

THE BANNER

April 10, 2006

Legislators, NYPIRG Defeat Tuition Hike

David Maltz

When Governor Pataki created his budget for the next fiscal year, it called for a \$300 per year tuition increase for CUNY Students. With help from NYPIRG and Staten Island's New York State legislators, the tuition hike was avoided, and CSI will receive an additional \$9 million next year, pending the governor's approval.

"CSI is one of the most valuable resources we have on Staten Island," said Assemblyman John Lavelle in a statement. "It provides a first-rate learning environment right in our backyard. I'm happy that this budget realizes its worth to Staten Islanders."

In previous years, the legislature has allocated CUNY the money it asked for, but the governor refused to approve the funds, particularly when it comes to capital funds, which are used to build and maintain buildings. The lack of adequate capital funds forced CSI to divert money from personnel funds in order to make urgent repairs. "This will be the first time in CUNY History that we received everything we asked for in total funds," said Angelo Aponte, CSI Vice President for Finance and Administration. "It's historical and monumental."

Faced with a need for money, CUNY came up with a concept of

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CSI's Gay and Lesbian International Students Scared to Go Home

Raphaella Moueli

America. The land of freedom, new experiences, and new opportunities. It can be new cultural experience indeed, when it comes to words like gay, lesbian or bisexual so common in the American vocabulary.

Homosexuality raises eyebrows among international students. They are curious about something they are not accustomed to, and feel embarrassed to actually enjoy a same-sex relationship.

Nevertheless, they also feel fear. Not only the fear of being rejected by their communities in the US but the reac-

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A Voice Behind The Wall

By Vanessa Leigh De Bello



A Look at Life Inside Willowbrook

When I was a little girl, I asked my mother where she grew up. "Willowbrook State School," she said. That was the first time I heard its name.

At the time my mother didn't divulge a lot of details. I sensed the sadness that loomed over the mention of it. I wanted to know something about her biological parents and grandparents, and how she became an orphan.

Built in the 1930's, Willowbrook did not open its doors to the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled until the early 1950's.

For more than 40 years, Willowbrook attempted to serve the disabled community. However, with its gross overcrowding and lack of staff and proper funding, it has since been established that institutional style care does not allow individuals to flourish.

As mentioned in an open letter to The Banner, printed Jan. 30, 2006, by staff and students, it is essential that the truths about Willowbrook be spoken of and remembered. In their letter, they proposed that an adequate memorial be established on CSI's campus. In Professor Goode's Feb. 06 interview with The Banner, he stated that many of the issues relevant to understanding Willowbrook are relevant to a range of disciplines represented on our campus

and therefore "if it is forgotten, it is the best way to assure that Willowbrook will happen again."

Willowbrook was an amazing place, none like it before and hopefully none like it again. Fortunately, voices from former residents can still be heard. Voices, like my mother's, to tell us what it was like, what it did right, and where it went wrong. They remind us that everybody has value and feelings, even if they can't articulate words, read, spell their name, or have no parents to love them.

The following is a creative non-fiction piece based on numerous interviews with my mother and my personal research.

This story takes place on a Sunday in 1964 in Building 21- 30 years later, it became Building 2S. At the time, my mother was 11, and had been at Willowbrook for almost 10 years.

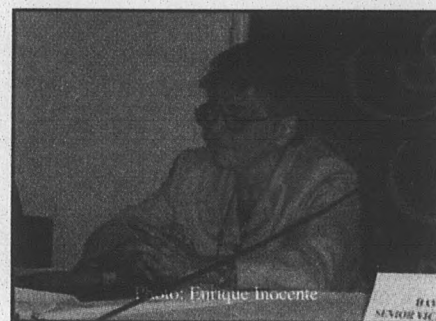
This is where my mom grew up.

Get up," the attendants shouted. "Get out of bed." They switched on the lights awakening us from sleep, from dreams. Our sweet dreams—our only chance to experience a different life from what we knew

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Lack of Student Attendance Turns Town Hall Meeting Into Embarrassment for Complainers

PRESIDENT SPRINGER
WAS THERE.
WHERE WERE YOU?



Melissa Secharan

In the first Town Hall Meeting of 2006, CSI President Marlene Springer and her administration outnumbered students who attended the open event.

Dr. Springer opened the meeting with remarks covering everything from the \$9 million CUNY budget cap to the moving forward with dormitories to the new CUNY system of budgeting which will partly come from tuition and private funding. "This is a new ball game," said Dr. Springer. "Our goal is \$10 million, and it will take a lot of hard work. I appreciate the support you can give."

The importance of improving how

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\$74,000+ Closer to a Cure for Cancer

Khadijah Rentas

A few minutes after 5 p.m. Baruch's gym looked unpromising. 117 tightly fit rectangles taped onto the floor had not been filled by the 600 students expected. Less than a 100 students set up their team sites in the gym. Shivanie Latchman walked around hectically. She expected more people by now.

In the next 60 minutes the gym transformed. From sprinkled with people to full of anxious young college kids prepared to spend the night at school. Sleeping bags, air mattresses and pillows made the room look like a giant bedroom warehouse.

Everyone had gathered in this place on March 31 to run, walk, skip, hop and jump laps around the makeshift square track that surrounded the pillows. They gathered to Relay for Life. The goal—raise as much money as possible for cancer



During the 13-hour relay at Baruch to raise money for cancer research, some tired students took a nap.

research through sponsorship and on-site sales and activities. The rules were simple. Each of the 59 teams must have at least one person on the track for the next 13 hours. The closing ceremony did not begin until 7:30 a.m., but when it seemed people might pass out at any moment, Latchman

put the microphone to her lips and yelled, "cancer doesn't sleep and neither should you!"

At 10 p.m. the lights went out. Green glow sticks inside white paper bags lined the track. At first, not everyone understood the gravity of the Luminaria Ceremony. People told to be quiet became silent as they read the names of loved ones on those paper bags. They walked solemnly on the track while they heard a montage of voices through the speakers explain why this event meant so much.

"I'm a cancer survivor and I relay for life."

Sha'ron Rudolph is lucky. A sophomore at City College, her doctor diagnosed her with jawbone cancer on Dec. 1, 2002. As the survivor guest speaker, she had to

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Dubya's Second Term Blues: Out of Political Capital, With Two Years to Go

Joe Tacapino

Watergate, Monica Lewinsky, and Iran-Contra: these three terms embody the downfall of 3 consecutive second term presidencies over the past several decades.

Although the historians have yet to unfurl the tenure of George W. Bush's second term, it is pretty safe to say that, on its current course, the affair is doomed to join the ranks of the aforementioned presidential debacles. There may not yet be one overall theme of Bush's second term so far, but there have been a series of missteps which have led to dismal approval ratings and have catapulted W. toward lame duck status.

When George W. Bush narrowly won the presidential election of 2004 he ambitiously claimed that he earned "political capital" and announced how he planned to spend it. The Bush presidency was a culmination of 3 decades worth of work from pundits, policy wonks, political action committees and right wing think tanks. The ultimate goal of this movement was to create a small, efficient government. Instead, the pinnacle moment for the conservative movement has been somewhat of a pyrrhic victory. The Bush Administration has proven to be anything but small government (large deficits) or efficient (Katrina) or even protectionist (lenient immigration policies) – to say nothing of the scandals and corrupt practices which have taken place.

One cannot assess the Bush Presidency without addressing the situation in Iraq. It has single-handedly weighed down W's approval rating and his second term agenda. Even his ambitious priority to revamp social security had to be scraped because of mounting concerns over Iraq and other matters. Whether you call it civil war, sectarian violence or ethnic strife, it is clear that Iraq has descended into a nightmare for the Bush Administration. The occupation has become a huge distraction from urgent domestic concerns.

Until a stable government is formed in Iraq our country will continue to lose more soldiers and deplete more resources.

Other than the Iraq War the roughest patches of W's second term have probably been the incidents where he seemed to anger his base -- the one constituency who has stuck with him religiously throughout his tenure. These two incidents were: the decision to appoint Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court and the defense of the United Arab Emirates port deal.

Harriet Miers was W's first choice to replace Sandra Day O'Connor, the moderate jurist on the Supreme Court. O'Connor position was coveted by the pro-life crowd because of her sympathetic views on women's rights and abortion. Also, she had been the deciding vote in many important 5 to 4 decisions, sometimes writing the majority opinion. When she announced her retirement the right wing saw it as their opportunity to re-take the courts.

The problem with Miers was that she had no track record. The Right wanted an established conservative jurist, a strict constructionist who would interpret the constitution as the Founders originally intended it: like Justices Thomas or Scalia. Bush's base was outraged by the Miers decision and he ultimately had to withdraw her name in disgrace. The spot is now filled by Justice Samuel Alito.

The Dubai ports deal was a second hallmark moment for W's second term. When a company owned by the United Arab Emirates took over a British outfit which manages US ports there was a huge outcry from politician and pundits from both sides of the aisle.

The UAE is sort of like an Arab Switzerland -- a small country which has found a few niche markets, mainly tourism and banking. The takeover was purely a business deal and should not have caused ire from anyone who knows a thing or two about international economics. However, this was an instance when W's simplistic rhetoric had come back to haunt him. For a president who speaks in terms of

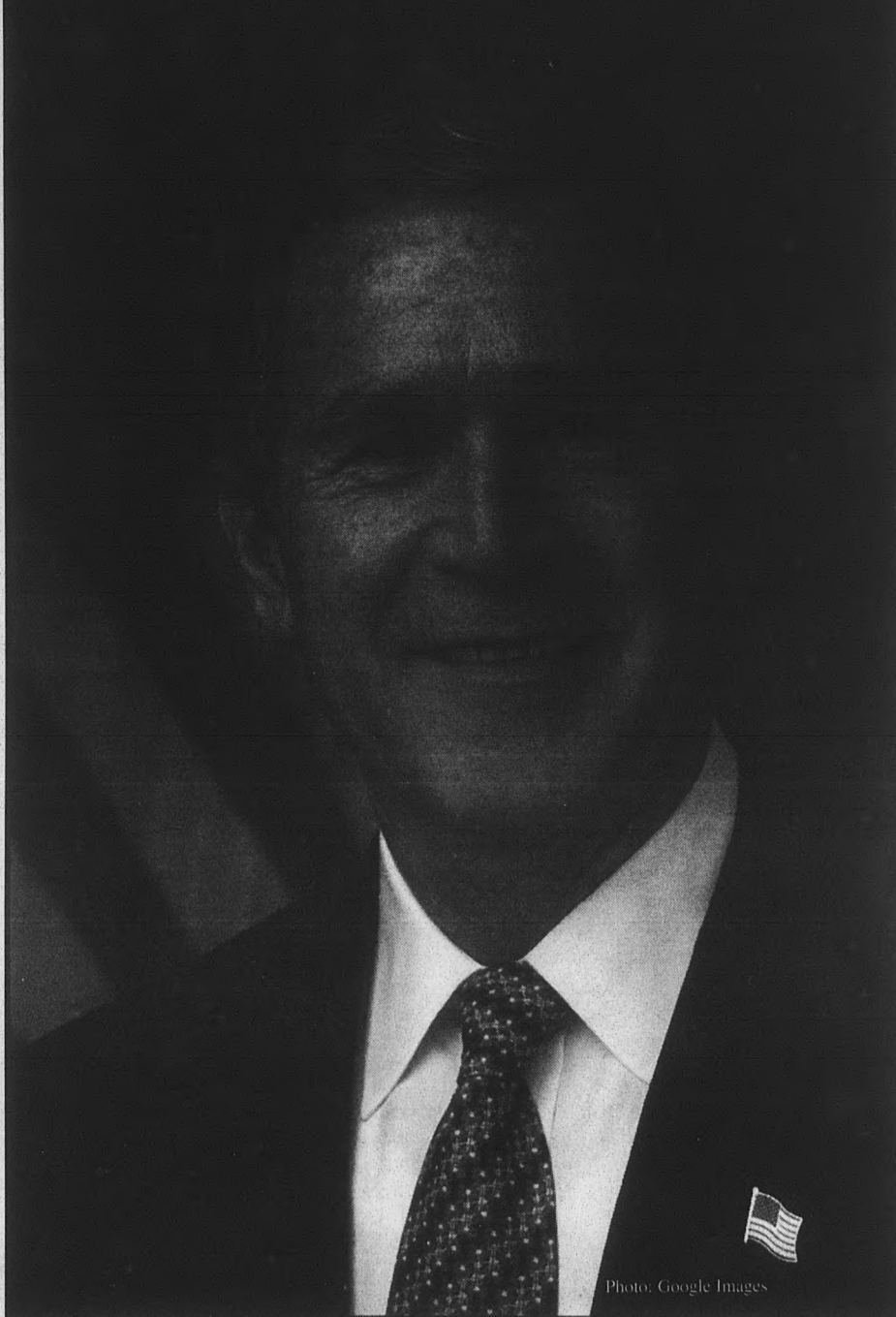


Photo: Google Images

black and white and good versus evil, this was a case where a major decision about national security was steeped in ambiguity.

The UAE happens to be one of the countries which the 911 commission cited as recognizing the Taliban and possibly even funneled moneys to terror groups. However, this is not surprising considering how they are a Mecca for banking in the Arab world.

What the UAE port really embodied was the prevailing xenophobia which exists within our country, particularly from the people on the right. The idea of an Arab company having anything to do with our internal affairs did not sit well with a lot of people and a compro-

mise was made – (the details of which are too complicated to get into, but suffice to say everyone was put to ease.)

George W. Bush still has two years to turn around his disappointing second term. The mid-term election will be a good indication of how the country feels about the current Republican majority. It will be interesting to see if Republican incumbents will adhere to defending the Bush doctrine or if they will distance themselves from his brutally flawed presidency.

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building to close. I have 19 plus safety concerns."



Vice President for Technology Systems Michael Kress, and Angelo Aponte, Vice President for Finance and Administration answer questions at the town hall meeting. So few students showed up that the meeting ended in 30 minutes. Photo: Enrique Inocente

Town Hall Meeting

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others perceive CSI was stressed, but with the few students in attendance the President's words were barely heard.

"Your degree and the reputation of the college is worth the work you put into it," she said to the few caring students in

the Green Dolphin Lounge. "Word of mouth and marketing are extreme-

The presence [of resident halls] will certainly elevate campus life, international students having difficulty finding housing won't, and we want to attract students who might attend SUNY or even those from around the country.

-CSI President Marlene Springer

ly important. The word has to get out and the only way is by your effort on campus."

The President's opening remarks were followed by a brief statement from Student Government President, Alex Mufel. Listing some of the group's accomplishments, Mufel urged the students to vote after the meeting, stating that it was the first time online voting was part of SG elections.

Despite the a handful of students

participating in the question and answer session, Dr. Springer along with Angelo Aponte, Vice President for Finance & Administration, and Michael Kress, Vice President for Technology Systems, answered questions ranging from extended club hours to recycling on campus.

The future of resident halls, which plan to house 500 students, was also discussed when student Dennis Gaffigan questioned the college's rationale behind the

buildings. "There are three motives,"

responded Dr. Springer. "The presence will certainly elevate campus life, international students having difficulty finding housing won't, and we want to attract stu-

dents who might attend SUNY or even those from around the country." Dr. Springer hopes it will differentiate CSI from other colleges.

When asked about the possibility of hosting the successful CUNY Relay for Life which took place at Baruch on March 31st and raised over \$74,000, Dr. Springer expressed concern.

"I appreciate all that was done," she said. "But I don't know about an overnight event. Baruch only has one

The issue of an outdated library information system was also touched upon. Dr. Springer acknowledged the out of date information found in the library, but noted that the library is also under funded. "The country is in that transition period from books to digital information," she stated.

Michael Kress also added to the library discussion. "The focus on digital books are hard to keep up," he said referring to the increasing prices of the material. "The best idea is to use the academic search engines on the library's website where you have access to thousands of journals and text. We're doing a lot better, but that doesn't mean we can't do more."

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Albany Comes Through

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small tuition increases with matching funds to be raised through donations, and the extra money collected would be managed by CUNY; previous tuition increases went directly into the state's general budget and there was no way to know how the money was spent. Governor Pataki and the state legislature were receptive of the idea, but according to Aponte, the legislature decided to make up for the needed money without raising tuition. The legislature also killed Pataki's planned restructuring of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), which would have required students to carry 15 credits a semester to be considered full time students (the current threshold is 12 credits). In total, \$768 million will be provided to CUNY and SUNY for capital projects, with another \$94 million in administrative aid

The college asked Staten Island's state legislators for additional money needed for renovations and expansion. "The legislators said we might not have asked for enough," Aponte said.

As a result, \$9 million extra was allocated; \$5 million was allocated for renovating Building 2M to create additional classroom space that Aponte claims is "desperately needed." \$4

million was allocated for various capital projects, and the college is still deciding how it will be spent, but at



"SUNY and CUNY students are the financial future of New York State. It's just not fair and it's unacceptable," said Juliet Di Frenza, pictured above.

least some of it will go towards repairs. "We have labs, classrooms, and leaky roofs that need to be fixed," Aponte said.

"We have to thank Assemblyman Lavelle and Cusick for the extra money," said CSI Director of Communications, Bob Huber.

Every year Governor Pataki proposes raising tuition for CUNY and

SUNY. What made this year's proposed hike different is that it called for automatic 4% tuition hikes every year, a condition that NYPIRG found particularly troubling. "SUNY and CUNY students are the financial future of New York State," said Juliet Di Frenza, NYIRG Coordinator at CSI. "It's just not fair and it's unacceptable."

She credits NYPIRG with successfully fighting the tuition hike. "It's because we fought against it," she said. "NYPIRG is really effective."

Sitting in her Spanish 213 class, Anna Freyman, expressed relief that the tuition hike was killed. "I think it shouldn't be raised," she said. "People should be able to afford to come here and get an education."

The new budget will not be considered final until Governor Pataki signs the budget into law, which is expected some time this week. He does have the power to veto the money for CUNY, but the legislature has the power to override his veto if two-thirds of the legislators vote to do so.

The entire state government is up for re-election this year, and Aponte appears confident that the money will be approved. "They don't want to come back to their constituents empty handed," he said.

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at the Institution.

An attendant stood over my bed wearing a white dress, white hospital shoes, and a white cloth hat. "Get up," she shouted. Her keys dangled.

When attendants told me to get up, I got up. Sometimes they'd blow a whistle in my face and flip my mattress if they thought I wasn't moving fast enough.

I rubbed the crust from my eyes and got up. Most days I had nothing to look forward to, just another day, waking to the same routine. Not today. One day a week, one chance, one opportunity for something different to happen.

I waited in line with the rest of the girls from my ward all of us wearing long white nightgowns. We each had one pair of clothes and shoes in small cubbies in a different room.

I was eleven years old and owned nothing. I had no perfume, dolls, toys or self confidence. I didn't have photos of my family, a favorite blanket or a stick of deodorant.

I was three when my parents left me at Willowbrook. My father later explained that he and my mother took me to a doctor because I wasn't developing normally. I was two and could not walk or talk.

"There's no hope for her," the doctor said. "She is not going to progress any further. I'm sorry Mr. and Mrs. Bernard but your daughter will not amount to anything. It would be better to put her away." Then my parents moved back to Oklahoma. My mother's bad heart. I never saw my mother again.

It was Sunday, visiting day, the one day Willowbrook opened its doors to the public. Since there were no telephones for the residents to use, the only advance notice of a visitor would be a promise from the previous visit, or perhaps a letter by mail.

The last letter I received was from my Grandmother who lived in Oklahoma. An attendant read it to me because I didn't know how to read. Her letter didn't say anything about a visit but that didn't mean she wasn't coming—she never did announce her visits. She'd just send a letter, ask how I was doing, to let me know she hadn't forgotten me. Along with the letter came a bag of M&M's.

Candy was rare. Ms. Jones, the skinny morning attendant, would give candy to some of the girls. It wasn't much, just some hard candy in shiny gold, green or red wrappers. We'd beg the other girls to share.

Lillian, the monitor at the front of the line, looked for our names on one of the cubbies.

"Name," said Lillian.

"Joan Bernard," I said.

Ms. Jones had made Lillian the clothes monitor. She was considered a smart kid because she didn't rock, bang her head, or drool. She spoke coherently, wasn't afraid to be pushy and had matching outfits. Ms. Jones gave her candy.

Lillian handed me my clothes.

"Next," she said.

I went back to the dorm where 70 of us slept. I walked down the long row of metal framed beds, each touching the other, counting them, until I found mine. Number 27, near the window. I sat on the bed carefully scanning the room to make sure I wasn't being watched as I slipped into my brown plaid pants.

The room brimmed with naked and half naked girls. Some fat with drooping breasts, pudgy knees and curly pubic hair. Blood stained maxi pads tossed on the floor. Others had no fat, hair, breasts or fear. I looked down. I was somewhere in the middle. I pulled off

single picture or painting hung. We lined up.

I could sit anywhere among the rows of tables and backless benches. There was an empty space between Alice and Rita. Rita had kissed James Gambarelli a few times. Rita said she liked James because he didn't have rotten teeth or bad breath and knew how to kiss. He did something with his tongue. Later, Rita got in a fight with Lillian because Lillian claimed James kissed her too. Rita slapped her. Lillian backed down. Since it was Sunday, no one was talking about boys.

As soon as each girl was seated, the two attendants handed out the food trays.

Sometimes we had toast for breakfast, which was the only thing that tasted good. Eggs, which we got occasionally, were watery. We never had pancakes or waffles.

"What's this?" Alice asked. I swirled my spoon in the heap of brown mush, bringing it to my mouth. I closed my eyes as I felt the lumpy mush slide down. I've had worse.

The room was quiet. The atten-

Then Ms. O'Reilly pushed her fat hand against the back of Jennifer's head into the plate of mush.

The room was silent. Mary Thomas, who sat next to Jennifer, wiped the slop from Jennifer's face with her dress. Jennifer grabbed a handful of mush and stuffed it in her mouth.

"Gotta eat," she said softly.

After 15 minutes, O'Reilly blew her whistle. "Time's up," she said.

Some hid leftover food in napkins, others in pockets. We piled the empty trays on our way to the day room, where Ms. Jones was reading the newspaper.

We didn't have any toys, books, paper and pencils to draw. To draw a dog, my father's house, my mother. Things I dreamt.

We did have a deck of cards. Some started to play. I was bored.

We didn't get to see boys often. Once a month, we were escorted to another building. Not everyone could go. The attendants picked who was allowed to attend. Only those who didn't rock, shake, bang their heads on walls and could talk in sentences.

Music was played, rock and roll.

Slow songs too. Willowbrook's American Bandstand.

I looked forward to going. To wear a blue dress, to wear my hair loose, to listen to music, to be noticed. I didn't have a boyfriend, although there were some boys that would ask me to dance. Steven Jacobs asked me once. He was considered boyfriend worthy because he combed his hair, buttoned his shirt straight, and didn't smell like he peed on himself. I hoped I would see him again and that he would remember me and we'd dance again. I wanted to feel his warm body and touch his black hair, as we danced to Elvis Presley.

Since it was Sunday, everyone was preoccupied with whether or not they were going to get a visitor. Some girls had visitors every week—mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, grandparents bringing clothes or candy.

"Hey Joanie. Think you'll get a visitor today?" Rita's twin sister, Hilda, asked. She had long hair, braided into two parts, and wore a brown pair of pants and a stained green blouse. Rita shuffled the cards.

"Joan?" Lillian said. "Joan?" I looked at Lillian, looking nasty. Her head cocked. "No one comes to visit her."

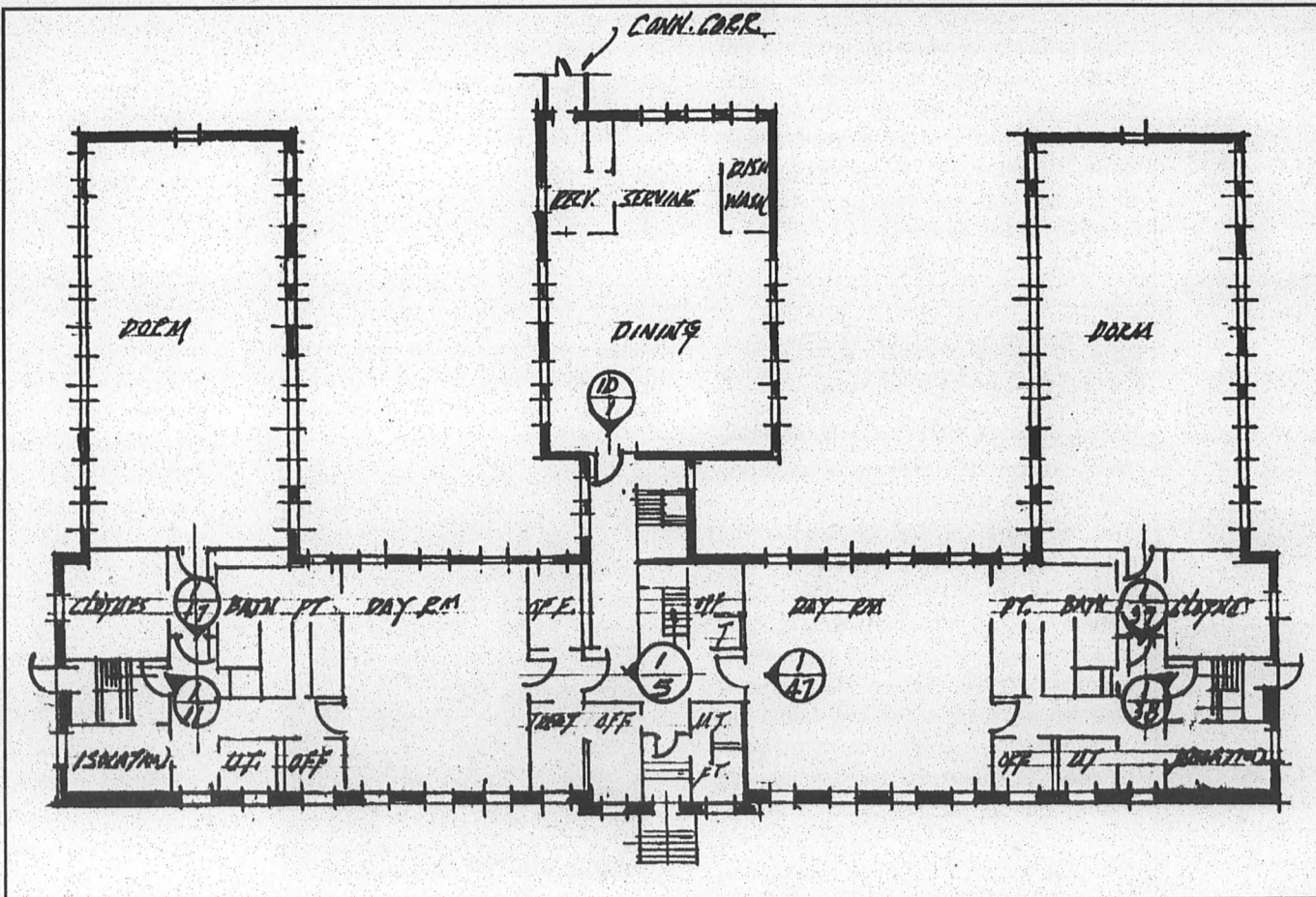
"That's not true," I said. I wanted to smack her. "My grandmother came a couple of times. And so did my father."

"Really?" asked Rita. "What was he like?"

"Handsome," I said. He had come to New York just to see me.

"When he visited, he took me to the commissary and bought me candy," I said. More candy than I could eat. And soda.

Rita leaned in closer, her eyes following my lips. Lillian stood back with her hand on her hip.



A floor plan sketch of Building 21, now 2S. The building was divided into four wards: a dormitory, day room, closet, shower & bath room and an isolation room, used during illnesses and for punishment. The dining area was a shared space by all wards. When constructing 2S, the dining area was knocked down, and is now the building's entrance.

my nightgown and held it over my bare chest. I grabbed my brown blouse and slid my arm through it, then the other. Two buttons were missing. I folded my nightgown and examined the stiff fabric—the letters B-L-D-G 21, W-A-R-D B stamped across it. The nightgowns all looked alike, couldn't tell one from the other and whether we got the same one back the following night, we'd never know.

Inside my sneaker was a pair of white socks. After I put them on, I folded each one down so they wouldn't sag. I stuffed my foot into the black lace-ups that came above my ankles.

Keys clacked in the hallway. An attendant stood in the doorway. Her fat body and straight, pursed lips intimidated me. Her name was Ms. O'Reilly.

"Breakfast," she said. "Line up." Her voice echoed through the hall as she rounded up the other girls. I tied my laces and tucked them in my shoes. We walked to the mess hall, a large rectangular room, walls white and bare. Not a

dants slowly paced. Rows of girls eating fast. Some with spoons, others with their hands. Talking would only slow us down.

"Quickly," the attendant said. "Eat quickly girls."

Jennifer Baker sat across from me. Her boney body rocking back and forth. Her hands twitched as she fed herself with her fingers.

"Gotta eat...gotta eat..." she mumbled. "Gotta eat...gotta eat..."

Ms. O'Reilly paced the walkways, examining our plates. She nodded as she passed by. Ms. O'Reilly stood over Jennifer and stopped.

"What's this?" she said. "Why aren't you eating?"

"Gotta eat...gotta eat," Jennifer said. Her body swayed harder. I shoveled more mush in my mouth.

"Well, this won't do," Ms. O'Reilly whispered, stroking Jennifer's head. "You're going to have to learn to eat faster." I looked at Rita, her body stiff as her eyes looked down at her plate.

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Letters To The Editor

From the Editor

It's finally here! Spring Break is fast approaching, a time for everyone to chill out before the inevitable end of semester rush to complete all those final assignments.

Here at The Banner, we're rolling out a few changes right before the break. From now on, you will see an e-mail address at the end of each article, so that you may contact the author with any comments/complaints/praise that you have.

All of these addresses will utilize CSI's CIX e-mail system. For those who are unfamiliar with the CIX system, every CSI student has an e-mail address issued by the college for the purpose of sending you important announcements, like grade posting notifications and registration appointments.

You can log in from any computer by going to <http://cix.csi.cuny.edu>. Your login name is firstname.lastname and your password is your date of birth in the mmddyy format. But don't worry you can send us messages from any e-mail address you want to use.

Have a great Spring Break, a Happy Easter, and a Happy Passover!

-David Maltz

Colleges Against Cancer

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tell an emotional story of her battle with and conquest of cancer. She stumbled a bit in her speech, trying hard not to cry. "You hear a lot about cancer every day," she said. "But you never think it'll be you."

The roaring applause that followed showed the immense support the crowd had for Rudolph. Her cancer has been in remission for two years.

"I relay for my grandfather who passed away before I ever got to know him"

Joshua Lunior wants to be a counselor when he grows up. A first year graduate student at Hunter College, Planning Committee member and friend, Long Tran, recruited him. Lunior did his part. He raised \$50. He walked the track. He introduced himself to strangers and made new friends. He balanced fun with his show of endearment to his grandfather, who died of cancer. "It's one thing to support something when there's a good cause," he said. "It's another thing to support something that has personally touched you."

"I relay because cancer affects us all"

Nick Romaczyk did not win the pie-eating contest. Even though the coordinators substituted pie with whipped cream, he still could not eat it fast enough. he

Re: Dolphins Defeat Mitchell College in Doubleheader

It was a pleasure reading about CSI's win. Starting their season at 1 and 2, I believed the baseball team was heading towards a dismal year. Now that they broke the 500 mark hopefully things will work look up with the talent this team has, along with the confidence of Coach Cali, the Dolphins may once again look like champions and win it all.

-Enrico Turchi

Re: Children's Center Provides Low-Cost Care

It's a necessity for the parents who are attending CSI. They don't pay an excessive amount of money for their kids' care. The parents also get piece of mind of not being too far from their children.

-Raphaella Moueli

It's a great idea to have daycare on campus for students attending CSI. It must be a large burden lifted off parents' shoulders to not have to worry about finding an appropriate and inexpensive child-care program. By the sound of the atmosphere, children and parents seem to be comfortable and satisfied with such a friendly environment.

-Lauren Demetrio

Re: Emotional Cheating

I agree that once you have thoughts for someone else your relationship is probably going to be over or you will never be truly happy if you stay in it. People grow closer and grow apart. Emotional cheating is definitely a lot worse because the person that is cheating on the two just gets more confused and in the end will be hurt regardless of who they choose. Being honest to yourself and who you're with is always the best outcome.

-Frances Mitis

Re: Colleges Against Cancer Comes to CSI

It is good to hear that CSI is holding this fundraiser that benefits the American

stood from the table and emerged from the crowd with whipped cream on his mouth, nose, cheeks and chin.

One student walked away from a lost dodge ball match with a bloody nose. Some paid for henna on their hands and arms while others sat for artists to sketch them. A pair of acquaintances played the couples game and lost. For three dollars anyone could play *Call to Duty* on any of the ten iBook G4's in the corner. The small gym across the hall hosted Mario Kart on a Nintendo 64 where even the security guard took a break to play a round with the boys. At Relay Idol, an American Idol spin-off, people sang a medley of tunes. Like the American Idol auditions, it was hit and a lot of miss with songs from Sisqo's 'The Thong Song' to Frank Sinatra's 'New York, New York'. The bachelor and bachelorette auctions reeled in the dollars with the 20-year-old co-chair from Hunter College, Christine Curella, sold for \$100, more than anyone else.

Cancer Society. Cancer is definitely a serious problem and maybe this can help with a cure. I know my mom would love a cure and so would my whole family. My mom has lung cancer and I know what it's like for families who are trying to deal with the sickness. I made a donation and I hope my fellow students are doing the same because every penny counts when it comes to helping with cancer. The more funding, the more research and maybe we will find a cure.

-Chris Bono

Re: CSI Students & Professors Analyze Nature

It was interesting to read about Dr. Burchsted's ongoing research of Staten Island's wildlife. It is important to study the vastly decreasing habitats of these creatures in order to discover new ways to protect them.

-Jacalyn Palmiotto

With the decrease in natural land on Staten Island due to over building, I am glad that CSI is doing their part to research the effects this will have on wildlife. It is important to remind students who are not native to Staten Island how much this borough has to offer and to lose.

-Donald Vroome

Re: March 24th Evacuation of the Children's Center

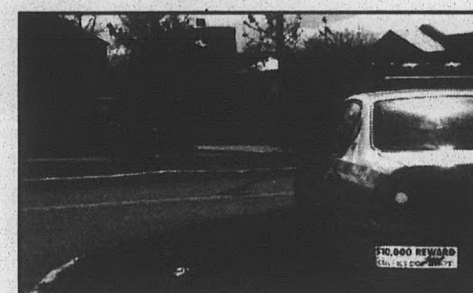
As a student and employee of CSI, as well as the mother of one of the workers who went to the hospital, I am extremely upset at the whole way this incident was handled. From start to finish, I believe it was handled poorly.

According to my daughter and another worker, the odor was discovered at 9:30am. It was described from the beginning as a chemical smell, and it was discovered before the staff started cooking pancakes. Buildings & Grounds was called to see if they smelled anything, and that was the extent of action taken until a father came to pick up his child sometime around noon. This father was a firefighter and knew immediately to call 911. As soon as the

FDNY arrived they evacuated the entire center. The evacuees included children from the ages of six months to five years of age.

I am upset that everyone in the center was exposed to some unknown odor for close to three hours, as well as the fact that these adults were then told that they were being affected by the smell of burnt pancakes. Pancakes that were cooked AFTER the smell was discovered, and pancakes that were not burned or exposed to maple syrup in the kitchen. This was also the explanation given to the hospital when a call was made to find out what these women had been exposed to. I think this school must look into the actions of those in charge, and find a better way to handle something like this if it ever happens again.

-Susan Chapman



FDNY, NYPD, and Hazmat team evacuated the Children's Center on March 5.

relay comprised of the extra \$15,000.

Another 20-year-old, Shivanie Latchman, co-chair of Relay for Life from City College, complained about her hurt feet, knees and head, with a smile on her face. She said she was surprised CUNY did so well. "Nobody raises \$15,000 in 15 hours," she said. "No one in their right mind would expect that." She predicted once all donations are completely tallied the number could reach \$80,000.

Latchman preached cancer education. She cited the dark statistics that cancer could affect 1 in 3 women and 1 in 2 men but that the money raised would make a significant impact on cancer research. "It is important to me because I have family members that died and were diagnosed with cancer," she said. "And it is a disease we can prevent if we educate ourselves."

Relay for Life represented an event to honor those that have suffered from cancer. But the event coordinators wanted to create an entertaining evening, too. Romaczyk participated in the relay last year, the first year hosted at Baruch. "I had a lot of fun," said Romaczyk. "As a college student I don't stay up late at night as much as I should and this is a good reason to do so," he added. "It makes me feel good, but I don't know how walking around a track all night will cure cancer."

"I relay because I can, I care, and I know"

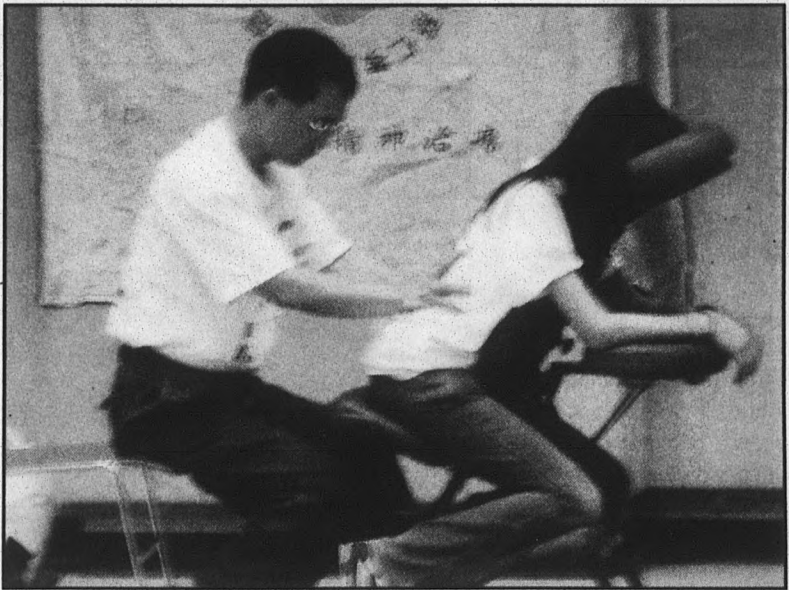
Sponsors donations help cure cancer. Prior to the event, students raised \$59,000. Google donated \$15,000 and Deloitte \$8,000. Office Depot will match one team's amount. Kool Blue delivered free sandwiches.

15 hours later and the relay complete, the total raised grew to \$79,000. New registrants, late donations and sales during the

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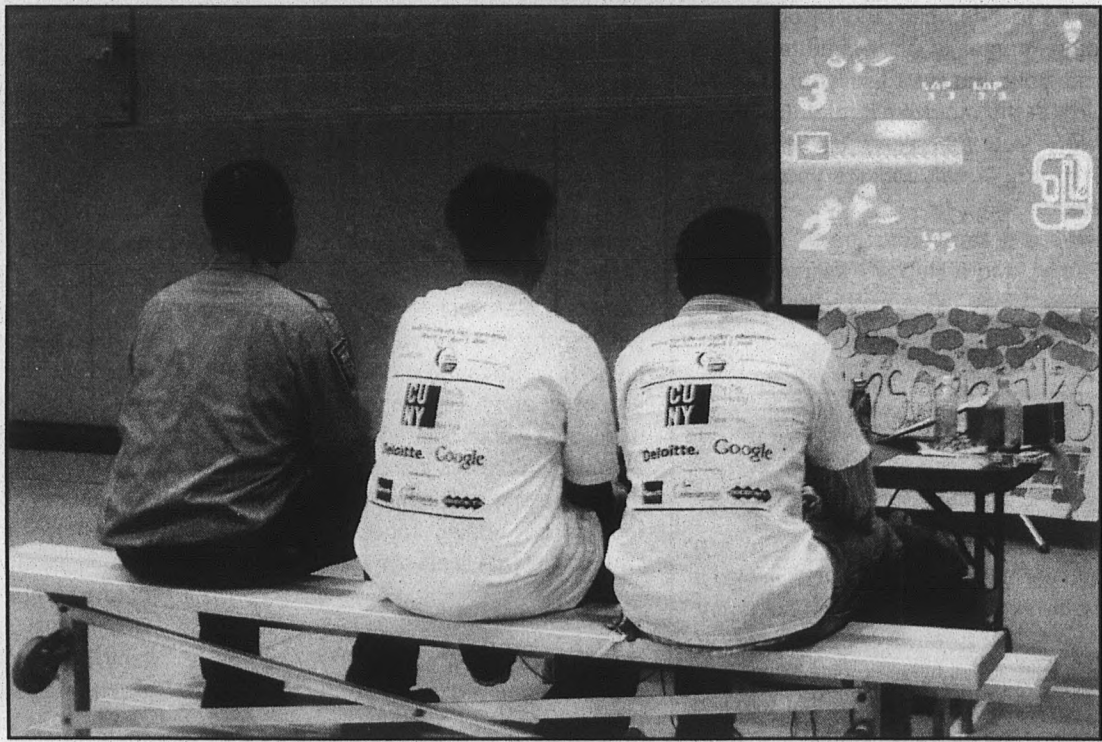
Co-chairs of the event, Shivanie Latchman and Christine Curella, struggled to stay awake after 15 hours of relay.



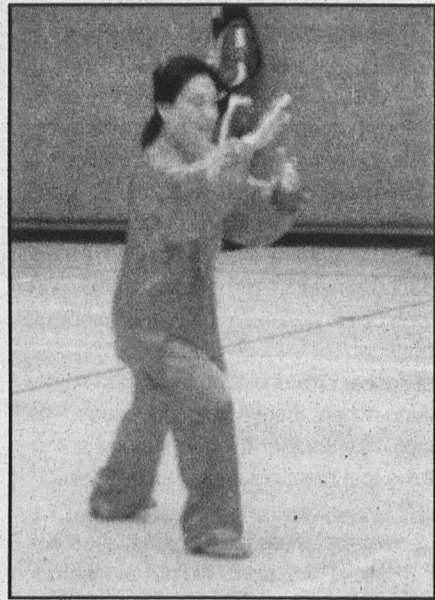
Students received free massages in the gym to relax and stay up the entire night.



Students paid \$3 each to play *Call to Duty* during the event. Proceeds went to cancer research.



The Relay for Life planning committee offered dozens of activities to keep everyone awake, including Mario Kart on Nintendo 64.



Entertainment from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. ranged from Indian dancing to a lesson in Tai Chi.

2006 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Photos by AnnMarie Costella



Kushal Jain proudly presented his project: "Gini Coefficient and M20 of Galaxies and the Correlation Between the Two."



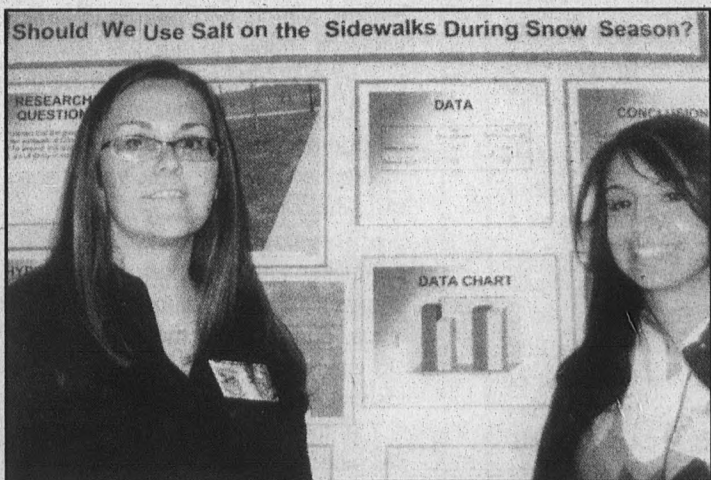
Mark A. Stroud believes that his study of: "Cotton Agriculture as a Cause of Desettlement in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta," can be related to the present day problem of outsourcing.



Andrea Batista greatly enjoyed learning about medieval history. She used this knowledge to construct: "An Original Adaptation of Christopher Marlowe's 'The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus' with a Concentration on the Developing of the Character Mephistophilis as the Protagonist and Tragic Hero."



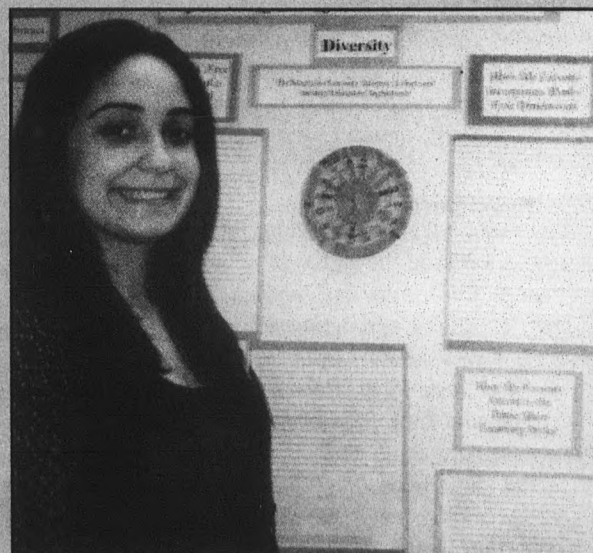
Lauren A. Tenneriello held the participation certificate she recieved for her work: "Sun Mingjin and Early Chinese Documentary Filmmaking."



Christine Hoffman and Vivian Lo answered the question "Should We Use Salt on the Sidewalk in Snow Season?" by testing soil samples on campus.



Acting Assistant Provost, Jonathan Stassi, enjoyed the conference.



Stacey-Jo Coccozza beamed with pride as she explained her research project: "Implementing Strategies that Address Classroom Diversity."

Undergraduate Research Conference 2006

AnnMarie Costella

Students gathered in the Atrium of Building 1P to proudly celebrate the research they had conducted with the help of their professors. 55 students (the most ever) representing 13 academic departments presented research projects on a wide variety of topics from science to the humanities.

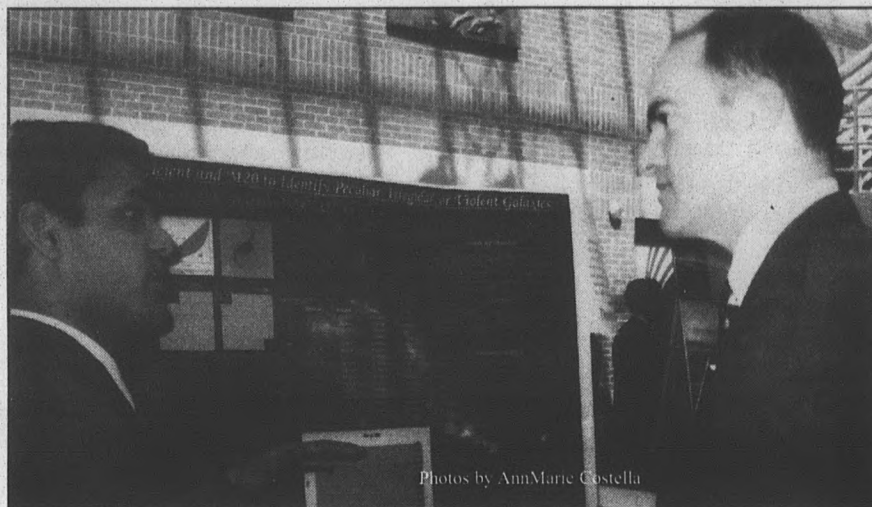
The Atrium was buzzing as participants eagerly discussed their work with interested passersby. They posed for photos with their professors and nibbled on cookies and punch. Acting Assistant Provost, Jonathan Stassi was pleased

with the complexity and diversity of the presentations. "I am really impressed with the genuine excellence of what we have here today," he said. "It just demonstrates that students can get a great education at CSI."

Student, Kushal Jain had always been interested in astronomy. He began his ongoing project "Gini Coefficient and M20 of Galaxies and the Correlation between the Two," last summer, under the supervision of Professor Charles Liu. "Professor Liu was great, whenever I ran into trouble he encouraged me to try all the possible resources that I could," said Jain. "Even when I felt like I was at a dead end, he would help me move forward."

Education major, Christine Hoffman

along with partners Vivian Lo and Michele Ferrara were inspired to create a simple and practical way to teach grammar school children how to apply the Scientific Method to solve everyday problems. Their project: "Should We Use Salt



Student, Kushal Jain, explains his research to Acting Assistant Provost, Jonathan Stassi.

on the Sidewalk in Snow Season?" examines the effects that a high PH level can have on soil. The group wanted to find out why the grass on campus was not growing near the walkways. They considered several possible explanations such as poor planting and high traffic, but after testing the PH levels of healthy versus poor soil samples, they determined the lack of growth was due to salt use. "We came up with some alternatives that landscaping companies could use like sand or salt substitute," explained Hoffman. "President Springer was pretty impressed with the idea, so we are going to send her our conclusions. Hopefully we can make the campus better and nicer to look at."

Stacey-Jo Coccozza, an Education major, found the conference to be an exciting and rewarding experience. Her project entitled: "Implementing Strategies that Address Classroom Diversity," explored the works of several scholars such as James Banks. "Multi cultural education helps students understand their similarities and differences," she indicated. "This research will be very helpful to me and my future students as I pursue a career in elementary school teaching."

Every student who participated in the conference received a certificate, but the projects were not judged nor will winners be chosen as had been done previously. Several students who are on the Undergraduate Research Conference Committee decided to do

away with the practice because it made the event seem like: "a high school Science fair."

Acting Assistant Provost Stassi, who will be returning to the faculty as an Associate Professor of History in the fall, indicated that he will encourage his students to participate in future conferences. "It's a lot of hard work, but the benefits are just tremendous," he said. "You will never learn your subject better than when you are involved in doing research. These projects are going to be ten times more memorable than lecture or class you take."

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International Students- Continued from Page 1

tion they would about coming out in their own countries. For some countries, being homosexual is just a crime.

A survey conducted online shows that the majority of gay international students in the US would reside here after graduation. Their decisions to stay are based on the feeling that their sexual orientation would be more accepted here than in their home countries.

A gay Egyptian student from the CSI talked about her experiences. "I am still trying to hide my sexual orientation from community," she said. "Coming from a Muslim country, you do understand the pressure I am under."

"I have a girlfriend but in my community, but I present her as a friend," she continued. "I do feel that I am betraying her because it's like I am ashamed of her and the feelings we have for each other." Many gay international students live in fear to go back to a less gay-friendly country. They feel like they have betrayed their nations and their parents by leading a double life. "When I go back home I will have to choose between being true to my lesbian identity or dumping it as soon as I step in Egypt," the CSI student continued.

After college, many young men start relationship with females. They show the world they are entirely committed to their heterosexual relationship when deep down they are having affairs with men.

"When I found out that my boyfriend was having a relationship with a guy, I was crushed," said a Nigerian student at CSI. "He knew that this kind of relationship was not viable in Nigeria."

When the Nigerian student faced the situation, it made her doubt herself. "I was trying to reason why my boyfriend of four years was attracted to men," she said. "Was that because of me? So many questions, so little answers."

"I was thinking by sticking by him and loving him he would forget being gay," she continued. But you can't forget who you are." The CSI student eventually ended the relationship and her boyfriend finally came out in his community. Nonetheless, he refuses to go back to Nigeria because he is afraid of what will happen to him.

In the end, international students are confronted by two main issues: change and true identity. The change of starting a new life somewhere seems overwhelming.

The students are away from their parents and have a chance to be true to themselves. They enjoy new relationships, and feel like they belong in the US where they can be true to their real identity.

In their countries, homosexuality is still taboo. It makes you less than a man or a woman. Gay or bisexual international students choose to stay in the US in the hope to develop happy relationships.

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Former Drug Dealing Street Thug Salvation

Thomas Bradley

On April 6th Chi Alpha, a Christian group on campus, invited guest speaker Sal V. to present his life story to a group of students, some of whom actually knew him. The dynamic personality standing before those who attended the speech was a former drug dealing street thug who, upon hitting rock bottom, turned to the teachings of Jesus Christ for direction and purpose.

"You might not share my story," said Sal as he addressed the group of about 40 students. "But I know our feelings of hurt, pain, loneliness, and depression are the same. I was always trying to find meaning." Sal went to St. Peter's Boy's High School and had admittedly loving parents present throughout his adolescent life. Yet, Sal found himself living as most teens do, changing "who" he was from group to group, trying to blend in with those around him at any given moment. With an addiction to cocaine by his freshman year in high school, Sal was at the whim of those forces that shape our lives and compel us to act in certain, sometimes self-destructive, ways.

The craziness of his lifestyle picked

up steam as he grew older and bolder, taking on more habits and becoming intensely confrontational. "My whole facial expression has changed," said the youthful, confident young man speaking in a loud, convincing tone of his transformation. "I know seeing me, and what I look like, makes my story hard to believe but it's real." This idea of what is actual real and what is fleeting and false is one that brought Sal to his moment of spiritual realization.

As he became more involved with the using and selling of drugs, Sal ventured into dangerous territory and was almost lost in the wilderness of his own untamed behavior. Long braids covered his head, one outfit to his wardrobe, kicked out of his house and abandoned by his friends, Sal stopped dead in his tracks one day. In front of Clove Lakes Park, Sal looked to the sky, palms turned upward and held out, his face wearing an exhausted expression, Sal asked, "are you real?" Probing the heavens for a response amid the daily activities of Clove Road may draw some negative attention from passers by, but Sal had reached his tipping point and was ready to accept help from a faith he'd all but abandoned while

living his old lifestyle.

"It's not tangible but God let me know he was real," said Sal. "All these things had been distracting me in my life. I called on God's name and he saved me." Sal expressed a notion that he wasn't trying to make his audience into avid churchgoers or engage them in religious chanting, as he knew the negative stigma these things possess in our society. He simply wanted to extend the invitation to spirituality he felt had been given him that day in front of the park.

His story was heartfelt and enthralling, convincing his audience that he was, in fact, real. Sal V., which bears a visual resemblance to "salvation", was an excellent example of what salvation and Christianity can mean. Sal was delivered from a way of life that was fruitless and depraved. His following the teachings of Christ, as a system of living, have led him to a mediated and positive frame of mind. His experience shows the power freely choosing one's moral code can have and why thinking people everywhere should consciously pursue their own, individual quest for happiness.

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A Voice Behind the Wall

-continue from page 4

He took my hand and held it as we walked on the lawn.

"I have a nice house," he said. "It's yellow with a big porch." I could see myself there. Waking up to the sound of my father's voice. Eating cereal for breakfast, like a normal kid. It was where I belonged.

"Your Grandma and Grandpa don't live far either," Dad told me. "When you come live with me, you could visit them and play with their dog." I didn't want him to stop talking.

The room got silent. Ms. Jones had stood up again. She was about to call another name. I knew it was my Dad. He was back. He was going to take me home. I saw him standing in the grass. He smiled at me.

"Jennifer Baker," said Ms. Jones. "Jennifer Baker, you have visitors." Everyone looked at Jennifer.

"Me?" she said, hand on her chest. Her foot, tangled in the chair as she stood up and she fell.

I went to the window and sat in one of the bulky green chairs. I rested my head on the sill. The wind blew as red, orange and yellow leaves fell to the ground and I wanted to touch them and smell the dandelions and put them in my hair.

"I'll be back for you darling," my father said. "You just wait," he said. He stroked my hair and kissed me good-bye.

I sat back in my chair and looked at the other patients playing with their mothers and fathers on the grass, eating candy, drinking soda.

"Joan...Joanie," said Hilda.

"Yeah," I said.

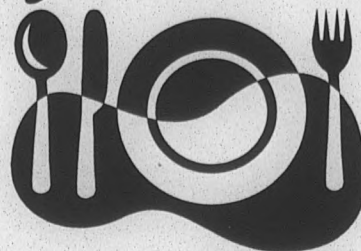
"Wanna play cards?"

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College of Staten Island

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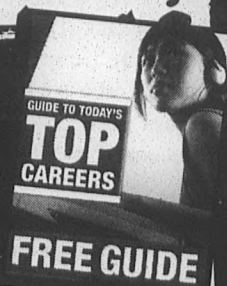
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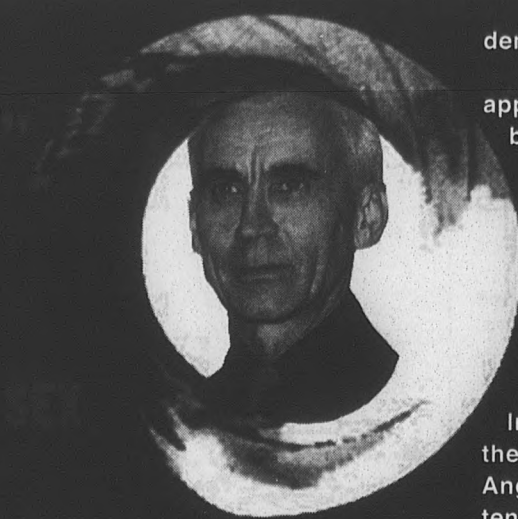
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007⁺

Famed filmmaker Lee Tamahori, 55, who directed "Die Another Day," "XxX: State of the Union," and "Once Were Warriors," was arrested on Santa Monica Boulevard on January 8th and charged with soliciting an act of prostitution and loitering with the intent to commit prostitution. Tamahori was

dressed as a woman, wearing make-up, a black evening dress and wig, when he approached an undercover police officer and offered to perform sex for money. The LAPD says the bust was part of a prostitution sting they were conducting in the area. Tamahori faced up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine if convicted of the mis-

demeanors.

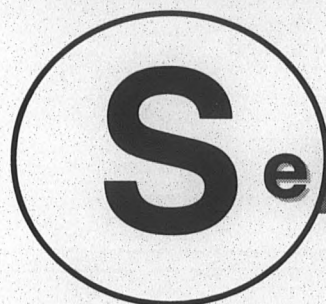
Tamahori was scheduled to appear in court on February 24, but did not attend the hearing. Instead his attorney Mark Geregog and Los Angeles City prosecutors worked out a plea bargain deal. Tamahori pleaded no contest to criminal trespassing and in exchange authorities dropped all other charges against him. In light of the fact that this was the director's first offense, a Los Angeles criminal court judge sentenced him to three years probation and ordered him to attend an AIDS education course. In addition, Tamahori must perform 15 days community service for the Hollywood Beautification Project. "It is a project where convicts clean the streets in Hollywood and paint out graffiti," explained Los Angeles Attorney spokesman, Frank Mateljan. "He will not be

able to loiter, congregate in alleys, or accept rides with the intent to engage in prostitution."

According to the New Zealand Press Association, sources close to Tamahori say that he enjoys dressing in latex and often visits fetish clubs, but has never indicated a sexual attraction to men. "He definitely likes the alternative side of sex with black latex costumes, uniforms and so," said one friend. "He is a really professional director and his fetishes never spill over into his work. He is very well respected in Hollywood."

Tamahori is scheduled to direct an upcoming Science Fiction film entitled "The Golden Man," starring Jessica Biel, Nicholas Cage, and Julianne Moore. He has declined to comment about his arrest, but did tell reporters: "My private life is my own business."

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Anne Marie Dooling

Sex and the Island



Genital Modification

The push for us women to change our bodies is all around us. I'm not saying this doesn't happen to guys as well, but with women, it's very intimate. We are plastic surgery's greatest clients. Our bodies are constantly a center of attention. When we feel like pieces of ourselves are just not good enough anymore, or when we feel like we need a change, what are the first body parts to get the knife? Breasts reduced or enlarged. Tummy and hips, lipo, tucked, cut away. Thighs shaped and trimmed. Even with the many facial surgery's people get, the largest amounts still occur in these areas, which are key factors in attracting men. However, many people who actually get plastic surgery always claim it's for them. "This is for me to feel better," isn't that always what they say?

One of my favorite books from a Human Sexuality class I took in High School has a great picture that I will never forget. In black and white pencil drawing there is one American looking woman. Her hair seems to be long, straight and light. She is tall and thin, but still shapely in all the "right" areas. She is clad in a tight, tied up corset with bustier, and garter and stockings. Next to her is a Muslim woman. She is completely covered, and a Hijab is across her face. Neither woman wears an expression so it's hard to tell exactly what they're thinking. The text above them reads:

Which Woman is the Sexual Prisoner? It goes on with multiple choices. A. The Muslim woman... and before even reading the rest, I agreed. Oh yes, the Muslim woman. Forced to wear her headscarf, unable to express her sexuality in mini skirts or tube tops. Then I read on. B. Both. Both? What kind of trick was this? Why would they

both be sexual prisoners? I read on. C. The American. Ah, okay, there was the lesson, smart book. Even while glancing at the drawing I was ready to cast off the Muslim woman as a prisoner of her gender. After all, the life is forced upon her, right? She has no say in the decision to live that life? And the American woman is simply being herself, doing exactly what she wants to do, not acting in any way because of anyone else, right? Isn't that what we are told to believe, as Americans?

What woman reading this can honestly say you began buying expensive lingerie just for yourself alone- no man ever had anything to do with it- you just enjoy watching The Simple Life in expensive lace and stockings? And makeup? How does that Sephora credit card bill look this month to you, 'cause Paula Dorf now has my grad school payments. And how many of us have fought with good friends over a guy? And how many of us have moved, or changed our way of life because of a guy, even in the slightest way- maybe you stopped seeing certain friends, or something similar. Did that drawing imply that this American woman was sexually experimental because of all her sex gear or does it show that American women are just as susceptible to becoming slaves of sex as anyone else out there? Maybe even more so?

Forgive me for sounding like an ass for a moment, but I don't usually read the Staten Island Advance. While I think there is some interesting news, and good writing, a lot of it comes straight from the Associated Press, and I can just find that online for free, and leave the cash for my Sephora payments. However, last week I became a full-fledged garbage picker when I dropped off my recy-

clables in the compactor room of my building and saw- standing on top piles of other papers- a really good article in the Advance. Apparently the up-and-coming hot plastic surgery to get involves cutting your vagina into shreds and putting it back together again. The sole purpose of this, I don't know, but as one woman's comments lead me to believe, it has something to do with sex.

The three different types of female genital surgery, Hymenoplasty, Labiaplasty, and Vaginoplasty, all touted to make women feel more comfortable with themselves, sound more like ordeals those three kids went through in Hostel, and less like a way to be pure again. And while I can see serious uses for these procedures (ie- women with secretion issues, possibly someone who has been rapped, maybe even replacing a hymen to protect yourself, religiously) I can't help but be afraid that this will be the hottest trend in the search for guys. After all, the adorableness of my vagina has never kept me up at night, and any man who will sit, study, and critique your vagina will probably want to sleep with your brother, not you, but these are facts the surgical world wants us to forget. Remember? Bigger, better, thinner-go!

Hymenoplasty to intact the vaginal membrane and assist the client in reassessing her virginity, Labiaplasty to reshape the vaginal lips, or reduce excess skin, and Vaginoplasty to (ahem) correct stretched out muscles in the vaginal canal, remove excess and tighten and enhance the soft tissue surrounding the canal. If Vaginoplasty seems like a new, novel idea to you, you've clearly never had a child.

This procedure has been going on for ages and ages in delivery rooms, after

birthing. The doctor quickly stitches up the poor mother, knocked out from hours of labor, making her vagina suitable for sex again. The name of this outpatient procedure? The Husband Stitch. And in Japan, Labioplasty is a fairly overdone procedure that many women have come to want to correct. If you visit, and see Japanese women walking a little off it's because the former trend has not only reshaping, but shaping into objects. The most popular labial design? A "winged Butterfly," I'll let your imagination do the talking for that. And the biggest misconception about hymen reconstructive surgery? Many clients feel it makes you like new again, a virgin. This is especially problematic for those who go without regular STD testing. Boys, imagine being with someone who you understood was a virgin, then coming up with a sudden case of herpes.

And, I'm not the first in line at church every week, but there is a religious point to all of this that comes off completely sane, to me at least. As Reverend Carmen Ortiz mentioned in the Advance article "Purity is something you are born with. It cannot be substituted or replaced with surgery." Even though you may have a new piece of tissue at the opening of your most private of places, you've already been down that road. Nothing can take you back to a time before your first sexual encounter. No surgeon's blade is possessed with magic. Maybe after realizing this, we women can be more careful about what we do with our bodies, who we give them to, and how we treat them. We're only prisoners if we allow ourselves to be. There is a whole world to be explored through freedom.

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LYSISTRATA.

Review by
Kevin S.P. Mamakas

It turns out that The Center for the Arts does have an occasional event that the student population could enjoy. On the first Saturday performance, Lysistrata's staff added extra chairs to accommodate the large audience and President Springer.

The fake nudity, and the massive amount of cursing, it is definitely not a play that a child should be brought to.

In her first lead at CSI, Junior Dramatic Arts Major, Jill Ward takes on the role of the protagonist (maybe antagonist to the Greek men) Lysistrata. Her character figures out how to stop the peloponnesian war in Greece by convincing the women of Greece,

The female characters of the play identify feminism in that era by not having sex with the men at war. After a while of abstinence, all the men get unmanageable erections. This distracts the men from battle and forces them to form alliances and try to convince the women to have sex with them. The massive sex strike

may be a little hard to believe in the modern era, but the Ancient Greeks were sexaholics.

This play is a satirical comedy

For a large part of the play, the cast walks around nude. Actually, they wear nude costumes. The women have body suits complete with pubic hair, and most of the men's body suits were well equipped with at least a 12" penis. I give condolences to the one character that was well below average.

"There is nothing being done on stage tonight that would have even ruffled the feathers of the Ancient Greeks," director Lee Papa states in the playbill. "They were a phalloscentric culture (meaning they loved the penis), and so much of their art celebrated the phallus."

Unfortunately, there were some parts of the play that weren't too funny. For instance, it was ghastly when the lights dimmed and the characters took turns singing lines of Marvin Gayes' "Sexual Healing."

"The play is supposed to be funny," said actress Leticia Nazario, who plays Lampito. "We tried to make everyone laugh."

However, one of the most hilarious parts of the play was when the females take one of the penises of a man who gets on their nerves and start playing jump rope with it. Meanwhile, to symbolize the men's desperation to have sex, there were statues of blue balls.

The most disturbing part had to be when the mother of a character jumped on a character playing her son and started French kissing him to get the husband upset.

The ancient Greek comedy Lysistrata by Aristophanes, is being performed 8:00pm Thursday March 30 through Saturday April 1 and Thursday April 6 through Saturday April 8. "The cast and I decided early on that the motto for this production was 'War bad. Penises funny'," stated Papa. "We believe we have honored that dictum."

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WHAM! George Michael Arrested

Pop singer, George Michael, 42, was arrested on February 27 for possession of pot and liquid ecstasy. A bondage mask and sex toys were also discovered in the trunk of his car. Michael admitted that the drugs were his and plans to take full responsibility for his actions. He is scheduled to appear in court later this month.

Police found Michael disorientated and slumped over the steering wheel of his Mercedes at 1:50am in Hyde Park near London. "He was completely out of it. No one could rouse him," said a witness. "He was virtually unconscious. When the police came he could hardly speak." Michael was taken to a nearby police station for questioning and later released on bail. "I was in possession of class C drugs which is an offense," he said. "I have no complaints about the police who were professional throughout."

Many of Michael's close friends are worried about his mental and physical health. "George is in a strange place," said singer Elton John. "There appears to be deep-rooted unhappiness in his life." According to London Daily Mail newspaper, Michael is becoming increasingly depressed about his appearance and has admitted to smoking as many as 25 joints per day. He detests the fact that he isn't the young, attractive, heartthrob that he used to be. "Michael is relatively young and could look good if he tried," said reporter Natalie Clarke. "But he prefers to slouch around his palatial properties, stoned on cannabis, apathetic and lazy."

George Michael, born Georgious Kyriacos Panayiotou, is no stranger to controversy. In 1998, he was arrested and charged with engaging in a lewd act after he propositioned an undercover police officer in a public restroom in Los Angeles. "I have been through enough in 24 years of dealing with the media to know what I am in for from them this week," he said. "Much of it will be inaccurate or simply untrue. I can handle that, it is my own stupid fault, as usual."

-AnnMarie Costella

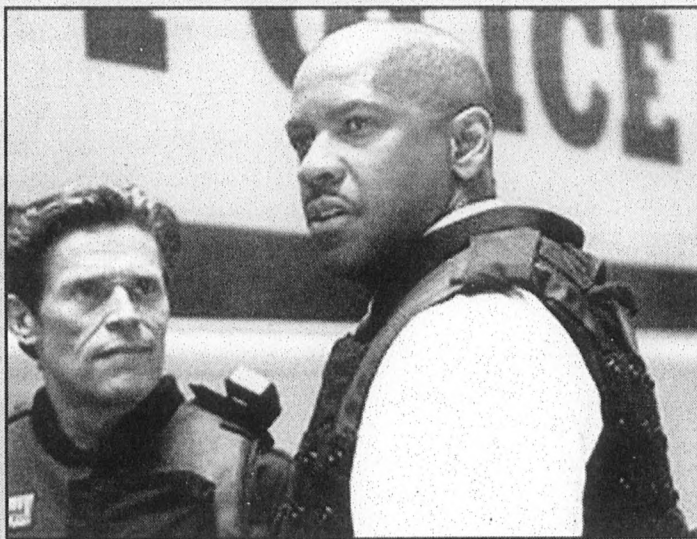
Newest Spike Lee Joint Won't Disappoint

Thomas Bradley

"Inside Man", Spike Lee's newest film about a bank heist in downtown Manhattan, has opened to much praise and little negative criticism. Set in Manhattan's financial district, the bank heist is at first glance a solid tale pitting above average thieves against surprisingly apt police as they square off against one another to see who'll come out on top. However, upon more careful examination and armed with the knowledge of Spike Lee's past credentials (the director has been lauded and lambasted over the years for his cinematic efforts usually involving difficult representations of race and class frictions) the movie becomes a bit more complex than we originally thought it to be.

Once the police have been alerted to the situation at the bank, the stage is quite literally set for the play to take place. We are privy to NYPD "theater-building" as the impromptu ballet of action complete with orange tape, bull horns, flashing lights, and a captive audience come together for the show. We watch the form of the theater take place from an aerial shot nothing short of artistic as Lee prepares us for the battle of wit about to take place.

Denzel Washington plays embroiled detective Keith Frazier, who is trying to make first grade but having some difficulty overcoming a case involving 140k dollars that is missing from a previous crime scene. Agile and distinctly New York in his style of dress,



Willem Dafoe (left), and Denzel Washington play detectives in Spike Lee's thriller, "Inside Man."

walk and certainly speech, Washington is a perfect counterbalance to the heist leader inside the bank. Clive Owen's coolly arrogant, well-prepared voice strikes from behind a white mask and dark glasses as he orchestrates the entire performance. Owen's character, Dalton Russell, notes to the audience from the very onset of the film, "I choose my words very carefully and I never repeat myself." He is overeducated and invokes "the bard" as he represents the completely capable being: void of any misguided passion while maintaining some semblance of his humanity without being a machine.

other is the bank's owner and founder, Arthur Case. Played to the exceeding depths of the rich-old-white-man cliché by an aging Christopher Plummer, Arthur Case enlists the aid of White when he must protect something worth more than the contents of his vault.

At one point we find Owen sitting on stacks of money along with an eight year old African-American boy who is playing a video game not unlike Grand Theft Auto series on his Sony PSP. The robber sees the game's violence and asks the boy, "What's the point of the game?" To which the boy gives a reasonable response involving "respect"

This idea of the over educated individual seeking personal gain at most, if not all, costs is also found in the two, high profile New Yorkers bent on making sure some things in the bank are left untouched. One is a powerful broker named Madeline White, played by Jodie Foster, who is in the business of everything upper class and exorbitantly expensive. The

and "getting his." A poignant moment comes when the boy invokes the motto of rapper 50 Cent suggesting he will, "Get rich or Die Tryin'." Though mention of this ideal works on the obvious level which decries the violence of urban gangs and drug dealers, a line is also being drawn from this supposed street mantra to the boardrooms of the Fortune 500.

Spike overtly sprinkles some racially charged moments in the film and one obvious instance comes when an NYPD officer is describing an incident in which he was shot by a twelve year old boy and he drops the slur "spick". As the same officer nearly gets out "n-----", Det. Frazier asks him to "cut the color commentary" which garners another backhanded racist remark, albeit honest, "I'll watch what I say, ya neva know who's listenin'" from the officer.

Consequently the film may have some viewers acting a little sour but they probably won't be New Yorkers. It rings genuine as the dialogue matches Spike's favorite backdrop to form an authentic representation of the city and its people. We love a good string of curses and even though we have hearts of gold, sometimes we can be as rough as the steel and cement buildings we cherish.

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SPORTS

April 10, 2006

Three Times a Charm: Dolphins Advance in the CUNY Conference 6-0

Khadijah Rentas

Last weekend proved eventful for the men's baseball team as three games in a row against Baruch, the Dolphins ran to home plate a total of 33 times. Undeclared in the CUNY conference, the Dolphins beat the Baruch Bearcats 17-5 on Sunday afternoon.

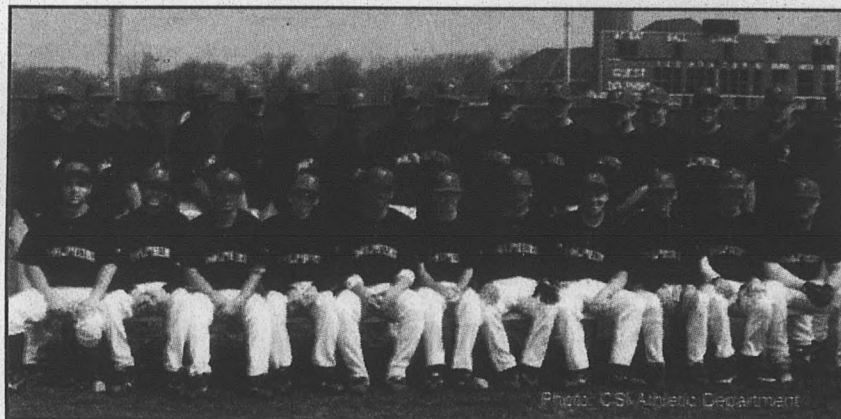
Although the scoreboard lighted Baruch's runs on the Home line, playing as the home team on the CSI field did not offer an advantage. Baruch made five times as many runs than the day before, but still could not stop CSI from making plays.

The Bearcats' pitchers faltered while the Dolphins' starter shined. After no hits in the first and second innings, Baruch's starting pitcher Jonathon Perozo threw a few high balls and walked Matt Stefanski in the third. After, a yell from his dugout of "Are you alright?" elicited a headshake of no. Perozo bent over and looked like he could not continue. A Bearcat pow-wow on the field followed and Perozo was taken out of the game. Senior Tristan Cetto relieved Perozo, but not successfully. Cetto pitched only 1.2 innings and in that time he made an error, walked three and the Dolphins scored eight runs.

For the Dolphins', freshman Steve Mojica pitched six innings. Baruch went scoreless for four innings and scored one run each in the first and fourth innings. He allowed three hits, walked two and the Bearcats stole three bases.

Sunday's game marked Mojica's second start of the season. Sick for about three weeks with the flu, Mojica could not play, said Head Coach Bill Cali. In Mojica's first start in an away game against Mt. St.

Mary College, he made three errors and Mt. St. Mary hit six and scored three in his 4.2 innings at the mound. Coach Cali trusted Mojica could do well in this start against Baruch. "He earned this start," said Coach Cali. Mojica did not let Coach Cali or the team down.



"They were 3-0 before we played them and we beat them three in a row," said Bob Glennerster about the Dolphins win over the Bearcats last weekend.

Besides start Mojica, Coach Cali had another plan. "Strategy is score a lot of runs and win," said Coach Cali with a laugh. "We try to stick as close to that as possible."

Although the Dolphins beat Baruch twice the day before, 6-1 and 10-1, Coach Cali refused to speculate that Sunday's win would be easy. "We never take anyone lightly," he said. "Every day is a new day."

Baruch did not play lightly against the Dolphins. After the change in rotation in the sixth inning, players emerged from the Dolphin dugout with ice packs; some on their shoulders, some on their calves. Freshman Anthony Lopez relieved Mojica in the seventh inning, who wore saran wrapped ice on his right

shoulder taped in a diagonal from his shoulder to his waist and across his back.

Lopez shut out Baruch in the seventh, but allowed a hit and two walks, one of which resulted from Lopez hitting the batter with the pitch, and led to two runs.

Lopez's successor, sophomore Eric Waldhelm, closed the game. He made one error and allowed two hits that resulted in a run. Not enough for Baruch, though, to beat the Dolphins.

Despite the previous two victories and 14-run lead in the eighth inning, shortstop Bob Glennerster and third baseman Matt Stefanski refused to show arrogance. "We've learned in the past not to take anything lightly," said Glennerster. "Especially against a CUNY team," added Stefanski.

Junior Glennerster struck out once, but also scored two runs and three hits, including a triple in the ninth. Senior Stefanski struck out twice and made two errors the most of his team. He scored one run and one hit. He also made four plays in the game to keep Baruch from scoring, including an exciting play in the bottom of the third. Mojica threw a ball and catcher Michael Madalone quickly threw to Stefanski on third base, taking out a player trying to steal.

"I think I did pretty good," said Stefanski rating his performance. "I made some hits."

"I think we all played well," Glennerster said. "It was a team effort."

"I think everyone did well," Stefanski said. "1 through 9."

Glennerster showed his sportsmanship: "There's no I in team."

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Sports Psychologist Juggles in Dolphin Lounge

Jennifer Miller

CSI athletes welcomed advice from a sports psychologist in a one-hour lecture at the Green Dolphin Lounge. Student athletes from most of the eleven athletic teams attended the afternoon event.

Dr. Joel Fish, a psychologist from Philadelphia, emphasized the mental components involved in playing sports. He believes "SPIRIT" - Self-confidence, Positive attitude, Imagination, Resiliency, Initiative, and Teamwork - play an integral role in sports and have a great affect on the success of an athlete and their team.

Dr. Fish stressed the importance of finishing the season strong, rather than just finishing. Students learned that worrying, expectations, and pressure take a toll on an athlete's focus during a game. Relationships with the coach, mother, father, teammates, etc. cause tension because the player concentrates on what other people think rather than the task at hand. "Know how to handle emotions," Dr. Fish said. "Know what you are feeling so you can control it."

Dr. Fish demonstrated his theories by using card tricks, memory games, and juggling. "People have

tremendous power of concentration when they're motivated and know the task at hand," he said. He illustrated this by calling out numbers in the midst of his speech and challenged everyone in the room to remember the exact order of the numbers that he called. Because they knew the challenge and concentrated hard on what he said, almost every person in the crowd of seventy-five could repeat the seven numbers in order.

Dan, a freshman on the men's swimming and diving team, volunteered to juggle. The three balls represented family, athletics and academics. Within seconds, Dan juggled and impressed both the audience and Dr. Fish. A fourth ball, life's curveball, complicated things for Dan but he managed to juggle for a short time. Dr. Fish then gave Dan the task of catching the ball that represented athletics as he tossed all four toward him. Dan succeeded, according to Dr. Fish, because he concentrated on the ball instead of the distractions that surrounded him.

Dr. Fish used a deck of cards to perform a few tricks. During the second trick, the card expected to appear did not. He used this as a lesson for what to do when an unplanned situation arises. "Hang in there," he advised. "Don't let them see you sweat and trust yourself."

After the lecture, Dr. Fish encouraged CSI athletes to talk to him individually about concerns or clarification of anything he discussed. He took his time to speak one-on-one with approximately ten students who had comments and questions.

Ashley Narwick, a soccer player, spoke to Dr. Fish about the mental part of recovering from an injury.

"There are two parts to rehab, physical and emotional," Dr. Fish said. "It's very rare that they go hand in hand." The injury heals, but the athlete fears being re-injured so their performance suffers.

"His advice made me really think about what I was holding myself back from doing," Narwick said. "Once I get my leg injury out of my head it's easier to go out and play like there is nothing wrong."

Dr. Fish is the Director at The Center For Sport Psychology in Philadelphia. He has worked with athletes of all ages and skill levels. Most notably he has worked with professional organizations and teams such as the Philadelphia Flyers, 76ers, Phillies, Charge, as well as the USA Women's National Soccer Team.

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