





# (news)

New Computer Lab in 1N-113 open to the entire college community. by Enrique Inocente

#### (garbage pails are not a myth)



Before we can make it real and keep it real, we need at the very least to keep it clean. *by Michael Bruno* 



## (staten island: hip-hop scene)

"I can't stop DJ'ing. Even if I wasn't working, I'd DJ for free. It's in my blood, I can't stop." by Paul Cantor



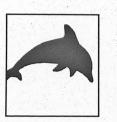
#### (balance:not so balanced)

Seven songs at four dollars a piece, if it wasn't so cheap I'd say keep your money. by Jennifer Mosscrop



## (comics)

The regular mix of Captain Fantastico, CSI Adventures, Ezekiel & Dirtbag, and more. by The Usual Suspects



#### (woman's softball)

Two words describe the CSI women's softball team: *young* and *hungry*. by Michael Zymaris



Ahhhh. You can smell it in the air ... As you sit there sweating out midterm grades right now, it's coming ... Creeping ... Lurking ... Who will be the next unsuspecting victim of THE BANNER'S 2ND ALL-COMICS ISSUE April 21st 2003...

That's right, kiddies, it's back by popular demand. We're going to harass you with all-new comics by all of your favorite Banner comics creators like: Patty Savage, Enrique Inocente, Katy Troiano, David Kunin, Ephraim Simms and myself. We're going to disturb you as your favorite Banner writers like "Life, Love, Sex" columnist Jessica Mendez and video game reviewer Dominic Fiduccia take a crack at writing comics. We'll shock you as we treat you to the talented Jenn Hermus in our issue, and we'll offend you with an all-new, full-color spread of your favorites like Ephraim Simms' homicidal "Ezekiel & Dirtbag," my controversial "Mutant Lobster Boy" comic, and an all-new addition to the Banner comics axis of evil, Enrique Inocente and Mikey Zymaris' "Dirty Sanchez."

As usual, we appreciate the support from you people to stop this threat and menace to our lives. How can a humor-intended, totally satirical, all-comics newspaper about CSI college life be allowed to exist? It's madness, madness, I tell you!

In just four weeks it will find its way to you. When you are least prepared...and like an axe to the back of the neck–BAM!–there it is. The Banner's Second All-Comics issue. Sweet dreams, kiddies.

**Chris Sorrentino, Comics Editor** 



Dirty Sanchez stikes again. Find out just how dirty 'Dirty Sanchez' is on April 21st.

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"They say 'cut back,' we say 'fight back!" chanted student protesters in Albany.

# Students Bring Fight To Albany

#### Melissa Fisher and Daniel Botting

Tuesday, March 11th –3,500 CUNY and SUNY students from across New York State rallied in Albany to protest the State's higher education budget proposed by Governor Pataki earlier this year. Pataki's budget inflates tuition at CUNY and SUNY while reducing dollars for financial aid, opportunity programs, CUNY and SUNY operating budgets, and campus childcare.

"Wiley E. Coyote made fewer mistakes while chasing the Road Runner than Governor Pataki made in this year's budget," said Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver. He asked engineering majors to explain to the Governor that "you can't build a house from the roof down." Education, Silver stressed, is the foundation of New York.

Governor Pàtaki's proposed tuition increase of \$1400 a year for SUNY and \$1200 a year for CUNY comes alongside a proposed 33% cut in TAP awards, and a 50% cut to SEEK (an opportunity program at CSI for academically and financially disadvantaged students). The totals: \$184 million slashed from the SUNY operating budget and \$82 million taken from the CUNY operating budget. The sad irony is that none of the revenue the State would obtain from these hikes and cuts would ever return to the CUNY or SUNY systems.

"Higher education was singled out

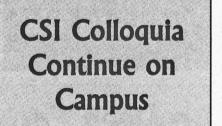
for the highest cuts" in Pataki's proposed budget, said Professional Staff Congress President Barbara Bowen.

A CUNY education "is well worth it, if the hikes don't go into effect," said CSI student Crystal Vale, who had to take a day off work to attend the rally. "Students will have to work a lot harder if this budget goes through."

In an additional protest of the proposed state budget, students had organized a "No Tuition Hike" starting in Buffalo and Stonybrook, Long Island. More than 100 students hiked, and Cail Casserly and Gerald McCall walked the whole way, for a combined total of 561 miles.

How You Can Fight the Cuts • Wednesday, March 26th: Students, faculty, and staff will have a rally and speak out at the fountain outside the Center for the Arts (Building 1P). The event will start at 2:30 pm and end at 4:00 pm. Students will receive CC clue credit for attending the event and writing a short letter to the Governor.

• Monday, March 31st: CUNY and SUNY students will return to Albany to lobby their representatives to vote against the proposed budget. There will be a coach bus leaving CSI that morning and returning in the early evening. Call the NYPIRG office in room 1C-219 at 718-982-3109 for more information.



WOMEN DECLARE THEY CAN BE RABBIS OR CEOS.

"It all comes around," says Panelist. "Some day they might be working for you."

#### Jennifer Mosscrop

CSI's Women's Colloquia series continued on March 13th with a panel discussion entitled, "Women Working: Professional Women in Non-Traditional Career Paths."

Each of the three panelists gave an inspiring lesson. Stacy Escovitz Rigler is about to be ordained a rabbi. She described people's reactions when she told them her plans and discussed some of the challenges of being a woman rabbi. "When people give me with a doubtful look, I feel I have to prove my confidence."

In 1985, Dr. Jane Ponterio founded her own OBGYN practice on Staten Island. It was the first allwoman practice on the Island. When she graduated from med school twenty years ago, only 11% of studying physicians were women. That percentage has since grown to 40%. "Find role models,"said Ponterio, "and emulate them."

Laurie LoPrimo is the Director of Operations for the New York City office of Housing and Preservation Development. "You find a level of resentment in a world of middle-aged men who believe women shouldn't be in the workplace," she said.

LoPrimo oversees a staff of 2,000 and is involved with every detail of the agency. And she makes it a priority to ensure there is equal opportunity for women and minorities. "It all comes around," said LoPrimo. "One day they might be working for you."

Prejudice and inequality still exist in the workplace. For every dollar earned by a man, a woman takes home .75¢.

# PSYCH MAJORS GET HEAD START ON CAREERS

#### Jessica Mendez

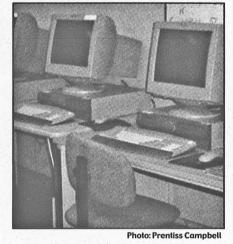
CSI drives most of us crazy. It's a good thing, then, that the Careers in Psychology lecture, held in 4S on March 13th, was packed to capacity with students eager to learn all about the range of opportunities Psychology majors have once they enter the realm of the educated and unemployed. Psychology Professor Lorie Caudle hosted the panel. She introduced many career options, from clinical psychology to research psychology, and opportunities everywhere—from law and forensics to marketing.

After a brief film, CSI psychology faculty briefly shared their experiences. The crowd was vastly female, demonstrating women's interest and presence in the field.

Some participants had their own

motives for attending. "We're here to fulfill CLUE credits," one student dead panned. "This is for Psych 288," another muttered. Others, however, were genuinely interested in learning about careers in psychology.

"The CLUE credit is just a bonus," one psychology major shrugged, getting ready to take notes. Whatever the reason for attending, the panel was a success, ensuring that our fragile minds will one day be in good hands.



#### Tech Fee Funds New Computer Lab

#### **Enrique Inocente**

The Computer Science Department has opened a new computer lab in 1N-113. But unlike most computers scattered around campus, the computers in this lab support Windows, Linux, and Unix operating systems.

The Open Lab was the brainchild of Michael Ziselman, who originally envisioned a seminar class devoted to Unix. It evolved into its present student-friendly state thanks in part to CSI's Technology Fee, which made it possible to purchase high-quality workstations and software.

In order to use these new machines, students must open a special account. The username and password provided by the college to access all other campus computers will not apply here. Ziselman is the man to reach for these new accounts.

"It's not hard to set up an account," said Ziselman. "I ask for the last four digits of their social security number to make sure they're students here. Then they're free to use the lab."

If you're the type who abuses the power of the campus computers to surf the web and talk in chat rooms – you know who you are—then don't bother applying. The new computers are strictly for academic use.

"Those in the humanities probably wouldn't get a whole lot out of the lab," said Ziselman. "The software is more suited for people in biology, technology, chemistry, or math."

But don't let being a liberal arts major get you down. Setting up an account with the new lab is still a wise move, considering how crowded other computer labs have been getting lately.

For assistance on opening an account, Ziselman advises interested students to stop by his office in 1N 112 or to visit http://unixace.csi.cuny.edu for more information. The lab is open to the entire college community Mondays-Fridays, 9am to 4:30pm.

Catch The Banner On Air

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

# CSI Students Go Extracurricular

# 10 Feet Over the Deep End

#### **Kimberly DeLese**

For me, no day is typical, because for me, no day is ever the same. I spend most of my time coaching and teaching a Junior Olympic Diving Program here at CSI. My 32 divers have become my 32 kids.

I got to the pool at around 7:45pm for a Wednesday night practice. I moved the lanes and brought down the flags. Only eight kids have showed up to dive, but I don't mind when my practices are small. It gives me a chance to work with the kids on a one on one basis.

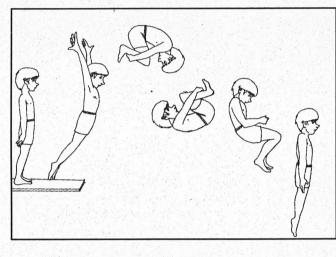
Joe came to practice that night. Joe is one of those kids that you know is special. I have been his coach since the first time he stepped onto a diving board when he was eight years old, and now he is eleven. He reminded me so much of myself when I was younger. But I am not going to lie, his talent, his grace, and his ambition are much greater then mine ever were. Joe can go off the board any way you ask him. Except for a front flip. He tried and tried, but he just couldn't get it.

Joe wanted to do a front flip more then anything. And for the last two years he suffered through countless smacks and welts in the process of learning.

I didn't think that tonight's practice was going to be any different. We started out with our usual workout, three front jumps; three back jumps and then begin your list.

As long as I have coached Joe, he has always said to me, "Kim, is it ok if I save my flips for the end of practice?" And I always responded, "Sure Joe, if that's what you feel more comfortable doing. As long as we try them." But tonight he didn't say that to me and just got on the board. I asked him, "What do you want to work on first, fronts or backs?" He said, "I think I want to do my flips first tonight." I agreed and said, "Lets do three front dives and go from there."

We had finished the front dives and he said he was ready to give it a shot. He stood on the board and tried to get focused. Other divers such as Anastasia, Kristen, and Anthony, gave him support. I remember Anastasia saying, "You got this Joe, this is easy for you." And Kristen clapped and said, "Don't think, just



go, come on, you got this, it's easy." Anthony clapped too and said, "Just don't let go Joe, just don't let go of your tuck." The words of his teammates gave him strength, which I could see by the way he straightened up and adjusted his feet.

He started his hurdle.

He went into the flip but bailed out and took a huge crash. He came out of

the water with tears in his eyes. But he wasn't crying. He was too mad at himself. I called him to the side of the pool and I said, "Joe, it's up to you. You are in control of your body, don't let your body control you. Now go do a front flip."

In all the years I have coached, I have never seen another kid walk up to a diving board with so much determination.

He started his hurdle. He jumped

high, threw hard and tucked tight. It was all over within 3 seconds. But in those three seconds, I couldn't have felt more proud, happy and excited all at the same time.

He did it, he did it well, and he did it again and again. I saw the pride and the sense of accomplishment in his eyes when he came out of the water.

When practice was over that night, Joe said to me, "Is it ok if I do my front flips first again tomorrow?" I said, "Sure Joe, what ever you feel comfortable doing, and hey, great job today, I am really proud of what you did tonight.

"Ya know Kim," he said, "the flip is a lot easier then it looks. See ya tomorrow."

# **On The Job At WSIA Rain Or Shine**

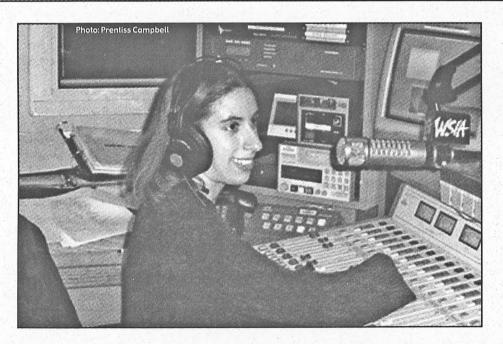
#### **Alison Schlackman**

"Cloudy with a chance of rain, but breaking up just in time for the weekend."

Those are the first words out of my mouth each morning on WSIA Staten Island, 88.9 FM on the dial. From 7:00am to 10:00 am I am on the air delivering the week's forecast.

What gets me up so early in the morning to read the weather to the hundreds of sleepy heads, morning commuters or children on their way to school? The answer is easy: I am a part of a radio morning show.

I am a member of "The Morning Show Gang", as we like to call ourselves. Six members, including myself, get in early to put together a show people want to wake up to. I sit in a tiny room, put on my headset, stare that microphone in the face and relay the forecast to the many listeners who are concerned as to how to dress to get through their busy day. I write up the traffic reports to be read over the air as well, so you can tell I'm busy in the morning.



Alison Schlackman, aka WSIA's weather girl, is ready every morning, rain, sleet, snow, or dark of PED 190.

I was so nervous when I first started. The thought of talking over the air seemed unbelievably nerve-racking. I listened to the words of the host, Carl Sabbatino and felt more confident in what I was doing. "Don't be nervous," he told me. "It's just you and the microphone. The people can't see you."

Carl is so comfortable on the

microphone, it's almost as if it's his friend. You can hear in his voice how much he enjoys what he does. He has many listeners as a result; I try to remember that when it's my turn to step up to the mic. My goal is to be as calm as he is, and step-by-step I feel as if I am achieving this goal.

After the morning show is over, I

close the door to the on-air studio and begin my own show, "Ali's Little Corner of the World."

I play a mix of jazz, world, and new age music. From 10:00am to 1:00pm, I have the room all to myself. I'm not nervous anymore; I have so much fun playing Delirium, Enigma, and various other artists. It's exciting to be a D.J., I get to play the songs I enjoy while sharing them with others.

Another aspect of being an on-air personality is that I get to work the boards. This electronic system transfers the music I play from the studio out onto the air. It's always exciting for me when I get a caller, it means people are listening and enjoying the selection of songs I'm playing. From 10:am to 11:00am I play jazz music, and then I make the transition into mystic new age and world sounds for the remainder of the show.

When "Ali's Little Corner of the World" is over, I'm starving. Three hours on air can really make you work up an appetite. I put all the cds away then go out into the Campus Center to meet my friend Donna for lunch. We walk into the food court and it's finally time to "make the big decision of the day," as Donna and I like to call it. What to eat?

Springboard: n. A springy board used in jumping or vaulting or for diving

March 24, 2003

# EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

KIMBERLY DELESE

MANAGUNG EDITORS

DIANA ILLUZZI ENRIQUE INOCENTE

COMICS EDITOR

CHRIS SORRENTINO

#### STAFF

PAUL CANTOR RAMONA DIRANI STAN ETHERIDGE DOMINIC FIDUCCIA JESSICA MENDEZ JENNIFER MOSSCROP MELISSA PANARELLA PATRICIA SAVAGE EPHRAIM SIMMS KATHRYN TROIANO MICHAEL WINTFELD

#### CONTRIBUTORS

MELISSA FISHER DANIEL BOTTING ALISON SCHLACKMAN MICHAEL ZYMARIS SHAUN HELFMAN CHRIS SCANDAGLIA

FACULTY ADVISOR

FREDERICK KAUFMAN

Garbage Pails Are Not A Myth

Get a good look at this stubby, metallic container. It looks familiar, because it should . This is a CSI trash can. It is empty, and probably

not because there isn't anything to put in it. The likely reason for this receptacle's loneliness is the fact that people are tossing their garbage elsewhere. In a perfect world, "elsewhere" would be one of the numerous other trash cans scattered strategically all over this campus. It seems however that stuffing your empty Poland Spring bottle under someone's windshield wiper is a bit more convenient...and fun!

Though paper and plastic are the most common form of debris scattered about the parking lots and walkways, the more foul and disgusting discarded items find their way to the woodland tributaries between building 1P and the gravel parking area. Without going into too much detail, just think of all the filthy

things the word *latex* brings to mind. Another clear and present side effect to flinging your trash all over campus is that it brings pests like the Mothra-sized sea gulls swooping across your face in



Opinion

brats. The message here is simple. least to keep it clean.

pursuit of a half-empty bag of corn nuts.

If not for the laziness and disrespect shown by some people on

sort of thing.

-Michael Bruno

#### Love. Life. Sex

I'm sorry, but I believe this column is just a way of complaining about the authors love life. Everyone experiences bad relationships or awkward situations when they are dealing with the opposite sex. At this age that's life.Deal with it.

I personally don't care about anvone's love or sex life and unfortunately for those who do, I don't feel bad and find it amusing.

How much sympathy does one person want?

-Kelly Ostrander

I don't really understand what this piece is about. Jessica Mendez should have made the situation a little more clear.

The way Mendez wrote her Sex Column sounds more like a play than a newspaper article. She didn't give us any information about her relationship. Maybe she understands her own relationship, but readers don't.

Next time, please give us a little more information.

-Jennifer Curcio

Thank you for deciding to include Jessica Mendez's column in The Banner. The column brings some sophistication to the paper with its frank yet mature take on love and sex. It does not squirm with discomfort or get raunchy and juvenile when it talks about the dating scene. It is also a nice break from the sometimes vulgar comics section. Again, thank you-and Mendez, you rock! With this column, you've brought new respect to The Banner.

#### South Beach Arcade

Letters

Being relatively new to the island, it was nice to read about a fun spot to hit. It sounded like Dominic Fiduccia liked playing some of the same arcade games I enjoy, the old and simple classics. I'd definitely like to stop in sometime and check out the arcade ... Just one thing: Where is it? -Omar Baksh

Thanks for the letter, Omar. Here's the address and the hours: 300 Sand Lane Staten Island, NY 10305 11am-9pm, Monday-Thursday 11am-10pm, Friday-Sunday

#### This Is America: Speak Spanish

Kathryn Toriano's article about Spanish class really hit everything right on the button and made me recall my high school Spanish classes. By the time June rolled around, I was lucky to remember that "Hola" ment "Hello." Of course, I still have to take my placement test and enter the class Toriano was once in. I only hope I can do as well.

#### -Patricia Hogan

#### Art for One

I would like to commend Jennifer Mosscrop on her article "Art For One." In a society filled with boy bands, it is nice to hear that not everyone needs to be in a group to play music.

Music can be an individual experience, no audience required. For some, a solo performance is cathartic. For most, just playing is enough. -Julie Leviton

**Ugliest Trends** on Campus

I thought this was hysterical. Sometimes you have to wonder if people check the mirror before they leave the house. It's even funnier because everyone-fashion experts included-has been a fashion victim at some time in their life.

It would be great if this were a monthly feature in The Banner. There's always some hideous trend popping up somewhere!

-Robyn Mahoney

#### **CSI** Adventures

In every issue of The Banner I find myself tuning right to Enrique Inocente's comics. I love the "Just Don't Do It" and "No War For Oil" messages in the background.

Inocente's messages reflect the issues that students are dealing with today. The small dialogue tells a story within itself and the illustrations are great. It takes a lot of talent. I wish I could draw like him.

I remember getting a small snippet of "Dirty Sanchez" in a previous issue and found it hilarious. I can't wait for the full comic issue to come out. God only knows what will be drawn in full color. I am sure it will be great.

#### -Donna Rello

#### The Skinny on **Eating Disorders**

This article informed readers of the risks of anorexia and bulimia and may have opened victims' eyes to this simple fact: They must get help.

#### -Kathleen Houston

#### Garbage: n. Food waste or unwanted or useless material

and the second second

5

Dunkin' Donuts cup wedged between the branches. Sometimes this campus looks good. More often it appears that this place is just an oversized trash can and arbitrary hangout for spoiled

Before we can make it real and keep it real, we need at the very

this campus, there would be no sustenance for these large, filthy, loud,

obtrusive, diseased, ugly creatures.

There would be no reason for them

are laws and steep penalties for this

with life and activity. The old, red brick buildings compliment each

other. The trees, numerous yet

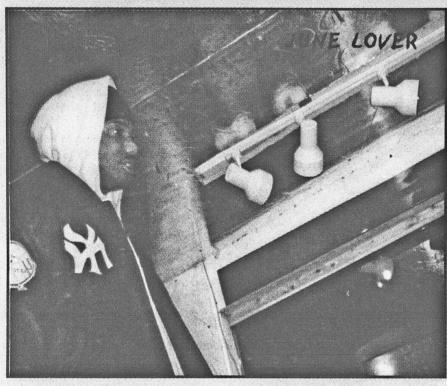
solitary, large yet placid...with a

It ought to be clear why there

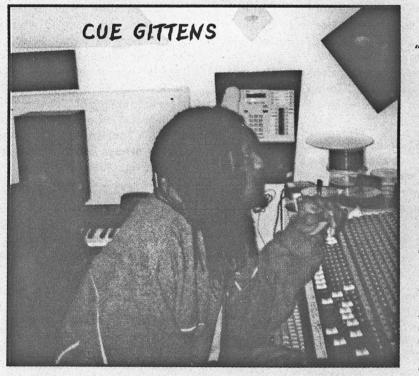
Our vast playing fields generally are green, lush and scattered

to set foot on these grounds.

# **Tomorrow's Tracks**



"Y'know, I did my thing back in the day when GP popped off. Now I'm going at it as a solo artist. Got my first project on deck, sort of a street album type of thing. Lots of freestyles, couple of songs, couple of throwback joints-almost like a "Best of June Lover" type thing. I just been in the studio working, man. The album should be out real soon. I'm looking to do about 500 copies, just to get my name back out in the streets, get that buzz going."



listening to jazz." "I am the first of a new breed. am the industry's lovechild. I'm the mixture of music, art in itself. I'm an engineer, a producer, musician. I'm all of it. I'm an A&R. I'm a production manager, everything. I do it all. But right now I'm really honing in on developing my skills as a rapper. I believe I'm a born leader, and with that, my voice needs to be heard. The feeling that I get is that I'm just doing what I'm supposed to do. Right now I'm working on my solo project.

It's coming along great. I believe I got my first single. It's great, it's hot, it's wassup. Also, I got two or three more tracks that are extremely hot as well, that we're just putting the finishing touches on."

"Truthfully, I don't want nobody to go home to. I ain't sleeping till I'm dead. I messed around in the drug game before, but it had a sour taste. That's when I was out on my own for the first time, had bills to take care of. Bottom line is, I can throw a party in your bathroom and charge \$25 to get in, and my party's gonna pop. But that party scene is for young cats. I'm too old to go to the mall and hand out flyers. So now I got DJ Storm, the best thing to happen to Staten Island since the Force MD's, and we doin this mixtape. It's gonna pop soon. Everybody gets their shine. It's been 10 years now since some new music popped off out here. I feel good about the movement of artists and DI's out here, and I'm glad I've played a role. I roll with so many of these cats, that no matter who pops, I gotta pop with them.



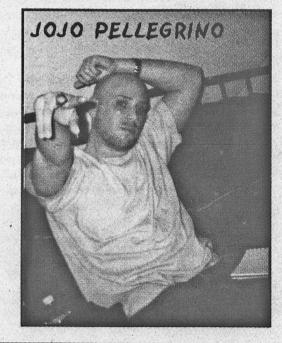
# Staten Island's **Underground Hip-Hop Talks**

by Paul Cantor

"I first got on the turntables in West Brighton Park, in the Markham homes when I was 6 years old. They got the shit on videotape. I'm trying to hunt that tape down. I was going to do a mixtape, but I'm not even thinking about that no more. I might put out a single, I don't know. I can't stop DJ'ing. This year, I wanted to quit doing it. I spoke to my moms and everything. Even if I wasn't working, I'd DJ for free. It's in my blood, I can't stop. The only time I felt like I was a loser was when I was unemployed for that whole year-I'm doing anything but staying in my basement, DJ'ing all day,



"I had a situation with Violator Records where I was putting a lot of effort into my project. Things just didn't work out. I put out 'Hitman for Hire', which was hosted by Kay Slay, a few months ago. I just needed to let the people know I was still here and I'm still hungry. I ain't going nowhere. I just been hittin the mixtope circuit a lot right lately. Green Lantern, Storm, whoever. People just gotta hear me. I'm working hard, just writing, knockin out these songs. Things are moving in a good direction. I see a lot of positive poppin off in the future."



# **WSIA 88.9 FM**

## The Longer You Listen, The Harder They Get

WSIA TOP 10	MDAKC WAR				The Re	WH ed V
1. Boy Sets Fire Tomorrow Come Today	a come				What yo erosmitl	ut
2. Postal Service Give Up			and the second s		and	
3. Further Seems Forever How to Start a Fire		Name: Nina Air Shift: Neurotic				
4. Erlend Oye Unrest	Sunday DJ Sind Major:		What gro love the r			
5. Rainer Maria Long Knives Drawn	Blood T	ype: B+ Status:	or B-	inks V	Tatı Vho's y	
6. Juliana Theory Love				Disc-Jocke		ng L
7. Datsuns	7:00	Sun Tales and Tunes for	Mon Morning	Tue Morning	Wed Morning	M
8. Count The Stars	10:00	1 1:00 Happy Chevera	Show Brian P.	Show Steve Hager	Show A Little Slice of Whatever w/Steve	S Schl
Never Be Taken Alive	1:00	Nina Lisitsa	Greg Seals	Phoenix	Nick Orlando	Sch
9. Fabulous Disaster Panty Raid!	3:00	4:00 James Sorrenti	ТВА	Lacy Axelrod	Maggie May	M Ma
	6:00	7:00 Sports	Joe Melluzo	Emilio Medugno	Gen Nunya	R Mc
10. New Wet Kojak This is the Glamourous	10:00	Anthony Alexander	Greg Pesochin	Avi Berkovitch	Late night with Raven	The with

#### hat is your favorite movie and why? Violin, the violin music is insane. as the best concert have ever gone to? There were two stages ne show was amazing. at are some of your favorite bands? el Big Fish, Aerosmith, ryan Setzer Orchestra, **Murder Dolls.** oup did you used to most and now hate the most? 'm just so sick of them. Ir favorite Muppet? Elmo. 'Cause he is red.

WSIA Disc-Jockeys' Spring Lineup								
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
7:00	Tales and Tunes for Tots 8:00	Morning Show	Morning Show	Morning Show	Morning Show	8:00 Michelle Garner	The Blue Room w/ John G.	
10:00	1 1:00 Happy Chevera	Brian P.	Steve Hager	A Little Slice of Whatever w/ Steve	Allison Schlackman	Guru Dave	OUTER- WORLD	
1:00	Nina Lisitsa	Greg Seals	Phoenix	Nick Orlando	Matt Schwanker	Ultimate East w/Tomohiro	Batkra Morales	
3:00	4:00 James Sorrenti	ТВА	Lacy Axelrod	Maggie May	Marissa Maldondo	DJ Explodes in Your Face Show	4:00 DJ Scars	
6:00	7:00 Sports	Joe Melluzo	Emilio Medugno	Gen Nunya	Russell McKensie	Greg Rothberg and Frankie	7:00 Jon Bolarinwa	
10:00	Anthony Alexander	Greg Pesochin	Avi Berkovitch	Late night with Raven	The Domain with Lucien	The Ahl Nighter w/ Bryan	Don Vroome	

#### **Dominic Fiduccia**

Beware Sony. Beware Nintendo. The end is near for you both. From the mighty monopoly of Microsoft comes the Xbox, the video game system that will rule the video game world. No more Playstation 2. No more Nintendo Gamecube. There is only the Xbox.

At least, that's what it seemed like when the Xbox debuted. When I first heard of the new system it was back at the end of 2000. To me, it was the end of video game competition, as Microsoft, the company that created the Xbox, would monopolize the video game market as they did with the computer software market. Looking back on it, I feel pretty stupid that I ever thought that way.

Recently, I heard the news that Halo 2, the sequel to the original Halo (that was an Xbox launch title) would be delayed until next year. That's when it hit me that the Xbox was a flop. A system that was all hype and nothing more.

Now don't get me wrong. The Xbox is a good system that has potential, but that's what it was when it was first released. Problem is, that's what it still is today.

The Failure Of The 'X Box'

Yes, the Xbox has more powerful graphics than PS2 or GCN. It doesn't need a memory card to save a game since the Xbox's hard drive is powerful enough. It also has better online gaming interaction than any other system. It not only is a video game system, it can play DVDs as well.

Unfortunately, these are the only high points of the Xbox, which has a lot of problems.

Sure, the Xbox offers a fair number of games to offer, but the variety and selection has remained unbelievably weak. To be set apart from rivals, a new system needs exclusive video games. The PS2 has done well with a number of exclusive titles for its system with games like Final Fantasy X, Grand Theft Auto: Vice City, Dark Cloud 2, The Getaway, and countless others. Nintendo, of course, relies on its long time franchises like the Super Mario Brothers, Legend of Zelda, Metriod, and some non-Nintendo owned franchises which include Sonic the Hedgehog, Star Wars: Rogue Leader, and WrestleMania

X-8. So far, the only Xbox titles that have received a lot of attention have been Halo and Dead or Alive: Xtreme Beach Volleyball. Spiderman, Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4.

and NBA 2k3 are all great games, but can be purchased for the PS2 and GCN. If the Xbox doesn't do something

fast it is going to end up like the Atari Jaguar and Panasonic's 3DO. It will be remembered as the game system gamers want to forget.

#### BALANCE TRIPS AND FALLS



#### Jennifer Mosscrop

"Where it All Began" is the second CD released by Balance, a relatively new CSI-based group trying to make it on the local hardcore rock scene.

Joe Fago, Jordan Wolfson, Frank Danzi, and Ben Rosario have only been jamming for a year, but they've played at clubs such as Roadhouse Blues, L'amours, Club Drink and the **Birch Hill.** 

What they should have been doing was practicing.

Which isn't to say that Balance doesn't provide some good moments on this otherwise over-exerted effort. The band does have a strong sense of song structure. They have a knack for build-up, catchy choruses and evenly distributed guitar and bass solos that work. Don't be surprised if you find yourself humming "Make Me Believe," days after you hear it.

Faux-Metallica guitar work by Wolfson and Fago (on bass) does keep the bottom heavy. And Rosario's versatile drumming never lets you down. He keeps it tight and together all the way through. Without Rosario, who knows how this band would sound?

Frank Danzi on vocals... well, let's just say Balance could use a new singer. Someone who can hit a note.

A hard-hitting 20-second instrumental riot heads off this disc, but as soon as you get into that kicksome-ass frame of mind, Danzi steps up to the mic with a playful, highpitched "WOO!"

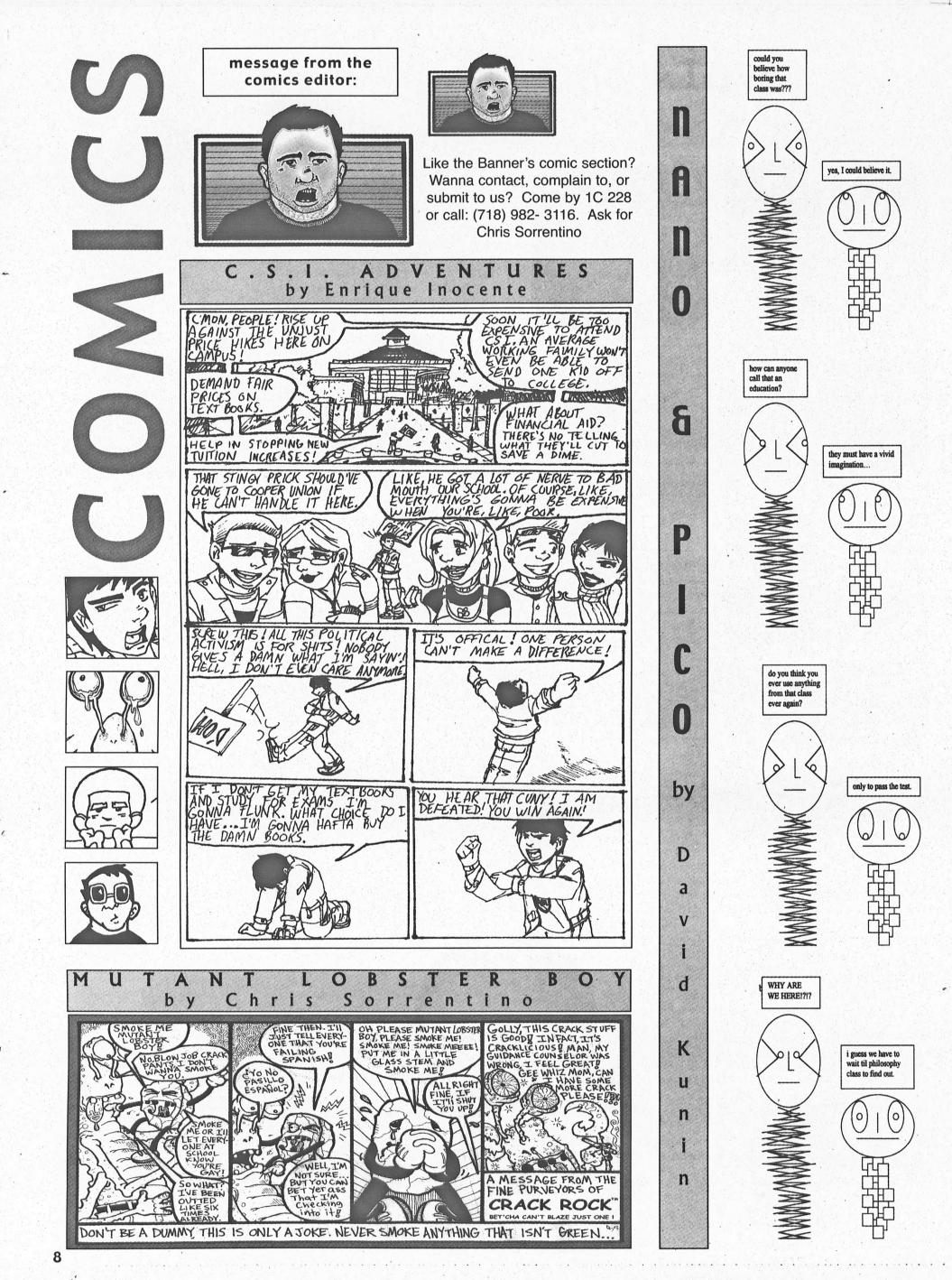
What was that? A Woooo? Who says Woooo these days? I, personally, was dumbfounded.

Speaking of vocal spewage, the background screams in "AKA" were not Danzi's fault, but they come at the wrong moments and fail to intimidate. Does someone in this band have Tourette's syndrome?

"All I Want" stands out from the rest. It's something you would hear on Z100, very Third Eye Blind. Whether that's good or bad, I'll leave up to you. It is the one song that is compatible with Danzi's voice. Well, somewhat compatible.

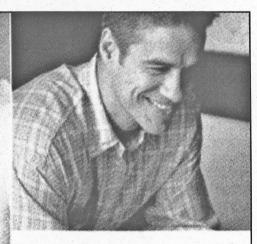
The last two tracks, "Respect" and "Columbine," are live recordings from a show at the Continental in NYC. Compared to the five previous qualityproduced tracks, the muffled sound on these songs unfortunately leaves a lasting impression.

With more rehearsal time in the garage, it would be no surprise to see **Balance** headlining at Dock Street. But for now, their songs need polish.









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# calling can you hear it?

35

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Fat has always been my enemy. Just when I would begin to come to terms with my body, the world around me would put me in my place. That is, until the ghosts of sexual past and present collided at a very interesting art class.

#### **Jessica Mendez**

"You're the next victim." My teacher's words shot through me as I fought to keep bile down. I had just been chosen to model for my fashion illustration class at Parsons. I want to do it, but I'm terrified. I walked up to the platform, hoping no one could tell that my insides were enthralled by a maelstrom of fear and insecurity. I posed, head down, slightly angled, my thumbs harnessed in the belt loops of my Venezia jeans. There I was, all 168 pounds of denim clad, artsy little me, in my ripped up tee and flip flops, at the mercy of my classmates. I would finally be able to see how others perceived me. Images of charcoal shaded lumps and bumps flashed through my paranoid mind.

"And...start." Scritch, scritch, scritch, as charcoal met newsprint. I feel as if I'm 178 pounds again, losing my virginity in Mr. DJ's bedroom. It feels right, but I still fear this judgment. Scritch-there goes my cotton peasant top. Scritch-my beige silk strapless bra hits the floor. Scritch-Mr. DJ's pale, elegant hands slowly unbutton my jeans and slide them past my hips and down my legs. Scritch—his hands tugging at my red string bikini panties. And I am exposed. And he stares. And I wish I had a smooth, taut stomach. That or a bed sheet. Either will work. Fat jiggles, doesn't it? I think I will die if I jiggle. I wait for him to laugh, shudder, go get a cup of Apple Tango sodasomething to express his disgust. But he kisses me, right on my belly where my stomach muscles tighten.

"Three minutes into the pose." Mr. DJ is the first guy I can eat in front of-I mean, I'm not skinny, so it's not as if I don't want guys to find out I actually eat. I was just physically unable to eat when members of the opposite sex are present before I started dating Mr. DJ-but that changes when Mr. DJ and I break up. For the first time ever, my appetite vanishes for months. Most days I eat nothing. Surely, this was my body's fault. I hop on the exercise bike and pedal until my muscles burn and waves of nausea crash over me. F--k

you, fat. F--k you, Mr. DJ. F--k you flaws. I eat half a sandwich and do 250 stomach crunches. F--k you, fat.

"Two minutes left." I'm 159.5 pounds. But I'm hungry. And tired. And I have too much to do to exercise for three hours a day. But I still get mad at myself for not doing it or eating anything over 200 calories. I send pictures of my slimmer self to Mr. DJ, who I'm still friends with.

"Have you lost weight?" he asks during our conversation Christmas day. I mutter a surprisingly dull and embarrassed "yeah" into the receiver. "You look quite sexy." We hang up and I cry. I'm so tired.

"Time's up!" Everyone turns their easels while I stretch the kinks out of my legs and back. I look around at each pad. I look...different. Some pictures have facial details, some have no faces at all. Some are bigger than others. Butand this is important, so pay attention, damnit!-I look beautiful in every one. I look like me: my tummy, round but not distracting; my face, round but not grotesquely so; and my legs, thick but not massive.

I volunteer once more at the end of the night. This time, I stand sideways, my chin up, staring straight ahead, shoulders thrown back. I think about Bro, and the way he sighs whenever I say I'm fat. "So beautiful," he says, shaking his head. And he kisses my stomach and my thighs, and I giggle. And standing there, my body immortalized with each scritch, I think I agree.

# The Banner asks CSI students...

what would be your **PERFECT** night out? "When you're with someone who is totally awkward and won't tell you "Anything that takes my mind off "Good friends, good food, good times, good laughs." what they wanna do, and act distant of what I did during the day." -Tim Esposito -Joe Frontirre and bored no matter where you take them. It happens sometimes, and I hate it, it ruins my night. I don't "I like to go to museums, but "Dinner at Applebee's, since I like have any truly funny 'worst nightreally any place fun would be junk food. Go to the movies, see an action movie, and chilling out' stories though. I think because a good night." -Dan Cacace I'm used to people throwing up afterward at my house.' -John leraci around me." "A night out with friends just -Evan Sciarra "Well, a great night out is basicalhaving fun is perfect for me. ly a girl's night out. I'm not really 'On Valentine's Day me and my It doesn't have to be anything flashy. A night of bugging out boyfriend broke up. He smashed my too much into clubs. I think a bar would be best." car window in front of my house, and acting stupid is cool.' -Michelle Corriero

"Anywhere that's not near my parents . . . as long I'm like 10 feet away from my house it's all good."

-Matthew Ganz

"Being with my closest friends and going to Club Abyss in Jersey. Having fun and dancing. l'm under 21 so I can't even put a little alcohol in me."

-Tara Guiteres

# what was your WORST night out?

and we were at a restaurant and he wouldn't take me home." -Genevieve Rossi

"The worst night I ever had was when I had to drive a girl home who was drunk. She was throwing up in a plastic bag in my car, and it was really nasty. Then she comes back

to the party we were at a few hours later looking for her phone, and she didn't remember it was me who drove her home. She started messing with me thinking that I took her phone. What a crazy bitch!" -Alex Rikovic

"Just recently, me and my friend got kicked out of a club and we didn't have jackets in ten degree weather. Our other friends were inside so we couldn't tell them we were getting kicked out. We had to take refuge in a McDonald's at two in the morning."

"On Valentine's Day two years ago when we went to Mezzanote. It was \$250 per person and they only had three choices on the menu and we ended up at a diner. Hello! On Valentine's Day!!

-Dana Bonura

-Evan Schwab

March 24, 2003

11

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# **CSI Women's Softball Team Retools For Another Run At The Title**



**Melissa** Quiles 2B/3B/Captain



/3rd Bas



**Dana Glenmerster** Outfield/1st Base



Short Stop/2nd Base



Catcher/Ol

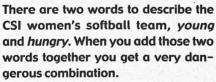


Liz Tuite Pitcher/3rd Base



April Avena 2nd Base/Ol





All thirteen players on this team are underclassmen, which means they will not only strike fear in the heart of the conference this year, but next year as well.

After a tough loss in the CUNY championships last year to Hunter, CSI has made a change at the top. Stella Porto, who once played for the Lady Dolphins, was tapped to lead the team back to the title game. She believes her ballclub has the right mix of talent to go a long way.

Three key additions to this year's squad are transfer students Nicole Fasano, Jen Doscher, and incoming freshman Dana Glennerster. All three are proven winners at the high school level, with Doscher and Glennerster winning the city championships for their schools and Fasano a former PSAL Pegasus award winner.

Nicole Fasano will be the ace of a staff that Porto describes as "A lot stronger then they have been in the past." Coach Porto also sings praise to her by saying "Nicole has a lot of speed and a drop curveball that I haven't seen many people hit."

If you think the Lady Dolphins are just pitching you thought wrong, when asked about her line up Porto summed it up in one word "SOLID!"

The Lady Dolphins are all focused coming away with the CUNY on championship. Young and hungry! Look out CUNY the Dolphins have come to play!

STUDENTS WANTED FOR MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

Contact Head Coach Bruce Kinttle 982-3165





Dana Glenmerster Outfield/1st Base



**Pamela Barone** Outfield



Nicole Fasano Pitcher



**Jennifer Carillo** 



**Theresa Caputo** Pitcher/3rd Base





#### **Shaun Helfman**

A girl stands in her backyard holding a softball. It is twice the size of her hand.She is five years old. She is perfecting her fastball.

"If it wasn't for days like that I might not have the love for the game I have today," CSI starting pitcher Nicole Fasano said. "I am very grateful."

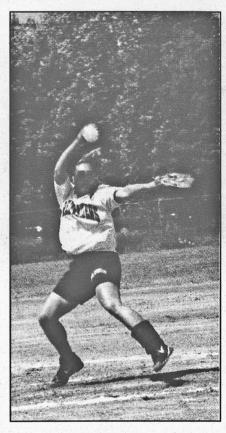
By the time she reached Middle school, Fasano was already striking out most boys her age, and some even older. "It felt great seeing those guys' faces after they were struck out by a girl," she said. "It was priceless."

Fasano talks of her high school years as if they were the best four of her life. She was the winning pitcher of the championship game in both her junior and senior years and was selected as a Staten Island Advance All-Star, as well as a Daily News All-Star her sophomore, junior, and senior years.

There is no doubt that Nicole throws a nasty fastball. That fastball earned her the PSAL Blue Jacket, awarded to the pitcher with the most strikeouts in the league as well as the best pitching stats. Her work also earned her the title of MVP of the PSAL league. "A lot was expected of me," Fasano said. "But I worked really hard and I was able to deliver bia results."

Fasano's accomplishments on the mound also earned her the distinguished PAL Pegasus Award. "I'm happy that I can help out my team," said Fasano. "But it takes more than just one player to make a championship winning softball club."

Fasano has won many awards for her pitching skills, but the one award she is most proud of was a partial scholarship to Wagner College. "Although I didn't choose to go there, it's nice to know that they wanted me."



Nicole Fasano throws a nasty fastball.

Lucky for the Dolphins, Fasano chose against Wagner.

Today, Fasano is a starting pitcher for the CSI Dolphins softball team and pitching better than ever. "If anything, all the practice I have had throughout my life has made my arm that much stronger." She feels that attitude and composure are the keys to success. "You have to be able to stay calm and not crack down under the pressure," she said. "Just put your all into every pitch that you throw and even if they hit it over the fence, you can't make a mistake." Those are the words Fasano lives by and it helps to keep her confidence even when she has a bad game.

Fasano credits her family and coaches for teaching her everything she knows today. "Without their leadership I definitely would not have the success I have today," she said. "A lot of people have talent, but if it isn't put to good use then it really isn't worth much in the long run."

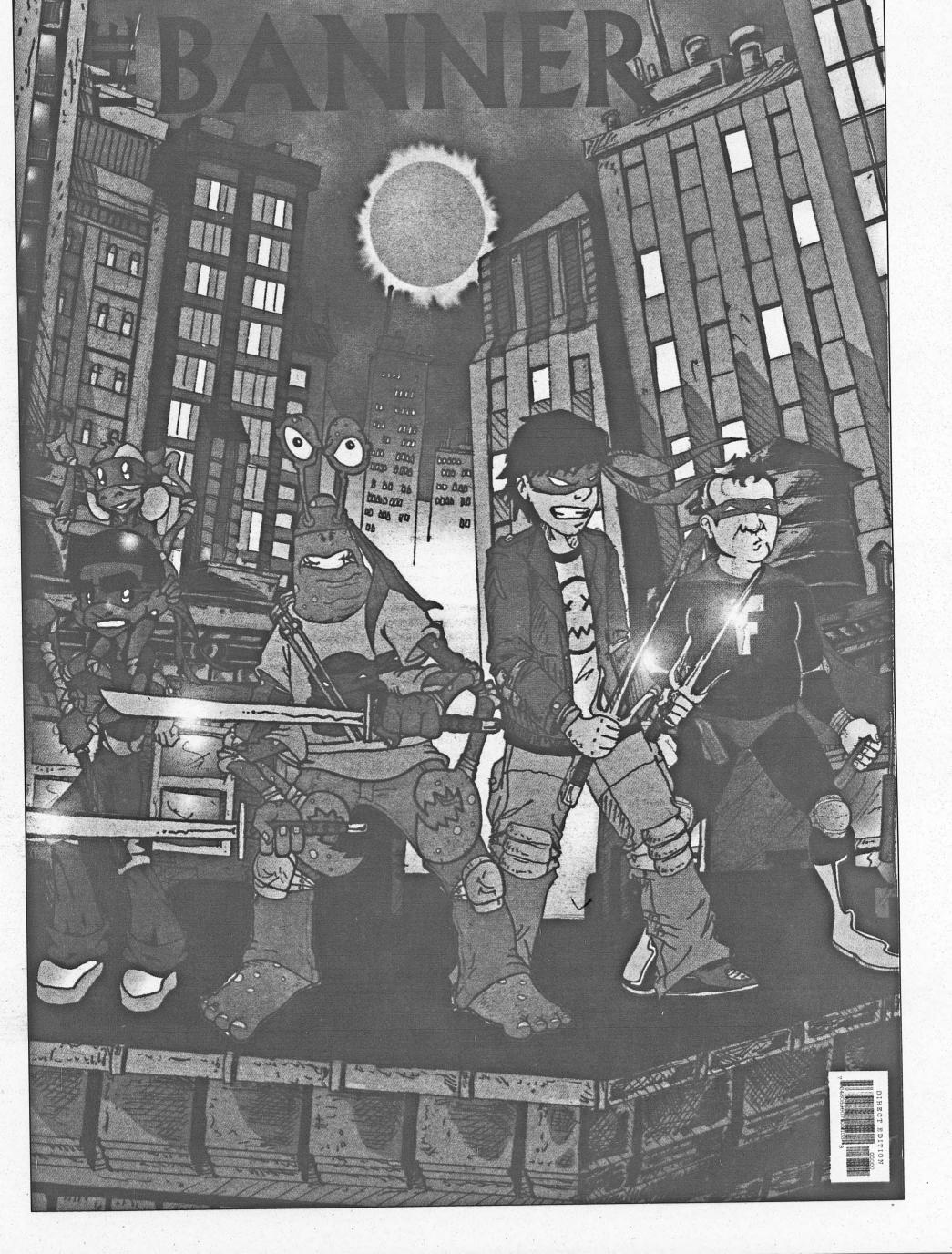
Nicole has not wasted any of her talent. She continues to practice regularly in the off-season and with her pitching leading the way, the Dolphins are sure to have an excellent season.

	Shaded boxes indicat TUES 25	te home games WED 26	THURS 27	FRI 28	SAT 29	SUN 30	MON 31	TUES 1	WED 2
Men's Baseball		St. Joseph's College 3:30pm			St. Joseph's College 12 Noon	Manhattan- ville College 12 Noon		Rutgers- Newark 3:30pm	Baruch College 7:00pm
Men's Tennis	Rutgers- Newark 3:30pm		NYC College of Tech 3:30pm				City College of NY 3:30pm		Baruch College 4:00pm
Women's Softball		Mt. St. Vincent 4:00pm		NYC College of Tech 3:30pm		Richard Stockton 1:00pm	SUNY Old Westbury 3:30pm		York College 4:00pm

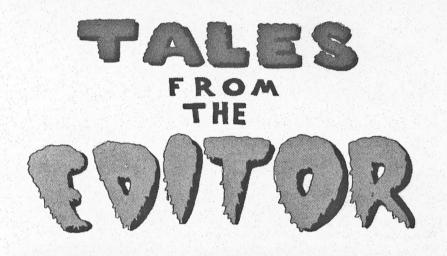


1st Base/OF













I can feel it coming in the air tonight, Oh Lord. Here it is folks, the second All-Comics Issue. Yes, it's another day for you and me in paradise! Chris and the others worked really, really hard on this one, putting in so many hours at the ol' Banner office they were often heard to remark, "So take, take me home," and, "Take a look at me now, there's just an empty space."

This All-Comics Issue is packed with the best of the best, like brand new comics of Nano & Pico, Captain Fantastico, Mutant Lobster Boy, and CSI Adventures. There's Chris Grajales and Jenn Hermus' wacky take on being a superhero for a day.

Ever wonder how you'd get by in prison? Well check out B. Dogg's Prison Public Service Announcement.

We're also giving a double dose of everyone's favorite homicidal maniac and his pet monkey, Ephraim Simms' Ezekiel & Dirtbag. And get your groovy kind of love with a comic version of Life, Love, Sex by (who else?) Jessica Mendez and fan-favorite illustrator Enrique "Not So" Innocente. Speaking of Enrique, check out the world premiere of Dirty Sanchez IN FULL COLOR!!!!

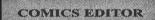
Our old friend Patty Savage is back with a new comic penned by Banner video game reviewer, Dom Fiduccia.

Want non-stop action? Check out the Comics Issue Art Director Pat Montero's comic strip on the color spread.

And then there's the honest-to-god-funniestcomic-I-have-ever-seen, Catastrophe Blasphemy, by Dave Andersen.

Also, learn how to get free comics, read Jenn Hermus' review of the gonzo book, Transmetropolitan . On the back page, we offer Dom Fiduccia's Top Five Picks. On the spread, there's Chris Sorrentino's full color send off to everybody's favorite crustacean student and crew member of the *sussudio*, MUTANT LOBSTER BOY! Get all this in The Banner's uncanny, invincible, amazing Comics Issue. So sit back, and enjoy.

 Phil Collins, speaking for Chris Sorrentino
P.S. Banner don't lose my number, cause you're not anywhere that I can find you.



CHRIS SORRENTINO

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

KIMBERLY DELESE

MANAGING EDITORS DIANA ILLUZZI

ENRIQUE INOCENTE

ART DIRECTOR

PATRICK MONTERO

#### STAFF

PAUL CANTOR RAMONA DIRANI DOMINIC FIDUCCIA JENNIFER HERMUS JESSICA MENDEZ JENNIFER MOSSCROP MELISSA PANARELLA CHRIS SCANDAGLIA PATRICIA SAVAGE EPHRAIM SIMMS KATHRYN TROIANO MICHAEL WINTFELD

CONTRIBUTORS

DAVID KUNIN BRIAN MCGOWAN MIKEY ZYMARIS PHIL COLLINS

FACULTY ADVISOR

FREDERICK KAUFMAN

# A WARNING TO SQUEAMISH READERS

The Spring All-Comics Issue of The Banner is intended for humor and good fun. If you are opposed to humor and good fun, then you will certainly be offended by the situations and opinions humorously depicted in these hilarious comic strips. Once again, if you do not enjoy a good laugh (even at the expense of others) or are easily offended by things that make maniacs like us crack up, then put this paper down, walk fifty feet away, and don't look back! Don't ever look back!

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# Free comics—Come and get 'em!

#### by Kimberly DeLese

Comic books have produced some of the most enduring characters and stories lines of our time. Spiderman, Batman, Superman and the X-Men have been imbedded into our minds and culture, but comic book culture has been replaced by the invention of the video game, making it difficult for anyone to enjoy the simple satisfaction of reading a comic book.

To spark readership of comic books, entice old and new readers, and promote the release of the film blockbuster Spiderman, "Free Comic Book Day" was created last year]. "Free Comic Book Day" is where all participating comic book stores give away comic books, no strings attached. And because of last year's enthusiastic response from customers, comics publishers have decided to make it an annual event.

This year "Free Comic Book Day" will take place on May 3rd. Two million copies of comic books will be given out in more than 25 countries."The goal of Free Comic Book Day," said Tommy Dibranski, owner of Tommy BB Comics in New Jersey, "is to introduce or reintroduce everyone to the joys of comic books."

Four major comic publishers participated in last year's event: DC Comics, Marvel Comics, Dark Horse Comics, and Image Comics. The free giveaway list was small, but they had to start somewhere. This year, more than 20 publishers will be participating. There has always been a healthy dose of competition between comics publishers, said DC Comics spokeswomen Peggy Burns."But our efforts in Free Comic Book Day are pretty much noble," she said. "There's an awareness of comic books and superheroes right now, and we want new readers to come into comic-book stores and read comics. We always want to be a part of that."

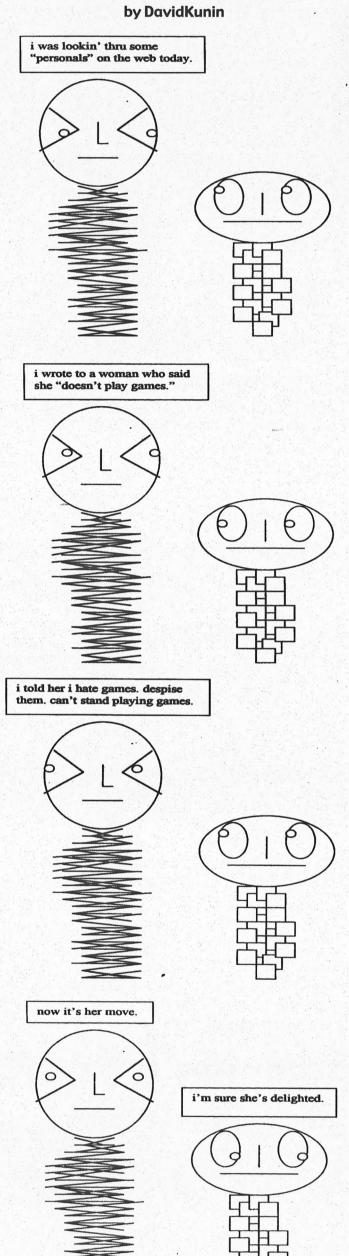
Jim Hanley's Universe in New Dorp is preparing for the big day. "Last year we had about 25 kids waiting at the door for us to open," said Mark Garcia, manager of Jim Hanley. "We even gave

#### other comics besides the designated free ones. just to get them into the hands of the kids.'

Last year's crowd was large and diverse, and this year comic bookstores want it to be bigger then ever. So support comics and the culture it brings. And take advantage of the free comics!

For more information visit www.freecomicbookday.com or talk to your local comic distributor. Don't forget, May 3rd is the big day.





**NANO & PICO** 

成しの



# JENNIFER HERMUS

### Transmetropolitan Gonzo Journalism in a Farce World

Picture what the world might look like a hundred years from now-chaos, destruction, racial tension that's spread to harbor alien breeds and mechanic-hybrid life-forms, corruption, technology and drugs which have become so implicit to life that they've developed minds of their own. This is a shady world full of colors. This is a stifling world full of stimulants. This is a diverse world full of tension. This is Spider Jerusalem's world.

Transmetropolitan is a reflection, a reaction to and a rendition of a gritty techno-centric New York City. Mastermind Warren Ellis has created a world that's Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas meets Electric Kool-Aid Acid

Test meets the action of famed psychedelic mini-series The Invisibles (written by Grant Morrison and inspiration for the movie The Matrix.) Jerusalem is the jaded voice of a severely detached-yet-plugged-in society. Imagine a youngish Hunter Thompson jacked up on new drugs, adorned with tattoos and patent leather pants. Jerusalem is a futuristic version of Thompson, from his eccentricity and drug use to his journalistic style and investigative techniques.

Jerusalem manages to become a super force in his city by his sharp use of language and stubborn truth-seeking along with the occasional

overzealous fight scene that usually involves the use of a bowel-erupting gun. Transmet is an experience, an escape to a world far worse than ours with toys far superior than ours. Turn on, tune in, go out...and see the future.





hands of

Sorrentino.)

Chris

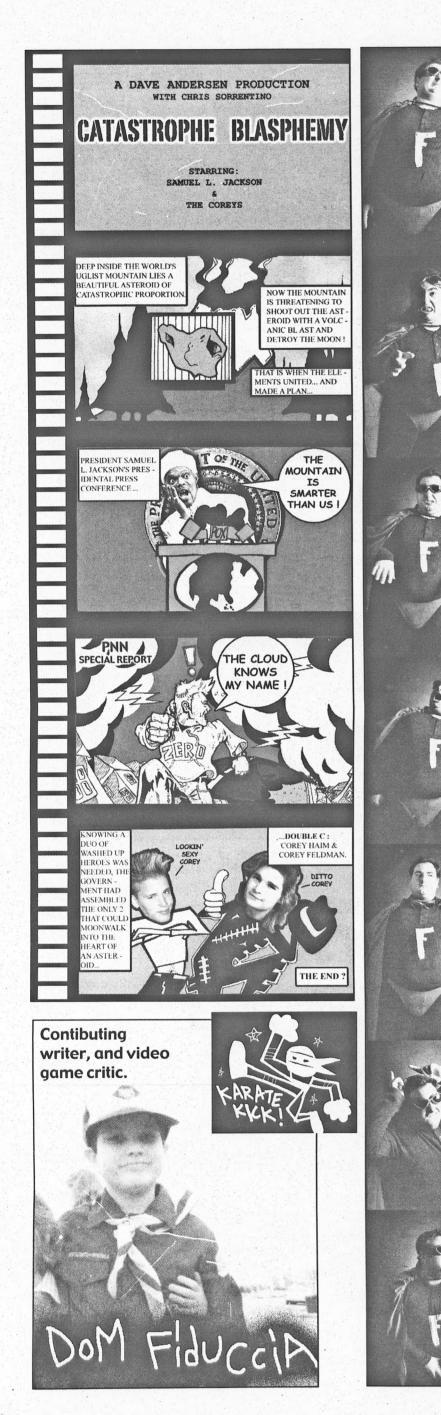
"Broken Condom

Shellshock."









# The Captain Fantastico Saga Thus Far...

Born into an all-super hero family, Captain Fantastico was more of an annoyance than a super hero. After accidentally killing one half of a siamese twin which he mistook for a two-headed monster, Captain Fantastico was sentenced to never exhibit any super heroics ever again.

This wasn't a hard feat at all, since Captain Fantastico has no powers besides his extensive knowledge of television sitcoms. But a turn for the unexpected occurred when a giant furry alien that Fantastico named Harry had landed in his backyard after a long chase by a unrelenting bounty hunter.

Harry and Fantastico rebuilt Harry's damaged robot and together they had created cousin Larry Applebot. Before Fantastico, Harry, and Applebot had a chance to hightail it into outer space, the bounty hunter had shown up and a melee ensued. During the battle fantastico had acquired the bounty hunter's seemingly magical helmet.

As fantastico, Harry and Applebot escaped with their lives, Applebot had explained that Fantastico was needed by the intergalactic council of freedom, a coalition of superheros from planets across the universe.

Now while Applebot takes a moment to examine Fantastico's strange new helmet, Harry and Fantastico grab a few drinks at a space bar called the Photon Pub...

-Chris Sorrentino





Steven S. Kuntz, Ph.D., Kuntzs@stjohns.edu (718) 390-4506



# The All-Time, All-Space Top Five Comic Story Picks

If you don't like 'em, talk to Dr. Dominic "Doom" Fiduccia. But don't say we didn't warn you.

When the hard work of planning for our second ever All-Comics Issue came, Comics Editor Chris Sorrentino asked me if I was interested in making a list of the all-time greatest comics ever. I jumped at the opportunity to express my opinions in the vast world of superheroes, villains, mutants, and downright freaks. After all, comic books don't get the respect they deserve. With their larger than life adventures, and incredible illustrations, comic books are one of the best and (despite recent price increases) one of the cheapest forms of entertainment. For nearly 15 years I have been reading comic books. Having to pick the five best was no easy task, but I was up to the challenge. I decided to just go with what I liked. So without further ado, here it goes:

5 The New Teen Titans # 19–21 (Vol. 2) Dated: April–June 1986 Publisher: DC Comics Writer: Marv Wolfman Artists: Eduardo Barreto/ Romeo Tanghal



It the List: Why Made It showed a new side to Wonder Girl. Before this issue, she was a happy and good-natured young woman who was one of the founding members of the Teen Titans and the little sister of Wonder Woman, and that was about it. In these three issues that all changed. When the rest of the Titans are unable to answer an emergency, Wonder Girl decides to get the original Titans to help, but the original Robin has become Nightwing, and Kid Flash became The Flash. The doesn't stop Wonder Girl as she gets the new Robin to fill in, and Flash still comes to help along with Aqualad and Speedy. Hawk (who wasn't an original member) comes to help without even being asked; he also happens to have turned into a psycho weirdo ever since his partner and younger brother Dove had died. Wonder Girl leads the team and the stress is unbearable for her. After having enough of Hawk, Wonder Girl snaps. She begins to strangle Hawk. With tears running down her face, she tells him how the public holds superheroes in such high regard, and how that leaves her feeling pressure to always be perfect. I always found this to be so moving; you could really feel the pain of what Wonder Girl was going through. The surprise twist at the end of the last issue is when the villain of the story, Cheshire, reveals that her newborn daughter is Speedy's.

Uncanny X–Men # 134–137 Dated: June–September 1979 Publisher: Marvel Comics Writer: Chris Claremont Artist: John Byrne

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Amazing Spider-Man #361-363

Writer: David Micheline Artist: Mark Bagley

Date: April-June 1992

**Publisher: Marvel Comics** 

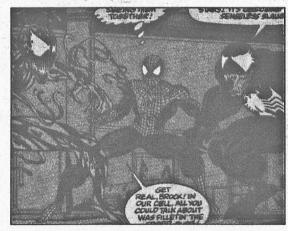


Why It Made the List: It's one of the most famous sagas in comic book history (The Dark Phoenix Saga), that's why. Jean Grey is Phoenix, the most powerful member of the X-Men, but Mastermind's manipulation takes control of her and turns into Dark Phoenix. She goes on a rampage and destroys a far away galaxy, terminating billions of lives, and Earth is next. The X-Men try to stop her. With her last bit of sanity, Jean destroys herself before she can bring any more harm to herself and others.

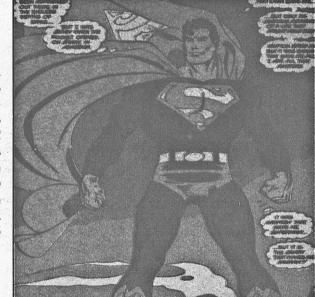
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Amazing Spider–Man Annual #21 Dated: June 1987 Publisher: Marvel Comics Writers: Jim Shooter/ David Micheline Artist: Paul Ryan



Why It Made the List: It was the debut of one of the most dangerous and deadly villains of alltime: Carnge. He was the spawn of Spider-Man's most deadly foe, Venom. Carnage had proven to be such a challenge to Spider-Man in their first encounter that Spider-Man had no choice but to make an uneasy alliance with Venom to stop him. The Man of Steel #1-6 Dated: June-November 1986 Publisher: DC Comics Writer: John Byrne Artists: Jon Byrne/ Dick Giordano



#### Why It Made the List:

It restarted the Superman Universe. Before this six-part mini-series, the Superman Universe had a lot of problems mostly because of the heavily used gimmicks. Those started in the 1950's to keep sales from slipping, and were never abandoned. With such things as Superman having an army of Superman robots to help him if he ran into kryptonite, multi-color kryptonite, the Super Pets, and many other embarassing things. That all changed with this mini-series as the gimmicks were gone. Classic characters were also given new life. Lex Luthor went from being a mad scientist to the richest man in the world. Lois Lane finally became the tough news-paper woman she was always meant to be instead of wanting to always know where Superman was. Of course, she is still in love with him. You can't get rid of something that classic! All this and other revamping touches made Superman a worthwhile read again.

#### **Editor's Choice**

- 1. Watchmen
- Alan Moore and Dave Gibbon's timeless masterpiece. Never read it? Do yourself a favor, pal. Go check it out. Get your mind right, you'll thank me later.
- 2. TMNT—Eastman & Laird Run Dark, gritty, and packed with Ninja ass kickin' and high– falutin sci-fi adventure. After nearly 20 years, it still holds up.
- 3. Origin

The untold story of how Wolverine became . . . well, Wolverine. Surprise twists and all!

4. New X-Men

Grant Morrison issues Started off with a bang and is still going strong and throwing the standard marvel myth on its ass. Nuff said?

5. Kingdom Come A classic. Mark Wald and Alex Ross. Ever wonder what would happen if Superman retired?

Why It Made the List: Because it was the happiest day in the life of Spider-Man's alter ego, Peter Parker. After all these years, Peter and his long-time girlfriend Mary Jane Watson got married. Thankfully, Marvel did it right. It wasn't like the way so many of those TV wed-

dings turn out where something happens and ruins the moment. So there was no villain that shows up or anything. It was just the two of them with their family and friends on the steps of City Hall, basking in the moment.

Images courtesy DC and Marvel Comics