

THE BANNER

February 18th, 2002



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From the Editor

Nice shirt! The pin featured on our cover was dug up from a spelunking trip deep into the wreckage of the Banner office. As I threw each piece of unused advertising copy and past-due notice envelopes into the waste basket I realized that these pieces of paper had been crammed in here by my predecessors. The pin could have been 20 years old for all I knew. It made me think. Had this pin ever been to a gay rights rally in D.C.? Or a Martin Luther King Jr. parade in Texas? Who had touched this pin? Were they ever discriminated against?

That's when it hit me. Foxes don't kill foxes because one's fur is lighter (or darker) than another's. Animals behave better than we do. How many lives will be lost before we realize that we are all one species and have to live together?

I work with more than a hundred black people. In my world, I am the minority. Do I like all my colleagues? NO! In fact, I can't stand a lot of them. But their color has nothing to do with it. I can't stand a lot of white people, either. Color is just an excuse to hate someone.

I don't care what color you are. People may think a person's not qualified to do a job because they're black—or yellow, blue or red. They're all human. Stupid people come in every race, color and creed.

I hope we can all loosen up just a tad on these racial lines, because let's face it, they are blurring more and more all the time.

Kris Lo Presto

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The Banner would like to apologize to last month's cover kicker,
BEHAR SHALA
 for not running his name the first time around.
 We wish him luck in his upcoming MLS tryout.

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Harlem On My Mind

Like St. George and Tompkinsville, corporatization has mutilated the rich geneology of yet another historic and diverse neighborhood.

Enrique Inocente

Harlem ain't what it used to be. New franchises like Old Navy, Starbucks, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and the new state-of-the-art movie theater operated by retired NBA superstar Magic Johnson have taken over. And then there's the case of America's favorite come-back kid, Bill Clinton, also calling Harlem home. Boosted tourism has fueled the economy and the influx of dollars has helped jump-start an era some are dubbing "The New Renaissance."

But is it really a new beginning?

Sure, on the surface it may seem all good, but what you may not see is the shutting down of small businesses or the increase in an average family's daily spending. More jobs may come, but these are mostly minimum wage positions, clerks and security guards. How can this be a revival if those who have lived in Harlem for decades are being driven out because of the high costs of living?

One of the more famous Harlem residents is the former president, Bill Clinton. After some people voiced their opposition about his original plan to set up his office in an extremely expensive deluxe high-rise in Manhattan, Clinton settled on locating his offices in Harlem.

"He's still my president," said Rachel Harvey, who has lived in Harlem for fifty-seven years. "He's the one who can help the poor. I just know it."

There were Harlem residents who felt threatened by Clinton's presence. Leslie Mostyn, who lives ten blocks from Clinton's new office building, is worried that his move will increase rents: "Rents are already too high for people and small businesses. I don't want to see my community over-gentrified. If I can't afford to live here, what's the point of him coming here?"

Mostyn points out her favorite hometown monuments like Mahogany and Apollo Beauty Supply. She turns to billboards advertising Old Navy and the Gap. How could anybody choose to shop for clothes at expensive franchises when there are less expensive, community retailers in the neighborhood? The simple answer is because people are addicted to name-brand clothing. Paying an extra twenty dollars to have the Old Navy logo written across your



Photo credit: "Or Does It Explode? Black Harlem In The Great Depression," Cheryl Lynn Greenburg

chest seems like a better bet than shopping at your local store and saving money.

The average Harlem resident may not be aware that a dollar spent at a big-name franchise is a dollar taken from a local merchant. If the trend continues, all the small stores will be consumed by mega-franchises. Property values will

looking for a flourishing market to exploit, or a former president looking for a hideaway from his wife, then this is a good time to be in Harlem.

But if you're an average American family just making by on a one- or two-income household, or a small-business owner unable to adapt to the rising rents and losing customers to big busi-

nesses, then it's likely you're not having fun.

Is it possible to preserve a culture when corporate interests are driving out the people and places that founded it? You cannot possibly package and sell the Harlem spirit in a nice little decorated box at the discount section of K-mart.

And Harlem has one of the richest histories in America.

Harlem has traditionally been a meeting place for black intellectuals and artists. Black poets, painters, and musicians used their gift to describe their life and times as black Americans in urban society.

The 1920's was dubbed the Harlem Renaissance, the original one. Langston Hughes worked in every literary genre, from poetry to fiction, drama, and essay. Palmer Hayden, a painter who was one

of the first Black Americans to use African subjects and design also contributed to the Harlem Renaissance. This period also saw blacks trying to better themselves by creating a safe community where they were free to live without the threat of riots or lynching. Many churches in the area helped to create a family community, making Harlem feel like a Black Mecca.

During the Great Depression, Harlem's glorious stature from the twenties faded as unemployment rose. Brownstones were boarded up and business owners packed up and left. This trend continued into the eighties with poverty, crime, drugs and ongoing unemployment.

In the early 1990's, entrepreneurs and corporations grabbed property cheap. They brought in the commercial and social landscape anyone can witness on a casual walk down 125th Street. They created the new Harlem Renaissance.

Are we willing to accept the price of progress?

"Rents are already too high for people and small businesses. I don't want to see my community over-gentrified. If I can't afford to live here, what's the point of Clinton coming?"

—Leslie Mostyn, Harlem Resident

skyrocket, rents will increase, and luxury goods will colonize Harlem's hearts and minds. Those who cannot keep up will have to find a new place to call home.

Today there are more franchises than you can shake a stick at in Harlem and the entertainment industry has become prominent. More movies and television shows are being filmed in the area, and theaters and video rental stores like Blockbuster are making brisk sales. Sure, these new businesses have attracted more tourists willing to part with their money, but at what cost?

Yes, Harlem is in the midst of a renaissance, but the matter of who is benefiting from it is really in the eyes of the beholder. If you're an entrepreneur with enough capital to invest in a new and risky venture, a big-name franchise

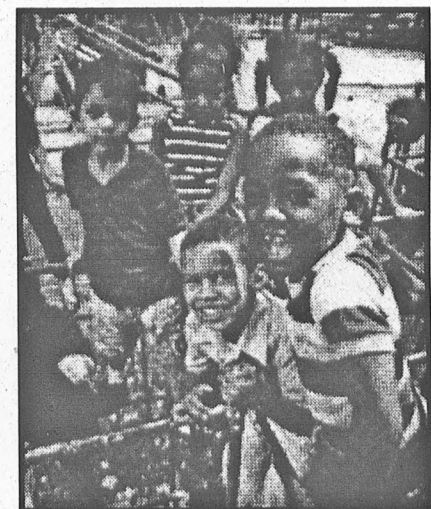


Photo credit: "Or Does It Explode? Black Harlem In The Great Depression" by Cheryl Lynn Greenburg

Anti-Criticism, Anti-Thought, or Both?

Paul Cantor

In the January 28th issue of the *Banner*, Mellisa Panarella wrote an editorial condemning Professor Harry Cason for the beliefs he expressed at a recent meeting which addressed the attacks on the World Trade Center.

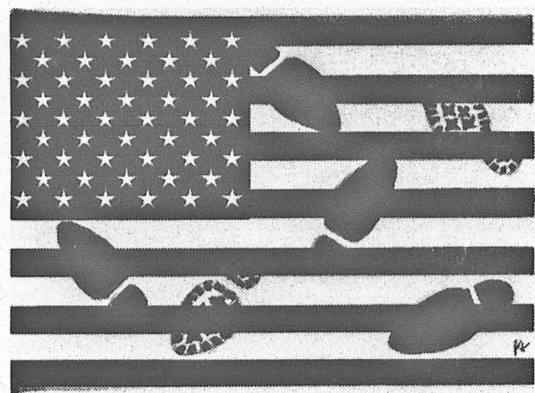
Ms. Panarella insists that Professor Cason expressed "more passion condemning the United States Government, its foreign policy and its citizens than showing remorse for the tragedy that took the lives of so many people from so many different nations." As true as this may be, Ms. Panarella's criticism is misplaced.

In Ms. Panarella's article, "Anti-Patriotic or Valid Criticism?," she says that Professor Cason believes the American Government caters to a certain group called the *me group*. The *me group* consists of an elite upper class of people. This group's financial success and capital power allow them to be better accommodated by the government. She further explains that Cason believes a decent world is an equal world and this idea of uniform equality is frowned upon by the *me group*.

Ms. Panarella writes, "Since you [Professor Cason] care so much about equal opportunity, do you take into consideration the thousands of people lost in the attacks, representing over 60 nations? When the planes crashed into those towers the whole world was affected."

No, the whole world was not affected. The common man in Europe, Asia or Africa could care less about what occurred on September 11th. Sure, they heard the news but then quickly went back to their daily routine.

What we have to understand is that the media jams things down our throats, force-feeding us information until we believe it. This doesn't occur in other countries. Why?



Because the little socio-economic

beast referred to as Capitalism isn't as prominent overseas. Also, Ms. Panarella points out, "Mr. Cason should also remember that our nation's government officials are elected by the people of this country. Since the majority of the population doesn't consist of the upper-class or *me group*, then it is the middle or lower classes who vote these politicians into office."

Actually, the electoral college is the deciding factor in presidential elections. The 2000 presidential election is evidence of this. There were questions as to who actually won the popular vote and the election in general. Is it possible that the *me group*, who are clearly proponents of President Bush, had anything to do with the outcome of this debacle? I am sure that somehow they did.

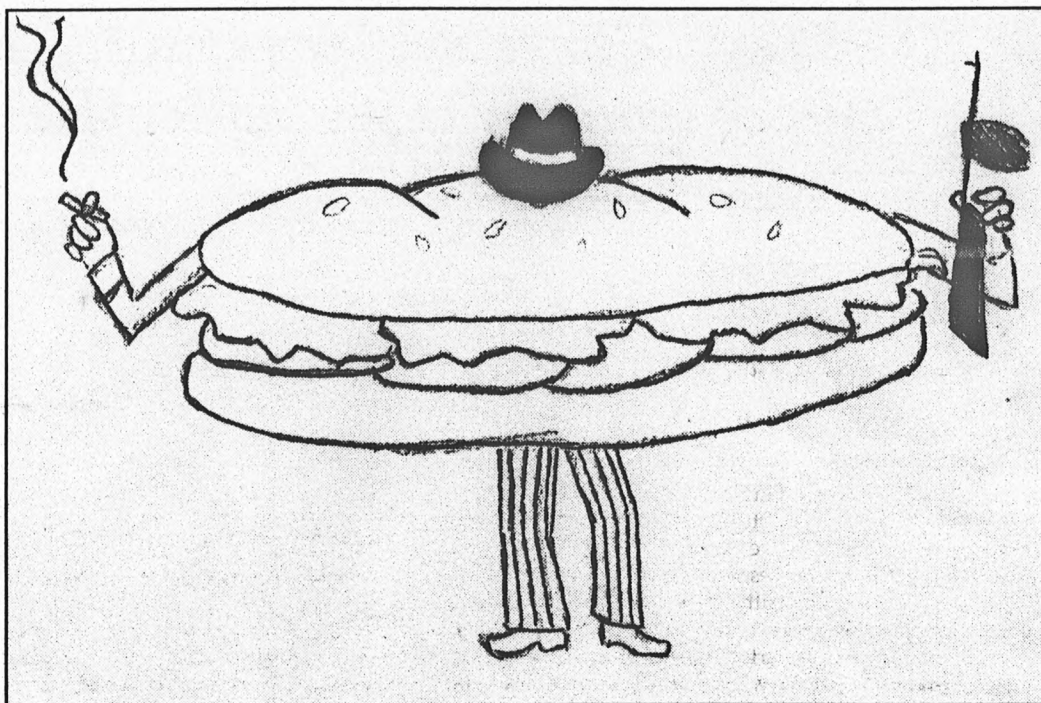
When government officials in the state sector are elected they go through huge campaign schemes, massaging any ego they can find. More importantly, they seek the support of the *me group* in helping to finance their campaigns. The more money they can obtain, the more exposure they get. Candidates can inform the public about the issues they plan to deal with. The *me group* has a much larger role in the election process than we think.

I find that Ms. Panarella is overly critical of a free-thinking individual—one of the mainstays of American ideology that has been lost in today's robustly well-packaged society.

Ms. Panarella writes, "If Cason truly feels that the power of the *me class* is too tyrannical, then maybe he should emigrate to a socialist Garden of Eden where he can share his dreams of equal opportunity. The College of Staten Island should be embarrassed and disgusted to know that they have an Anti-American Professor on campus."

Talk about tyranny! Here, not only is social tyranny exhibited in its purest form, it's done on a college campus. One of the greatest gifts bestowed upon man is the ability to think. Nowhere else is this ability more valued than on college campuses. So, when a professor presents us with thought and ideas of a socialist nature are we to be embarrassed? Should we fire this Professor? Absolutely not. What we should do is tip our hat.

Racist Sandwich Submarines



What's in a Name?

The following letter, addressed to President Springer, recently appeared in our mailbox.

To President Marlene Springer:

As an Italian-American I find it appalling that the College cafeteria in Building 1C advertises a "Goodfella Sandwich." "Goodfella" is just as derogatory as the infamous "N" word for blacks or any other ethnic designation. We should be aware of all ethnic backgrounds and the stereotypes that are perpetuated.

I ask that you remove the designation immediately. I know that no place of business would ever consider advertising in a derogatory ethnic manner.

Name Withheld

Production Classes: Blood, Sweat and Tears at 3 Credits Each

Jessica Mendez

Film production and graphic design classes are completely undervalued, credit-wise, at CSI. Don't believe me? Both production classes I am taking this semester, Advanced Graphics and Experimental Film, are a mere three credits each, as are most production classes.

These classes are normally four credit hours, plus there is a large amount of after-hours production work. It is a lot of intense, hands-on work which requires vast amounts of thought, creativity and time. For these classes, students have to keep journals filled with clippings, visual inspirations and ideas and sketches, shoot footage, write treatments, draw storyboards, go through reel upon reel of sound fill, and spend countless hours editing digitally and manually. So why is it that many History, English and foreign language courses, especially 200-level courses, are four credits apiece? Nursing students get a whopping nine or more credits for some classes. This is because the College recognizes that these students need time to complete

their projects and homework properly. While Communication and Cinema majors aren't out there learning how to physically save lives every day, they are working just as hard to convey their thoughts, visions, and respective talents with a challenging sense of creativity. With all the work these students put into research, tests, and completing projects, I think that it is unfair to offer a minimal amount of credits. Juggling strict core and major requirements with production classes is difficult, stressful, and creates the potential of compromising the quality of the artists' visions due to a simple lack of time. The College should recognize these classes as part of legitimate, challenging career choices that deserve at least four credits per production class. This would allow for less stress and more time to complete projects of the highest quality. We may not become accountants or nurses or senators, but we are artists who are working to become messengers of information form every life genre as well as cultivators of a constantly shifting popular culture landscape. We're not saving lives, but we are working to shape them. That merits some extra credit.

Head of the Arts Center Resigns

Lisa Carp

*With A Major
Leadership Overhaul
And A Future As
Uncertain As Broadway,
Will the Show Go On?*

January 4—The resignation of Numa Saisselin, managing director of the Center for the Arts, may have come at a bad time, and might also present the on-campus arts organization with a new set of challenges.

The CSI Center for the Arts, home to The Staten Island Symphony, The Staten Island Ballet, The Neverland Theater Company, Enrichment Through the Arts, and host to a variety of entertainers, now has the letters TBA smack dab in the center of its horizon.

But, does the Center's uncertainty signal tragedy?

"I would hate for anyone to have the impression that the Arts Center is in trouble in terms of booking or anything else," said Carol Jackson, CSI's Vice President for Student Affairs.

Michael Daniels, Acting Associate Dean of Students, is the interim choice to fill Saisselin's position. He has professional experience in operations, budget management, human resources and student affairs. "I'm the one who has a background that's varied enough to lend itself to the job," said Daniels.

He plans to divide his time between his existing duties in Academic Affairs and his new responsibilities at the Arts Center. But Daniels says he will not begin booking for the Fall season. "Whoever gets hired will have schedul-



If these walls could talk...

Photos: Daniel Carp

ing Fall events as one of their first duties."

With a committee set up to review resumes and interviews already in progress, Daniels says he's confident the Fall schedule will not be affected.

On January 7th, Saisselin will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer of the

Count Basie Theater in Red Bank. His departure comes less than two months after the presentation, "Straight from the Arts," the Island-wide Thanksgiving weekend benefits series of events which Saisselin organized. The Benefit raised \$20,000 for the September 11th Fund.

"The center was growing every year, and this year had really increased the number of shows," said Regina Paleau, Marketing Director. However, as is the case with most area cultural institutions, attendance is down following the events of September 11.

In an interview, Saisselin explained that the Center for the Arts, a nonprofit organization, receives only about \$150,000 of its million dollar yearly operating costs from college funding. Considering the center's overhead alone, college funding only covers two full-time and four part-time salaries. All other expenses, including salaries for 50-60 other employees, artists' fees, marketing costs, stage labor, maintenance, repairs, and printing fees are paid for with revenue generated from ticket sales, theater rentals, memberships and private funding.

"A lot of students come in saying they should be able to come in and see the shows for free," said Saisselin. However, "tuition plays no part in what the center does." Even when the shows sell out, profit margins are small.

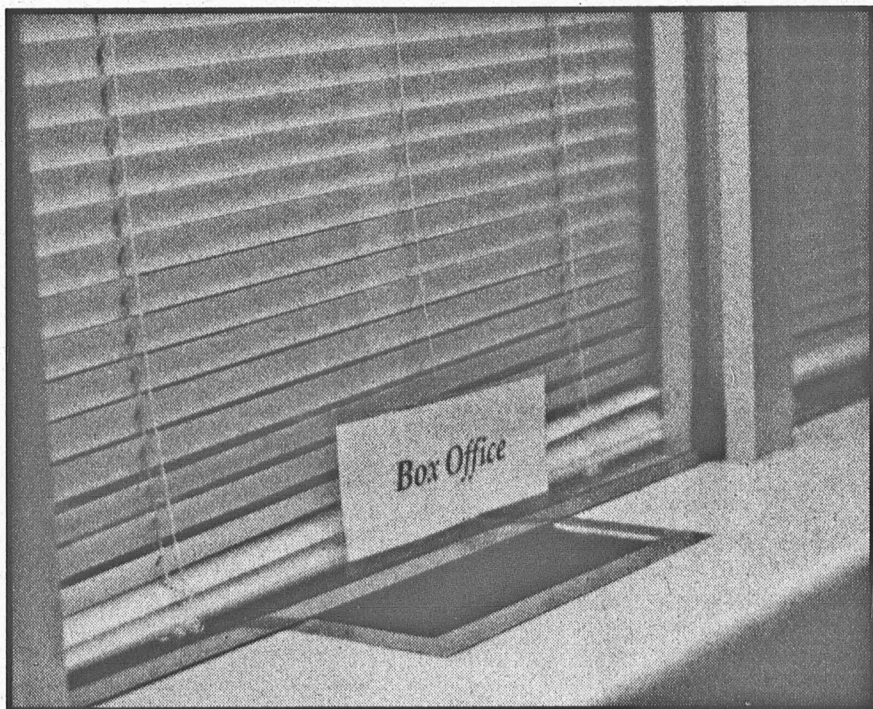
Students do receive a discount on advance ticket purchases and can also participate in "student rush," in which

students can purchase any available tickets one hour prior to a performance at half price. Student organizations can also rent theater space in the Center at cost.

With Saisselin's ambitious spring schedule already in place, now is a good time for students and Island residents to show their support for the Center while also enjoying a night out, a sure cure for the winter blues.

The spring calendar offers something for everyone, with performances by well-known entertainers such as Staten Island native Joan Baez on Feb. 23; comedians Richard Lewis, Wendy Liebman, Kevin Meaney and Bobby Collins in the Laughter Arts Festival on March 23; Hal Holbrook in "Mark Twain Tonight," one of the longest-running shows in the theater history, on April 27; and many others. The list seems endless, with performances ranging from Dance to Irish Cabaret, to folk music, to classical cello to jazz violin.

The Children's Theater Matinee will be presenting "The Prince and The Pauper" in February and "Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie" in March. The Staten Island Symphony, Staten Island's only professional orchestra, has three events scheduled this season, the finale being its Opera Gala on May 4. For a complete list of events or to purchase tickets call 718-982-ARTS. Tickets are also available online twenty-four hours a day at <http://www.csi.cuny.edu/arts>.



...they wouldn't be saying much at the Box Office.

The Third Eye

By Madame Toni Ann Fischetti

Aries: The Ram
March 21-April 19

Even with Valentine's Day over, you're still quite the social butterfly! Unfortunately, you haven't fully recovered financially from Christmas. But who knows, maybe you'll find a lost paycheck under the bed, eagerly waiting to be cashed—Cha-Ching! So go out and have fun. It'll be a nice break from all the tension building up from work, and it beats flipping off your boss.



Taurus: The Bull
April 20-May 20

Valentine's Day is a special time for you and your sweet Baboo, but if you've been thinking of making a bigger commitment to each other, wait until after the 17th. You'll have a more rational outlook by then. Dialing 143 on the old Motorola is one thing, but the last thing you want to do is rush into something this month.



Gemini: The Twins
May 21 - June 20

I see the light! February is a concept-altering month, the outcome of which would be potentially life challenging. Before you turn into a togatoting guru or change your major again, slow it down a bit and just try to refine your routine. It will come in handy after all the work you did at the beginning of the month.



Cancer: The Crab
June 21 - July 22

Good morning Cancer, this is your wake up call! Whether you like it or not, you're destined to be a part of the social scene this month. We may have to break out the nutcrackers to bust you out of your shell, but once we dip you in the butter you'll be glad we did it. When the *emui* sets in later this month, at least you have some fond memories to look back on.



Leo: The Lion
July 23-August 22

Beware the green eyed monster Leo. Not even your ferocity can escape jealousy's grasp! Take time out to hear both sides of the story, because seeing isn't always believing. Maybe it really was mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Your logic will prevail and self control will once again kick it.



Virgo: The Virgin
August 23 - September 22

BREATH! It's ok. Things are a bit hectic even with the new palm pilot. Just take it one step at a time and proceed with caution. Not only will you make it through, you'll also earn praises while you're at it. Keep in mind the old adage: Good things come to those who wait.



Libra: The Scales
September 23 - October 22

Hide the Visa card—impulse is running rampant through your body! With Valentine's Day, this is no time to be buying yourself presents. Let your sweetie do it. But don't lead him on too much, as the plan could backfire big time (a *pleather* jacket wasn't *exactly* what you had on your mind!)



Scorpio: The Scorpion
October 23 - November 2

The winds of change are a'blowing this month, Scorpi! You make a connection with someone new, but you're not sure whether to make heads or tails of it. You may end up spending Valentine's Day alone, wondering if you're with the right person. Your feelings continue to be unpredictable, making commitment to anyone difficult. Listen to your instincts. That lit' voice inside is seldom wrong.



Sagittarius: The Archer
November 22 - December 21

This month starts out restless—you're just itching for an adventure. This is all well and good if you have a plan. Try a road map, then try a journal, as your emotions and thoughts are an important part of life's adventure, too. Any idea you have will prove useful in the future.



Capricorn: The Goat
December 22 - January 19

All your hard work is beginning to pay off this month! And who said 20 credits and a job and a family couldn't be done! But you knew this required sacrifices and as long as you can keep your priorities in order (heads I study, tails I party) you'll be pulling a total George and Louise and be movin' on up!



Aquarius: The Water Carrier
January 21-February 18

This is no time for procrastination! Spontaneity is key for securing that special date on Valentine's Day, mostly because they might already have plans. Don't let your pessimism bog you down. A transvestite once sang: "Don't dream it, be it," and that's good advice for you this month. Take initiative! Be that transvestite! Wait a minute... Oh, you get the idea.



Pisces: The Fish
February 19 - March 20

Try to focus on your own problems and successes rather than living vicariously through others. Even though you're acting out of concern for someone, adding your opinion could be mistaken for interference.



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by
Alison
Schlackman

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- ACROSS**
1. A stopper
 4. Mountain
 6. Slippery fish
 7. Good Spirit
 10. Bird of peace
 11. If _____
 12. Unlock
 13. Chewing _____
 14. Angelic Instrument
 15. An answer
 17. Device for cooling
 19. Rhythmic Beat
 21. Fruit filled dessert
 22. Drinking vessel
 24. Opposite of cold
 26. Sphere
 27. To absorb

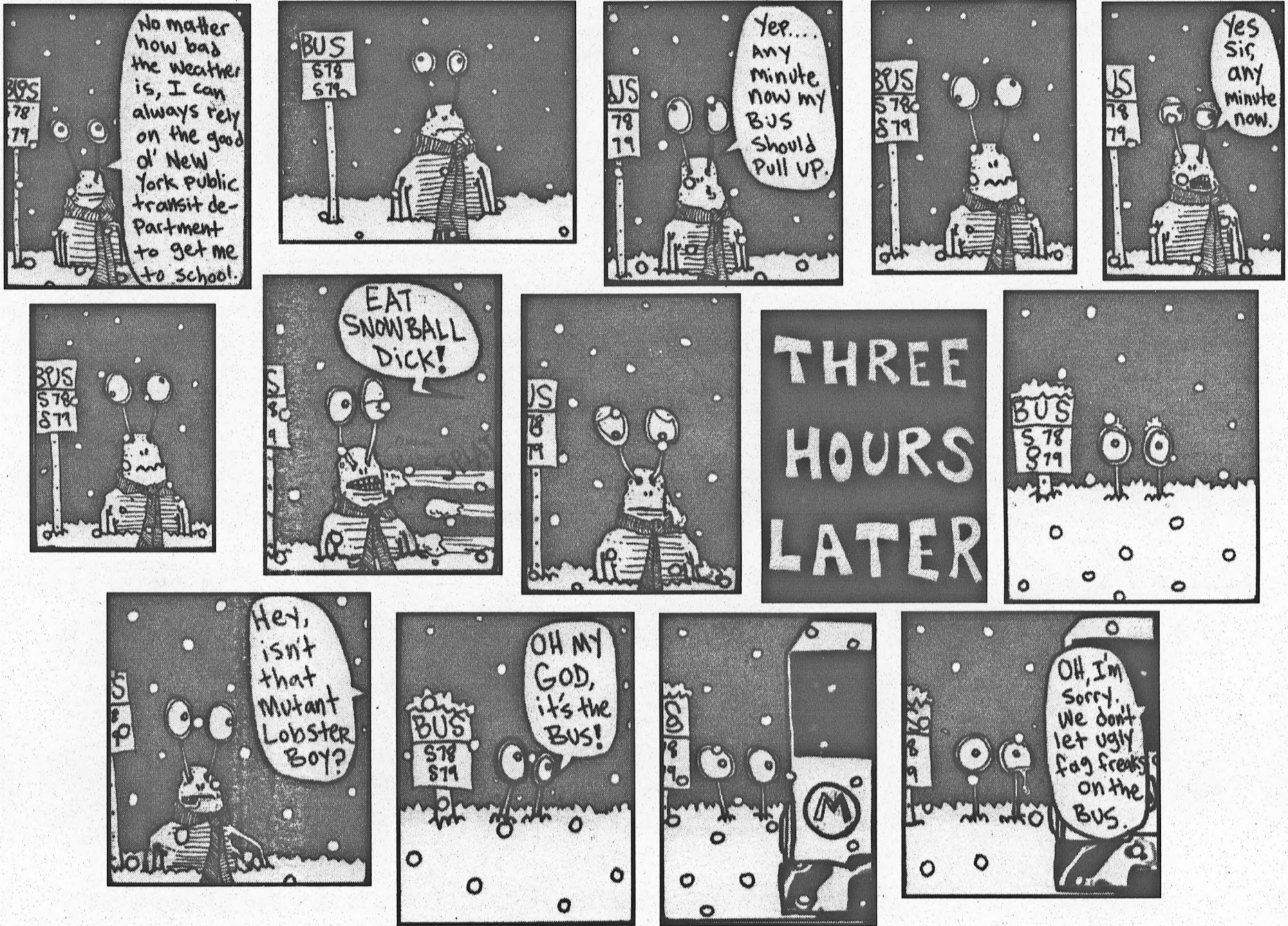
30. Waiters
 32. To Rest
 33. Tribute
 34. _____ what
 24. Stories
 25. Contact
 26. Recede
 27. August Sign
 28. Lead Symbol
 30. _____ In Full
 31. Poorly Lit
 33. Monopoly Property
 36. To ingest
 37. The General direction of sunrise.
- DOWN**
1. Sparkling

2. Rotate
3. To Have
5. Friend
8. Greeting
9. Absorb
11. Opposite of Off
14. Head Covering
15. Gathering
16. Slippery Surface
18. Artificial Intelligence
20. To Honour

21. The sound Popcorn Makes
22. Sesame Street Vampire
23. Prefix
25. Tells the time
27. Move to a Beat
28. Romantic Gesture
29. Baseball -----
31. Vehicle
35. Alright

THE ADVENTURES OF MUTANT LOBSTER BOY AT THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND SNOW DAY

BY CHRIS SORRENTINO



TOP 10 EXCUSES: WHY YOU DIDN'T COME TO CLASS

10. My car exploded with my homework in it.
9. I was too busy popping zits in the mirror.
8. I couldn't find parking so I went to Wendy's.
7. There are no pretty girls in this class.
6. I was watching Blue's Clues.
5. My dog insisted on me spreading peanut butter all over my body.
4. I was having sex.
3. You didn't call me the night before so I figured you cancelled class.
2. The rash is spreading.
1. I hate you and this class.



NYPIRG Reacts to Pataki Proposed TAP Caps

Jessica Mendez
& Frank Duffy

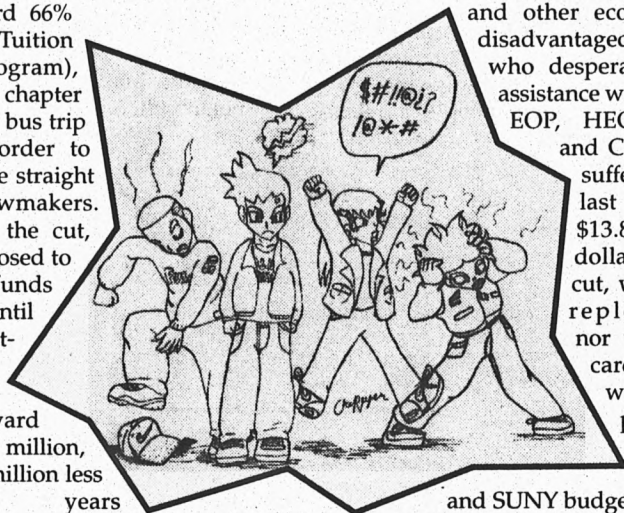
More good old Republican tough love for inner city's poorest.

In a effort to react swiftly to Governor Pataki's 2002 budget proposal, which includes an across the board 66% cap on TAP, (Tuition Assistance Program), CSI's NYPIRG chapter has organized a bus trip to Albany in order to bring their gripe straight to the lawmakers. In addition to the cut, Pataki has proposed to withhold TAP funds from students until they've graduated. If the plan is passed the state will award recipients \$481 million, a stifling \$155 million less than last years allotment.

In recommending a 66% cap on the TAP award, Pataki endorses that even the poorest students pay at least \$1,000 more per school year.

TAP has not been singled-out by the proposal. If the Governor has his way, single mothers, minorities, and other economically disadvantaged students who desperately need assistance will lose out. EOP, HEOP, SEEK and CD, already suffering from last year's \$13.8 million dollar budget cut, will not be replenished, nor will child-care, which was also part of last year's CUNY and SUNY budget cuts.

NYPIRG, in an effort to protest Pataki's harmful plan, is calling all those who want to get on the bus and rally against the Governor's budget butchering..



(TAP) STATS

The 2002 Budget : A Comparative Study		
2002-03 Executive Budget	Change from 2001-2002 Final	Change from 2000-2001 Final
No increase	0	0
481,400,000	-155,000,000	-155,000,000
14,630,000	0	0
1,033,468,000	+20,000,000	+30,468,000
1,769,107,000	+4,854,000	+80,107,000

How would you score?

- GMAT
- GRE
- LSAT
- MCAT
- DAT
- TOEFL

Take a FREE Practice Test at Kaplan's Test Drive and find out.

Date: Saturday, February 23

Time: 1:00pm

Location: The Staten Island Kaplan Center

RSVP: (718) 477-6343

The Staten Island Kaplan Center is located at 2795 Richmond Ave., in the Best Buy Shopping Plaza. (Across from the SI Mall)

To register, call or visit us online today!

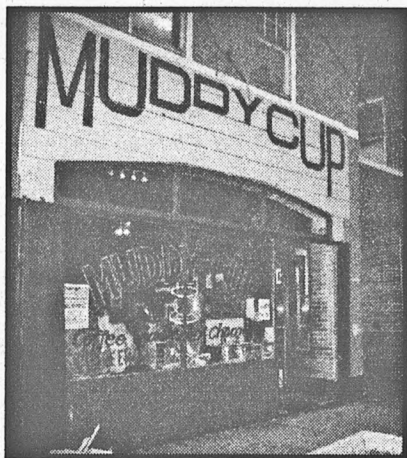
Seating is limited!

KAPLAN

1-800-KAP-TEST
kaptest.com/testdrive

Mochachino Kisses and a Bit of Conversation

Heather Keane



The Muddy Cup, located at 388 Van Duzer Street, is a dynamic haven for everyday citizens who just want a little relaxation and a good cup of coffee, or even a hot chocolate.

Average coffee shop? Think again Java Joe!

New coffee shop offers patrons music, poetry and relaxation

From the street, *The Muddy Cup* looks like any other coffee shop, but once inside you notice *something completely different*. Sure, there's furniture, a coffee bar - yada yada - but what you don't see are the freaky beatniks! That is, no finger snappers, no overly bohemian scrubs. Get this - there's *real* people there.

Self expression is free, and the caffeine reasonable. "It's a comfortable and friendly place," says armchair poetry enthusiast Robert Thomas. Every night *The Muddy Cup* features local poets and musicians. On Fridays

SI Outloud is a "community reading and performance program that gathers people of all backgrounds for the fun of reading aloud together." Each month a different short story or poem is presented, with emphasis on Staten Island's diverse population.

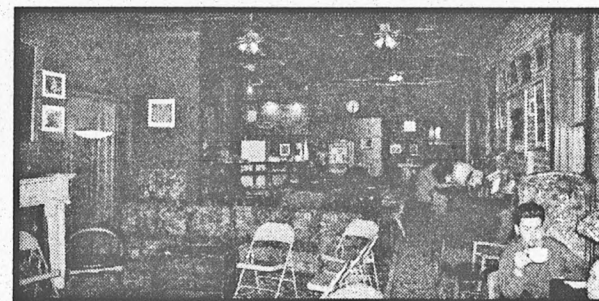
As an adult, and a college student, your first reaction might be to laugh at the thought of being read to. However,

once you are settled into an oversized chair with an oversized drink of your choice, the reading begins and you realize why you loved this so much as a child. As different faces and different voices tell tales that you would never have read on your own. You are free to close your eyes and simply enjoy. "The Muddy Cup offers people a relaxed social experience," said Gorrie, "and SI Outloud gives people a chance to enjoy literature for free."

At their most recent meeting SI Outloud read obituaries of the Staten Island residents who lost their lives on September, 11. They also read poems about loss and pain. "I don't feel that these are true obituaries," stated one reader, "they have by-lines, they are short stories, snapshots of wonderful full lives."

The Island was hard hit by the attacks on the World Trade Center. The Muddy Cup gives residents the place and SI Outloud gives them the freedom to vent their feelings in a way that is helpful to themselves and others.

"We don't have any places like this on the Island," said Shara Cox who lives nearby, "my husband and I go there all the time. The owners even set up video games for my son." Mrs. Cox also feels that the Muddy Cup has helped the neighborhood. "I can already see a difference," she said, "more businesses are opening up because of the success of the Muddy Cup."



Muddy Cup Photos: Jeff Gutkin

Movie Review

Hed @ Midnight in the Village

Kris Lo Presto

NYC February 8th

Hedwig, born a boy named Hansel in East Berlin, fell in love with an American G.I. and underwent a sex-change operation in order to marry him and flee to the West. Unfortunately, nothing worked out quite as it was supposed to. Years later, Hedwig is leading her rock band on a tour of the U.S., telling her life story through a series of concerts at Bilgewater Inn Seafood Restaurants. Her tour dates coincide with those of arena-rock star Tommy Gnosis, a wide-eyed boy who once loved Hedwig... but then left with all her songs.

Actor, writer and director John Cameron Mitchell stars as the internationally ignored songstress, *Hedwig*. Mitchell first created *Hedwig* along with composer/lyricist Stephen Trask. The character made her debut on the stage of Squeezebox, one of NYC's rock drag bars. After a few years of working out the kinks, "Hedwig and The Angry Inch" premiered Off-Broadway. The show received rave reviews, in particular Mitchell's performance.

February 8th was the first Saturday midnight gig it opened at the Screening Room. Some say that *Hedwig* follows the stringent Drag queen-movie-musical-policies paved by the Rocky Horror Picture Show, but *Hed Heads* know this

Hedwig the anatomically incorrect rock odyssey debuts at The Screening Room

criticism is lame because *Rocky Horror* is the one and only other glam-rock musical turned movie. From there the differences are remarkable: where *Rocky Horror* is absurd and raunchy, *Hedwig* is powerful and intense.

Mitchell, who was sporting a mohawk, gave the fans a chance to meet him and take pictures and autographs before the show. A number of the cast and crew were there as well.

The small intimate theatre had a *Sundance Festival* feel to it. Shaded lights, and deep mellow blue walls provided a real living room vibe - not to mention, there were only four seats per row. Tall ceilings let the atmosphere peculate rather than pop from the closeness. The floors weren't sticky, not yet at least.

"I'm a little nervous because I've never seen it before and all these people love it. What if I don't like it?" said New

Yorker, Karin Kempert. After the show Karin was blown away. "I must buy this soundtrack tonight!"

The film began not nearly loud enough. An audience member screamed, "Crank the f**ker!" and the motion was seconded, and eventually carried by a riotous group of fans. The crowd sang each and every song in sync with the film and applauded when each song ended.

The film is a favorite of area art students especially NYU's film students. *Hed* heads got movie soundtracks autographed by creators, John Cameron Mitchell and Steven Trask.

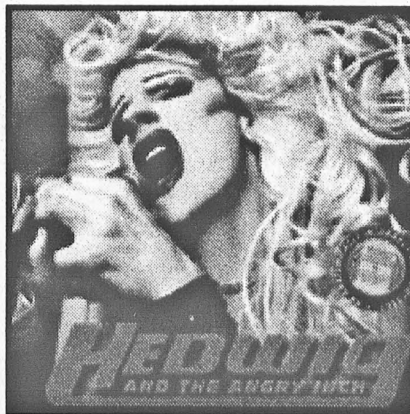
Trask made his film-acting debut in *Hedwig*. Trask was one of the original members of New York City's notorious Squeezebox house band. For five years

he performed with his band Cheater, who inspired the role of The Angry Inch off-Broadway and performed on the original cast recording.

"Origin of love", arguable *Hedwig's* strongest track, tells a the story of a loveless time, where all people had two heads, four arms and four legs. In the tale, Zeus splits the people (us) in two and we are left looking for our other half. The reason we have sex is that we're trying to shove ourselves back together and become one person again.

The restaurant has an off-beat vibe of its own. Pictures of old movie houses on the walls give off a juicy orange aura reminiscent of 1940's Hollywood. The help was curiously sympathetic - They knew in advance that the house would be packed and celebs would be on hand.

Hedwig is a true NYC staple, and her return onto the big screen is embraced warmly. *Hedwig* is best thing to return to NYC since porno shops. You are now able to get Hed on Friday and Saturday at midnight at The Screening Room. Go down and wig out with some great people and sing till your lungs bleed.



For The President, Shyness Is No Weakness

Sabrina Romano

*Suprisingly enough,
our Student Government
President didn't always
possess leadership qualities!*



Laura La Bega, 25, CSI's Student Government President. Photo: Jeff Gutkin

Have you ever felt that you wanted to make a difference in society, but didn't know how to do it? Our Student Government President decided that the only way to help out was by getting involved.

Laura La Bega, age 25, takes on more duties than one person can usually handle. Not only is she our president, Laura is also in a number of other CSI organizations. She's proud of how she and the rest of the government have helped our college.

As a Part-Time Commissioner, Laura and the rest of the Student Government are trying to help part-time students to get more classes open during the evening: "We're advocating for weekend, night and part-time students to get better programs, more opportunities for better times... There are a lot of students who work full-time and have a hard time getting classes around their schedule.

We're fighting for them to have more classes available during those times so that these students will have more choices."

Laura informed me that our school has fifty clubs! Student Government helps clubs have access to rooms, puts money in for food vouchers for members, helps them set up events, and even funds activities. Of course, if a club has any problems, they can always go to Student

Government for advice.

One of Laura's toughest jobs is to keep order during S.G. meetings. A fair president, she expects the rest of the Government to tell her all sides of all issues because everyone's opinion is important. She is also the voice of the Student Government when she speaks with CSI President, Marlene Springer, and Vice President Carol Jackson.

Laura wasn't always involved in stu-

dent activities. As a freshman, she was intimidated by the number of students. It was tough for a shy girl (we can all relate to that feeling of awkwardness during our first semesters!). Laura started to become more comfortable with speaking up about what mattered, mostly due to her managerial position at a retail store. Dealing with the public every day was enough to put her at ease at school.

Laura joined an acting class, then worked as a CSI Ambassador. She became addicted to becoming involved because of the great feeling it gave her. She saw results from what she was doing, and that gave her the ultimate satisfaction. When she became a part of the Student Service Commission, she fell in love with the politics. In 2000, she joined Student Government.

"I really felt that I could make a difference, and I know I have. I'm a team player and know that I've definitely contributed to getting things done here at CSI," Laura said.

Of course, there are stresses that Laura deals with at Student Government. "Sometimes there are differences of opinions. You can't take things personally when you're on Student Government. It's important to have alligator skin, to remember why you joined Student Government in the first place." To relax, she listens to jazz.

Laura feels this is an excellent experience! Not only has she made friends, she has finally overcome her shyness.

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BANNER SPORTS

AEROBICS: FEEL IT BURN BABY!



What are you looking at Punk? *Photos: Pamela Brady*



AEROBICS SCHEDULE

Debra Ercole

*Roses are red,
cows fly south in
December,
have you
ever
had a workout
you didn't
wanna remember?*

one side of the gym, so Rose's class was moved from where we usually meet. I followed the music around a corner onto the main floor to find Rose leading a modest congregation of sixty people," said Pamela Brady, a long-time disciple of *Crazy Rose*.

Rose's enthusiasm keeps the class motivated, while her scheme is designed to both sculpt, strenghten and tone the body, as well as to provide a safe, high quality cardiovascular workout. And enthusiasm is about all you need to start up. Apart from your spirit all the equipment needed to step the night away is provided for you at no cost.

What's more, the music really moves you. It can inspire even the most lethargic and timid. You could say Rose's got the back breaking beat you just can't lose.

SCHEDULE INCOMPLETE

FOR DETAILS PLEASE CALL

THE RECREATION CENTER

@ 718-982-3134

TIMES	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Early Morning	X	X	X	X	X	Step (Daniel) 9:00
Miday	X	Step 12:30	Body Sculpt 12:30	Hip-Hop 1:45	ROSE 12:30	X
4:15-6:15	Step/Tone (Anita)	X	Step/Tone (Anita)	Yoga 4:45	X	X
5:00-7:00	YOGA 4:45	STEP 5:30	Easy Stretch 5:30	Aqua Aerobics 5:00 & 7:00	Stretching (Kathy) 5:00	X
5:00-5:45	Aqua Aerobics 5:45	Yoga 5:30	Body Sculpt 6:15	Gentle Yoga (Randy) 6:30	X	X
5:30-6:30	ROSE 5:30	ABS (Marianne) 6:30	X	Salsa! (John) 6:45	YOGA & TAI CHI (Leroy) 6:00	X
5:45-6:30	Aqua Aerobics 5:45	X	X	Kickboxing (Cliff) 7:45	X	X

"Only someone who has taken her class can understand why we call her *Crazy Rose*," said one panting stepper. Could it be that Rose Cahill is CSI's best kept secret?

No.
"They were holding softball practice on

Dolphins Headed for East River

CSI loss leaves Fins tied with Cougars for top seed in the CUNY conference

John Palermo

After losing three out of their four last games, including a heartbreaking 73-71 at the hands of Medgar Evers, the CSI Men's basketball team is stumbling into the CUNY Tournament.

After falling behind their cross-CUNY foes by 18 at the half, the Dolphins surmounted an amazing comeback. With 3.4 seconds left, Champ Albano hit an incredible, off-balance three to bring the Dolphins within one. CSI was forced to foul with 2.6 seconds left; one of two free throws was hit. After rebounding the second attempt, Kassim Nesbitt was unable to get a shot off and the Dolphins comeback fell short.

CSI has two games left before the playoffs. At 17-6 and 8-3 in the conference, the Dolphins can still capture the top seed in the CUNY tourney. Despite their late season woes the Dolphins are ranked number two in the latest NCAA Division 3 Atlantic Region Poll.

The fins started the season at the Alvernia Tip Off tournament with the Midas touch, and turned in an incredible run. After such a start, the Dolphins were due for a belly flop. But they've picked the worst time.

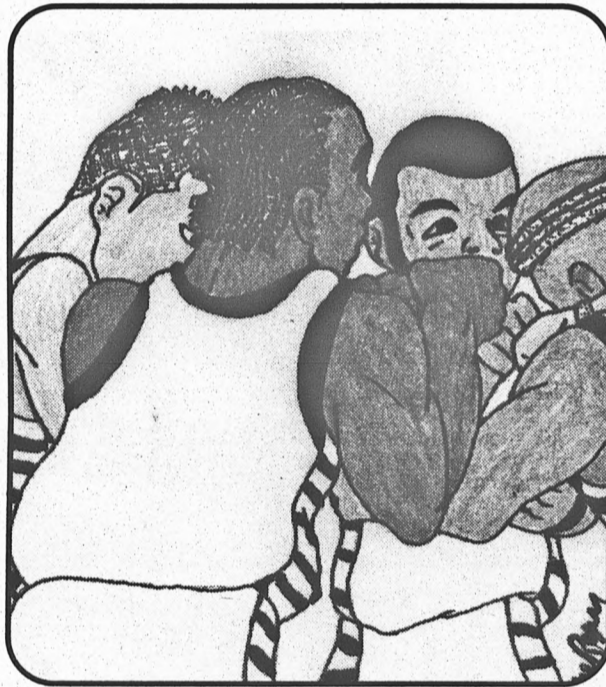
The Dolphins stand tied with Medgar Evers for CUNY's top spot. With two games left, one in the conference and one against SUNY Purchase for their final home game of the season, CSI has to make a strong push toward the post-season, and not stumble.

Kassim Nesbitt, a senior forward who did not start against the Cougars due to shoulder problems, said the team had a great first half of the season, but then began to suffer from mental lapses.

"We need to be a better practice team," Nesbitt said. He believes their early successes might have gone to their heads. "We have to hungry again. We will pull it together."

Champ Albano, another senior and the starting point guard, believes the team never felt down in the loss to the Cougars.

"The seniors on the team have made it fun" said Albano, referring to Kassim Nesbitt, David Paul, Eric Andres and Mike Alfieri. "We spent three years together, and I want this year to be special." Albano feels the team can pull out of the slump they're in. He loves playing for the Dolphins despite their misfortunes of late.



"FINS ON THREE"

Head Coach Tony Petosa knows his team is struggling, and feels they must get it together before the CUNY Tournament starts.

"We have two games to get back on track before the playoffs." What hurts the team is the fact that there are five seniors and four freshmen, and not a lot of middle classmen to help lead, said Petosa.

The Dolphins are going to the playoffs. Where they're seeded has not yet been determined. Having five seniors on a team is rare in college hoops. So, with two games before the CUNY Tourney, the Dolphins will hit the practice court looking to turn it around and get back the magic they possessed earlier in the season. But the strategy has to be simple: JUST WIN.

RESULTS

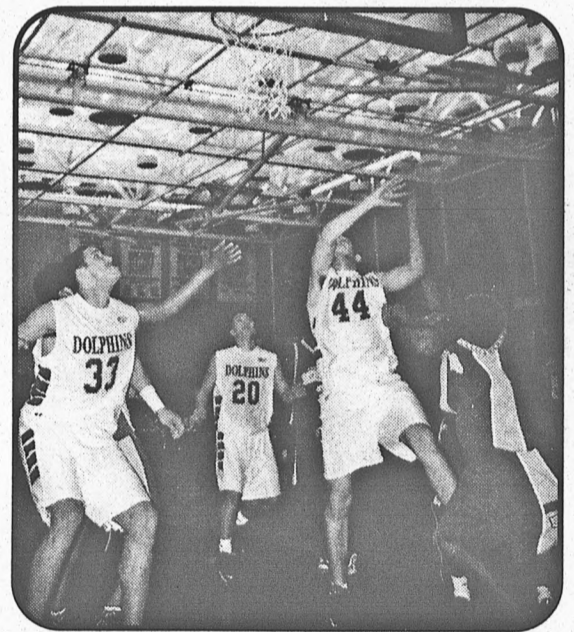
CSI vs. York

57 - 52

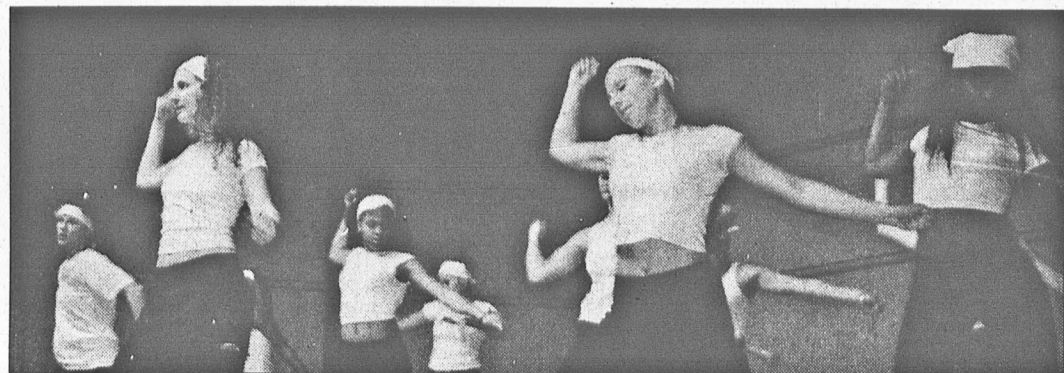
CSI vs. SUNY Purchase

92 - 56

Two more wins! Go Dolphins!!



Now they must regroup. Photo: John Palermo



At the games, be sure to catch the dance team