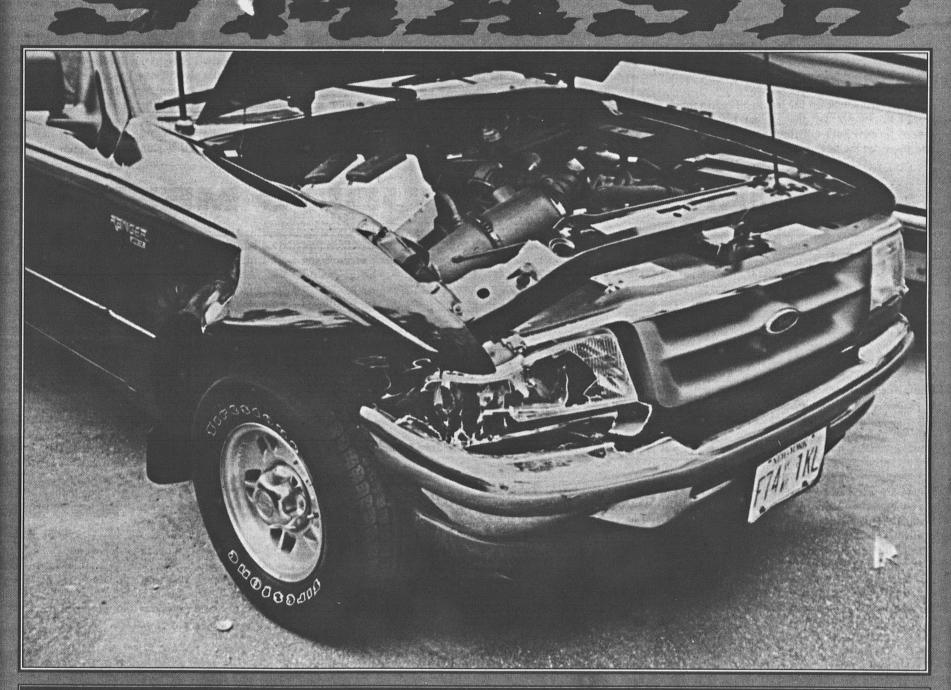
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VOLUME IV, ISSUE II

September 19, 1996



Officer Chris Adams' truck suffered severe damage after another campus accident

Student Government Holds Public Meeting

...page 2

Problems With Parking Services

...page 2

PUPILS' PARKING PREDICAMENTS

By Robin Pudlin & John La Mantia

Head of parking on campus, Barry Sommer, was allegedly harrassed by a student last week while doing his job. Problems with the parking department are not new, and for students Ross Saia and Ian Holzman parking problems have been sprung on them.

Ian Holzman was told by an traffic officer that he could park on the gravel. So after his day was over he went back to his car to find a ticket on his windshield. The ticket was for parking in a "non-graveled" area. Ian looked around the parking lot and was able to find the traffic officer that gave him the ticket. Ian then discussed the situation with the officer, who quickly realized his mistake and took Ian to the parking services department to correct the matter.

On arrival they met with Barry Sommers who according to Ian said he 'did not want hear anything about this' and 'to file an appeal.' Ian continued to tell The Banner that even though the Officer was admitting fault, Mr. Sommers not only wouldn't listen, but was angered by that admission.

This shook up the traffic officer so much that he would no longer say that giving him this ticket was wrong. So now Ian's only opition was to appeal the ticket and hope for the best. Ian commented, "parking services

should take more time to train these officers and go around the campus to show them where students can and can not park." He also said, "we are here to get a education not to deal with these parking problems."

Ross Saia told The Banner that his problem with parking started last term when he was told that he could put his parking sticker in his front windshield due to the fact that his back windows were tinted. He did as he was told and soon afterward he started having problems with parking. Ross was given a ticket almost every two weeks for not having a parking decal.

He became so well known for this that they just threw away his ticket when he came in. Aafter doing this for a term he was so angered with this that he voluntarily took the tint off his window.

After thinking that his problems were over, he started a new term here at CSI again to be hit with another ticket for parking in a "shaded area." There were no signs or warnings saying that he could not park there. Ross decided to drive over to 1A to correct this matter; he parked in front of the building with his hazard light on and went into the building.

He went into the office to talk to someone else, but the party was unavailable. He had no choice but to talk to Barry Sommers who refused to listen or give 100% of his time. Ross commented, "He's belligerent and he

doesn't give you his full attention." Ross became angry with Sommers and told him, "I am not going to pay this," and then preceded to rip up the ticket and leave the office. As Ross left the office, Sommers took the torn ticket out of the garbage can. Ross grabbed it out of his hand and said that he would pay for the ticket, and then left the office.

After this occured, Sommers followed after Ross and told a security guard that he was assaulted by Ross. Ross said, "Barry grabbed the security guard's radio and called the incident in as an assault. That's when the security guard grabbed my arm." He continued, "I know I didn't assault him, but it was my word against his so I ran to my car." Another ticket was on Ross' car for parking in a no parking zone. Angered, he left the campus.

In an interview with The Banner, Ross said, "I was so upset about this that I was going to leave school because beside this I should have graduated during the summer, but my class was dropped, so now I have to stay for an extra term and now I lost the financial aid that I was getting, so now I have to pay for the two classes that I'm taking and the two tickets I received as well as worry about a possible prosecution." Ian commented, "I believe this whole parking thing is just a money making scheme."

When we approached Barry Sommers on the issue of hearing that he was assaulted, he first shrugged his shoulders and then said that he had no comment.

SG HOLDS FIRST PUBLIC MEETING

By Holly Lenahan

The Student Government held a meeting in the Green Dolphin Lounge on Thursday, September 12. For the first time ever, the meeting was open to all students. The issues discussed ranged from security on campus to financial aid. Many of the students attending had strong opinions concerning these issues.

Campus security was a large concern of both the student body and Student Government. Assistant Director of Campus Security John Flaherty spoke of replacing security guards with Peace Officers hired through CUNY. The officers are better trained and have the ability to arrest. "We try to handle things in house if we can, we've been training officers how not to make an arrest. Arrest is the last resort he said to the audience.

Student Government proposed the idea of having upper classmen help freshmen to get better acquainted with the school. Students seemed supportive of the idea. "Something has to be done to make freshmen more aware of what's going on, because they don't know," said Yvonne Bush, a student attending the meeting.

Students were greatly concerned with the issue of financial aid. When we were informed of a \$5000 emergency loan fund that had not been publicized, there was nearly an uproar in the crowed.

A concern of Student Government was the security of the student leaders room. Apparently, the lock on the

door needs to be changed. Student Government President Joseph Canale commented on his own experience with the student leaders' room: "The name tag that hangs around my neck was stolen, the one that I pin on my jacket was also stolen, and as a matter of principle I will be filing a report"

Overall, the students found the meeting to be informative. "It was worth coming to see, It makes me more aware of what's going on in the school," said Anthony Chikare. Curtis Thomas commented, "It's very interesting, I'm glad I came."

Student Government was supportive of having students attend the meeting. Students were encouraged to attend meetings and be a part of the school. Senator Mike Johnson said, "Don't just go to the school, be a part of the school."

In Related News...

Money was a major issue at our last Student Government meeting. The meeting was held in the Green Dolphin Lounge

on September 12, and was open to all students. At the meeting students were told about unpublisized funds that had been available to them.

Student Government President Joseph Canale, announced a \$5000 emergency loan fund available to students. Immediately afterwards, it was reported that the

fund had been used up and was no longer available. For students struggling with finances this news was disturbing. An outraged student, Yvonne Bush said, "I was a freshman in February, I was at Bursar every month, I had no books no money, nobody brought it to my attention that there was available money." Another student, Latoya Hunt, said, "I think they should have told us, had a meeting before this, or at least called it to the students attention."

Student Government had mixed opinions on the issue. "You have to make it a point to come and find out about funds available to you. If you don't do that, then it's on you", said Senator Tina Jefferson. Senator Vincent Cobb expressed a different opinion when he stated, "It's our [Student Government's] obligation to find any way to make that information available to them." The discussion of this issue ended with Maryanne Christianson's statement, "we may not be able to give you money, but we can at least put you in the right direction of who you have to see."

Students who would like to express their opinions on this, or any other issue have another chance to do so. On Wednesday, September 18, during club hours there will be an open Mike for students to speak to Student Government. Any questions or comments on issues affecting the Student Body can be brought up at that time.

UNLICENSED DRIVER SMASHES OFFICER

By Jennifer Valle

An unlicensed student driver smashed into an off duty Security Peace Officer, Wednesday September 4th at 3:30 PM along the Loop Road just outside of Lot #1. Security Officer Christopher Adams sustained minor injuries to the neck, back and hip and was immediately rushed to St. Vincents Hospital for evaluation.

"I was about five feet away when this occurred. I saw his car hit the sign on the side of the road... He was stunned. She looked fine, so I went over to him because he was still in his car and asked him, 'Are you all right, are you okay?' but he wouldn't answer, he was just stunned," said witness Maryann Avino.

According to sources, the unidentified female driver did not have a license and failed to adhere to a stop sign seconds before she struck Officer Adams' Blue Ford Rangler. Witness Ms. Avino said, "The accident all happened so fast. She ran past the stop sign while he was just

coming down the road when she hit him."

Adams' Blue Ford Rangler sustained damage to the entire front, including lights, hood, grill and bumper. The second vehicle, a red Pontiac Grand Am sustained similar damage to the front end of the car as well. Witness Avino commented, "She looked like she was fine but the front of her car was so damaged that I couldn't help but think to myself, 'God, she must be luck'"

According to the unidentified female, however, the accident was not her fault. According to the security report, the female driver explained, "I stopped at the stop sign waiting to make a right turn. A vehicle was crossing the road towards lot #1." "I pulled out from the stop sign and we hit," said the unidentified female driver to officers at the scene.

According to the security report, Adams stated, "I was traveling on the Loop Road when she ran the stop sign. I tried to stop and she hit me, sending me into the street sign."

The female driver was issued an NYPD summons for driving without a valid driver's license. Avino told officers, "The red car failed to stop at the stop sign and struck the blue pick-up truck which caused the pick-up to crash into the information sign on the Loop Road."

It is still questionable whether or not the driver of the Grand Am was speeding, although physical evidence of the crash, including the point of impact, points to possible speeding on behalf of the female driver.

When asked if she felt any of the cars involved were speeding, Avino said, "I think they were both over the speed limit, Then again, I think everyone on campus speeds... everybody's guilty of not adhering to the speed limit." Ms. Avino added, "People really should adhere to the speed limit to avoid further accidents." She added, "The limit is 25 MPH, but you have students endangering other people's lives by driving beyond that limit." Officer Adams has returned to work.

http://www.csi.cuny.edu/unauthorized/the_banner/

The College of Staten Island Student Government is pleased to announce its membership for 1996-97

Joseph Canale	President
	Publications Commissoner
Rochelle Benguiat	Academic & Curricular Affairs
Tina Jefferson	Finance Commissioner
Luis Cruzatte	Clubs Commissioner
Michael Johnson	Election Commissioner
Juergen Schnetzer	Part Time Students Commissioner
S. Regina Small	Student Service Commissioner
Washington Hernandez	Student Center Commissioner
Allison Barreiro	Senator
Virginia Boga	Senator
Mary Anne Christensen	Senator

Student Government **Dates to Remember:**

Business Meeting

	September 26	1:30 p.m. Campus Center 1C-203
	October 10	1:30 p.m. Green Dolphin Lounge
1.50 363	October 24	1:30 p.m. Campus Center 1C-203
	November 7	1:30 p.m. Campus Center 1C-203
18	November 21	1:30 p.m. Green Dolphin Lounge
Section of the sectio	December 5	1:30 p.m. Green Dolphin Lounge

Open Mike Meetings

Setember 18	2:30 p.m. Green Dolphin Lounge
October 23	2:30 p.m. Green Dolphin Lounge
November 13	2:30 p.m. Green Dolphin Lounge
December 11	2:30 p.m. Green Dolphin Lounge

NYPIRG

Vincent D.P Cobb

Shakor Conner.

Natalie Williams

Lori Seggio

Student Action Meeting

Thursday, September 26, 1996

1:30 pm

Sunnyside Room

1C - 109

Free Food!

"Let your Voice be heard!"

New York Public Interest Research Group

ARY RENOVATIONS

Professors will

use the room

for two-way,

interactive

learning

By Leslie Lake

Over the summer, the Library completed renovations that include a new Archives/Special Collections Room and a Teleconference Laboratory. In an interview with The Banner, Chief Librarian Dr. Arthur Hafner discussed these changes.

The Archives/Special Collections Room is located on the Library's second floor. It is being set-up now with stacks and other

furniture. Its collection will contain archival materials related to the college and CUNY. It will also contain special collections of Staten Island historical materi-

Senator

Senator

Senator

Senator

h Teleconference Laboratory, located on the Library's second floor, will be able to

accommodate thirty-two students at a time. It done with college funds, using personnel from will be used for enhanced learning. Dr. Hafner told The Banner, "Professors will use the room for two-way, interactive learning." The idea is that the CSI Teleconference room would connect to a similarly equipped room somewhere else on campus, in New York City, or anywhere in the world. The connection would be through telephone, the Internet, and video. This laboratory should be available for pilot testing by April 1997.

Beginning in October, the Library will have eight new computer terminals available

for students. These will be located on the Library's first floor Reference area. Dr. Hafner told The Banner, "these computers will allow students to use individual CD-ROMs in the Library. They also will allow students to connect to the Internet and to use other Library databases, including CUNY-Plus, which is the university's online catalog." Students will be able to use these resources during usual Library hours, [Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 10:00 PM; Friday from 8:30 AM to 5

> PM; and Saturday, 12 noon to 5:00 PM].

The question on this reporter's mind was, "Where did the funds come from for the renovations and equipment?" Dr. Hafner told The Banner that "the funding for the computers came from the university, CUNY Central. The construction was

Buildings and Grounds. The computers cost about \$60,000 and the room construction cost about \$600."

Dr. Hafner told The Banner that future Library renovation might include study rooms. These rooms would allow students to work in groups and discuss their research without disturbing others. Dr. Hafner said, "Students who have suggestions for ways to improve Library services are encouraged to bring them to my attention or to discuss them with any of our Librarians."

http://www.csi.cuny.edu/unauthorized/the_banner/

Sports.....12

Arts...... 9 & 10

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BANNER STAFF.

Letters:

Now let me get this straight. This is a college supported by taxpayers. I am a taxpayer. Therefore, I am paying good money to be told in your pages that I am a sinful "lover of darkness" if I don't embrace Steven Guzzi's religion, which, according to his single-volume research, is supposed to be the "light." How edifying!

This metaphor of light and dark seems somewhat self-serving, especially if we consider another historical use of the image. The era when religion and superstition held sway was called the "Dark Ages," and the era when science and reason prevailed was called the "Age of Enlightenment." Doesn't that suggest that this so-called "light" is in the eye of the beholder? I think that my light is every bit as good as Mr. Guzzi's but I do not wish to discuss my spiritual beliefs here. They are my own business, and a college newspaper is not the appropriate forum for them.

This so-called "commentary" is nothing

short of a sectarian sermon. It belongs in a pulpit, not in a tax-supported publication, where it is offensive and openly insulting to those who believe in other, equally valid faiths, or in no faith at all. No one disputes Mr. Guzzi's right to believe and preach what he wishes, but it should not be at the expense of everyone else's dignity and public's funds. That is why America has traditionally separated Church and State. Freedom of religion has a necessary corollary: freedom from religion.

By the way, the shrill character assassinations of campus figures are growing rather alarming. One wonders who's next. If there aren't enough significant social, cultural and political issues to fill your pages in this best of all possible worlds, why don't you publish some nice recipes?

Arnie Kantrowitz Associate Professor

Department of English, Speech & World Literature

As a reader of our college newspaper there were many times that articles have upset me, angered me and even personally attacked me, but because of my position at the time as Student Government President and the triviality of the attacks I never found it important to write a response to anything, till now.

The article entitled "Another Student Advocate Vanished" stepped well over the lines of journalism. With well-thought out precision the article proceeded to viciously attack two people who are very near and dear to me and to others at the college.

Let me speak first about Vice President Jackson, Carol to her countless friends and co workers. I will agree she is no saint, but neither am I, nor anyone else for that matter. Working closely with Carol for the past three years as a SG senator and president, I have never known her to be anything but sincere, honest and a true student advocate, always willing to listen to any student, going the extra mile for many of them. There were times when I saw her do things that were not required of her. Many times she called students at home, many times she stayed late and the list goes on and on. Unfortunately, our college newspaper never reports any of the positive things that Dr. Jackson has done. But, the news editor considers the rants and ravings of a disgruntled ex-employee, or the rhetoric of a

"wet behind the ears" senator as news. Maybe that is one of the problems of having a newspaper with only one so-called reporter writing, who represents a slanted view of the world.

Finally Allan DiBiase is a treasure. I admired him greatly and will miss him deeply. He worked hard through the system to become Director of Student Activities at the college. He also was a true student advocate. Many times he worked so hard, and put in so much effort for students that it physically affected him. For twenty-five years of service and dedication to the college, he is going to be thought of and remembered as a coward and a backstabber because of an article that was written with malice, vindictiveness and sprinkled with falsehoods and assumptions. That is unacceptable to me and it should be to any one else who knew Allan and worked with him.

The power of a newspaper to do good in a college environment is infinite. The many positive activities at the college, added to the student friendly decisions of most of the administration, should be enough to fill a college newspaper many times over. It's just an unfortunate state of affairs that The BANNER, which is in such a lofty position of doing so much good work towards changing the attitudes and apathy of the student body consciously chooses not to.

-Meri Kaufman

Response to the Letters

I have to say, I am pleased with the feedback. Even though the issue was rushed, it does what a college newspaper should... make people think. Of course, I feel that it is my obligation to defend this newspaper's image from the questions regarding our journalist ethics.

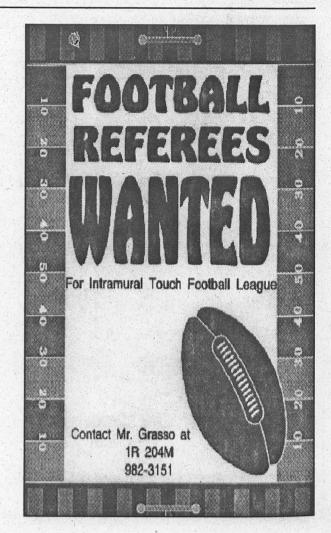
It seems that general census believes that we are "out to get Carol Jackson." I'm flattered at such a notion. However, this was not The BANNER's intent. We do want Carol Jackson to know that many people do not appreciate how she runs things, but we're not the ones out for her dismissal.

Meri... don't you think it's odd that a man who cared so much about this college would "backstab" someone else who cares about his college? There is animosity among administration. What is so sad about it, is that just about everyone here wants to improve life on this college... this includes Carol. Because of the egos and the power plays, the students are suffering. That was the point we want to get across. There is no need to attack our News Editor... unless you're still bitter.

Professor... It seems you are slightly misinformed. This publication is not paid for by tax dollars, but by the Student Activity Fee. I'm sure that doesn't make you feel any better. I too found Guzzi's article insulting. This article ran for two reasons. 1) Freedom of Speech 2) I was hoping for a nasty response letter. Now I will say... Thank You. I believe that if everyone is allowed to speak, the truth will be said. Unfortunately, the letter was not from a student. [Hint, Hint???] The future of religious commentary in The BANNER will be determined at a future staff meeting.

Finally, what is all this talk about printing fluffy nicenice stuff? Are you blind? We do emphasize the positive, however we are obligated to uncover the negative.

-Michael Garofalo







Editor-In-Chief Michael Garofalo

Now that the bearings on my Rollerblades are burned out and the weather is becoming colder, I say we need to take a stronger look at campus parking.

See, I'm almost at the threshold of getting a car an I feel I'm entitled

to a spot. Of course, the other 9,000 people with parking decals might feel the

Only a college could get away with the sale of a mythical item. No, not your degree... a parking spot. If it is not already apparent, you are not guaranteed a spot. Does parking services choose to alleviate the matter? All they can say is there is "easy" parking in lot 6. They also hide behind the fact that not all drivers will be on campus at one time. But in actuality, they are.

Look around. "Easy" parking is not so easy anymore. Now that the gym is complete, that lot also fills quickly. By lunchtime, drivers circle for spots like starving vultures.

The first thing in the morning, you've already had an ordeal; angry drivers followed by a long walk to class. You are not in the optimal mind-set for learning.

The problem compounds with parking tickets. While the need for order is important, ticketing has become a serious source of revenue for the college. There are college employees that take home pay checks that are cashed with money taken from fines.

Obviously, speeding tickets are important. There has already been horrible incidents on campus that have resulted from irresponsible driving. I could also see the need for the ticketing of those irritating people who take up two parking spots. Unfortunately, the college has chosen the other extreme... excessive ticketing.

The line that grows from the parking services office is now starting to rival registration lines. The office is obviously not the happiest place on earth. The negativity is formed from frustration. This ultimately leads to student

No one wants to fight endless battles. It takes tremendous amounts of energy to maintain decent grades, fight for more parking spaces, fight CUNY budget cuts, participate in extra-curricular events, and then go to that part-time job to pay for the struggle you are now a part of. Most students decide to endure because it is incredibly overwhelming.

While there are no easy solutions to parking, the matter must be corrected. College should not feel like an uphill battle. This is supposed to be one of the happiest times in life.

PDC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 19, 1996

Fall Carnival Campus Center Plaza 12 to 4 pm Free Food and **Amusements** Sponsored by: PDC

September 21, 1996 Jazz Brunch with Keith Marks Campus Center Rotunda 11 to 2 pm Sponsored by: PDC

September 25, 1996

Virtual Reality 11 to 5 pm Campus Center/West Dining Hall Sponsored by: PDC

September 26, 1996

Rain Date for the Fall Carnival 12 to 4 pm Free Food & **Amusements** Sponsored by: PDC

September 25, 1996

Films from Southeast Asia 1:30 to 3:30 pm 1P-223

Sponsored by: PDC & The Center For International Service

Thursday Oct 3, 1996 2:00pm

at

Tennis Courts







For further information contact Mr. Grasso **IR 204M** 982-3151



Thursday Sept 26th 2:00 pm Soccer Field

For Further information contact Mr. Grasso 1R 204M 982-3151



Editor - In - Chief Michael Garofalo

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News Editor.....Jennifer Valle Sports Editor......Michael Anderson Commentary Editor......Christopher Zeyer Arts & Entertainment Editor.....Ron Magnusson Copy Editor.....Eric Minton Business Secretary......April Butensky Distribution Manager......John La Mantia

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RICH ARROYO[†] SHAWN FISHER YVONNE VILLA

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WELLNESS COLUMN: What's Up For the Fall Semester

Summer's over and we're back for a new semester. While this might be thought as of a return to lots of work, a loss of free time and stress, stress, stress... we at the Wellness Program want you to know it doesn't have to be so bad. As in the past, we are providing many programs, services and events to help make your semester one filled with wellness.

For those of you who are not familiar with the term wellness, let me tell you what it means. Wellness is a way of life that promotes quality health and wellbeing. It is the maximization of human potential throughout the life span. It is physical, mental, social, and spiritual integration. The Wellness Program is a center that promotes health, dignity, and selfrespect. We're located in 1C-112, the Health and Wellness Services office. The hours are Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., from 9:00am - 5:00pm, and Wed., from 12:00pm - 8:00pm. The program is coordinated by Carol Brower, and the phone number is 982-3123.

So what are we offering this semester? First is our calendar of events. This semester we are having theater presentations on Substance abuse and Domestic Violence. Other programs cover topics such as "Therapeutic Touch", "Country Line Dancing", and "A Movement Towards Wellness: an Exploration of Mind and Body Techniques". We are also having our semiannual blood drive on Oct. 31 (yes, we want your blood on Halloween!) The full calendar of events is available at the Campus Center Information Booth, The Health and Wellness Services Office, and other student services offices around campus. The next two programs are as follows:

1) "Women's Health Issues" Thursday, Sept. 19th, 1:30 - 2:30

1C, Green Dolphin Lounge

Personal Growth CLUE

2) "Therapeutic Touch"
Thursday, Oct. 3rd, 1:30 - 2:30
1C, Green Dolphin Lounge
Personal Growth CLUE

A new addition to our program is the Wellness at Lunch series. Throughout the semester we will be offering ongoing lunch time programs to help keep you well. These include weight management groups, health rap sessions, smoking cessation groups and wellness walks. The Wellness Walks are every Monday and Friday from 12:00 - 1:00 on the track. Students can get credit for either a personal growth CLUE or for a Ped 190 activity. For updates on the other start dates and locations call 982-3123.

The last, but probably the best aspect of the Wellness Program is the Peer Drop-In Center. Also located in 1C-112, the Drop-In Center offers students a place to go to talk, ask questions, or get information about wellness issues. The center is staffed by trained Peer Educators who can get you the needed information, refer you to on-campus services, or just listen. They're a great group of students and would really love for you to drop by! Good luck with the new semester and stay well.

TomKo On Beer The Only Drink Older than Beer

By Thomas C. Kolakowski

Mead. We've all heard of it, but most people don't have any idea of what it is. And of those who do know, even fewer have sampled the Nectar of the Gods. Mead conjures up a image of Viking warriors sitting in a huge mead-hall drinking vast amounts of golden nectar from their horn glasses. This is an ancient drink, one whose origins have become lost in the mists of time. There is rather mystical quality to it, for it was once central to many ancient religious rites. Even the our modern term "honeymoon" is carried over from the ancient tradition where a newly married couple would drink mead for a month to ensure the birth of a male child.

Before homebrewing beer was made legal in 1978-79 homebrewers was limited to the making wines. Luckily, mead was legally classified as a wine and thus it's production was legal. This allowed the budding homebrewing hobby to produce a light, sweet and carbonated alcoholic beverage that was not readily commercially available. The tradition of meadmaking was kept alive mainly by members of the Society for Creative Anachronisms, a medieval recreation group. Since the production of beer was not a viable possibility, members of the SCA concentrated on the making of meads. Much of the research into historical recipes was done by members of the SCA's various local brewing guilds. Unfortunately for mead, the legalization of homebrewing beer has caused mead to take a back seat while the beermaking has exploded.

Mead, in its most basic form, is nothing more than honey that has been diluted in water and then fermented. There are several classes of mead, each with a distinct character and name. "Melomel" is mead that has either fruit or fruit juice added to it. Many meaderies produce melomels that are flavored with either raspberries, pears, cherries or blueberries. The one requirement for producing a good melomel is that the fruit have enough acid in it to aid in the fermentation process. A mead that has apples or apple juice added to it is known as "Cyser" and "Pyment" is a melomel that has grapes or grape juice added to it. In many ways the various melomels might be considered the inspiration for the wonderful Belgian Lambic beers.

Besides the fruit meads there is also a class of meads that have various spices or herbs added to it. These meads are called "Metheglin". Metheglin can have any number of spices added to it, but most are made with either cloves or cinnamon. Ginger root is another popular additive in metheglin. Finally, pyment that has spices added to it is known as "Hippocras".

The "Traditional" recipe includes only Honey, water, yeast and a small amount of acid. The amount of honey used depends upon whether you want a dry or sweet mead. Dry meads are made using 2 pounds of honey per gallon of water, while sweet meads can use 4 pounds or more. Any mead that has a higher amount of honey (and is thus stronger and sweeter) is called "Sack". Unlike other alcoholic beverages there are practically no individual strain of yeast used in mead making. Many homebrewers use Champaign yeast, as it is hardy enough to withstand the high alcohol content of the mead. Your average ale or lager yeast would die off long before the mead had fermented out. Meads generally have a final alcohol level between 10% and 18%, but several homebrewed "Sacks" have produced 20% batches.

Homebrewing mead is much easier today than is was only a decade ago. Meadmaking has always had it's problems. The first is that a honey and water mixture is too alkaline to properly support fermentation. This leads to very slow fermentation. Using the "traditional" recipe one might have to wait several months for a batch to be fully fermented, and aging can be from one to six years! Certain strains of yeast, such as Prise de Mousse, will expedite the process, but the flavor with differ greatly depending upon what strain of yeast is used. The second problem is that honey does not contain all the nutrients that yeast needs to multiply. One of the primary reasons why brewers of the past added fruit to mead was that the fruit added the missing nutrients, thus allowing the mead to ferment quickly. Today you can buy yeast nutrients in your local homebrew shop, something your average Viking was unable to do.

So now that you know what mead is you are probably asking yourself "where can I get some?" Unfortunately, in many ways the micro-brew craze has only recently started to spill-over to the production of mead. Most of the true "meaderies" in America are relatively new, most only being open since 1992 with many new meads appearing on the market each month. When is comes to finding meads that are produced locally you really have just one choice... head on over to your local homebrew shop and learn how to make

some yourself. (You might even be lucky enough to sample some locally made mead there). You can also order mead from one of the growing number of commercial meaderies throughout the U.S. There are relatively few meaderies around, and nearly all of them sell their ware via mail-order. The following list of Meaderies include most of the major mead producers in America.

California Meadery 15549 Brookview Dr. Sonoma, CA 95476

The Meadery at Greenwich RR4 Box 4070 Greenwich, NY 12834 (518)695-9669

Earle Estates Meadery RD1 Box 246 Locke, NY 13092 (607)898-5940 E-mail: earle@lightlink.com

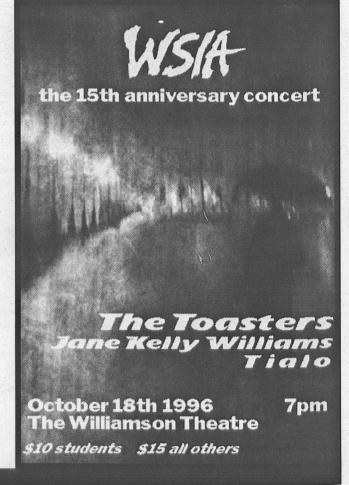
Oliver Wine Co. 8024 North Highway 37 Bloomington, IN 47401

Rocky Mountain Meadery 3701 G Road Palisade, CO 81526 (970)464-7899 E-mail: cpa@wic.net

The Hogtown Brewer
21 SW 2nd Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
(Mail order carrying Screaming
Viking Mead from FL and Chaucer's Mead from CA)

If you are interested in more information on mead and have Internet access the following sites include numerous recipes for all of the styles mentioned. Try "The Brewery" at http://alpha.rollanet.org. The brewery has a huge archive of recipes and brewing techniques. If you want a more medieval twist you can amble on over to the Medieval-Renaissance Brewing Homepage at http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/brewing.html. Also, Rocky Mountain Meadery, Earle Meadery and The Hogtown brewer all have sites on the Internet.

So go on... put on your "horned" helmet... grab a mead horn and drink the Viking way!



The Love of the Truth

By Steven Guzzi

Some people might think my articles are offensive, but remember: truth can be offensive by its very blunt nature if it reveals things we don't want to hear. In my last article, I indicated how the Bible most certainly teaches the sinful depravity of the human race and the condemnation we face for our sin unless we embrace Christ as our Savior. That certainly offends those of other religions and it offends those who believe that mankind is basically good. Thus, it is a hard truth to embrace.

People without salvation need to repent of their sin and put their faith in Jesus for salvation, because he died for the sins of all who would ever believe on him as Savior. But since we are all sinners and, by definition, sin is claiming independence from God and his laws; we don't want to give up the self-rule in our lives and surrender to God if the things that we do give us pleasure in doing them. We might lie, steal, cheat, kill, fight, curse, do drugs, commit adultery, have premarital sex, have abortions, etc., because we want to do things our way, which we may think is best for us, or because we get pleasure in doing them.

God wants us to turn from these things, but we'might not want to because we like some of these things. Thus, it is understandable why people criticize and attack the Bible when they are called on to repent. There isn't a love for truth because of its call for sinners to repent. Of course these criticisms of the Bible usually reveal a lack of understanding on the part of the person. However, Christ was crucified for the same reason the Bible is attacked, he told the truth, which offended many.

Christ and the Bible are inseparable; to attack it is to attack him. Notice this strong language, however, as offensive as it might seem: "And with all deceivableness and unrighteousness in them that perish [go to hell); because they unsaved]

received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thes. 2:10-12)

Obviously, God is serious about us knowing the truth; he gives us truth by his word. Jesus said,

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17) Since the Bible was inspired by God, as well as preserved by God down through the centuries in spite of repeated attacks against it both physically and intellectually to destroy it, it is perfectly errorless from beginning to end. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." (2 Tim 2:21) God used men to write it

and compose it, but he made sure that every word penned was what he wanted and everything and only the things he inspired were included in the Bible. That is why we are not to add or take away from the words of the prophecy of this book – the Bible (Rev 22:18-19).

Thus God, supervised the whole process of

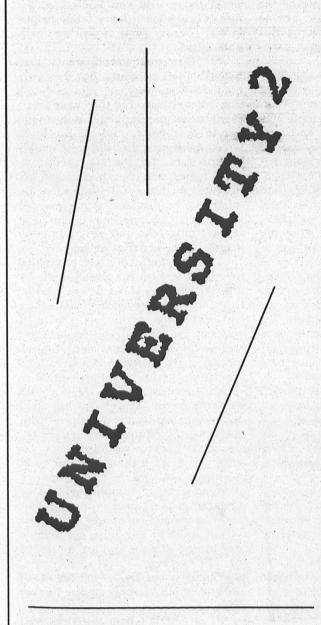
Bible composition, and being all-powerful and wise and loving, God made sure that no errors of men crept in. This is because God wants us to know the truth since he loves us and wants to have a relationship with us. A relationship can only be effectuated by two way communication; thus, God must communicate with us and we with him, therefore the need for written rev-

elation and prayer. A good and loving God would not have left us on our own, wandering aimlessly without direction or purpose to fight it out amongst ourselves in finding truth. God is too good, too powerful and too loving to leave us without answers. That is why he gave us the Bible.

God knows sin has separated us from having a relationship with him, and that it condemns us because He must abide by his perfect justice; thus, he must warn us of our condition and our destiny, and give us the solution by which we may change our condition and destiny. We can heed it or disregard it, but God's relentless warnings and examples of judgement testify to his faithfulness in telling us the truth. If we wind up in hell, it is because we didn't want the truth, didn't heed the truth, and weren't seeking God on his terms. God promises that if we seek him with all our heart, we shall surely find him. No matter where a person lives, who they are, it doesn't matter; God will reveal the truth to them if they genuinely are seeking him. "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in this commentary are those of the writer and not of The Banner, or of its staff. If anyone has an opposing opinion, they are welcome to write and submit it for publication.

A
relationship
can
only be
effectuated
by two way
communication

















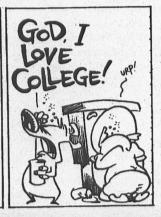


I'M GOING TO COLLEGE FOR FREE ALL PAID FOR BY THE STATE DUE TO SOME EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ANIMALS LAW. I'VE MET OVER A DOZEN GORGEOUS SORORITY GIRLS FROM GOOD GENE POOLS.



THE BIGGEST FRATERNITY ON CAMPUS HAS AGGRESSIVELY RECRUITED ME. I'M IN ONE JUGGERNAUT OF A PARTY. HAVING THE TIME OF MY LIFE. AND IT'S ONLY THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL.





by Frank Cho

BANNER

Shooting the Philosophic Breeze

Did you know

that the rate of

breakdown in

sex relationships

in this country

alone is well over

50% and rising?

By Peter Simpson

I was wandering across campus the other day, towards the cafeteria in fact. The sun was beating down and the atmosphere was sultry. Not untypical for New York, of course, in early September. There were lots of people milling about, and they were pretty sultry too. As I ambled past them (it was too hot to walk with haste) I was struck by the various stages of undress many of them were in.

Women were the chief proponents of undress, but some men were not far behind. Of course what dress they did actually have on covered the necessary parts of the anatomy, but in some cases only just and in such a way as to leave little to the imagination.

Such visions can stimulate strange thoughts, a good many of which it is not fit to entertain. But one thought I did entertain was what were the reasons for this cult of undress. To keep cool in hot weather is an obvious answer, but that seems insufficient. One can keep cool without exposing so much flesh, indeed one can perhaps keep cooler with more flesh covered than with less, especially if the materials used are light and airy. Besides I have seen many a woman in particular in a similar state of undress even when the weather was very far from warm. I

have shivered just looking at them.

Perhaps they do it to display their physical form or their equipment, as Raquel Welch used to say. But why do that? Not, to be sure, to attract a mate, get married, and have children.

Doubtless most want to get married and have children some day, but not now. Yet they are displaying now. themselves Besides one is not likely to attract a going mate around half undressed. That is the way to attract a one night stand or a temporary fling.

Perhaps the motive is simply to get attention and admiration. But what sort of admiration and what sort of attention? Surely the sort of admiration and attention one

would get from someone interested only in a one night stand or a temporary fling? Is a prospective lifelong partner going to be interested in someone who displays themself promiscuously to all and sundry?

What then is it that lies

behind sheer physical display? What is its subtext, if I may so speak? The joy of sheer untrammelled sex, perhaps?

We live, true enough, in a liberated age when old hang-ups have long disappeared. We are all freer and

honest more about our bodthan our poor benighted great grandparents were. They hid from their sexuality as if in shame; we exult in ours as if in permanent jubilee. covered themselves with dishonest artifice; we expose ourselves with natural simplicity.

But who really is the more honest and natural here? For another thought

struck me as I left the cafeteria, drink in hand, and ambled again past those sultry evocations of Venus and Adonis. It occurred to me that the subtext was not sex after all.

That may cause surprise. But consider. What is sex? This seems one of those silly questions that are so obvious they never need asking. But actually it is far from obvious, especially these days.

Sex, in its original signification, refers to that particular act of animals whereby they generate offspring. As such it can only refer to acts between male and female and acts which have to be the employment of certain definite organs in a certain definite way. Males and females have protuberances and orifices other than those proper to offspring, and these can be combined with the protuberances and orifices proper to offspring in many different ways, both within and across genders.

Perhaps, then, we should distinguish between sex, or the sexual act, and the mere stimulation of the sexual organs. The sexual organs can be stimulated in a whole host of wavs (and the manuals devoted to the subject seem always able to find new ones), but if they are to produce offspring they can only be stimulated in one way. Sex or the sexual act is, properly speaking, this latter way, not any of the former ways.

Of course we can and do use the word 'sex' for the former ways as well, but this is to stretch the term rather far beyond its original meaning. We could as well use or stretch another term instead. Perhaps we should, for clarity's sake, use or stretch some other term.

So let me suggest one. Let me suggest the word 'masturbation.' Actually this is a more accurate word to use to express the things which the word 'sex' is now used (or abused) to express. Certainly it does not have to be stretched as far as 'sex' does in order to cover all the multifarious kinds of things in question.

For the sake of a bit of clarity, then, I suggest that we keep 'sex' for the act proper to generating offspring and that we use 'masturbation' for any other way of stimulating the sexual

Now what shall we say about our poor benighted great grandparents, who did not cavort in public in various stages of undress as we do? Were they dishonest and we honest? Were they artificial and repressed and

we simple and natural?

Well it all depends on what you are talking about. If you are talking about sex, our great grandparents were natural, honest, simple, and very far from repressed. For they realized that sex was serious business, requiring exclusive and mutual commitment of one man and one woman over a whole lifetime. To find someone to have sex with was thus going to require much time and effort, and very great self control - and not today only but every day. Certainly not the sort of thing you could manage by lolling about in public half undressed.

Those who did loll about in this fashion our great grandparents repudiated and shunned as people who did not care about sex and whose behavior would destroy sex. They weren't far wrong either, if we are to judge by the state of sex in the western world today. Did you know that the rate of breakdown in sex relationships in this country alone is well over 50%

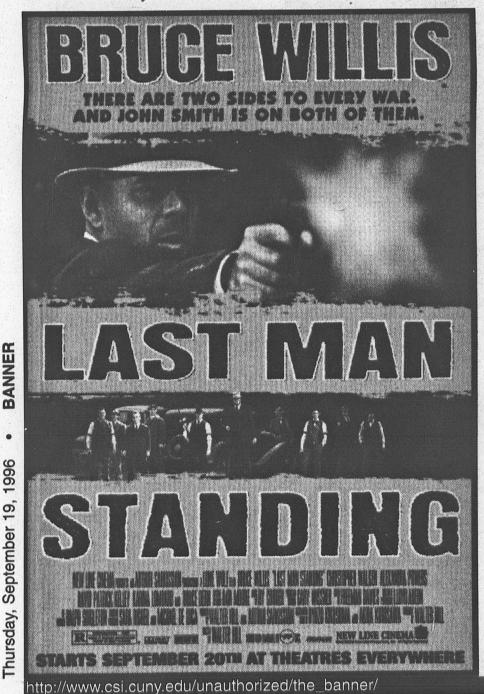
and rising?

Our great grandparents were old fashioned, no doubt, but they were not fools. They were old fashioned for a very good reason. For they were interested in sex, passionately interested in sex to be precise. And all those old fashioned things they did were simply indispensable for the sake of sex good, honest sex. We, by contrast, are not interested in sex. Of course we are interested in our sexual organs, but not for sex. O no, we want to use them for anything but, and we go to great lengths to ensure that we can.

Still, for all our lack of interest in sex, our sex organs are naturally for sex. That is why those who are using them for other purposes sometimes end up having sex, but as it were by accident. So since it was by accident and not at all what they had in mind, they go to great lengths to "correct" the accident by getting rid of its "results" (I speak euphemistically). At the last count we in the US were getting rid of over 1.5 million such results a year, and goodness knows how many the rest of the world is getting rid of.

It is we, I think, not our great grandparents, who are being unnatural, dishonest, and complicated. For we do not want to use our sex organs naturally or honestly or simply. I mean do not want to use them for sex, or only rarely. It is we who are repressed too. We certainly do an awful lot of repressing of sex and of the results of sex and of our memory of our repres-

I couldn't help thinking, as I reached the cool haven of my office, that our great grandparents were much, much better off.



By Shawn Fisher

Better

than a

soap opera,

you just

this stuff.



If you're tired of mainstream comics then there's a vast world of alternative books out there for you to experiment with. From lesbians to witchcraft, alternative books can offer something a little deeper then a standard superhero story without taking away from the fun that is comic books.

Writer Terry Moore's book "Strangers Paradise" follows the lives of two young women, Francine and Katchoo. Having been friends most can't beat of their life they become roommates after Katchoo

returns from a seven year absence from Francines life. It is this absence that provides the basis for most of Francine and Katchoo's adventure's thus far. As her past is revealed we learn that Katchoo was a prostitute with a criminal record to long to list. Katchoo is portrayed as a strong woman with a quick temper and has no boundary for her sexuality although she's not particularly fond of men. While Francine is more of an emotional wreck who constantly needs an anchor in her life. Though Francine has always been sure about her sexuality, her feelings become unsure when she moves in with Katchoo. Although uncertain about how she feels about Katchoo at first she has slowly come to terms with it. There situation is made more complex by the introduction of David, brother of a crime boss (Darcy Parker) who has it for Katchoo and Freddie, former boyfriend of Francine. David entered into Katchoo's life under false pretense in order to keep track of her for his sister Darcey from which Katchoo stole \$850,000. When this aspect of the ongoing story

plays out, one would assume that David would leave the story, but he actually returns after a short absence. David then reveals his love for Katchoo who reluctantly admits hers. Meanwhile about to marry a Pamela Anderson wanna be Freddie realizes he was wrong to leave Francine and still loves her. Much to Katchoo's dismay Freddie then begins calling her again to get her back. It's better than a soap opera; you just can't beat this stuff.

Another good read is "The Books of Magic" a Vertigo title that started as four issue miniseries written by the master of macabre Neil Gaiman. This ongoing series is handled by John N. Rieber and deals with the life of Tim Hunter a fourteen year old who discovers he has the ability to use magic and is destined to become a powerful sorcerer. So Tim has to deal not only with the everyday problems of being a teenager but also the

> vast world of the occult. Both the artwork and writing can abstract at times but if you give this book the attention it deserves it will be an enjoyable

> Looking ahead this month:

Marvel Comics, Elektra gets her own title. Belonging to the Daredevil family for years Elektra moves to the X-Men family of books, despite that one flaw this is book has definite potential. Also there's a geek alert in effect as Trekkies swarm the local comic shop in search of Marvel's new line of Star Trek comics, tentatively titled "Star Trek: The quest for more money". My opinion is if the guy next to you at the comic shop is wearing pointed ears be afraid be very afraid.



Flix's Pick's: The Crow: City of Angel's

By Shawn Fisher

If you enjoyed the originality of "The Crow" then you're better off missing the sequel. Not that "The Crow: City of Angels" is a bad film; it's just more like a photocopy of the first film, but not quite as sharp.

Following a similar formula as the first film "City of Angels" is linked to it's predecessor by the mythology of a wrong being done to an

inno-

cent soul, that soul returning to "put things right." Aside from the bird, one character crosses over from the fist film. Sarah, friend of Eric (Old Crow) she now aides Ashe (New Crow) as he comes to term with his death. The gist of it is Ashe and his son witness a murder by a ruthless gang that controls Los Angeles. The gang of course doesn't like witnesses, so they brutally kill Ashe and his son. Sarah dreams of this while it happens and is somehow drawn to Ashe's rest-

first finds it hard to accept his death or the purpose for which he is brought back. Ashe actually wants to stay with Sarah, who convinces him to fulfill his destiny. So just like the previous film Ashe goes from villain to villain exacting his revenge on each until he gets to the main baddie. The main villain manages to cap-

ture Ashe's bird companion, kill it, drink its blood gains it's power. Ashe manages to defeat evil anyway in a scene that looks

out of "Batman Returns."

Had the first film not been so well made and had Brandon Lee not given such a fine performance then "City of Angels" could be considered a very

good film. Mr. Lee's performance though has ruined any chance for a good sequel. Like I said, though this is not a bad film. If you're not familiar with the

first film, I would recommend seeing it. As for the fans of the original, this film is best left unwatched.

Better Off Dead

By Shawn Fisher

ing place to watch his resurrection. Ashe at

Why can't the dead stay dead? Kurt Cobain of the band Nirvana was suppose to have committed suicide in '94 and yet here it is '96 and Mr. Cobain has a new album being released. Yeah, that's right; on September 6, the radio station KROCK played Nirvana's new single "Aneurysm" from the forthcoming album "From the muddy banks of the Wishkahl." Mind you this is not a studio but a live album being released from a dead guy! First the Unplugged album then the duet with Cortney Love, now this... I swear he's put out more material since his death then most living singers do.

Now, I don't have anything against Mr. Cobain or what was Nirvana. Its just that I feel that continuing to release new material from a dead guy is a little morbid. Mr. Cobain was no more important in the grand scheme of life than any other singer out there, yet his death

has manage to make him a martyr for the Buzz Clip generation and a profitable asset to the money-hungry media. Money is what this is all about anyway; MTV and the media need new material to keep viewers and sponsors hooked. The best way to do that is to exploit the talent and name of a dead rock star that people are obsessed with. Hey, you don't even have to pay him royalties.

What's next, maybe someone will finally perfect that silly cloning process so we can have Jurassic Rocks with Elvis in a tar pit. Why not just use the technology from Forrest Gump to morph Mr. Cobain and Janice Joplin into a duet. Wouldn't that be cool, since you can't understand what either one is singing anyway. This is ridiculous; thirteen year old girls shouldn't be wearing T-shirts with a mans suicide note printed on it, People, its time for us to get a life. As complex as life can be, there are better things we can do then dwell on Kurt

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172

14 -

Acting and Directing at Seaview

By Louis Bardel

CSI students Ritty Mahoney, Mathew Patsos, Anthony Mondella, and I recently participated in a production of Sweet Bird of Youth at the Seaview Playwright's Theater, along with stars Jack Dabdoub, Geraldine Abbate and a dedicated supporting cast.

I interviewed the director of the production, Joe Daly, to find out some of his views on acting. Joe Daly has acted/directed for the company many times. He considers his role as director, in the realm of community theater, "as a teacher of newcomers, because it is the only way they can learn."

Aspiring actors on Staten Island have few avenues to perfect their craft. Between the facilities at CSI, and the Seaview Playwright's Theater, there are very few places where an actor can walk into an audition right off the street and be chosen to star in a professional production.

Daly will be co-starring in "Caine Mutiny Court-marshal," this fall at the 'Playwright's' theater. Daly will also be directing Hamlet in the spring at the 'Playwright's' theater.

The play, "The Hostage," by Brendan Behan, will also be performed in January at the *Seaview Playwright's Theater*. Auditions will be held on November 18, and 19th, between 7:45 and 9:45.

LB: What purpose do you think community theater serves for the actor and the director?

Joe Daly: An outlet for their everyday existence. I believe that everyone in their lives needs a job, and an artistic outlet. If by chance you can combine those two into one job all the better. That's why stars always say, "I can't believe I'm getting paid for something that I love to do." However ninety-nine percent of the world has a day job and they need that artistic outlet. I don't care if its collecting stamps or photography or listening to jazz music or directing community theater, everybody needs that artistic outlet in their lives. If you find a person who is dead inside, miserable or grumpy, good chance he has no artistic outlet in his life. Just my opinion.

So, to answer your question, community theater serves a purpose for the actor and director that he gets to show that part of his life, that artistic part of his life to the outside world and lets release whatever he wants to let go — his angst, his desires, his ambition, you know, and people get to see what's inside a person.

LB: What are some of the differences and similarities between acting and directing?

Joe Daly: There are no similarities. Acting is a completely selfish act. You have to learn your lines and get your character down. You have a little bit of interraction with a co-player. But if thy're totally doing their thing, pretty much, even though it is a collaboration - a give-and-take thing, it is a pretty selfish act. You learn your lines alone. You say your lines alone. Whereas, directing, you have to look at everything at once. You have to look at the acting; you have to look at the body language; you have to look at the set; you have to look at the lights; you have to look

at the sound; you have to talk about costumes. Acting: you can pretty much go home, punch off the clock and forget about it. Directing: you live it for the whole time. I find myself totally wrapped up in a play when I'm directing. I know every line, every character's line, every scene.

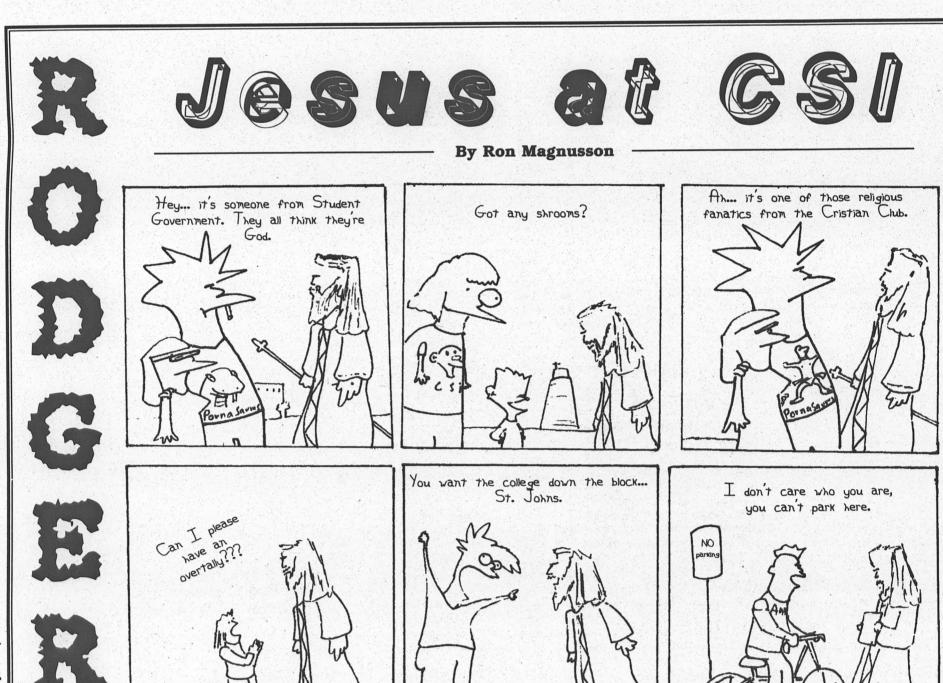
So, similarities? When I'm an actor I hate directors; when I'm an director I hate actors. That's the similarities.

LB: What are your long range plans as an actor/director?

Joe Daly: If this was all there ever was, I'd be very happy with it because I love it. I have my day job, which is tolerable because I know its just what I do during the day, to help me do what I really love which is this. My day job gives me almost no angst whatsoever. Its my avocation, my hobby, that gives me all the problems.

LB: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Joe Daly: Yes, there is. My feeling about theater, in general, community theater...I take it extremly seriously. When I'm directing a show, or acting in a show, I expect all around me to be as serious about it as I am. However, there should be a camaraderie, and a friendship between all involved that extends to after the play. You do the work and you get the reward. Very simple process, you can have both. You shouldn't have to come here and spit your guts out on stage and go home and live it. And you shouldn't come here and expect it to be a party. You can clearly have both if you balance them well. And its what I try to impress upon all my casts, that with the hard work, comes the fun. I think I pretty much get that picture across to everybody. After all, I am the 'Barbecue King.'



BANNER

ay, September 19, 1996

New York State Voter Registration Form

You Can Use This Form To:

- register to vote in New York State
- · change your name/or address, if there is a change since you last voted
- enroll in a political party or change your enrollment

To Register You Must:

- be a U.S. citizen
- · be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you file this form (note: you must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote.)
- · live at your present address at least 30 days before an election
- not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere

Información en español: si le interesa obtener este formulario en español, llame al (212) VOTE-NYC, (212) 868-3692.

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Box 6: The completion of this box is optional.

Box 9: If you have never voted before, write "None." If you can't remember when you last voted, put a question mark (?). If you voted before under a different name, put down that name. If not, write "Same."

Box 10: Check one box only.

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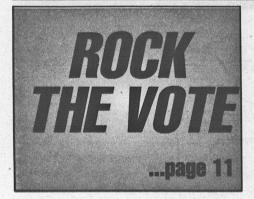
Call your county board of elections. VOTE-NYC-(212) 868-3692 Hearing impaired people with TDD may call (212) 487-5496

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9	The last year you voted Your Address was (give house number.				er, stre	street, and city) In county/state			Under the name (if different from your name now)			
10	Choose a Party - Check one box only DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN CONSERVATIVE In order to vote in a primary election, you must be enrolled in a party RIGHT TO LIFE FREEDOM Choose a Party - Check one box only Please Note: In order to vote in a primary election, you must be enrolled in a party I do not wish to enroll in a party					11	 This is my signature or The above information 	the United States. in the county, city, or village for at least 30 days before election, ure or mark on the line below, nation is true. I understand that if it is not true I can be convicted and 0 and/or jailed for up to four years.				

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SPOTTS Thursday, September 19, 1996



Will the Yankees Hold On?

By Francis Stuchbury

In August the Yankees had a 12 game lead that went down to four games. The problems were that the pitching was terrible. The team's ERA in August was over 7. The only pitchers pitching well in the bullpen were Mariano Rivera and John Wetteland (before his injury). Andy Pettite has pitched good. If he wins the Cy Young he will have the highest ERA to win it since Lamar Hoyt.

Throughout the season, Jimmy Key has been injury prone. If he can stay healthy, he will pitch well for them. Dwight Gooden has pitched terribly. He could not pitch out of the first inning against the worst team in baseball the Detroit Tigers. He is suffering from a tired arm. That's why his last start was skipped in order to give his arm more rest. Due to Kenny Rogers injury he will get another chance to prove himself. In the bullpen Mariano Rivera has pitched very well. He without a doubt is the MVP of the Yankees. He has the most strikeouts in a season by Yankee reliever. He broke Goose Gossage record of 122 done in 1978. If he was on the Mets they would have won another 20 games. Now that Wetteland is healthy he has taken over his closer role. When you see him pitch he makes Yankee fans nervous [always puts men on base] but he usually gets the job done. Jeff Nelson is starting to

pitch like he pitched in Seattle. He is more dependable than he was in the middle of the season. Brian Boehringer has pitched great since he has come back from Columbus. He can be an emergency starter or if a pitcher gets hammered early in the game he can come into the game and keep the Yankees in it. Graehm Lloyd the lefty reliever has pitched terrible for the Yankees in pressure situations. He has to get the left handed hitters out.

David Cone was suppose to be out for the season after surgery to repair a torn aneurysm in his pitching shoulder. He came back a lot sooner than people expected. In his first start back he pitched seven innings of no hit ball. Torre made the right decision to take him out because the Yankees had a commanding 5-0 lead against Oakland. Cone and Rivera pitched a combined one hit shutout. Since he has been back his record is 2-1. He has not given up more than three runs.

The addition of Cecil Fielder gives the Yankees something they did not have power. Fielder is the DH and occasional first baseman. He gives the Yankees the cleanup hitter they desperately needed. The acquisition of Charlie Hayes was a surprise to some people [especially Boggs]. He is a good hitter against left-handed pitchers. Also he has played for the Yankees before. The strange thing is that Boggs replaced Hayes after they lost him to the Rockies in

the expansion draft. Boggs at first complained about the trade but then said the most important thing is the team winning the World Series. Hayes and Boggs will end up platooning at third base. With Boggs recent injury problems the Yankees made a great move in acquiring him. If they did not get Hayes, Andy Fox would be playing third base for them. With Hayes and Fielder in the lineup the Yankees are a much better hitting team against left handed pitchers.

Darryl Strawberry has broken down. He has not been productive. Thankfully Tim Raines came back from his injuries. He gives the Yankees the lead-off hitter they need. He's fast and runs the bases well. Also Wade Boggs is better hitter when he hits second There is less pressure on him.

The Yankees have a two and a half game lead over the Orioles. September 17 they have a critical three game home-stand with them. Lets not forget the Yankees have eight games left with their arch rival Boston Redsox. My prediction is the Yankees will play well against Baltimore and hold on to win the division. They don't want to choke like the California Angels did when they blew their chance to the Seattle Mariners.

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