

THE BANNER

February 14, 2005



Photo: Luke Crisalli

CSI Goes Baroque

Jennifer Moss crop

Ecuadorian guitarist Jimmy Mora Silva wowed a CSI audience on February 1st, with his Baroque Repertoire, in preparation for his Carnegie Hall debut performance on Saturday, February 5th. Keep in tune with all the new and exciting performances hosted by the Music program at CSI.

Next up: Classical and jazz violinist Diane Monroe on Saturday, March 12th. Monroe will be in residence at CSI for the week, giving improvisational workshops.

Mid-Year Graduation Leaves Many Out In Cold

Janine LeChillgrien

Every June, anywhere from one to two thousand students walk through the Performing Arts Center, past the fountains to the great lawn where family, friends, professors and administrators wait to see them turn their tassels and receive their diplomas. But for 85% of these graduates it's all a farce.

Underneath their pointy hats and shiny polyester robes these "graduates" are nervously sweating their finals grades. June commencement occurs before the final grades have been posted, so many of the candidates are receiving fake diplomas. The only people who are walking with their heads high are the January graduates from the semester before. Except there are so few of them.

With an enrollment of 12,600 students, the College of Staten Island graduates its students three times a year, once in August, once in January, and once during the traditional June commencement exercises. Yet, for January and August grads, there is no commencement, no caps hanging in the Hallmark window and no graduation march playing overhead. The feelings of accomplishment and completion are met with little of the pomp and circumstance usually associated with receiving a degree.

Of course, every student who grad-

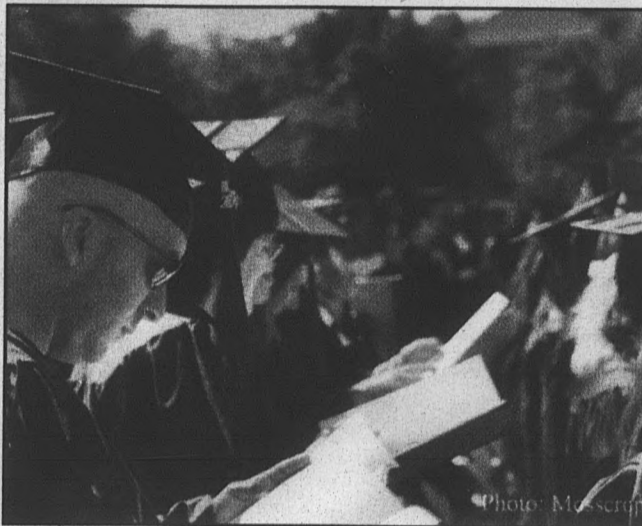


Photo: Moss crop

uates CSI is invited to return for commencement exercises in June, but it's not appealing to many students. January grad Troy Weinberg says he won't be returning to June commencement. "I've been here 4 years and I just want to take my diploma and leave," Weinberg said. "Coming back 6 months later? I don't know if it's worth it."

Some graduation experts at CSI disagree. "I absolutely think it's worth it," said Mike Daniels, Vice President of Student Affairs. "It's the culmination of years of hard work. The day is all about the student and his or her achievements."

Alan Hoffner, Director of the Registrar agrees. "It's a magnificent ceremony. Mr. Daniels and his people work very hard to make it a special day. The great lawn is really beautiful, and each student's achievements are noted individually. As a whole, you celebrate stu-

Continued on page 3

2 1/2 Years Later . . .

WSIA Gets a GM

Scott Saloway Selected

"The station is very special to the college, and we want to keep it that way."

—Carol Jackson



At the February 10th WSIA Board of Directors meeting, Vice President Carol Jackson and Director of Student Affairs Carol Brower announced that Scott Saloway had been hired as the FM station's new General Manager. Photo: Luke Crisalli.

David Maltz

Thursday February 10th—Vice President for Student Affairs Carol Jackson and Director of Student Life Carol Brower announced at a WSIA Board of Directors meeting that a new General Manager for Staten Island's only FM station had been hired.

"You have been without a General Manager for a long time," said Brower. "As of March 7, you will have a new General Manager, Scott Saloway."

While the students appeared happy, they questioned why their temporary coordinator, Roy Mackee, could not take the permanent position.

"The work that Roy did will not go unnoticed," Brower said. "We looked at every possibility, but we think we made the right decision." Vice President Jackson also expressed gratitude for the work Mackee had done and hoped he would continue to help the station. "Hopefully, we'll be able to work something out," Jackson said.

Jackson expressed relief that the search was over, stating that it has been "a difficult search." She added, "It's great to get someone who wants to be here." Jackson also reiterated the college's commitment to WSIA. "I hope you see that the college is really trying to make an effort to help the radio station," she said. "The station is very special to

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IN HONOR OF

Francis Obaji

Francis Obaji walked into the Banner office three years ago and asked if I would take a look at his sketchbook. He had told me that during his long commute to CSI from Queens, he drew. What I saw in his notebook astounded me not only for its excellent craft and strong detail, but for its powerful sense of empathy, and subtle sadness. When I showed the editors, they unanimously agreed to run this image of a homeless subway rider on the cover of the Banner. I argued that the newspaper should place some headline copy over the image, but the editors were insistent that the image should run by itself. Obaji, quiet and self-deprecating, did not contribute to the discussion, nor did he ever contribute to the Banner again. Soon, he left CSI.

Francis Obaji joined the Army National Guard, and was soon on his way to Iraq. Recently, I learned he had been killed in Baghdad.

There have been no speeches made by politicians in Obaji's honor, no monuments erected to his memory in Washington, D.C. In life as in death, soldiers are not in the business of calling attention to themselves. In the case of Francis, another kind of monument lingers in these offices, the marks of his pencil printed, duplicated, and stored in our archives. Which makes perfect sense when we remember that Francis Obaji was not only a soldier, but an artist.

—Frederick Kaufman

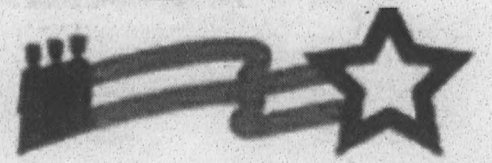


AMERICAN DEMOCRACY PROJECT



The New York Times

THE BANNER



From The ADP Editor

Matthew Safford

While working on conceptualizing my own articles for the semester, and setting up connections contacts for The APD page, I quickly came to the conclusion that covering local politics and issues is going to be a lot more work than the national interest pieces I have largely stuck to for the past couple semesters. No longer can I rely on my own casual reading habits—authors like Chomsky, Rushkoff, and Zinn—to point me to possible story ideas. I'm going to have to go out into that confusing miasmic ether the stodgy among us might call "the real world" and do things like interviews and research. Sounds logical, I know, but the point here is that it'll be time consuming. Accounting for the fact that I have two jobs and 12 credits to take care of, I've crunched the hard numbers and come to the conclusion that at best, I'll be able to spit out 3 real articles this semester.

What all this means is that I'm going to be relying heavily on articles from all of you, the Banner-reading public. And while I've recieved a few exceedingly well-written pieces already, the majority tend to deal with issues of a national or global scale. Now if you'll recall way back last issue—I'll give you a minute to think, I know it was a whole two weeks ago—I

decreed that this semester ADP was going to try to focus on local issues and civic engagement. So while I liked what submissions I did get this time around, I felt that I really couldn't use most of them. They didn't fit the mold, and since it hasn't even cooled yet, I didn't feel like breaking it.

Now, I know most of you are like me—sorry if that scares a lot of you—and aren't logically inclined to write stories about local issues, so I'll soften up the standards a bit. While I would prefer articles directly concerning students or New Yorkers, I will consider (space allowing) articles dealing with issues of larger scope. What I specifically don't want however, are a ton of articles about Bush, Iraq, or Afghanistan. We beat that dead horse into the ground last semester, and I for one would like to read about something else, in my school paper at least.

I'm sure there are those who will tell me that I'm being a bit of a sore loser, not wanting to talk about national politics after well, lets face it, pretty much nothing went my way on November 2nd. To those people, I have a couple things to say. You may have a point. If you'd like to make it, the Letters Page and the Op-Ed Section are a couple doors down. Hang a right at the Sex Column. You can't miss it. But if you hit the Sports Page, you'll know you've gone too far.

CSI's Newest Student Senator Says Hello (and Goodbye) to Banner Readers

Linda Appu

For those of you who read the January 31, 2005 issue of The Banner, you might have noticed Matthew Safford's article about me in the American Democracy Project page. I thank Matthew for such a colorful profile, it really humbled me.

I'd also like to congratulate Matthew on invigorating this campus with political and governmental concern. Too often, students who are interested in real issues and want to be aware of political malarkey are fooled into believing they stand alone.

That's why, when Matthew had invited me to write articles about the Student Government, as I was recently elected as a senator, I was excited. It would be a great opportunity to let the student body know what exactly is happening.

Unfortunately, I learned that some might believe I would have a conflict of interest as a SG senator and a contributor to The Banner. I disagree that such a

conflict exists, because I am first and foremost a student of CSI. However, the reader must trust the person providing the information, and it would be futile for me to gain that trust without a litmus test. Therefore, I am saddened to say that I will have to turn down the offer to write in The Banner about CSI's Student Government.

Regardless, you have already made an effort to know more about CSI by reading The Banner. Matthew described me as a "carnival barker," and I'm glad. To accomplish anything, you have to be heard, mistakes have to be made, and second (or third, fourth) attempts have to be taken. I encourage anyone interested to speak to any member of SG and/or to come to any of our meetings (which are CLUE credit certified). And aside from barking, I love (and I do mean love) hearing questions, concerns, and my favorite—complaints. This is our school and supposedly the best days of our lives. Let's make our time here really count for something.

Student Leaders Join to Protect Higher Education

Kevin S.P. Mamakas

At the last Student Government meeting, NYPIRG representatives and Student Government Senators organized a committee to stop Governor Pataki's budget cuts and tuition hikes.

The Governor's budget would increase tuition by \$250, slash TAP financial aid awards in half, and damage successful opportunity programs like SEEK. In fact, more than 400 CSI students are presently enrolled in SEEK. But it seems the Governor would like to take everything away from us except councilors and tutors.

Dan Botting, CSI NYPIRG's Project Coordinator, said that the new coalition with student government was a "work in progress." Botting would like to see other student groups and leaders create a powerful alliance. Each group has different strengths that will help the committee get the point across that CSI rejects the proposed higher education budget.

"The creation of an action committee opens up a channel of communication where student organizations and leaders on campus can work together to oppose the tuition hike," said CSI NYPIRG Board Representative Kate Frietag. "The committee will increase the role of student organizations and leaders and allow each individual student to be effectively represented by a strong coalition."

Students have to become involved in this effort, and insist the State Legislature override the proposed budget. Ronald Glenn, CSI Student Government Senator, believes that the Committee is, "definitely important because it affects all the students. Students have to go and fight because many CUNY students can't afford Harvard or Yale."

Despite student protest, the Governor's chief assistant, Republican Jeff Lavel, doesn't believe that the financial elements of SEEK are necessary. But CSI's SEEK program disagrees with Lavel to the extent that it has joined the new coalition, fearing the damage that will be done.

The on- and off-campus efforts of this committee will last as long as it takes to get their point across. The next step will be to go directly to various clubs, the club council, and other groups of student leaders who will be asked to join the cause. Any student leaders interested in taking part in these efforts should contact NYPIRG at 718-982-3109, or by stopping by 1C-218.

It was only two years ago when Governor Pataki forced an \$800 tuition increase on students. The unprecedented alliance among CSI student government, students leaders, student clubs, and NYPIRG will work to ensure that Governor Pataki does not balance his new budget on the backs of students.

The Vagina Monologues

By: Eve Ensler

Directed by: Victoria Venezia

Friday, February 25th at 8:00pm

Saturday, February 26th at 8:00pm

Sunday, February 27th at 3:00pm

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
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Titillating T-shirt
and a tax deduction

\$20~ General Admission

\$15~ Students (with valid ID) and Senior Citizens

Reception to follow each performance

The Lab Theatre, Center for the Arts
For tickets call 1.718.982.ARTS (2787)

College of Staten Island/CUNY-2000 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, New York 10314-Marlene Springer, President



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JACKSON AND BROWER ANNOUNCE SALOWAY AS WSIA'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER

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the college and we want to keep it that way."

Due to certain union regulations regarding administrative positions at CUNY, Saloway's initial contract will only be valid until June 30th. Saloway's contract will then have to be renewed on a yearly basis for up to eight years, after which it will be possible for him to be renewed permanently.

The need for the search arose two and a half years ago, on August 8, 2002, when WSIA's General Manager for the previous 22 years, Greg Adamo, resigned to pursue a teaching position at Richard Stockton College in New Jersey. A search committee comprised of seven administrators, faculty members, and two students was created. Led by CSI's Director of Student Life, Carol Brower, the search committee sought to find a permanent replacement for the station.

ment for the station.

At the time, Dr. David Shear, a longtime community volunteer at the station, had been named interim General Manager of WSIA for a period not longer than two years. Despite being well liked by the students, Shear was not hired for the permanent position and did not have his interim status renewed by the administration after his contract expired on June 30, 2004. In an interview with the Banner last September, Shear asserted that he could not understand what had cost him the position. "I went through the search committee like everyone else, to be fair," Shear commented. "They liked all my answers in the phone interview and the in-person. It seemed like a done deal. There was no reason not to hire me."

The search had suffered many setbacks.

In October of 2004, the first committee search ended with none of the three finalists being hired. An extension was given, the results of which are unfolding now.

In an interview with The Banner last month, Brower was cautiously optimistic that by March, a new GM will have been hired. "Things as we've learned from the last search are certainly subject to change," she said. "Certainly by March I'm hopeful we will have selected a candidate and have him in place."

Now that will actually happen.

"It's been a long run," concluded Brower. "It's been tiring. I think the station members have kept things running. I think it will be good for what's next for WSIA. In the long run, it will do great things for the station."

MID-YEAR GRADUATION

—continued from page 1

dents who took only night classes, students who came only on the weekends, students who worked full time, students that have children, students that are over 60. It's a beautiful day."

Carol Watkins, Director of Career Placement, still regrets not walking in her college graduation ceremony. "Think about it. I'll never get to do that again," she said. "You just can't describe the feeling that day. All the camaraderie. You've all worked hard! You deserve it."

Graduation in June may be all pageantry, but it holds a special place in people's hearts around here on cam-

pus. "It's an important academic tradition," Daniels added. "It's the final academic step you can take part in. Walking in the ceremony is a great way to say thank you - thank you to the faculty, and to the staff that helped you get through and thank you to your family and friends. If you aren't going to do it for yourself, do it for them."

"I feel like I owe it to myself to walk," said January grad, Lauren Marra. "I also really want my family to be there to see it. I'll definitely be returning to campus for the ceremony."

"I know this sounds corny, but every year it reminds me how thrilled and truly proud I am to work in a place that changes lives," Hoffner notes. "Unless, of course, it rains."

January Graduates Have Edge, Administration and Staff Say

There are around 877 candidates that hope to graduate from CSI this January and many are disappointed and worried about finding a job. "If I were graduating in January I'd probably take a few months off," says Edwin Chu, senior. "I don't know how easy it would be to find a job in the middle of the year like that." However this is a common misconception. While the academic world marks December as the middle of the year, to the rest of the world, it is just the end.

"It can be equated to the laws of supply and demand," says Alan Hoffner, Director of the Registrar. Hoffner argues that if the supply, in this case, the college graduates, are low then the demand is higher for those companies seeking to hire. Vito Zajda, Assistant Registrar, makes another good point. "For many companies, the fiscal year ends in December. If you can get in there before budgeting begins, you may have a better shot at obtaining a position."

There is a downside to this perspective. "There can be less movement during this time of year," said Carol Watkins, Director of Career Placement. "During the holiday season, the labor market can be slower. People tend to stay put and don't leave jobs as much."

Ms. Watkins agreed that on the whole, January grads can get a jump start, depending on the profession. "If you are a business or marketing major for example, this might be a good time for you." For more info visit the Career Placement center in 1A-105.

- Janine LeChillgrien

Parking One of Many Transportation Problems for Students

Annemarie Dooling

While most of us drive into campus a few minutes before our classes begin and grumble over the distance from our parking spot to the door, Pete is making the long hike from the Loop Bus stop to the building of his first class. He doesn't have the luxury of keeping his books in his car, and switching them between classes. Pete takes public transportation to school every day, namely, the bus. While he prefers to ride his bike to school in the warmer months, in the winter he has no choice but to take the bus. And lately, that hasn't been easy.

While I drove to campus today to interview Pete, I understood what it's like to be in his shoes. For an entire year prior to the purchase of my car, I had to wake up an hour earlier than I do now, make sure I had money on my metrocard, and take the bus. From the bus stop on Forest Hill Road, it's a good 10 minute walk to the center of campus. Oh yeah, don't forget, you have your entire days worth of books on you. Now, the MTA has decided to make public transportation a little more difficult for students, by raising the fare. A weekly metrocard is now \$3 more than its former \$24 price, and the monthly card raises from \$70 to \$76.

For this increase, riders want to expect better service, but, in fact, many say service has gotten even worse.

"It's all integrated," says Pete. "I'm



begin till 8:20 every morning, and stops just before midnight. So much for extra time at the library to study.

But transportation services will get even worse, especially for those of us with longer commutes. The MTA now plans to cut service on bus lines, and close many subway stations—including the Whitehall Street, a favorite for ferry-users, and Flatbush Ave, in Brooklyn, which services fellow Brooklyn College.

"I'm not a fan of waiting," said Pete. "But the second big reason is the price."

With fares climbing this year, and another hike expected in 2007, students wonder what the college plans to do to keep them coming to class. Some ideas have included reduced fare metrocards, a loop bus to the mall—a popular point of transfer for many buses—or

not going to wait a half hour to forty-five minutes for the bus, and then have to pay out the nose to ride it."

In a poll conducted by The Straphangers Campaign, Staten Island buses ranked fairly high on the list of fastest service at rush hour, but the S61 and 62, which both have stops on the

outer gates of CSI, did pretty poorly. The 61 clocked in at 10.2 mph, and the 62 at 11.3. And slower buses equal a longer wait. While the schedule for the S62 reports a bus stopping at the campus roughly every fifteen minutes, the students report a different story. Not to mention service into campus doesn't

simply a petition for more service during peak school hours. With a good number of CSI's student body categorized as "non-traditional," under financial assistance, and the entire current student body as commuter, how long will CSI and CUNY wait before not a single one of their students can afford to get to class?

ATTENTION STUDENTS

Nominate your Professor for the Presidential Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching

The Presidential Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching is intended to recognize full time tenured faculty members for exceptional contributions to the advancement of learning and teaching. The past recipients of this award are professors David Trabolay, Anderson Ohan, and Alvin Silverstein.

The Selection Committee is seeking nominations for the 2005-06 award from which it will submit its recommendations to the Provost to be forwarded to the President for her decision. The award recipient will receive \$1,500 and a citation for her/his achievements in teaching excellence. The award recipient will present a lecture in fall 2005.

GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION:

The committee will consider full time tenured faculty members who have made a sustained contribution to the profession of teaching over many years. Nominations may come from an individual or a group of individuals including faculty, students, staff, and alumni. Nominations should include a statement of the achievements of the candidate that supports teaching excellence. In addition, the nominators are strongly encouraged to provide no more than four letters of support from students, alumni, or colleagues.

WHERE TO SEND NOMINATIONS:

Please send your nomination material (i.e., the statement of achievements with no more than four letters of support attached) to Assistant Provost Agarwal in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost, room 1A-305 by no later than February 18, 2005.

Any questions related to this award may also be directed to Assistant Provost Agarwal, by e-mail (agarwal@postbox.csi.cuny.edu) or by calling (718) 982-2464.

**WRITE YOUR NOMINATION BELOW,
TEAR OFF, AND DELIVER TO**

Assistant Provost Agarwal, Room 1A-305

Dear Assistant Provost Agarwal:

continued on attached pages



ACCOUNTING STUDENTS

The Accounting Club's first meeting of the Spring Semester will held . . .

on:

Thursday, February 17th

in:

Building 3N, Room 106

during:

Club hours: 1:30 — 3:30pm

Tutorials for accounting students will be held in 3N every Tuesday and Thursday between 2:30-4:00

Editor's Desk

Dear readers,

As editor of your newspaper, I feel my readers deserve to know what happened two weeks ago. On Monday, January 31st and on Tuesday, February 1st, a member of the Student Government whose name I will omit (name calling is precisely what we're trying to avoid), barged into our offices to express personal outrage over a front-page article published in the last issue of *The Banner* entitled, "Are They Worth It? Student Government Stipends"; and over a letter in the op-ed section, "Student Government BS." For a while, 1C-228 turned into a verbal boxing ring, with accusations, recriminations, and general insults bouncing off the walls.

On Thursday, February 3rd members of *The Banner*, including myself, attended a Student Government meeting to talk about this unnecessary and unfortunate incident with the rest of the Student Government Senators. After all was said and done, the person in question apologized for his/her actions and all is well now. At least I hope so.

This is a good time to address the role of the student press and what they mean to you. We have the responsibility to report on anything that may directly or indirectly affect your lives here at CSI. *The Banner* staff works very hard to protect you, the students. Hell, we're students too. I sure wouldn't want to be left in the dark!

And of course that is what's great about the student press, we are students who care about our own well-being as students.

When I read the 10-point type font in the minutes from a Student Government meeting that stipends had been awarded to members of CSI's student government, I thought, "hmmmm . . . I didn't know that." And I'm sure most of you weren't aware of it, either. I'm broke and I like to keep track of where every last cent of my money goes.

When the Student Government member intimidated my two staff writers, the whole idea of ethics in journalism was called into question. Do we shrink before the "big wigs" and retract our article? Do we fail to look deeper into the administration than some minutes, canned two-line quotes and press releases? Hell no. I'm all about peace and working things out but I will not tolerate being intimidated by anyone, and if that means pushing my own staff a little harder, then okay.

I want to continue to have a working relationship with student government and every other organization on campus. After all, we are all working towards the same objective, which is to help CSI students.

The last thing I want to say is that I am very happy with this issue. It was a weird experience getting it to the printer: deadline problems, articles falling through the cracks, and worst of all, my own struggle to write this damned letter. Look—it's almost over now! Thank you to all my staff for putting up with my endless emails and stressed out composure.

Jennifer Moss crop

Op-Ed

Complaints, Fears, Rants, Praise

SG PRESIDENT REPONDS

In the last meeting of the Student Government the Senators approved a motion to correct information that appeared about the Student Government in an op-ed from the *Banner's* Jan 31st issue. The op-ed page misleadingly states that SG meetings take place "behind closed meeting room doors." This is far from the truth as Student Government fully complies with the state Open Meetings Law that requires us to file a notice of our meetings at least 3 days before each meeting. Our meetings are all CLUE certified events that take place every 2nd Thursday during club hours (when there are no classes). We openly welcome students to any of our Spring meetings on 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31, 4/14, or 5/5. They are all held in the Campus Center – room 207.

Had the author of the op-ed attended our January 27th meeting, they would have heard us discuss the selection of a new Student Government logo, which (among other things) will be attached to the \$20,000 worth of textbooks we bought for the library to keep on reserve for students. This money was allocated at a meeting in the summer when most people were on break. We also decided to co-sponsor a Town Hall meeting on March 23 where students can ask President Springer and administrators their questions. This is typical of the important work we do at each meeting.

Finally, in a related article about stipends from the same issue, the *Banner* falsely says that last year president Dunkley "supported a motion which denied stipends to PDC members." Last year the senate (President Dunkley included), approved the PDC stipend proposal, and the CSI Association also approved the proposal. The proposal was then reviewed and sent back by President Springer based on powers the CUNY Trustees have given the college Presidents over Association expenditures. We want to clarify that the policy to deny stipends to certain groups is a policy set by the University and College administration. The Student Government appreciated the work and commitment the *Banner's* staff puts into publishing the *Banner* every two weeks, and if we made the stipend policy, we might all get stipends. However, the College and University have made the current policy and attacks on Student Government won't change that.

—Dwight Dunkley

President, Student Government

BLAME FOR ALL

It was flattering to see an op-ed on Student Government solely discuss only one Senator, especially when that one Senator is me. What former Senator Adams failed to mention in her rant was that as she no longer serves on SG and

has no idea what exactly goes on behind open doors. The former Senator only served long enough to vote in a presidential and then split, leaving the rest of used to fight for student's interests. What she and perhaps others fail to see is that the long-time rift between students and student representatives has been a case of miscommunication and misrepresentation. I would like to take the opportunity to address some of these misrepresentations, rant back to Ms. Adams, and clear up any misconceptions students might have.

The first misconception that former Senator Adams clearly has, is the working relationship I have with the current President. While I still believe divisions can run deep in SG, I also firmly believe Dunkley and myself put our preferences aside to agree on goals and ideas for fighting the next tuition hike (yeah, another one), representing CSI on USS and being generally civil to each other. To naively believe that partisan blocs won't exist in any type of political organization is just plain stupid, but to insinuate that Senators hate each other and spend meetings bickering is a misrepresentation. We agree to disagree, and have made continuous and substantial strides to get everyone on SG regardless of side to work together; and that includes us.

The second misrepresentation I would like to address is the obvious lack of variety when polling Senators on their opinions of Dunkley's performance and my attendance. I still serve on SG and have still not needed to use all of my excused absences. Former Senator Gorokhova did not see me at the last two meetings of the semester because of scheduling conflicts. It might also be pertinent to know that former Senator Gorokhova was a firm Dunkley supporter that voted consistently for him, so any assessment of his performance as President is very subjective, to say the least.

The third miscommunication I would like to address concerns the article on stipends that appeared in the last issue of *The Banner*. I do not currently receive a stipend, but have in the past, and I did propose a stipend last semester for SG. The original proposal I submitted was redirected to the finance commission and Finance Commissioner Taiwo Olesape (the current VP), who proceeded to adjust the original figures to the current ones. It is also pertinent to add that stipends are not retroactive and are based on a service scale. SG members who opt to receive a stipend receive a figure calculated from the day they begin to serve until they leave or are removed from the body. The current figures, while higher than the ones I suggested, are well below the average for other CUNY student leaders and are fiscally sound. SG has also tried in the past to arrange stipends for other student leader organizations, namely PDC, without success. Perhaps a sit down with *The Banner* and a printing in the paper of last year's, this year's, and the CUNY average figures can put all of this to rest.

I can only speak for myself but I

believe the lack of communication between *The Banner*, SG, and students is not beyond repair. SG has not relayed information well to the student body, the student body has not been interested in SG, and *The Banner* has not reported well on SG in previous instances. The pie is evenly divided between all of us, and we all deserve a little bit of the blame.

Regardless, SG will continue to function, Senators will continue to work, and *The Banner* will continue to report. The doors to 1C-207 are always open.

—Stephanie Donoso

THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

Kudos to the Registrar's office so far this semester for the way they have efficiently handled the madhouse in 2A in the weeks before classes started and in the first couple of days after. Only the courage and perseverance of about three or four matronly tellers and a couple of not very matronly security guards could have dealt with the frenzied flow of over-tallies, late registrations, and clueless freshman. They worked like a machine, moving students in and out at a remarkable pace. And the most important thing is that they handled them all with professionalism, yet with a genuine desire to help bewildered pupils. They deserve some free therapy sessions after what they have been through!

—Matthew Beck

THANK YOU CSI

I would like to use this forum to highlight some of the support system available to students at the College of Staten Island.

Four months ago, my older brother was assassinated in Nigeria. I was able to make it through the semester and excel in my classes because of the support I received from fellow students, my professors, both former and then-current Nigerian Student Association, as well as the counseling center.

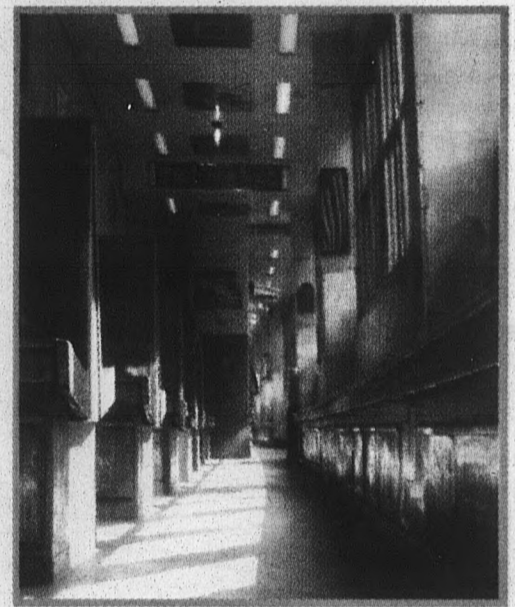
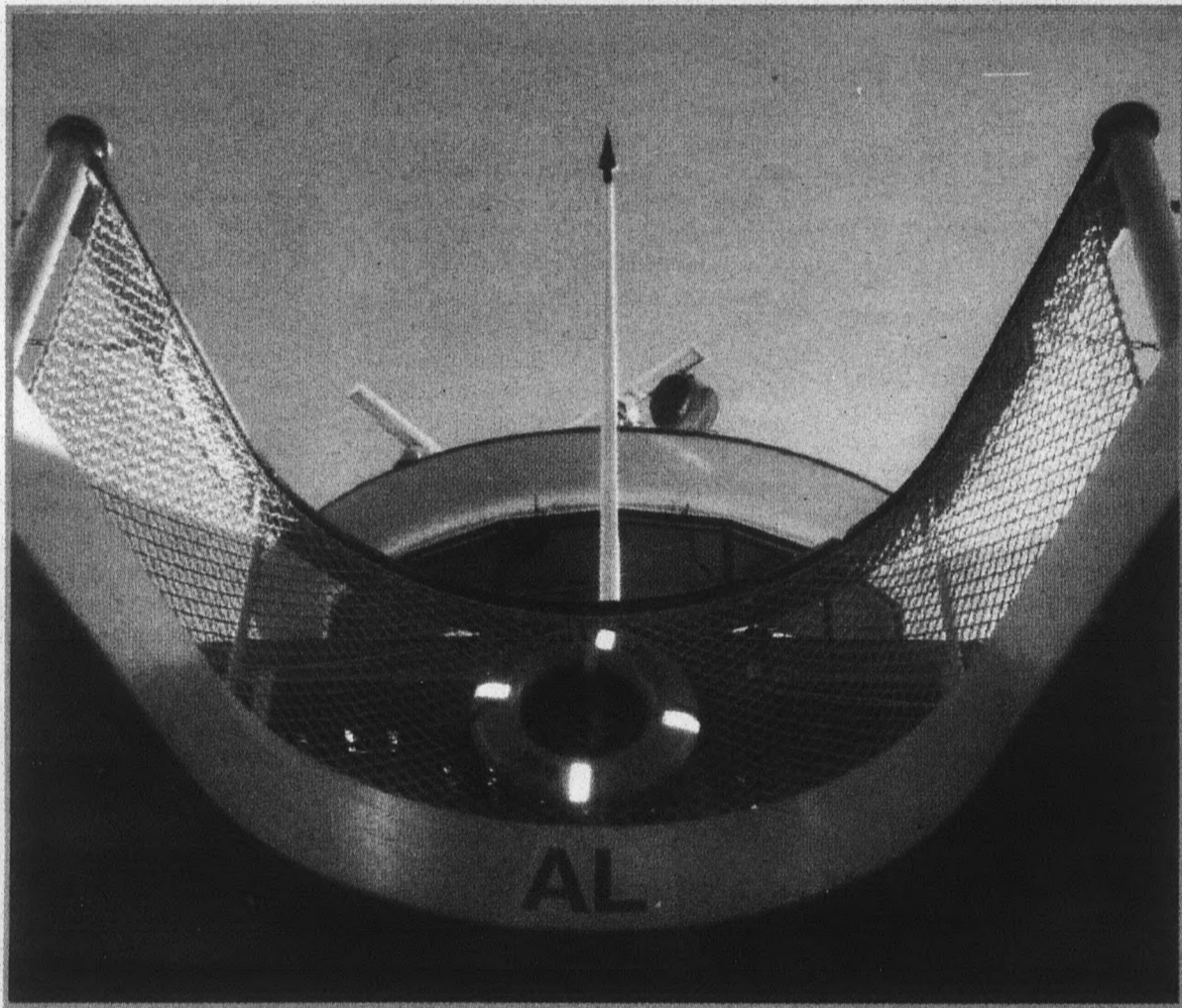
It would have been easy to fold my hands, but I did not. Let us not underestimate the power of community. Thank you CSI.

—Orume A-H

WRITE US

Do you have a CSI Complaint or Compliment? If so, submit them as a "Letter to the Editor" at the *Banner* office 1C-228. We may not be able to print each submission immediately, or the original in its entirety. Submissions may be edited for length, but not for content.

Sailing to CSI





Many CSI students commute to campus...

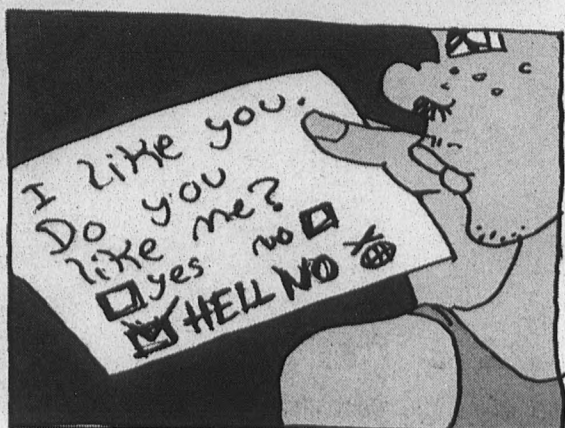
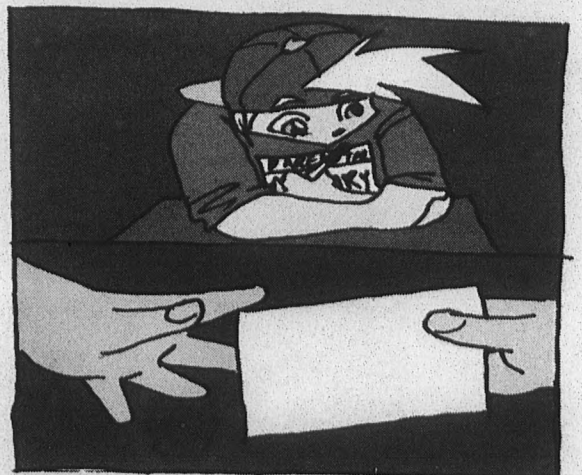
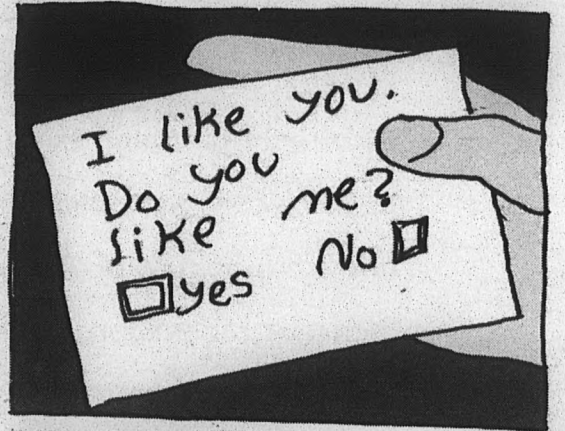
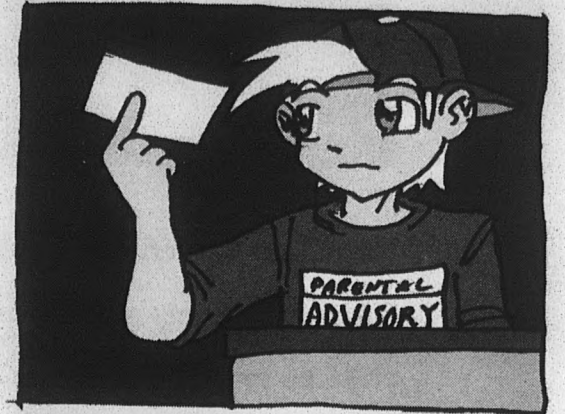
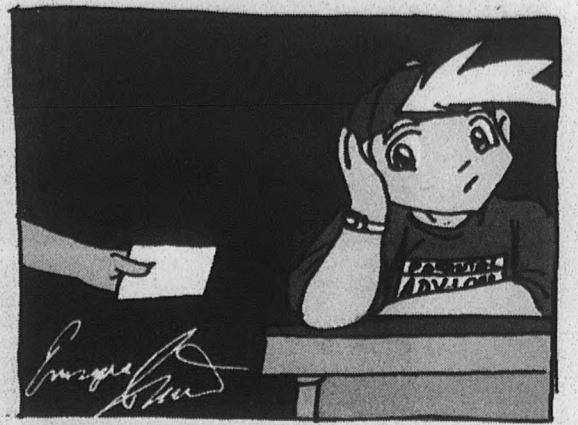
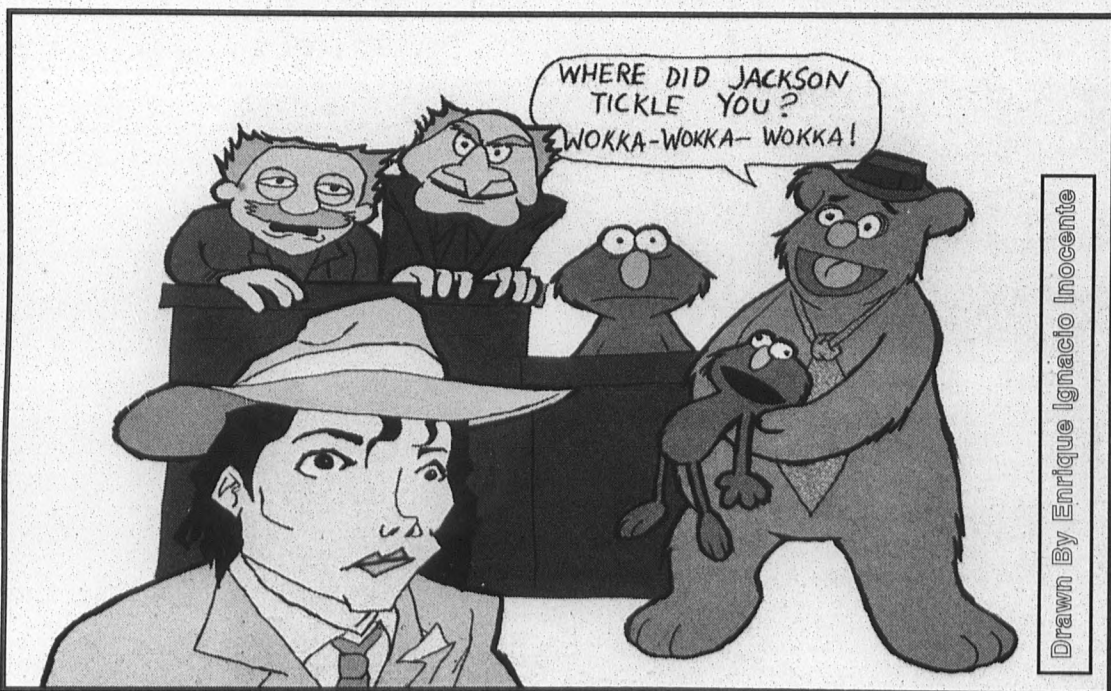
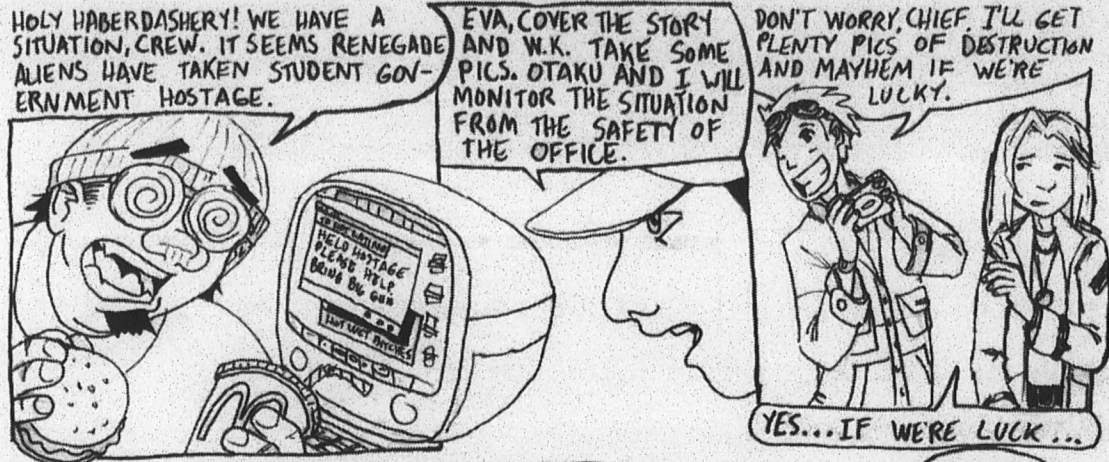
On a daily basis a majority of students use one of the many forms of public transportation our city has to offer. Be it bus or train, students always find one way to utilize what can either be the best or worst mass transit system in the world. One method that is sometimes overlooked is the Staten Island Ferry. The ferry has been around for decades and didn't always get the best press, especially following the accident of the Andrew J. Barbieri. But recently, the ferry system has been greatly improved with the addition of the new ferryboat, Guy Molinari. The Molinari is the first of three new boats that will replace some of the older ferries. And on Feb.10th, after years of major renovation following a fire, a major portion of the Whitehall ferry terminal in lower Manhattan celebrated its grand reopening. The following pictorial celebrates not only the new modern age of the Staten Island Ferry, but its crew, who work every day to insure a safe, pleasant trip for all of us.



COMICS

The Beacon

Written and Drawn by Enrique Inocente

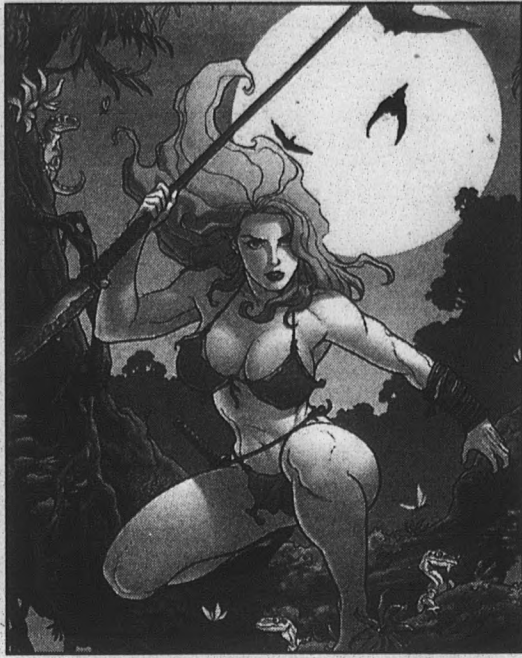


**QUICK FIX
COMICS REVIEWS**

Greg Tumbarello

Shanna: The She-Devil # 1

Much to the delight of fans, this book features a complete revamp of Shanna as seen through the eyes of writer/artist Frank Cho. The issue begins with an all-new origin as Cho weaves a tangled web of adventure complete with explosions, Nazi experiments, raptor attacks, and one scantily clad she-devil. With smooth artwork and an interesting new take on this decades old character, the first issue is a solid introduction that should peak the curiosity of those looking for something outside the superhero genre.



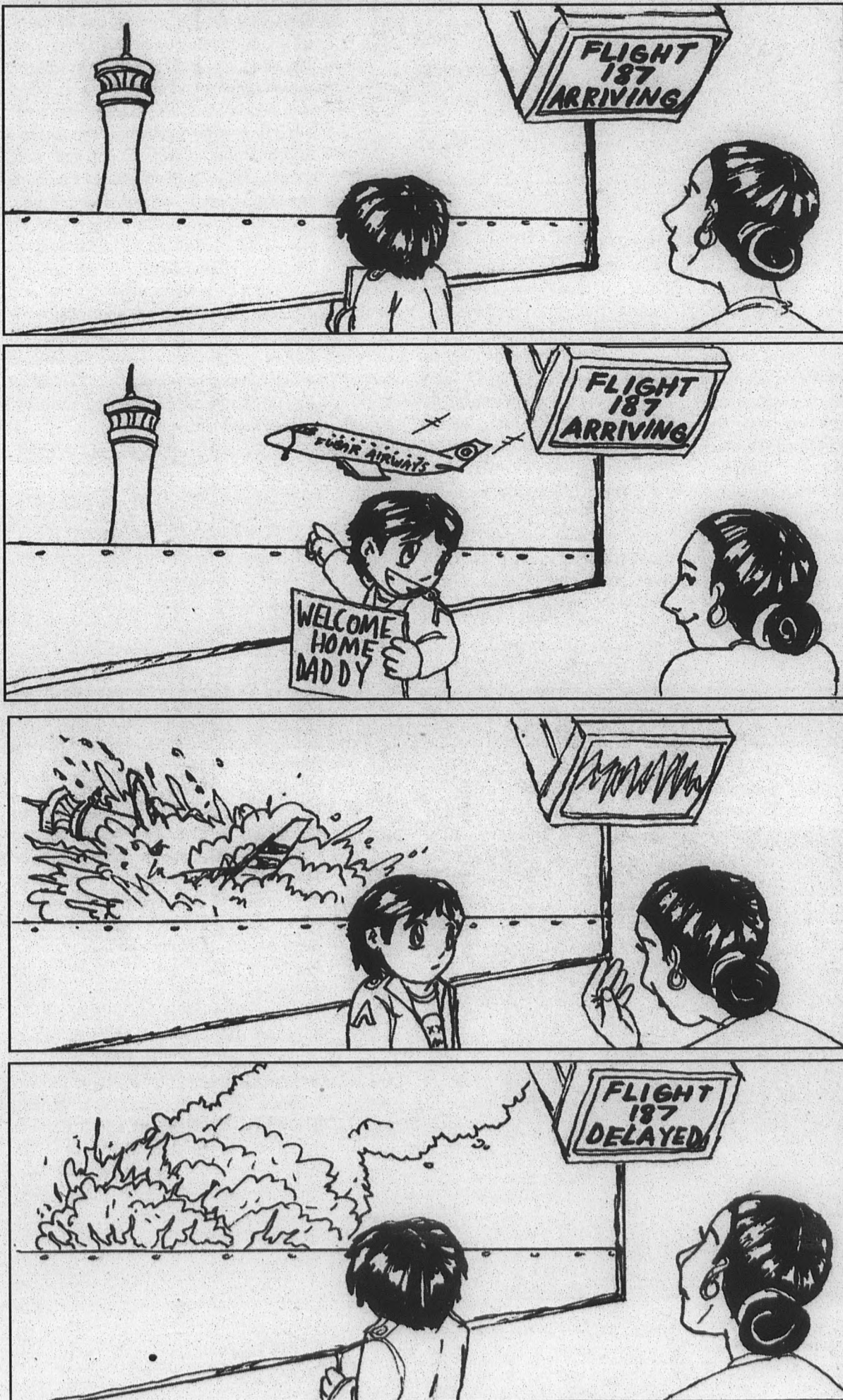
Uncanny X-Men # 455

Written by Chris Claremont and illustrated by Alan Davis & Mark Farmer, everyone's favorite telepathic ninja assassin, Psylocke, comes back from the dead. (Don't worry, this isn't a spoiler. She's on the cover of the issue!) The how and why of her return of course remain a mystery, so we'll all have to keep reading the series to find out, but we have plenty of great story to keep us occupied in the meantime.

Being an X-Men writer for over two decades, Claremont once again dives deeper into the characters and that's one feature that makes this book stand apart from most others. He's really pushing for a love triangle between Wolverine, Storm and Nightcrawler, showing them driven by internal conflict as well as the physical storyline that moves the book forward. This makes the character relations even more interesting as his other series, X-Men: The End, features the same heroes years later in situations that he begins to hint at in the subplots of Uncanny X-Men.

On a side note, Bishop's character is a little too overpowering and seems out of place at times, specifically when fighting Wolverine in the training sequence at the beginning of this issue. It does however add another dynamic to the team and could possibly be leading up to a clash within the group that should definitely make for some entertaining reading, but only time will tell.

Overall, the book is well written, beautifully drawn, and when read with preceding/subsequent issues, creates a bigger picture that fans both new and old can enjoy.

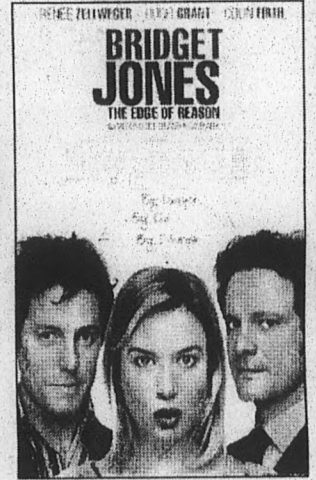
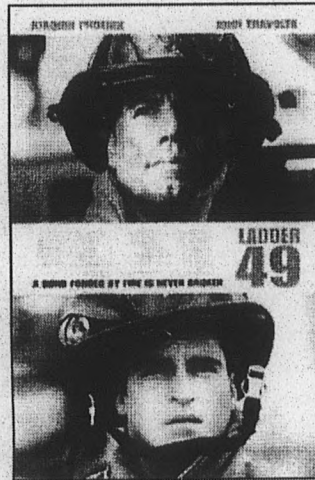


PDC FILMS

NOW SHOWING

Jan. 27th—Feb. 12th

Feb. 14th—Feb. 26th



Monday - Tuesday:

9:00am, 11:45am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, and 6:45pm

Wednesday - Thursday

9:00am, 11:45am, 3:30pm, and 6:45pm

Friday - Saturday

9:00am & 11:45am

Campus Center (1C), Bijou Lounge

Future PDC Film Showings...

- Feb. 28th—Mar. 13th Seed of Chucky and Team America
- Mar. 14th—Apr. 2nd The Incredibles and Finding Neverland
- Apr. 4th—Apr. 16th The Grudge and Meet the Fockers
- Apr. 18th—May 7th National Treasure and A Series of Unfortunate Events

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

Life.... Love... & SEX

MAN-EATER: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GIRL IN THE MIDST OF ACCIDENTAL CELIBACY

Jessica Mendez

I have to taste him. I am certain of this. My nerves are screaming, and all I can focus on is his slick, naked shoulder beaded with water from the shower we are under. We haven't touched, haven't kissed, but that shoulder....

I'm not sure how we met. I don't know his name. I think he was a customer at the café I work at. He's tall, aristocratic and muscular, with short blonde hair. I kiss his shoulder and nip it gently with my teeth. I look up and before he can react, I kiss him. And does he ever kiss back. He slams me into the cool, white-tiled wall as our bodies press together. It is a frantic entangling of soaked, tense limbs. Water is streaming all over us, but neither of us seems to notice. Our hands grasp at each other. I grab his ass, and he pulls my hair roughly as he bites my neck. Wait, I hear something over his guttural groans and my own primal moans. I try to ignore it, but it gets louder. Naa, naa naa, naanaanaanaah, ...is that, Hey Jude?

The vision slips away, even though I squeeze my eyes shut and frantically try to hold on to my impending orgasm. Nope, I feel the bedspread under me. The sort army green Todd Oldham duvet is the only thing caressing my bare skin. Groggy and disappointed, I open my eyes, defeated. I am home, in the dark. The insipid Lite-FM staple is coming from my sister Lynna's room. My orgasm has drifted with the dream. And that new sound? Are the strangled sob/sighs from

the mini-tantrum I am throwing under the covers.

Erotic dreams and fantasies have always been essential to my life. They got me through my otherwise sex-free

out that I can just skip that yoga class. The fact that I'm in heavy rehearsals for this month's production of *The Vagina Monologues* and waxing poetic about my clitoris and vagina just about every

Ah, masturbation, my good old friend. I take my stable of raunchy romps past and trace the curves of my body as the memories flood my mind. I touch my lips, the hollow of my throat, my breasts, and down, over my stomach and thighs, until my fingers are ready to hit the hot button. I feel flushed, feverish, until finally, I feel my stomach muscles tense aaaand...THERE! It's brief, akin to a really pleasurable sneeze, but it's there. What. A. Tease. I want more, but, alas, I'm seriously putting myself at risk for carpal tunnel syndrome. My index finger is in need of rest, and at least my nerves have unraveled somewhat. The last few tiny aftershocks run through me, and, after one final thigh squeeze, I flip on my television and watch *Full Frontal Fashion* through heavy-lidded eyes. It's not exactly porn, but for a fashionista, it's pretty damn close.

I drift off to sleep, visions of Galliano Couture dancing in my head. Ooh, my mystery man is back. The last thing I do before I sink into my subconscious is reach for the remote and hastily shut off the TV. Shove off, background noise. I'm trying to get laid.

Erotic dreams and fantasies have always been essential to my life. They got me through my otherwise sex-free existence in high school. They carried me through the rough patches of a long-distance relationship. Now, they are pushing me past the moments of screaming frustration of a heinous dry spell. But it's just not enough!

existence in high school. They carried me through the rough patches of a long-distance relationship. Now, they are pushing me past the moments of screaming frustration of a heinous dry spell, but it's just not enough!

This is not to say that life is horrible without sex. I feel fulfilled in so many other areas of my life. I'm happy and confident. I'm also incredibly busy, and between work, school, and all the other responsibilities I have, I am stressed. Hell, aren't we all stressed in some capacity? Yoga, meditation, bubble baths and a bottle of Corona are all well and good, but, in most cases, all I can meditate on is how I'd rather be having sex in a hot, steamy bubble bath followed by a cool Corona and so worked

day doesn't exactly help ease my libido. For stress relief, nothing beats a good round of rough, hair-pulling, neck-biting, lip-mashing, body-grinding sex. Wow, is it suddenly hot in here?

I am a living, breathing sex fiend. I want to have sex with just about everybody. (Hey, I have my limits!) At work, an attractive customer's oceanic eyes make me want to jump over the counter and shove my tongue down his throat. My friend E rubs his face, prickly with stubble, like an apologetic kitten while I help him with homework, and the only pussy purring is my own. I slide my buttery soft tangerine Paul Smith cords up my legs, and a shiver trails my spine. I must orgasm.

RETROVIEW Judgment Night a Nail-Biting Urban Thriller RETROVIEW

Enrique Ignacio Inocente

Judgment Night is a film that stars a rather stellar cast of characters. Veteran actor Emilio Estevez, Academy Award-Winner Cuba Gooding Jr., and comedian Denis Leary are at their best in this urban thriller that's as good today as it was in 1993, when it was originally released.

Frank Wyatt (Estevez), his little brother John (Stephen Dorff), and friends Mike (Gooding Jr.) and Ray (Jeremy Piven) are on their way to a boxing match, but are delayed by gridlock on the expressway. To avoid the traffic jam, Ray decides to get off at the next exit, and ends up getting lost in a dilapidated part of Chicago's inner city. They ultimately run into (literally) a drug dealer suffering from a gunshot wound inflicted on him by psychotic drug lord, Fallon (Leary). Fallon eventually shows up to finish the job, killing him in front of Frank and his friends. Needless to say, Frank, John, Mike, and Ray haul ass with Fallon and his subordinates right behind intent on killing the witnesses.

The chase begins in the city streets

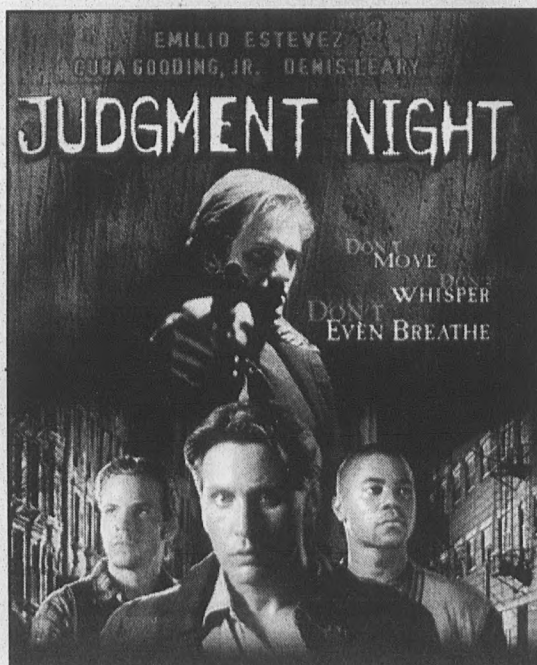
and moves through a variety of derelict locations: rundown railroad yards, housing projects, rooftops, the sewers, and ultimately a shopping center. *Judgment Night* follows the typical cat and mouse formula, but adds enough suspense to keep you hooked until the credits roll.

Frank and company are out of their element as they leave behind the idyllic suburbs, and are thrust into the seedy underbelly of Chicago where they are in a fight for their lives. The acting delivered by Estevez, Dorff, Gooding Jr., and Piven are as

believable as you can get when it comes to expressing fear on the screen.

One can't help but pity them. Except maybe Piven's character, Ray, who is a fast-talking, shyster that thinks he can bargain his way out of any situation. This foible of Ray's becomes his ultimate undoing midway through the film. Leary makes a stand-out performance as Fallon, who takes enormous pleasure playing the bad guy.

Leary also brings his patented standup comedy routine to this sadistic villain. One scene has Fallon complaining how much he can't stand people who nag as



V Stands for Victory, Valentine and *The Vagina Monologues*

Jennifer Mossdrop

On February 25th, 26th, and 27th CSI's Drama Program will perform Eve Ensler's award-winning production of *The Vagina Monologues*, in support of the worldwide V-Day College Campaign.

Inspired by Ensler's play, V-Day is a worldwide movement created to stop violence against women. Around Valentine's Day, college students perform *The Vagina Monologues* to raise money for local anti-violence organizations. All proceeds from CSI's production will go to the Staten Island branch of Safe Horizon, one of the top victim assistance organizations in America with over 80 programs throughout the five boroughs.

"The message behind the show is so powerful," said Victoria Venezia, who has helped organize the production. "I want people to walk out of the theater feeling motivated and ready to take on anything that life may throw at them."

"I have a cast of 14 wonderful women, including myself and my incredibly talented and hard-working assistant, Cara Schwimer," continued Venezia. "Each woman has shown constant dedication and worked so incredibly hard. I admire each one of them."

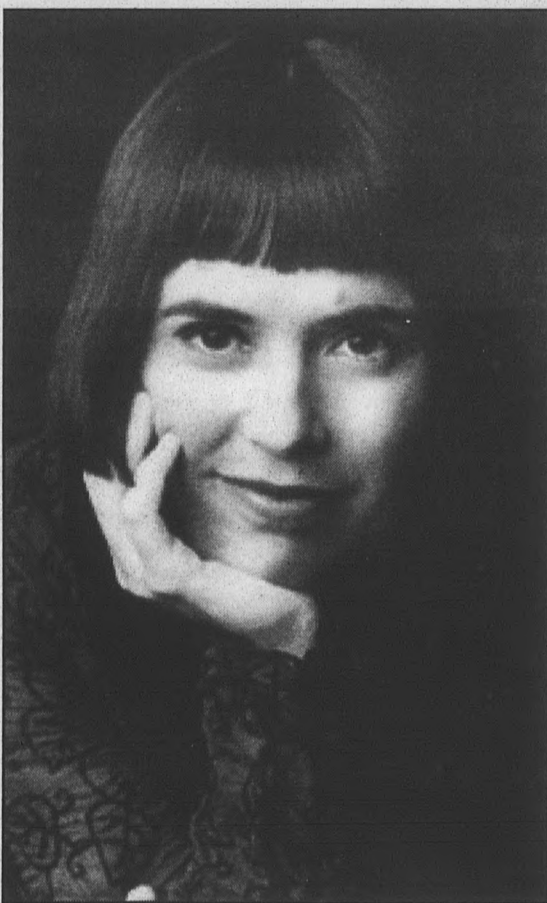
Venezia began planning this production last year after encountering the website for V-Day. "I always wanted to do charity work and the arts are my passion, so I thought it would be great to combine

the two."

The Vagina Monologues is a strikingly witty play based upon interviews with more than 200 women of all ages and ethnicities about their most intimate and sometimes violent sexual experiences. The powerful string of soliloquies are sure to empower all those who shift in their seat just mentioning the V word, while giving them a new-found sense of pride about their bodies, their sexuality and just as important, their vaginas.

"I hope CSI students will be inspired by these women's stories and use them to empower themselves," said

Venezia. "It will also give men a better understanding of the female and her body."



Eve Ensler, award-winning author of *The Vagina Monologues*, playing Feb. 25th, 26th, and 27th at the Center for the Arts.

More than 24 countries from Mexico to Jamaica, all the way to Australia and in between with 62 colleges and universities in New York alone are taking part in V-Day in a worldwide effort to raise awareness.

Chelsea Muna-Brecht, organizer of the University of Guam's *Vagina Monologues* production took the time out to talk to *The Banner*.

"I chose to be a part of this production because of the abuse I have experienced and witnessed here in Guam

we are taught to experience these things silently," she said. "I no longer want women and girls to feel they have to be

silent about anything in their lives."

"I hope that the students at the University of Guam will learn and develop an awareness of and compassion for the women around the world whose lives are so greatly affected by violence," said Muna-Brecht. "I hope for this will turn into a conviction they will use in fighting violence inflicted on girls and women here at home."

According to the Family Violence Prevention Fund, statistics show that around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. In America, one out of every 6 women have been victims of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime according to the Rape, Abuse Incest, National Network (RAINN).

Students can help end these statistics by purchasing tickets for \$15 or buy the VIP package for \$40 in 1P or by calling 982-2787. Don't leave so fast afterwards because the audience is invited to the Afterglow Party in 1P's Atrium. There will be opportunities to meet the cast, free food, music, and raffles for great prizes donated by local businesses. Cast members include: Linda Bond, Alison Brunell, Lauren D'Aversa, Linzie Faith, Ruth Gallego, Jessa Marie Mendez, Leticia Nazario, Leonora Perry, Melissa D. Rios, Cara Schwimer, Alyssa Sein, Jessica Lynn Socol, Victoria Venezia and Jill Ward.

The Legend of Zelda: The Minish Cap

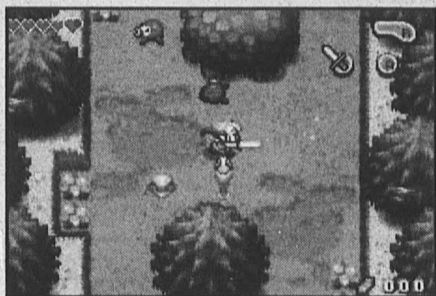
Dominic Fiduccia

Even with the popularity of 3D console game systems, there are many who prefer to play good old 2D games. Whether it is because of its beautiful graphics, or because it gives older game fans a way to remind them of their youth is anyone's guess. That's what *The Legend of Zelda: The Minish Cap* for the Game Boy Advance is all about, a wonder handheld with great traditional Zelda 2D bird's-eye view style graphics.

In *The Minish Cap*, Link is once again appointed the savior of Hyrule when a wicked sorcerer named Vaati turns Princess Zelda to stone (wasn't that the storyline of *Super Mario Bros.*?) and sets off looking for the legendary light power that will give him dominance over all the peoples of the land. Link's quest to restore Zelda and stop Vaati will be aided by the Minish, a race of tiny, cute, and powerful beings whom only children can see. You'll find portals hidden throughout the game that will shrink Link down to minish size, which will help you solve puzzles, find secret items, and generally see the world from a new perspective.

To stop Vaati, you'll have to gather the four sacred elements, which are earth, water, fire, and wind, and infuse an ancient broken blade with their essences. The quest for these four elements provides the impetus to seek out and plumb the depths of four ancient temples, each of which is a massive, complicated dungeon in the classic

Zelda style. The tasks that have to be accomplished in each dungeon are not unusual for Zelda fans; from its challenging puzzles, to the multiple floors to explore, a unique item to find, and a boss to face at the end. The items you'll pick up to aid your adventure are a mix of traditional Zelda items like the boomerang or the bow and arrows, and there are new items like the gust jar,



which can suck enemies in or blow puffs of air out. Pocci's cane shoots a ball of energy that can flip enemies upside down. Roc's cape lets you jump and even fly short distances.

Besides the main quest, there are tons of stuff to do like in other Zelda games, with some of it required and some of it optional. Aside from story-related activities, you could easily spend hours exploring the world, looking for extra heart containers, and discovering other secrets.

From the great gameplay to the entertaining and challenging dungeons with its beautiful graphics, *The Minish Cap* is one of the best games to be released for the Game Boy Advance.

Prince of Persia: Warrior Within

Amanda Foote

For those who remember playing *Prince of Persia: Sands of Time*, you already know that it possessed one of the finest video game designs ever. Now *Prince of Persia: Warrior Within* is one of the best sequels of the year. It's an amazing game all around and still keeps to the great quality of the series.

The level design in this game was just as great as the first *Prince of Persia*. The game has improved a lot from the first; you can use your surrounding environment completely. Repetition of design would have been a problem for the development team because the prince travels from past to present in somewhat the same environment. Even though there are some changes you should still be able to notice the rooms in which you've already been in before. Make no mistake—just because you were in the present doesn't mean that the place will be the same when you travel to the past. If anything, the place will change because of natural things, like decay.

Combat is better than ever with *Warrior Within*. Anyone will become a big fan of this game because of how easy it

is to adapt to the prince's abilities. You can create multiple fighting styles to switch between while facing opponents. Whether you face a few or many enemies you will not be overwhelmed.

The incredible story of *Sands of Time* raised the bar of gaming to an all time high and now with *Warrior Within*



Ubisoft has nearly passed that bar, although a bit more structure in the narration would have been appreciated. Anyone could go on and on about the great aspects

of this game. Usually there would be some frustration with any game you come across, but this one is very rare indeed. The maturity of the game hits its mark, the action is something you can jump up about, and the platforming is nothing short of perfect.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that I love this game. The graphics are exceptional, the combat abilities are much better than *Sands of Time*, and voice acting throughout the game is great as well. The value of this game is so high that you can play it over and over again while still feeling as if you're playing it for the first time. I rate this game somewhere between a 9 and a 9.5.

SPORTS

February 14, 2005

Pride Night Brings Pizzas & T-Shirts, a Win & a Loss

Jorge A. Cotto Jr.

In the wake of some very disappointing losses that the CSI Dolphins have suffered to the hive of New York City Tech Yellow Jackets, this double header between the men's and women's teams was everything that it was hyped up to be. It galvanized a resurgence in the rivalry that already exists between these two CUNY teams. The stage was set for a rematch of last season's men's semi-final game, a game in which New York City Tech were the victors.

The match-up between the women's teams was the first game on the billet, and they didn't disappoint, as they eventually set the pace for the entire evening. The women's defense was impregnable, at the very least. The women's team ended the first half with a commanding lead of 53 to 28, taking their opponents out of the game very early, evident in the emotions of the visitors bench and their few fans. They ended with a 91-52 win.

Their offense was the same, equally tenacious. If there is one thing that you notice right away it's that these women know how to play the game. The game was played fundamentally sound, with just the right combination of speed and

power, signs of dedicated and motivated coaching. "On any given night, any team can win," said coach Margurite Gualtieri. "We feel as though if we play well every night, the way we played tonight, we are going to win a lot of games. We are going to go a long way." These girls gave us more than something to look forward to in our quest for another CUNY championship on this night.

In attendance at the game was future star Chris Holder, Sophomore Guard. "The women's team plays every game to win," says Holder. "It's not as personal for them. They go into every game confident that they are pretty much going to dominate their opponent." It wasn't personal for the women, but their game play said different.

Between games, the fans in attendance participated in the festivities of CSI Pride Night. For all the many reasons that we have to be proud of our school, campus, faculty and staff, there was a celebration. It was a night of fun, laughter and good cheer as the muscle that powers our gymnasium day in and day out still pumped fervently. The thunder and the pageantry of Super Bowl XXXVIII this weekend ushered in the first of our team's collegiate sports home games of this season, and we kept the flow going with a party of our own.

Our half time show didn't have a famous Jackson's breasts flying or an X-Beatle performing passionately, but we did have a free-throw contest where contestants would win free pizza and t-shirts. There were a few brave who attempted, and of course there was a winner. On a scale, it was just as great. For the women, it was a tremendous victory. In fact, at the end of the half, the feeling in the air was that the Dolphins would hold them to 50. The Yellow Jackets managed to score 52.

The next game featured the men, and the excitement escalated, as the fans eagerly anticipated a sweep. Adding to the excitement of the game was the rivalry that already exists between these two teams. The men's team suffered a crushing defeat in the playoffs of last year's CUNY championship game, as the Yellow Jackets swarmed past us and into the championship game.

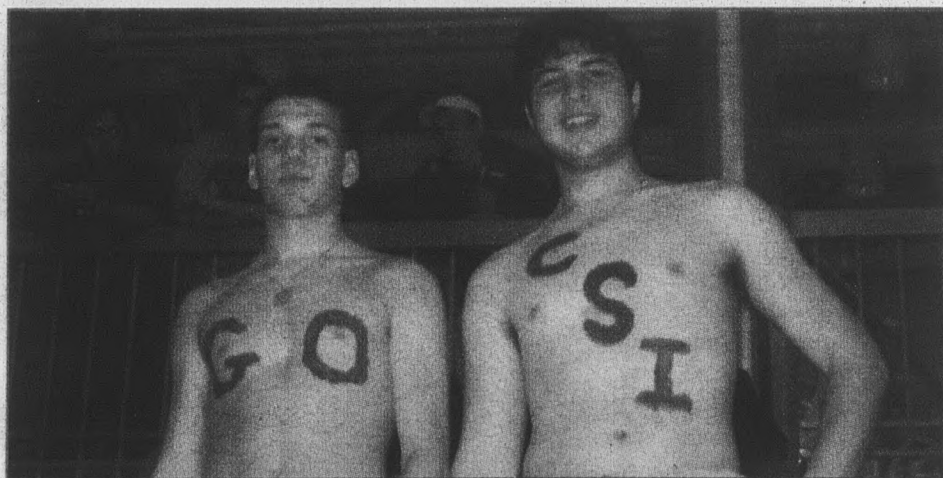
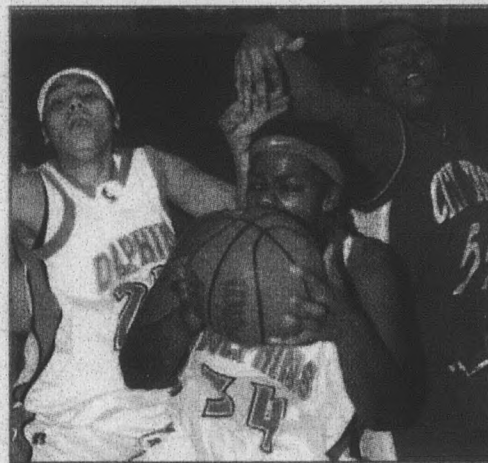
The men's game was a bit different than the previous game. The Yellow jackets dominated the beginning minutes of the game. In defense of the men's team, they just didn't get the bounces. At least ten shots rimmed out, costing the Dolphin's to play catch up for most of the first half. It seemed like everything was going right for the Yellowjackets.

The game was still very hot, howev-

er, as the men made things more interesting. The Dolphins went on an incredible run and came within six points of tying at the half, after being down near 20 just 10 minutes into the game.

The Dolphins tied it up at 44 in the 3rd quarter with 10 minutes remaining, as the momentum started to shift. Despite signs of brilliant defense and a offensive burst in the closing minutes of the game, the Yellowjackets remained strong and held off a late game Dolphin rally to preserve the win. "They are very talented," said coach Tony Petosa after the game. "We didn't play as well as we should have," he added, "Although we played well at the end... we got out of it, it wasn't enough to totally get out of it."

In the end, the Yellowjackets tried to sting our pride and take away our stroke, but it didn't happen. Although CSI and NYCT split the double header, we walked away with a lot more than just a win and loss. Our teams gave us great promise for things to look forward to in the future. Things like a stronger team, more home wins and last but not least, a newly found pride in college, the College of Staten Island.



CSI Swim Teams Makes Splash in Finals

Dominic Fiduccia

On Saturday, January 29, 2005, the CSI Men's Swim team became the CUNY Champions for the fourth straight year. The event took place at Lehman College in the Bronx. They easily won the title by scoring a total of 606 points; 53 more points than their nearest rival.

Freshman Vadzim Zhgun was named the MVP after earning three first-place finishes and shattering both school and conference records in the 1000 yard freestyle (11:09.66), 500 freestyle (5:11.24) and the 200 individual medley (2:06.81).

The Dolphins finish the 2004-2005 season with a 5-2 record and were undefeated in CUNY conference meets (3-0).

As for the Lady Dolphins, they came in third scoring a total of 355 points and end the season with a 5-3 record (3-2 CUNY). The Hunter College Hawks won the CUNY Women's Swim title for the third straight year with a total of 496 points. The Baruch BearCats finish second with 414 points.

THINK ABOUT SUMMER 2005 ♦♦♦



Learn about **VIETNAM** as you travel to **HANOI, HUE, HOI AN,** and **SAIGON** during a six-credit Overseas Honors Course taught by CSI faculty, Deborah Popper (Geography) and Michael Foley (History)

For more information contact:
Center for International Service (2A-206)
718.982.2100 StudyAB@postbox.csi.cuny.edu