CSI Association Board, "Association is the most transparent organization collecting fees from students. None of the money ever gets thrown away. Students are always involved. Auxiliary is a separate organization that oversees dining, the bookstore and the parking services. So if you want to do some sleuth

work, there's a place to go.

According to Student Government President Noam Germain, "parking money is strictly for road maintenance," yet if you're familiar with the CSI parking lots you may wonder where that money really goes. For instance, around \$35,000 was spent on the new chairs and tables in the Campus Center and the popular misconception was that they were paid for by the SAF—but it was Auxiliary that handled that purchase.

The College Television units were a gift handled by the Office of Student Life and the computers and stations were part of the promised goal of the Technology Fee.

The fourth major organization for funding is Student Government, which usually works closely with the Association. There are branches, departments, commissions, boards, watchdogs and votes. Its complexity and intricacies are the crux of the stability and symbiosis of its departments. The Student Government plays the role of overseer with much of the money. They approve club/publication budgets, fund and organize, "anything around here that benefits CSI," says Germain.

Student Government Finance Commissioner Elaina Fusco stated, "We're given proposals and then we either accept it or not accept it and then it has to be approved by Student Government and CSI Association."

And like the U.S.'s democratic

government, the Student Government and the Association are run under the Open Meeting Laws; which allow anyone on campus to partake in their meetings and decision process.

Anything overseen by both organizations must also follow the CUNY fiscal guidelines that are documented in a large black binder. The binder holds established rules for creating budgets, spending, chartering, and vouchering among other useful guidelines. The binder is located in the office of Mary Maclaughlin (1C-204.) Her eager and informative air emanates trustworthiness. She claims this book was created because, "there was some misuses [with the SAF] throughout colleges. University [CUNY] sent out auditors and as a result, created guidelines." These so called "misuses" created greater solidarity and assurance for the monies' usages by establishing better methods for setting caps and set criteria for budget proposals and activities within groups.

The perky Debi Kee, who also runs the Program Development Committee (PDC) gives an example of the set regulations from misuses that occurred at CSI. "Club Commissions sets a cap for refreshments, [and] stopped the process for using all of their money towards that. We're most consistent in the regulation of clubs. Some students used to use the money to feed them-

Continued on Page 11



## ATTENTION STUDENT - NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE FALL 2003 STUDENT ELECTIONS

**NOMINATE YOURSELF FOR A POSITION AS AN ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**POSITIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, CSI ASSOCIATION, COLLEGE COUNCIL AND THE AUXILIARY SERVICES CORPORATION**

**NOMINATION PERIOD 9/8 - 9/26 PICK UP A NOMINATION FORM IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICE, ROOM 1C-207 TODAY!**

**SOME OF THESE SEATS HAVE CREDIT AND GPA REQUIREMENTS - CHECK IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

# CENTER FOR THE ARTS

continued from page 1

on April 16, 1996. From 1998–2001, Numa Sasselin was the director. For three years, he made the decisions that are now made by Reilly. When Reilly was first appointed to the position, she was in Sasselin's shadow. Her new job was to ensure that things went as smoothly as they had in previous years, and according to Reilly, "I am doing a pretty darn good job, if I might say so myself."

Aside from events taking place



Photos: Enrique Inocente



Many students take their drama, art, and journalism classes in the Center for the Arts.

throughout the academic year and the summer, many new activities have been started. A program called *The Family Series* has begun, which allows children and their parents to enjoy the arts. The first performance of *The Family Series* was Nai-Ni Chen's *Dragon's Tale*, on October 12, 2002. The show was almost fully sold out and was performed in the second largest of the four theaters within the CFA, seating about 430 people.

Many viewers had an amazing response to the show. Rachel Lipsky took her young daughter to see the show "because I was interested and did not think my own curiosity was enough of an excuse. I figured that at least if Caela was with me, I'd be able to get away with it." Says Lipsky, "I enjoyed it way more than her. The sights and sounds that were included were absolutely remarkable, and I am so glad that Staten Island finally has somewhere people can explore things other than the dump."

Pat Cowan, a Staten Island resident who thinks that the CFA is overlooked, has taken advantage of this new addition to the CFA's schedule of events. She brought her children to see the *Fred Garbo Inflatable Theater*

*Company's* sold out performance on February 8. Cowan's children, ages 7 and 12, "were taken aback by what they saw. [They] were so happy that I brought them to see this amazing performance." Admits Cowan, "I had a blast as well!"

When children can sit through a two-hour performance without squirming and complaining, something is being done right. Reilly thinks that children should begin to appreciate all types of art. "My daughter had been to more shows and openings, and met more artists by the time she was eight, than I have in my...life," says Reilly.

The CFA itself is a massive and intricate building, housing many different theatres and rooms. The Concert Hall is the largest of all the spaces, seats up to 900 people and is home to The Staten Island Symphony.

Another space is the Williamson Theatre, which seats 430 when packed to capacity. Performers such as Carrot Top, The Smothers Brothers and Judy Collins have entertained audiences in the Williamson Theatre.

The Recital Hall, a more intimate space, seats up to 150 spectators. A grand piano can be found on the

Lisa Reilly is the managing and artistic director of CSI's Center for the Arts

stage, and many chamber music concerts can be heard here as well as solo recitals and lectures. The Lecture Hall contains the latest audio and visual equipment and usually houses academic lectures and public hearings.

Inside the CFA is a gallery that displays artwork done by CSI students such as architectural drawings, photography, painting, sculpture, and printmaking. "I love art so much," says Sharon Munoz, a 24-year old art major whose work has been displayed two semesters in a row. "My whole life is about art, and I take so many classes in school and at Art Lab in Snug Harbor."

A second and more majestic gallery, run by Craig Mannister, is the professional gallery. Mannister, both a painter and professor at CSI, decides on which exhibits will be shown there and has been doing so since its opening in 1995.

Anyone is welcome inside CFA's doors and CSI students wishing to

## From the Editor...

It looks like another year is upon us. Whether you are a freshman, senior, faculty, staff, or anyone in between, there are new responsibilities and challenges to face. The goal of this first issue is to make tackling these obstacles a little easier, especially for the newest additions to the CSI family. At first glance, this campus and all it has to offer can be quite intimidating and confusing. This issue is designed to give students a quick overview of the services, offices, and activities that they can take advantage of here at CSI.

My latest adventure here at CSI is taking on the role of Editor-in-Chief of the greatest of all CSI publications. Over the next two semesters I plan to do everything in my power to live up to the reputation of *The Banner* and bring our readers exactly what they are looking for.

Whether it be important news and events of the campus brought to you by new senior writer Michael Bruno, some sex talk from Jessica Mendez, a few laughs from our new comics editor Enrique Inocente, or maybe you just like the designs of art director Patrick Montero. Whatever it is that you want to read, the *Banner* staff and I are dedicated to bringing it to you. After all, this is your paper.

You can help us to better know just what it is that you want to see from the *Banner* by writing us at [csi\\_banner@yahoo.com](mailto:csi_banner@yahoo.com).

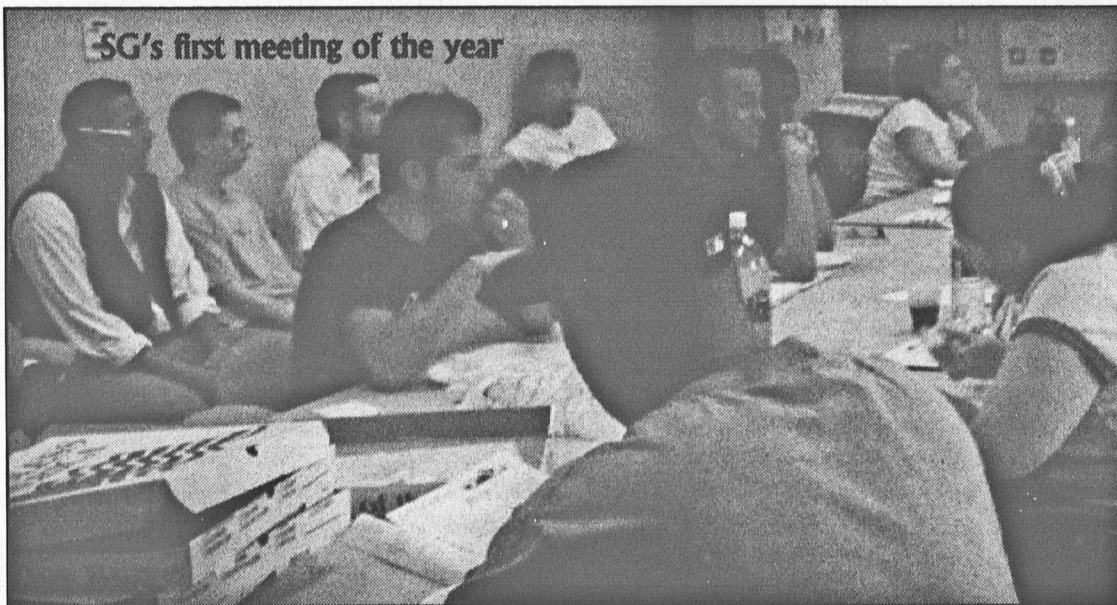
I am looking forward to hearing your opinions. And to my upcoming year with the *Banner*.

—Diana Illuzzi

attend a performance will receive a fifty-percent discount when they present CUNY IDs. The Center for the Arts is a place where music can always be heard, cultures explored, and exceptional art found.



# Behind Open Doors



## The Story of Student Government

continued from page 1

impact, if any, Student Government has on their lives. Its impact all depends on who you are. Student Government may not be much of an issue if you're one of those students that goes from one day to the next with a blasé attitude about the college politics and lifestyle. On the other hand, if you're involved in clubs or require funding for special events, then Student Government will be something very dear to you.

Student Government covers a bevy of issues concerning student life and safety. One such safety issue

regarded Thomas McCarthy, who was barred from the campus after a hearing by the Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee for setting a banner on fire in the Campus Center. Nafisa Ahmad asked her fellow senators to support her in writing a letter to Gene Martinez, head of Public Safety, asking that all public safety officers have a photo of the student because no one knows what he looks like and could possibly sneak back on campus. The motion to write the letter was approved.

Funding clubs is also a part of

Student Government concerns. Student Senator Jeffery Marciano stated the clubs that attended the Club Council Meeting on February 26,th 2003 would be the only ones receiving additional funding for the Club Festival. Fifteen clubs attended the Club Council and received \$250 each for promotional items and food for the festival. Any club that completed their paperwork before the March 7th deadline was allowed to apply for more funding.

Not all clubs received the funding they wanted. This is CUNY we're talking about, so money is obviously scarce. The PA Club appealed for money so they could fund a retirement party for Professor Carlton. Student Government decided that this wouldn't be an appropriate expenditure for the Club Commission, and suggested that the PA Club buy a plaque and refreshments from their club budget. They also advised the club to raise funds and accept donations from members for any additional expenses above their budget. It seems Professor Carlton will be retiring from employment with nothing more than hearty handshake and a pleasant wave goodbye.

College students will tell you that getting jobs are a main priority after

graduation and Student Government is well aware of the difficulty in the job market. Senator Marciano stated that one-half of the special event line be used for Career Path 2003, sponsored in part by the Economic & Finance Society.

When it comes to the proposed tuition hikes, Student Government is not as passionately involved as, let's say, NYPIRG. This is not to say they don't care. Last Year's Student Government President, Noam Germain, spoke to President Springer's assistant Lynn Wu to see how to tackle this issue. It was decided that SG would take part in a letter writing campaign, and advised the senators to get a minimum of five hand written letters from CSI students faxed to political representatives. Did this work to change city and state legislators mind on raising tuition? No, but it was worth a try.

Being a part of Student Government takes real dedication and it is not a job for students who think it's just a place to kill time during club hours. Michael Zymaris was on the voting ballot this year but later doubted whether or not he could commit himself. "I don't know if I can be part of Student Government," he said. "My schedule for next semester looks like it's going to make it difficult to continue." After some considerable thought he decided to make time and commit to the challenges of being a senator for the Junior/Senior division.

"Being a senator in Student Government isn't easy," said Shereen Kandil. "You have to commit a lot of time and energy.

## Drawing An Audience . . . But Rarely Seen

### The PDC Works Hard So We Can Play

Jennifer Mosscrop

A comedy Hypnotist, a murder mystery dinner, a rock band in the cafeteria? Who's responsible for these outrageous events on campus?

Whether it's music, comedy, films and television, lectures, trips or special events like a carnival, the Program Development Committee is behind it all. This board is in charge of sponsoring special events for the CSI community.

Debi Kee (coordinator of Student Clubs and Organizations) is the PDC advisor. "The mission of the PDC is to budget and plan social, cultural, educational and community service programs at the College of Staten Island," said Kee.

As much as the PDC does, they are always in the background. Many students don't know who puts together the events, and that they can join the PDC themselves.

In room 227, in the crevice of 1C, among bare white walls, eleven members gather around a long, white table to vote for certain events that they feel are appropriate and within their budget. Here, they get to share

videos and CD's of performers they are interested in hiring with the rest of the group. Everyone listens to one another as they offer their ideas.

Each member of a subcommittee has the responsibility of researching events for their appointed field. They must contact agents, performers and other public relations representatives. They also must look over surveys so they have an idea of what the students want. The PDC is also responsible for publicizing their upcoming events.

\$250,000 is reserved for the PDC in case they do not have enough money in their budget for a semester. They like to keep the money reserved, "but we should be using the

money for programs," said Kee. And the programs are not cheap. Performers usually get paid around \$2,000 plus hotel accommodations.

Lecturers get between \$1,500 to \$3,500. Comedians get paid \$1,500 to \$2,500.

There is also \$10,000 set aside for faculty and staff events such as the faculty/student coffee hours. They provide a lot of refreshments for these events that, according to Kee, "the college budget doesn't cover."

The PDC makes sure that the events on campus are as diverse as the CSI community. At each event, a survey is handed out to the audience. The survey asks what kind of events the students would want to see and what things they would want more of. "They help to get a feel of the time and place an event should take place," Kee said. More detailed surveys are given out to incoming freshman at student orientation.

Students who are interested in joining the PDC can apply by filling out an application in 1C 203.

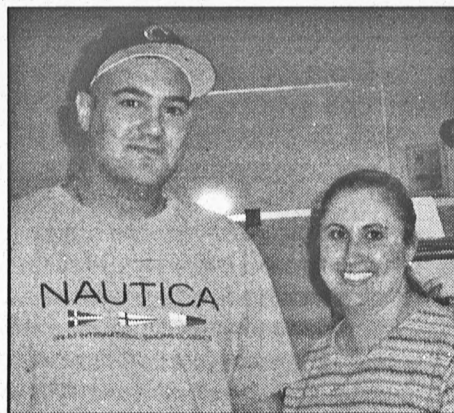
Students who apply are interviewed by members of the Association and Student Government. Debi Kee said that they look for students who, "want to serve the community, have creative energy and are available every other Thursday and understand that there is more to PDC than just voting."

Two senators are elected by the CSI Association. The Association oversees the student activity fees earmarked for the PDC.

It is good experience for students to be part of the committee. They can learn leadership skills, how to work as a team and how to manage a budget. In the process, they will be doing their fellow students a favor by providing entertaining and education events. The PDC welcomes students and staff to come to their meetings if they have an idea they want to share. If they do not want to join, they can still be involved with the planning.

"I think they are important for students because they are stress free, fun and encourage social interaction with other members of the community," said Debi Kee, explaining the importance of special events on campus.

Without them, CSI would be all work.



PDC Chair Mikey Zamaris and faculty Advisor Debi Kee are proud of their event schedule. Photo: Jennifer Mosscrop

## Opinion

## BEHIND THE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT: SOLIDARITY AND COMPASSION

The following editorial has been excerpted from the 2003 Commencement address of Anne Yarrow

Somebody recently raised the issue of why Americans should bother learning other languages at all. It seemed an odd question, but it is an important one for those of us working at doing just that. We do so to communicate with one another. If we work hard, we may even be able to understand not only one another's public presentations, but also one another's privately held values.

There is a concept of solidarity which exists in Spanish as *la Solidaridad*, ad I Italian as *la solidarita*. It is a different concept in those cultures than it is in ours, more of a moral imperative than a mere option. It is what impelled people to leave universities and jobs, give up vacations and salaries, to go to Northern Spain this year and scrub the sludge off the beaches and rocks after an oil spill created an environmental catastrophe. That sense of solidarity is also the reason why the wait for an organ transplant abroad is only a few months.

Solidarity implies a shared responsibility for a benevolent outcome. One could say we express our solidarity with one another by trying to learn one another's languages. Our world indeed has become a very small one. The aftermath of 9/11 provided some amazing examples of that. For example, the Madrid newspaper *EL Pais* discovered the story of the sole Rescue Five Firefighter who survived the Twin Towers' collapse, then translated his narrative into Spanish, and put it on their front page and

their online edition, where it was read by millions of people all around the world. Through that translation, their empathy for us Americans coalesced around the anonymous figure of a firefighter from Castleton Corners.

Our responsibility now is to cope with the implications of our shrunken world. Those of us in the health care field face those implications on a pragmatic level every day. With more and more of our patients speaking very little English, Many of us wish we had started learning Spanish sooner.

Another important implication of that shrunken world is to learn to see ourselves as others see us. If one knows another language, it is easy now to go online and read what the rest of the world thinks of us. During the recent war in Iraq, that was an interesting and puzzling experience.

There is another very good reason to learn other languages: it is fun. If you know Spanish, you can instantly understand that the greatest hits of Ricky Martin and Mark Anthony are not the English-language ones. If you know Italian, you can have a ball with a menu. If you know any other language, you'll find that the dialogue in the original version of a foreign movie is always a lot more interesting than the neaten up subtitles.

We partly create our reality through the medium of language. By acquiring a new language, we add another layer to our lives.

By acquiring a new language,  
we add another layer to our lives.

## Letters

## Communications Department in Need of Serious Changes

After 4 years in college and taking just about every course in the catalog—or at least the ones that are offered—some students are still struggling to get those 400 level courses on their transcripts.

The truth is that most of the courses students need to graduate are 400 level courses, and those get taught very seldom. Courses like COM 412, COM 438 and COM 480 have not been offered for the past 4 semesters, making it impossible for some students to graduate on time. Students like Laura Labega, who is now a CSI alumna, had to stay in CSI for two extra semesters because she was faced with this restriction.

Like with many other issues that go on in the school, students can protest about this problem and maybe something will get resolved. For some reason students think that by complaining incessantly to themselves about how bad the Communications Dept. is, that they will reach a solution to their problem. Instead of wasting time complaining, students should talk to those who have the power to change things. Professors like Valerie Tevere and Mike Emori have been planning to revamp the Communications Dept. in efforts to offer more opportunities for students. The best thing about these two professors is that they are very accessible and most of all they have the connections with those in power of making changes that students don't always have.

—Yesenia Bello

## College Professors Playing Kindergarten Cop in Class

At what point do children grow into mature adults and stop taking their education for granted? Apparently not in college.

Even though the cost of a full time education at CSI runs anywhere from \$1500–\$2500 per semester—and rising—students continue to treat their classes and responsibilities as though they were given B level coursework assigned by a substitute high school teacher. If the cost doesn't straighten them out then the excess freedom of coming and going at will certainly won't keep them where they're paying to be.

If it isn't bad enough that the typical class consists of 40 or more students, there are those who insist on talking during lectures, passing notes back and forth and/or simply behaving in a totally immature manner. The blame for such conduct can be pointed toward the professor for not taking better control of their class but then again, is that really necessary? A college professor, adjunct or senior, shouldn't have to play kindergarten cop and ask a group of adults in their twenties and thirties to show enough respect and courtesy to not speak while being taught.

College is about wanting to learn. For those who choose to be in a classroom, appreciate the level of education that is offered. For those who choose not to care, do everyone a favor: Get up and walk out!

—Jaina Tarantino

## The CPE: For Our Benefit or Just Another Obstacle?

The Board of Trustees introduced the CUNY Proficiency Examination (CPE) in 1999 for students who are completing Associate Degree programs, or those who have accumulated 45 credits or more. The tests are in two parts: reading and writing skills. This test is to determine how students comprehend logical essays, if they can write clearly and coherently, and the extent to which they are able to express their thoughts in a way that will be understood. If a student should fail to pass the test after three attempts, that student will be demoted to junior college if he/she is already in senior college.

Testing student's skills in reading and writing in the middle of their college education, particularly with this kind of stringent penalty attached to failure, will not engender proficiency. Rather, it will be seen as a way to prevent minority groups from furthering their education since many of them will be victims of failing the test. And any requisite that will create the impression of discrimination against minorities from going to college should be totally avoided.

The CPE should be required for admission into college. This will raise the educational standard in high schools. For those already in college, this test is an additional burden and is stressful. Moreover, it is a distraction to the students.

—Adebola Sanusi

## OPINIONS

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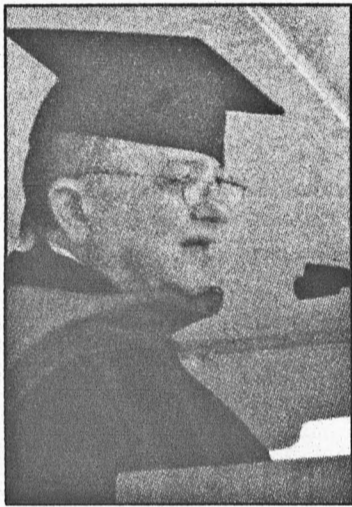
## FACULTY ADVISOR

FREDERICK KAUFMAN

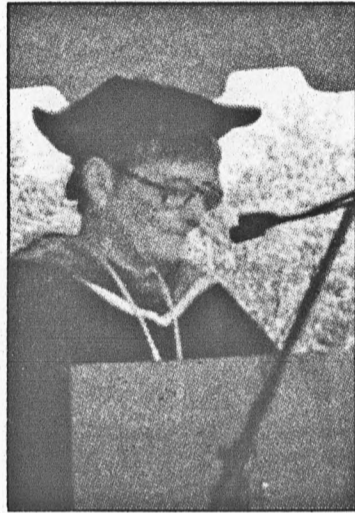
# No More Parking Woes, No More Midterms

*Thursday, May 29, 2003 was a delightful spring day . . .  
The Staten Island Chamber Music ensemble played . . .  
A Senator showed up . . .  
and Mary Ann Feola won the award for  
Outstanding Teaching by a Member of the Faculty.*

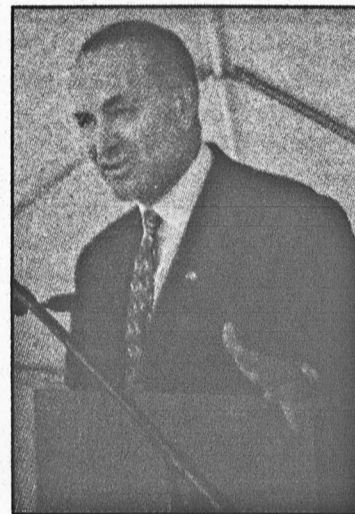
## The Speakers



Celebrated journalist Gabe Pressman accepted an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters



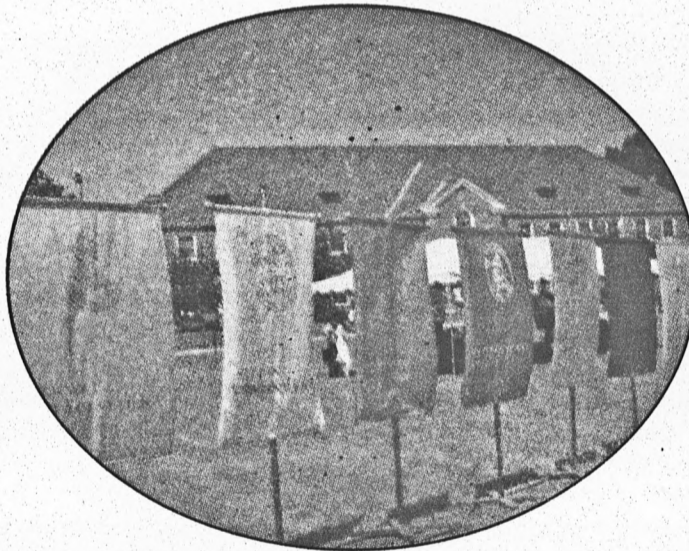
President Springer addressed the crowd of graduates, family, friends, faculty and staff.



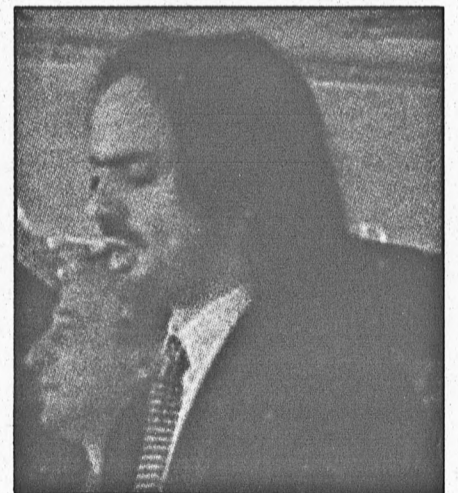
Senator Charles Schumer regaled the graduates with tales from his youth



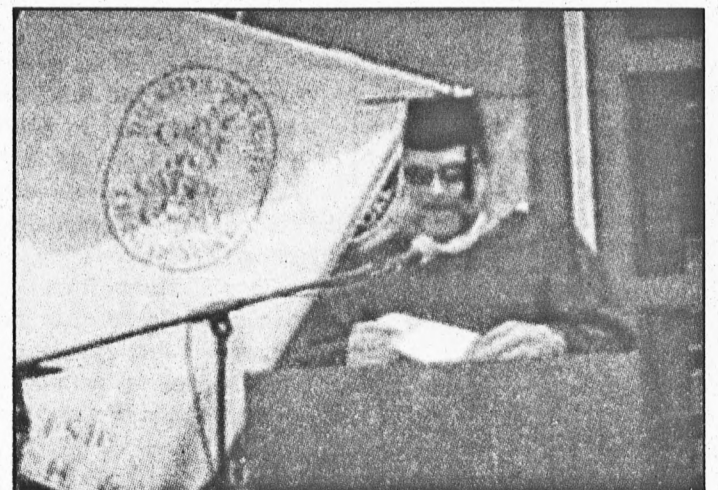
Tara Gianoulis was the eloquent student speaker.



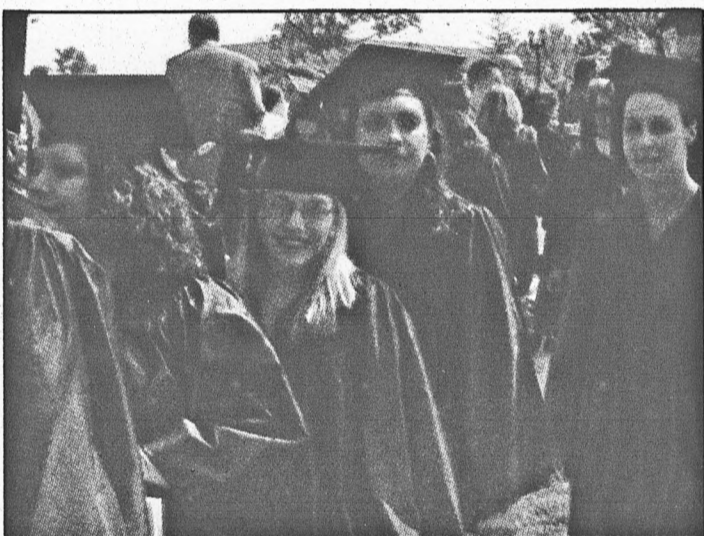
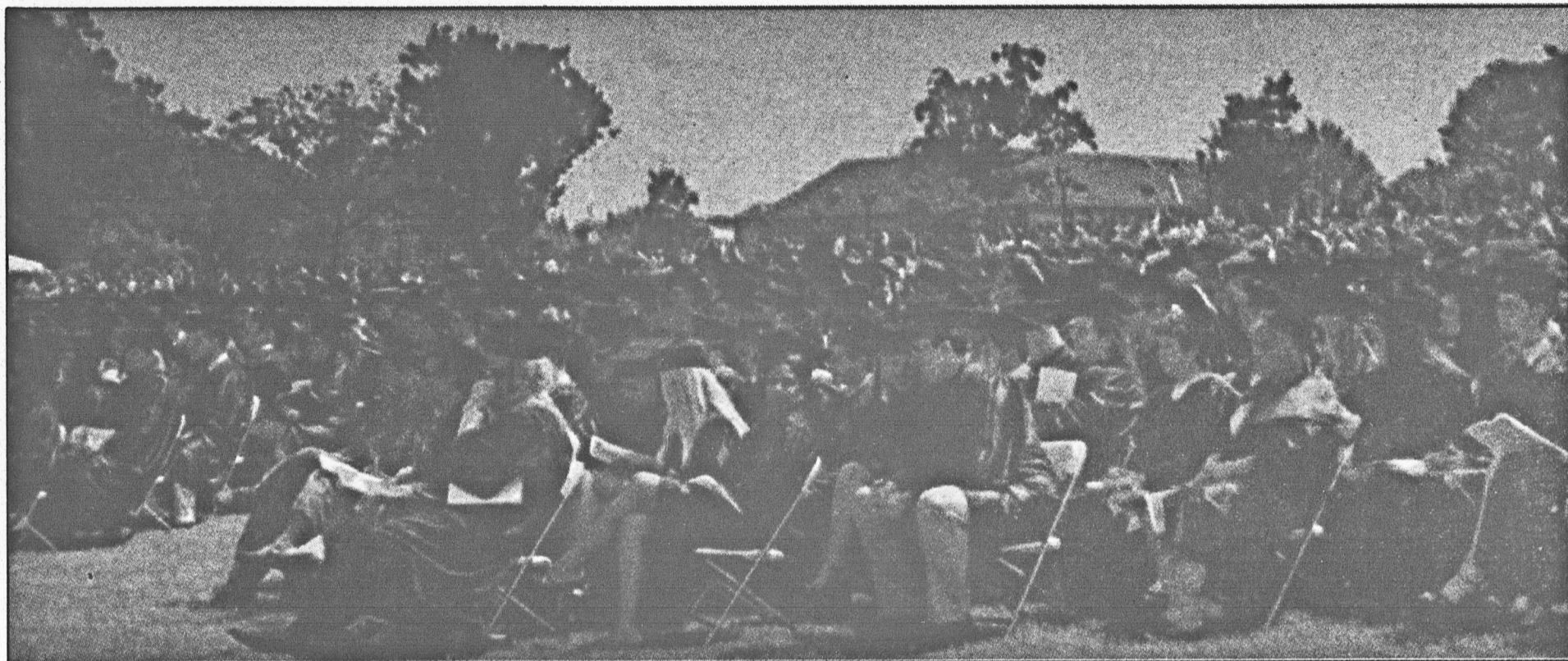
Dmitri Shevelev sang a rousing National Anthem.



Professor Arnold Kantrowitz delivered an oration to English graduates.



# No More Tuition, No More Registration Blocks



***Yahooo! I'm outta here. These ceremonies take forever. It's too hot. I'm hungry. I hope my mom doesn't embarrass me.***

***Oh, now I have to go to the Departmental***

***Awards. All this and I still have to take summer classes. She might have a job, but she never lost her freshman 15. He***

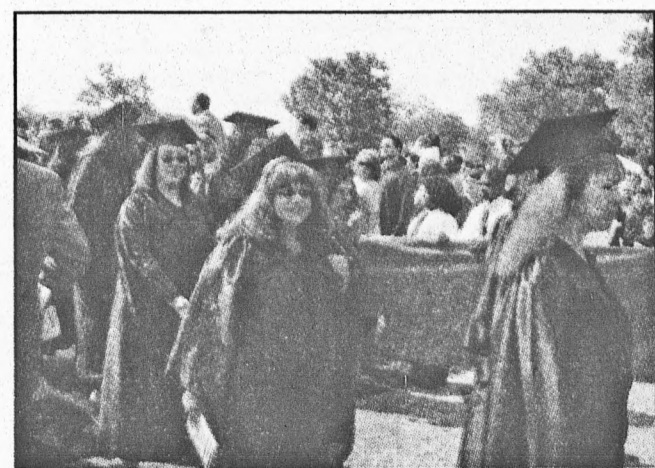
***didn't graduate yet? Thank god I never have to see her again.***

***Awwwww, but I'm gonna miss Professor Talarico. And Millner.***

***And chillin' by the fountain. Although that***

***food in 1C had to go. Except for those chicken wraps.***

***Those are really good . . .***



# COMICS

Do you draw, write, or just plain love comics?

SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

The Banner

Building 1-C, room 228,

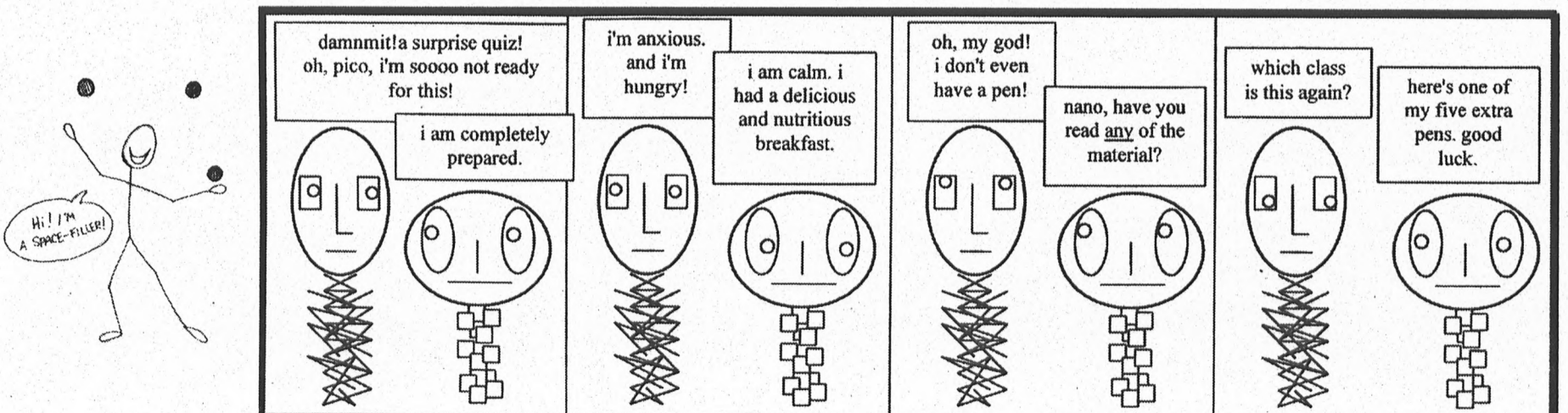
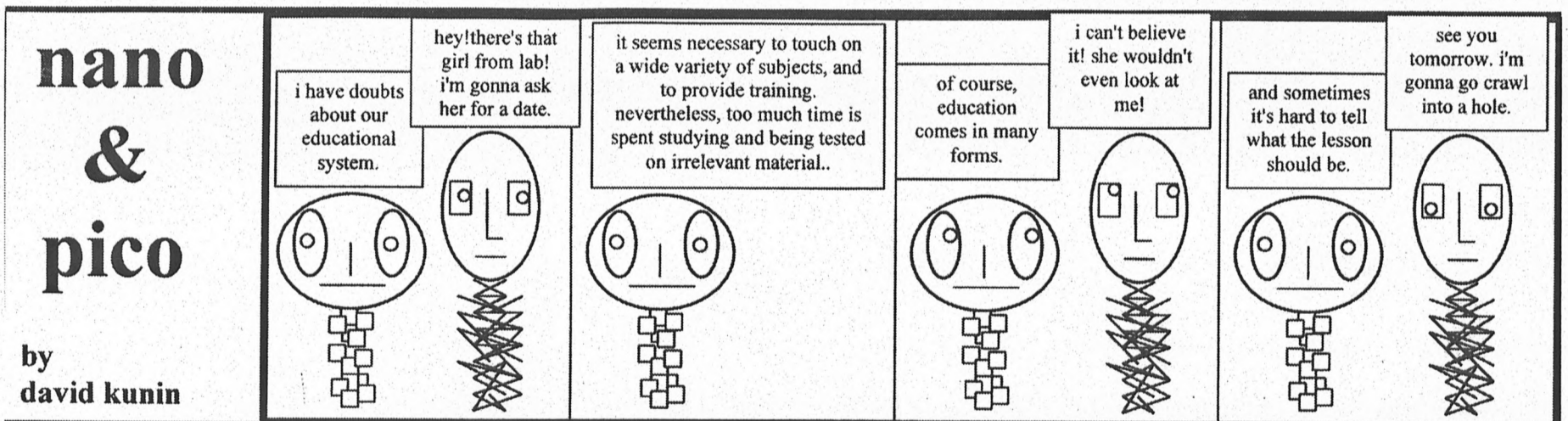
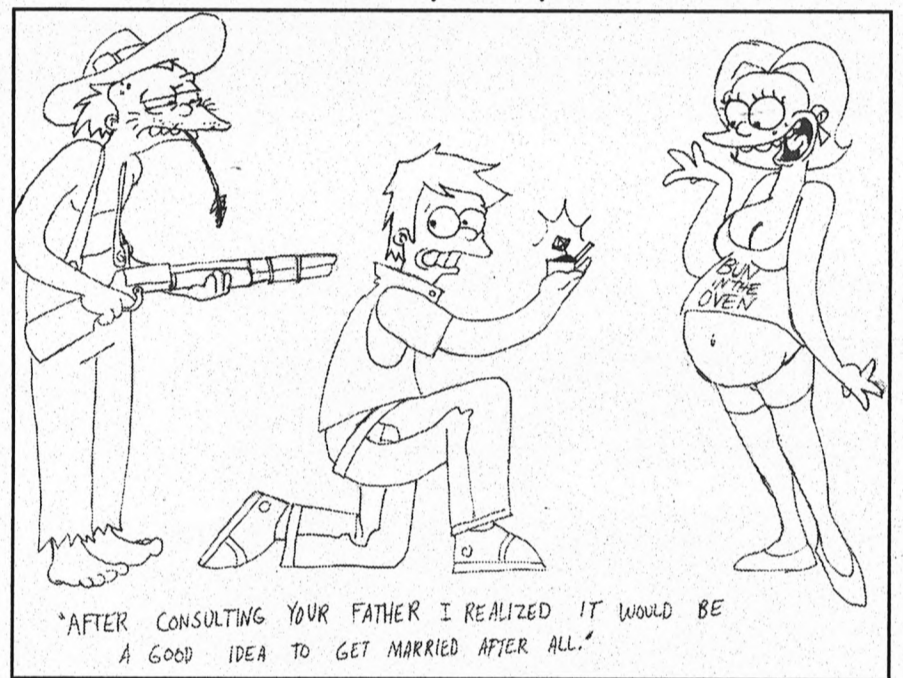
(718) 982-3115 or fax: (718) 982-3087

## CSI DAZE by enrique inocente



This week's comics section is dedicated to former comics editor Chris Sorrentino. Don't worry, he's not dead. He graduated and is off doing bigger and hopefully legal things. This man has brought many a laugh, a tear, and considerable outrage among certain elements of the community with his twisted humor. Along with Chris, we bid a fond farewell to his creations: *Captin Fantastico* and *Mutant Lobster Boy*. Thanks for nothin', Slim.

## COLD FEET by enrique inocente





# Library Gets Upgrade

Enrique Inocente

This Semester students will see a much-improved library thanks to the Tech Fee. The Student Committee approved a measure that would fund the library with \$125,000. Much of the money is being used to purchase new computers, and expanding the electronic database with additional material. Other additions to the library are computer technicians, wireless laptops, and new network printers.

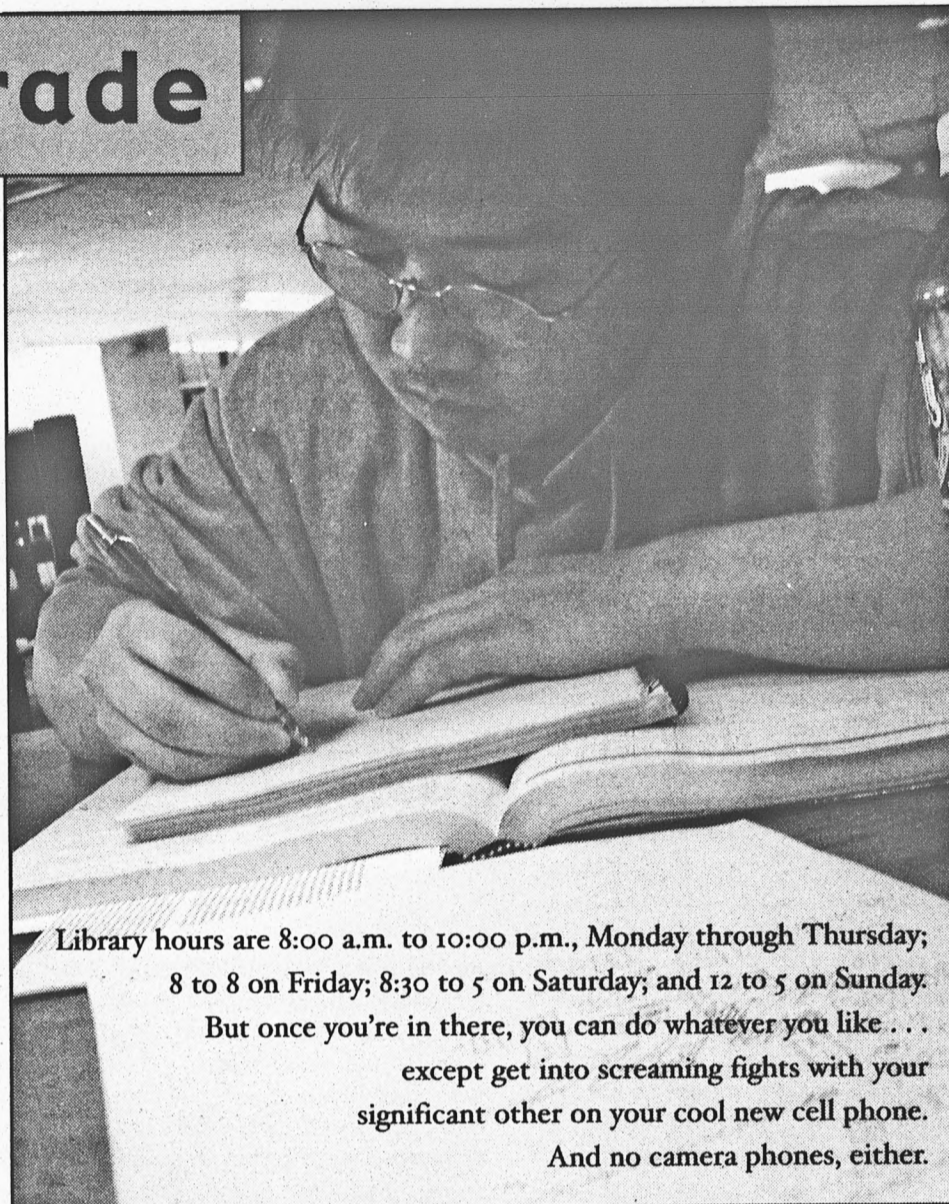
Wilma L. Jones, Acting Chief Librarian, is happy with the new improvements. "This benefits students," says Jones. "Because of new PC's, students will have access to a wider range of material. Also, the new network printers are faster, hold more paper and reduce problems like jamming."

To maintain equipment, the library had only been able to afford one full time technician in the past, but the Tech Fee has helped in increasing the technical support. Three students have been hired as computer techni-

cians to alleviate the stress. They maintain the PC's and printers and are available to solve any immediate technical problems.

Wireless laptops are not new to the library. The Pilot Project, introduced two years ago, gave CSI students the opportunity to borrow laptops for a limited time. Its use was restricted to the library laboratories and for only four hours. The Tech Fee made it possible to purchase additional laptops. Not only will students be able to use them for longer hours, they will also be permitted to take the laptops outside the library to designated hubs on campus.

The Tech Fee helped considerably in expanding the electronic database, an essential tool for any student doing research for a project or term paper that make it possible to download full-text and photographs. The library has to pay for these databases because they are licensed material, and every year the price to use them goes up. The cost corresponds to the number of students



Library hours are 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8 to 8 on Friday; 8:30 to 5 on Saturday; and 12 to 5 on Sunday.

But once you're in there, you can do whatever you like . . .

except get into screaming fights with your significant other on your cool new cell phone.

And no camera phones, either.

Photo Credit: Yaniv Amar

enrolled at CSI. For example, if there are 11,000 students and it costs \$2 per student for a particular database then the school will have to fork over \$22,000 to use it for however long the contract states.

The Center for Excellence for Learning Technologies or CELT—as it's known—was also made possible by the Tech Fee. Campus professors go to the CELT office in 1L to learn new technologies they'll integrate with

their class lesson. Older professors unfamiliar with these newfangled contraptions called computers get assistance from student volunteers on how to use things like the web and Power Point. "The students don't necessarily teach the professors," says Jones. "They learn from each other. It is a wonderful program that enriches learning here in the library...it's thanks to the Tech Fee. We look forward to next years budget."



Photo Credit: Yaniv Amar

## CSI Sports Teams Brace for '03

*Getting involved in sports helps students get into college life . . . and beyond*

Megan McGibney

You've made it to college.

You've finally passed your exams and paid your bills. Now you're ready to enjoy the next four years, the years that will define your life. Then you realize that those four years will give you stressful days trying to balance school, work and other aspects of your life. How are you going to do that?

Joining one of CSI's sports teams may help.

"Athletes never have problems with stress and their schedules," says tennis coach Bruce Knittle, "They're well-balanced, and the team gives them a break from their studies. But they maintain their studies."

CSI athletes sustain high GPAs and a busy schedule while competing on some of CUNY's best sports teams—the

tennis, basketball and swim teams. Student athletes are able to do this because of a rigid agenda that doesn't allow laziness. "There are time constraints, and it helps school-wise," says Tony Petosa, the head coach of CSI's men's basketball team "Too much time makes [school] harder."

The students that play on these teams make very big commitments. They spend three to four—sometimes up to six—days per week, practicing a couple of hours each day over a period of several weeks or several months in order to compete in tri-state tournaments. Being so dedicated might seem pointless, considering the fact that no one's getting a scholarship. But these sports teach students lessons that professors cannot.

"Swimming is a boring sport, there's nothing amusing about swim-

ming from one wall to the other," says swim coach Oleg Soloviev. "But swimming teaches you to be tough, to be persistent like a mountain climber, and to have discipline. When swimming, you get tired, but you must continue the course."

Getting involved in sports teams also trains you to be a better employee in the workforce.

"Employers want someone who is healthy," Soloviev adds. "They would want someone who was able to do something besides academics."

"Athletics teaches the importance of teamwork and peer work," explains Petosa. "It also teaches you to be professional and dependable. There's a penalty for lateness for the athletes during practice, and that helps future employers, because it's hard to manage people when they're often late."

Being involved in a sport also means physical fitness for the player. Training for sports at CSI requires cardiovascular exercise, which keeps athletes healthy.

Beyond mental and physical developments, becoming a member of a CSI sports teams gives the opportunity to socialize and to bond with the people you'll be spending the next four years with. "You have a chance to make friends. It is a very tight group that can last four years," says Knittle. The assistant tennis coach, Mark Wantowski explains, "The athletes are belonging to a group and they can develop as a group."

Working together as friends on a team has contributed to the great success of the tennis, swimming and

*Continued on Page 11*

### Catch The Banner On Air

The Banner presents news and entertainment on WSIA (88.9 FM) all week long. Check us out.

## Sex on Campus: The *Real* Freshman Orientation

continued from page 1

I learned this the hard way when my Astronomy lab partner, a hot, Colombian aspiring baseball player turned out to be about as smart as a bag of rocks and tried to pin all the work on me. Thank God, a friend helped me out. You want to get laid, not screwed.

Bondage through bonding. I cannot even entertain the idea of sex with someone lacking conversational skills. My brain and my clitoris must be equally stimulated. If this sounds like you, you might want to consider joining one of the many clubs and societies on campus. You'll meet like minded people while

doing something you actually care about. Sex is merely a bonus here. It is at this time that I'd like to mention that The Banner encourages submissions from pale, artsy boys with a penchant for politics, literature, art, handcuffs, and threesomes with sultry sex columnists and other artsy boys.

**FREE CONDOMS!** Now that I have your attention, I can tell you that if you don't use some form of protection, you're an idiot. We at The Banner have acquired a sizeable condom stash—no, I'm not giving out freebies! Get your own!—and you can, too, if you go to the Health and Wellness

Center in 1C. One simple chat about sexual health later, and the prophylactics, they are a-flowin'. Bonus: dental dams and female condoms make fabulous party props (use your imagination; I'm not telling!).

"Transfer!" That is the consensus among the female Banner staff. We all know that you're at CSI because it's more convenient/affordable than most schools, but there's always that one friend who stepped up and went the SUNY route. Cherish that friend. Visit that friend. Often. Opportunity and no-strings-attached naughtiness await.

Do what feels right. Don't give a damn about what anyone thinks. Gay, straight, bisexual, transsexual, masturbation, oral sex, anal sex, bondage, anything but intercourse, abstinence, etc. etc. etc. Go ahead,

test your limits, and **SET YOUR OWN LIMITS BASED ON WHAT FEELS RIGHT FOR YOU**, physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Sex is fun, but most of the time, it's not just all games. Emotions can, and often do, get involved. Take care of yourself inside and out. If it doesn't feel right, then **DON'T DO IT**. You have nothing to prove.

I am hopeful that this little supplement is more helpful than the other packets you have been given by the establishment (let's face it; toilet paper is more helpful than most of that generic crap they hand out). As always, send me your comments, reactions, and blatant come-ons. Oh, and you! Yeah, you, dead ringer for Coldplay's Chris Martin reading Nietzsche and rocking to Incubus? Nice shoes....

## New Students Ride Orientation Express

Michael Bruno

They came; they saw...they were home in time for Oprah. The College of Staten Island is expecting over 2,000 new students this fall and at least half of them made their way to one of the three New Student Orientation sessions on August 20th, 25th, and 26th. Received at the doors of the Performing Arts building by a gauntlet of maroon and white polo shirt-wearing greeters at around 9:00 A.M., the newcomers were on

newbies that they are old enough to be responsible and that their parents will not be notified about any deficiencies either academic or otherwise, and after the scattered whistling and high-fiving had subsided, the congregation of about 360 students were broken into twelve groups for what were called "Just Ask Me" (or JAM) sessions led by über-perky CSI juniors and seniors.

Once all twelve JAM groups were

delectable layout of pre-wrapped sandwiches, sodas and Oreos were offered to the incoming class. The turkey, tuna, and roast beef sandwiches went pretty quick, but no body touched the veggie lover's which supports the notion that unless it's soaked in mayonnaise or was once walking, no one wants it.

After lunch it was back to the Williamson Theater to wrap things up and hear a special presentation by Andrew Kahan of the "Making College Count" program entitled "Unleash Your Inner Monster." This presentation aimed to tell students of the best ways to make college work

whether they realized it or not. Sounds like college to me.

And now for the REAL orientation, what all Freshman actually need to know:

1) Show up to campus a minimum

"I'm sure most of us have a little monster inside us. What does yours say to you?"

their way home by 3:00 P.M., slightly better prepared to endure the upcoming semester. Although the six hours used for the orientation may seem unmanageable, CSI's campaign is certainly more appealing than the two day long Kumbaya-fests utilized by most major Colleges. In short, CSI's new freshman class was treated to the quickest six hours ever.

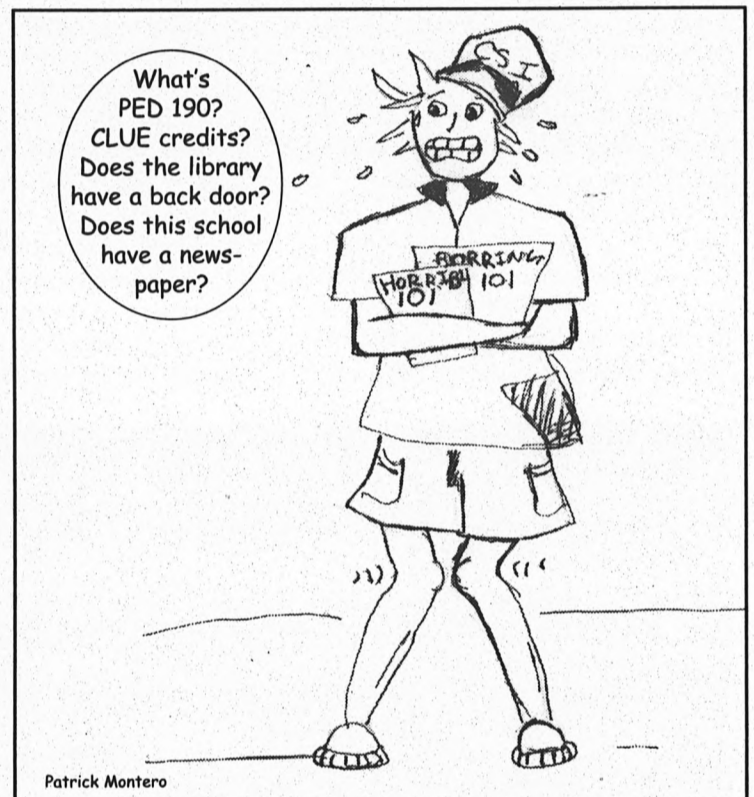
The day's events began with a "Welcome to CSI" speech from the inexhaustibly nice Jean Como, who is director of the New Student Orientation and CLUE offices. "We are here to help you tell one red-bricked building from another," assured Ms. Como at the podium of Williamson Theater, 1P's largest auditorium. She then announced the winner of a raffle for which the reward was a \$50 gift certificate at the bookstore before giving way to the energetic Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Carol Jackson.

"You like the parking today? Well wait till Tuesday!" quipped Dr. Jackson as the audience snickered and wondered what she meant by that. After Dr. Jackson informed the

assembled, they were led out of the performing arts building and onto the sun-drenched CSI campus. With the guile and zeal of seasoned flight attendants, the JAM leaders pointed out important landmarks (the blue thing in front of 1P) and walkways ("this one goes to the cafeteria") en route to their final destination: a classroom in either 2N or 3N where the JAM session would reach profundities hitherto undreamed.

After JAM leaders went over everything from validating bills to the seventh rung of hell known as "Evan Pickman's PED 190 Class," it was time for lunch and the CSI Expo at the Campus Center. However, before the lady freshmen could even walk through the door of the Green Dolphin Lounge, they were intercepted and accosted by several sororities who were throwing around some serious elbows at the chance to snag a few new recruits. A lucky few managed to escape intact. As for the others...well, they were weak and stupid and that's why we have sororities and other large predators.

Inside the Green Dolphin, a



Patrick Montero

With the guile and zeal of seasoned flight attendants, the JAM leaders pointed out important landmarks, like that blue thing in front of the Center for the Arts.

for them once they graduate. Mr. Kahan opened his talk by saying, "I'm sure most of us have a little monster inside us. What does yours say to you?"

It was at this point that the giggling started and never really seemed to end, regardless of all the useful things brought up by Mr. Kahan. It was a fun interval and most of the students got a lot out of it

of 1/2 hour before campus in order to park.

2) They make the Caesar wraps on Thursdays.

3) Coffee in the Library is better and cheaper than coffee in the Campus Center.

4) Pay parking tickets, because they will boot your car.

5) After 6:00 p.m., you can park wherever you like.

## Tuition Fee

continued from page 3

selves."

Keel explained that the PDC is a committee of Student Government and CSI Association that, "plans social, cultural and educational programs for campus. 20 years ago, both Student Government and CSI Association operated separately, not knowing who was giving money. So each took a portion of their money and gave it to PDC for earmarking."

From there, PDC created its own board of students to run specific events linked to one of its eight committees: comedy, music, films and television, special events, lectures, trips and publicity. The PDC allows the Student Government and the Association the room to focus on the spending rather than the planning.

### Following The Rest:

Organizations like the Children's Center and Sports and Recreations seek funds from other sources like fundraisers and donations. The one catch with the SAF is that there are a few salaries taken. Those disclosed salaries go to the PDC secretary, The Student Government Coordinator Ellen Krieger, and a few directors of the CSI Association. Consider it a thank you for handling your money in your

interests and safeguarding it from misuse.

There are 30 chartered clubs and 6 major publications on campus. Keel believes the number of clubs had decreased over the years, but admits, "the 30 we currently have are active and run many events. Each of them in their own right are successful."

Clubs are basically specialty groups that hold events to raise awareness and appreciation of their field. Editor-in-chief of *All Ways a Woman* and President of the Chemistry club, Ruchi Sondhi, says the Chem. Club uses their money to "hold seminars and invite speakers from different universities and have them talk about what's going on in the field." Sondhi is also part of the Publication Board. Entering its second year, the Board began as another branch to keep a specific watch over publications. This relieves some of the jobs of the Office of Student Life and allows those involved in publishing a more active voice. Sondhi claims, "we [the students] decide where the money goes."

Former Editor-in-chief of *The Banner*, Kim Delese, explained the Board: "A certain amount of money is set for all publications each year. Each brings in a proposal of what they want and we vote on it. If every publication wants \$200 for food and one wants

\$500, we're like whoa!"

### SAF Comfort:

The SAF is in your hands. All of the allocating bodies are predominantly run by students. The PDC allows 8 of its 13 students outside of Student Government and Association, to be chosen to plan events.

It may seem unfair that salaries are taken out of the SAF or that stipends are allowed for student positions that are proven to require a substantial amount of time and responsibility, but all of these uses are closely watched and disputable. There is even a built-in reserve so that excess money doesn't slip away unnoticed. Any money that isn't spent goes back into the allocating body and redistributed to its respective organization. Only student Government and Association get the return of their reserve, but it's still useful for all groups. If, say one publication uses only \$1,000 out of its \$5,000 approved budget line, that extra \$4,000 gets put back into the pool for publications to be distributed again. So the money is reused and recycled and always put where it belongs: with the students.

The rewards are waiting and it only takes your effort to see how valuable they are. Look at it this way: why buy a \$729,244 couch and never sit on it?

## Sports Teams Brace for '03

continued from page 9

basketball teams. The basketball team is part of the Division 3 of the NCAA, and has won consecutive championships. Some swimmers can go on to the nationals. And the CSI tennis players have won numerous CUNY championships.

Coaches of fall sports teams are looking for new members for their teams, and they have some specific requirements for those interested. First, all students need to have full-time status, and a GPA at 2.5 or above. Some teams require previous experience in the sport, but not in swimming. "Even if you can do the dog paddle, you can join," says Soloviev "There are swim lessons available twice a week."

There are some teams that need to be re-filled since many members graduated last semester. "We've lost a lot of players," says Knittle, "Especially in the women's team. What we're looking for are women tennis players."

Because of the demanding schedule of the teams, some coaches are very particular about who can join. "It is going to be a very big commitment," says Petosa, "It is a tough, long season that lasts from October to March. I'm looking for someone who would be around for four years, and is willing to improve."

Try-outs for the teams will begin in September. The Fall season for the swim team starts in mid-September and will run until the last week in February. The tennis season is much shorter, lasting from mid-September to the last week in October.

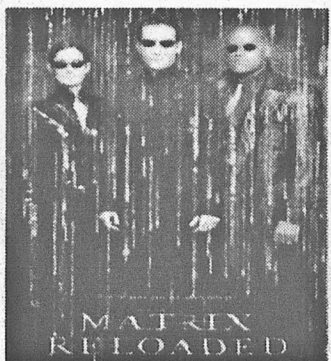
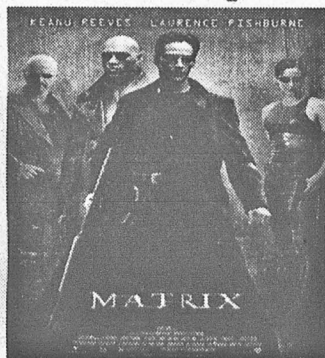
For those interested in joining the tennis team, coach Bruce Knittle is taking a leave of absence this year, and will be temporarily replaced by assistant coach Mark Wantowski.



# FILMS

NOW SHOWING

Sept. 2nd—13th



**Monday—Thursday:**  
9:00am, 11:30am, 3:30pm, and 6:45pm

**Friday:**  
11:30am, 3:30pm

**Saturday:**  
11:30am

Campus Center (1C), Bijou Lounge

### Future PDC Film Showings...

Sept. 15th—26th	2 Fast 2 Furious
Sept. 29th—Oct. 11th	Bruce Almighty
Oct. 14th—25th	Terminator 3
Oct. 27th—Nov. 8th	Pirates of the Caribbean
Nov. 10th—26th	Bad Boys 2
Dec. 1st—15th	S.W.A.T.

Showtimes and locations are listed above...  
All films are funded by Student Activity Fees.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## YOUR TICKET TO FUN!

Upcoming programs

### Welcome Back 2003 ORANGE CRUSH



Orange Crush is a four piece, high energy dance band that plays only the best of "The Big 80's" chart topping hits. They are the "Ultimate College Party Band".

**Thursday, September 4, 2003**  
1:30pm—3:30pm

1C-West Dining Patio/Lawn  
Co-Sponsored with the Office of Student Life

## COMEDIAN: KEVIN BOZEMAN



Kevin uses his high energy act and knack for the obvious to give a unique perspective on traveling, dating, social, and controversial issues. No subject is sacred from his hilarious truths.

**Wednesday, September 17, 2003**

2:30pm—3:30pm  
1C-Green Dolphin Lounge  
Personal Growth (PG) CLUE Certified

### TO CONTACT COACHES:

Tony Petosa (men's basketball) 718-982-3166; or 718-982-3305 for Brian Gasper, the assistant coach

Oleg Soloviev (swimming) 718-982-3245

Bruce Knittle (tennis) 718-982-3165

Mark Wantowski / Marc D'Orazio (soccer/volleyball) 718-982-3162

Marguerite Gualtieri (women's basketball) 718-982-3164

Or contact the Sports & Recreational Center at 718-982-3149

# SPORTS

August 31, 2003

## SPORTS & REC CENTER IS OPEN & FREE

*BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, SWIMMING, AEROBICS, YOGA AND A POOL*



### Jennifer Hermus

Follow the Campus Loop road and you'll find the regal, round driveway that leads to the much admired Sports and Recreation Center (1R). Beyond the large dolphin statues the road will take you to four thick glass doors that, once opened, reveal that CSI's gym is a royal banquet open to your taste.

You will find a high ceiling with art deco architecture. To your immediate left is the state-of-the-art weight room, cleverly covered by a fogged-glass block wall. And to the right are

the fabulous five racquetball courts that add to the luxury.

After you take in the latter, walk passed the stairs and snack machines and you will discover the looking glass that will lead you close to wonderland. On the other side of the windows is the 24 meter, 8 lane pool with 1-meter and 3-meter diving boards and capacity for 150 viewers cheering you on! Not only is there free access to the pool, but there are also free classes for those of us who are swimming-challenged.

From the pool, make a left to the women's locker room or to the equipment desk or you can make a right and get to the men's lockers or the Main Arena and Auxiliary Gymnasium. The Main Arena is host to 14 basketball hoops on 2 regulation courts (that can be converted to 3 volleyball or 6 badminton courts). The adjacent gym hosts yet another regulation court. This area is also used as the home for many of the various classes offered at CSI. Upstairs hosts a large center area surrounded by

glass for observing the pool below. The second floor is mostly a visitor's area with the long walkways that hang over the arenas. The main offices are located in room 204.

The key word for a CSI student is free; as in mind, body and price. All of the facilities in 1R are available as long as you have a valid CSI id and proper attire. That means that all of the above is included, as well as 4 treadmills, 3 stationary bikes, 4 stair machines, 1 crossrobics machine and outdoor facilities that house a mile track and 12 tennis courts.

Possibly the sweetest of all are the Group Fitness Classes and Intramurals. The earlier mentioned classes include daily varieties of workouts that encourage group activity and eclecticism. There is yoga (of many levels), aerobics/step, salsa (of many levels), kickboxing, pilates and even new levels for those with arthritis. The center is constantly evolving in order to give students modern choices to promote fitness as an individualistic

way of life, and even better, all activities are CLUE certified. The Intramurals program is for the real group enthusiast. Teams include baseball, basketball, swimming, tennis and many others for both men and women.



So bring your id, even bring a family member for a discounted price, bring a lock for your things and leave the school day behind you as you pamper your mind, body and bank account.

#### VISIT 1R-204 OR CALL:

Main Office 718-982-3160  
Intramurals 718-982-3150  
Fitness Center 718-982-3246  
Sports Hotline 718-982-3440  
Group Fitness 718-982-3084  
Pool Office 718-982-3245  
Membership Desk 718-982-3161

