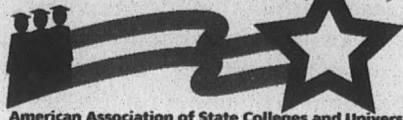




THE BANNER

May 3, 2004

American Democracy Project



American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Why I'm Supporting Ralph Nader

Joe Tacopino

You can scrape that Dennis Kucinich bumper sticker off the back of your Honda Accord. The democratic presidential horse race is over. John F. Kerry can stroll into this summer's convention with Barbara Streisand, Hillary Clinton and just about 50% of the country supporting him.

So now that Kerry wears the crown of the Democratic Party he has some work to do: convince those swing states. He's got to sway those unemployed NASCAR dads in Cleveland and hard-working Latinos in Miami that he's the Man For The Job and the current Commander-in-Chief needs to be sent back to his ranch in Crawford.

So a number one priority for John Kerry is to stay away from the controversy. When Richard Clarke accuses President Bush of being weak on Al Qaeda, Kerry gives no comment. When Condoleezza Rice lies to the September 11 commission, Kerry says he wasn't watching.

Continued on page 3

CSI'S STUDENT LEADERS CHOSEN



Jennifer Mosscrop

The election is over and 510 ballots were cast, almost double last year's total

"It's nice to see such an increase in turnout," said Carl Stiles, Associate Director of Student Life. "The student government election commission got the word out to potential candidates on how to run for student government."

Last week's Spring Week goaded students to pick their new leaders. Candidates took advantage of the BBQ last Thursday to get their names out to the students waiting on line for the big chair picture and ice cream stand.

"I walked around campus with flyers that had my name on it and the seat I was running for," said Robert Barlotta, a junior student government senator running for senior seat. "I also told all my fellow classmates during class about the elections."

Although voter turnout improved, there should still be more than 510 votes cast, especially with a student population of 11,000 or more. Also, it is surprising that more students didn't run for student government. For example, there were six spots open for the Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee, but only five students running for it, which means that all candidates automatically won seats.

Where is the competition? Maybe next year there will be an even greater voter turnout and more candidates to choose from.

Results of Student Government Elections (Unofficial, as of Friday April 30th)

Auxiliary Services Corporation:
Jacqueline Armani, Michele Payton-Garrett, Lionel Sherwood, Donald Vroome.

College Council:
Dwight Dunkely, Erica Galletta, Kristen Lindtvedt, Taiwo Olasupo, Michele Payton-Garrett, Lionel Sherwood, Donald Vroome.

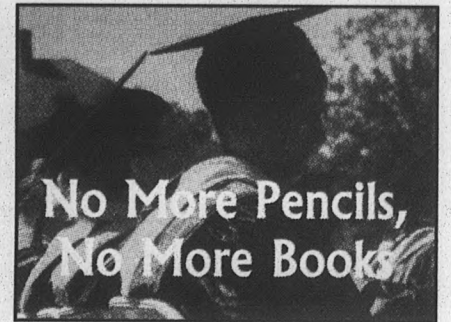
Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee:
Erica Galletta, Brooke Gold, Michele Payton-Garrett, Lionel Sherwood, Donald Vroome.

Freshman/Sophomore seats:
Aleksander Baranov, Frances Barrett, Edwin Chu, Ronald Glenn, Yelena Gorokhova, Chris Holder, Vanessa Joseph, Tara LaPera, Lionel Sherwood.

Junior/Senior seats:
Jaclyn Adams, Jacqueline Armani, Robert Barlotta, Stephanie Donoso, Dwight Dunkely, Kate Freitag, Erica Galletta, Michele Payton-Garrett, Donald Vroome.

At-Large:
Taiwo Olasupo.
CSI Association Lower:
Aleksander Baranov, Ronald Glenn, Lionel Sherwood.

CSI Association Upper:
Erica Galletta, Michele Payton-Garrett.



Jennifer Mosscrop

Remember your High School graduation? Better yet, remember your elementary school graduation? Those were little stepping stones that moved your life forward.

College graduation, on the other hand, is different. It's more like a boulder. Working towards and (finally) earning a degree is a major accomplishment. CSI isn't something you can just step through. You have to climb your way over the hump.

Thursday, June 3rd, the class of 2004 will be stepping off that chunk of rock called college and moving on into the world.

Commencement will begin at 10 o'clock on the Great Lawn. Music student Brenda Rodney will sing the National Anthem; Dr Fred Naider will bring greetings from the faculty, and Stacey Domenic will bring greetings from the students. Congressman Vito Fossella will present the Commencement Address and receive the President's medal. A reception will follow after the departmental exercises.

ART AT CSI: Classic Michelangelo Meets Modern Brilliance of Natson's "Homage to Nature"

Igor Gembitsky

Throughout the month of April, CSI students' drawings and sculptures sat quietly on display in 1P-188B. On April 21, a reception honored the student work, along with a display down the hall, "Reproducing Michelangelo."

The Michelangelo exhibit was a fascinating look into the evolving history of one of the most well known paintings of Western art. The gallery juxtaposes some earlier and original prints of works by Michelangelo with their later, altered versions, that were victimized by censorship and repression by the virtues of the papacy and other authorities.

The exhibit showed the effects of harsh criticisms of Michelangelo's "inappropriate" use of nudes, and the ambiguity that his pieces left to religious interpretation. In later prints, genitalia was covered in draperies and religious figures were altered to portray a more religiously sound

interpretation.

Back in the drawing and sculpture exhibit I had the pleasure of speaking with one of the premier sculptors whose works were on display.

Jaime Cardenas, 52, is a CSI stu-

dent who emigrated to the USA in 1980. He has adopted the pseudonym Natson, which means nature's son.

Natson is a skeptic. He doesn't believe in our more contemporary ideas of "modern art," which are too abstract and inartistic for his tastes. "To know art is to know the best, the original," said Natson. "The Leonardo, the Michelangelo. And then perhaps



The work of Jaime Cardenas, aka Natson, takes viewers on a quest through space and time. Photo: Igor Gembitsky.

Picasso. This is art!"

On display was part of his massive sculpture and painting project called "Homage to Nature," consisting of 13 stone sculptures and a total of 30 paintings that serve as backgrounds.

The project takes its viewer on a quest through space and time to the very origins, nay to the very instant of creation. "The Divine Spark" launches the experience, which eventually ends with the last piece, "Modern Man," who is "a being endowed with great potential to help our cosmic garden flourish."

The project's inspiration came from a book that Natson began writing

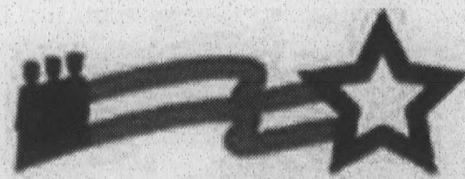
long before he ever had a formal interest in art, and certainly before he ever picked up his first hammer and chisel. In this book, also entitled "Homage to Nature," the main character, in the later years of his life, carves the same sculptures that Natson has taken unto himself to create. Natson's connection to the main character was very close, and he had a clear vision of these sculptures that his character would create. So clear, in fact, that Natson decided to reproduce these sculptures himself, which he has now done with incredible results.

"His work," Natson comments, referring to his story's main character, "is not commercial. It is his legacy to our world and intended for raising concern over a just handing of our planet's natural resources, its conservation, respect and protection."

You can learn more about Natson, and see all of his works at <http://www.natson.org>.

The American Democracy Project

The New York Times **THE BANNER**



Alternative Media Serve a Nation in Need of an Alternative

Where to go to find out what they are not telling you on the six o'clock news

Matt Safford

From 1983 to 2000, the number of corporations controlling the vast majority of US media has fallen dramatically from 50, to 6. In the four years since, more mergers have only tightened the grip AOL/Time Warner, Viacom, Disney and others have on nearly everything we see and hear. The Republican-controlled FCC, headed Colin Powell's son (did someone say cronyism?) voted along party lines to drastically loosen long-held restrictions barring one company from owning the top television station and newspaper in the same city. If there was ever any doubt that a small number of people are controlling the mainstream media-sphere, then that doubt must be shrinking.

So it's no surprise that much of the coverage about terrorism, the war in Iraq, and the upcoming Presidential elections seem a bit one-sided. Fortunately, at least for the time being, there is an elsewhere to look. Freedom of the press is still strong, even if the alternative voices have been driven somewhat underground by financial and political clout. If we as a nation are to make a fully-informed decision come November, then awareness of alternative media sources must be raised.

Print Media:

The Nation. Published on a weekly/biweekly basis for the last 137 years, this progressive news magazine has long-been one of the most respected voices for independent journalism. It has never made any money, and relies on donations from its readers, as well as some ad revenue, to stay afloat. It can be found at any decent newsstand, or major Bookstore, and online at: www.thenation.com

Mother Jones. Another non-profit magazine, Mother Jones is, according to its website, a publication "whose roots lie in a commitment to social justice implemented through first rate investigative reporting." Published bimonthly, this magazine is also available wherever news-magazines are sold, and online at: www.motherjones.com

Radio:

Air America. Just recently formed as a response to the right-wing's long-standing domination of talk radio, Air America is a national net-

work of programming that is decidedly more left-leaning than the vast majority of corporate-broadcasting. Spearheaded by celebrity co-hosts like Al Franken, Janeane Garofalo, and Chuck D, this fledgling radio network is a humorous and informative voice. If you haven't yet heard it, then think a slightly more serious, more informative version of "The Daily Show," and you won't be far off the mark. Air America can be heard on AM 1190, on satellite radio, XM 167 and Sirius 125. It can also be streamed from www.airamericaradio.com

National Public Radio. Another major voice for independent, non-corporate, progressive radio, NPR can be informative, but has recently come under scrutiny from listeners concerned that it has accepted and aired corporate-sponsored advertising from Wal-Mart and others. It can be found in NYC on 93.2 FM, as well as www.npr.org

Internet:

www.commondreams.org Founded in 1997, Common Dreams, updated several times a day, is a collection of articles dealing with issues and events from a progressive angle. Its editors bring some of the best articles together from around the web, and around the world. Often reprinting the most interesting and important articles from major news outlets, as well as independents, Common Dreams is a daily dose of fresh, important news, much of which would otherwise fall through the cracks.

www.fair.org Not really a news site per-se, FAIR, or Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, is a national media watch group which, much like its acronym proclaims, works toward a more balanced, and unbiased media environment. It does this by critiquing news that seems to be in some way disingenuous in its presentation, or that marginalize issues of public interest, or viewpoints of descent. It is a great place to visit, if you wish to un-spin something you've seen in the mainstream media.

Television:

BBC News. It isn't perfect, but it's certainly better than anything on American networks. Perhaps because it is funded by the British government, and not by advertising

revenue, and doesn't have to worry about garnering millions of viewers to keep that revenue, the BBC News seems to be more straightforward about what it is reporting, and tends to report on major issues around the world which seem blatantly absent from American television news. Horrible events in Africa and East Timor come to mind. Thankfully BBC America is now commonly included in many cable subscription packages. The BBC World News can be seen on BBC America at 8 AM and 6PM. It can now also be streamed in high quality video from a broadband-enabled PC, for a fee of \$9.95 a month. To find out more, visit <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>.

Democracy Now. Airing on both television and radio, on nearly 150 stations nationwide, Democracy Now is an independent news program, run solely on the funding of its listeners, viewers, and from foundations. It strives with every broadcast, to bring different voices and different perspectives to the forefront of America. It has been doing so since 1996, and has won many awards along the way. Democracy Now can be seen and heard on many different radio and television stations nationwide, and in our area. For a list of where and when to tune in, visit www.democracynow.org, and click on the "stations" link near the top of the screen.

This is just a small list of virtually endless resources for alternative, independent and progressive media. There has perhaps never been a more important time in American history for our population to wake up, educate itself, and begin making more informed decisions. As long as we pride ourselves as a nation of the people, for the people, and by the people, then the world will justly remain judging us for the decisions our government makes in our name. If there is any doubt in our minds that these decisions aren't 100% correct, then we must find better solutions, and get involved, to see those solutions implemented.

These independent, progressive media sources are a great place to start learning what is really going on. Thankfully—unlike free press in Iraq, which is being shut down by the US military-independent media, and alternative news sources have not been forcibly shut down in America.

VOTING FOR NADER

continued from page 1

Then John Kerry visits Tim Russert on Meet the Press and agrees with President Bush about staying the course in Iraq. He agrees with President Bush about condoning the assassination of Palestinian militants. He says nothing about the increased levels of mercury being secreted into our water supplies or that fact the Bush's war on terror has made us less safe. I'm getting flash-backs from the 2000 campaign. Remember when Al Gore bored the country into a stupor with his Republican-Lite platform?

Now, I don't blame Kerry for courting the moderate voters; after all, these fence-sitting independents are the decisive factor in crowning the next king of the world. If Kerry takes Bush to the mat on controversial issues (gay marriage, health-care, service in Vietnam, etc.) he can only lose votes—which is exactly what the Democratic Party is afraid of. Howard Dean tackled these issues and is now eating cheese in Vermont. The Dems want to win; so the left-wingers have to settle for the other white meat.

Here's where Ralph comes in. As Nader has said, there will be no contest in 40 of the 50 states; they have already decided who they're choosing for President. The blue states (New York, California, Massachusetts) always vote democratic and the red states (Texas and their Bible belt affiliates) always vote Republican.

So for all those Nader haters out there I've got a proposition for you; if you live in a swing state, don't vote for Nader. But we're not in Tampa Bay. This is Staten Island, so keep this guy in the picture. Write your local papers, get a lawn sign, dye your hair orange and support Ralph Nader because we need him in the national public debate and the higher his poll numbers are, the more press he gets.

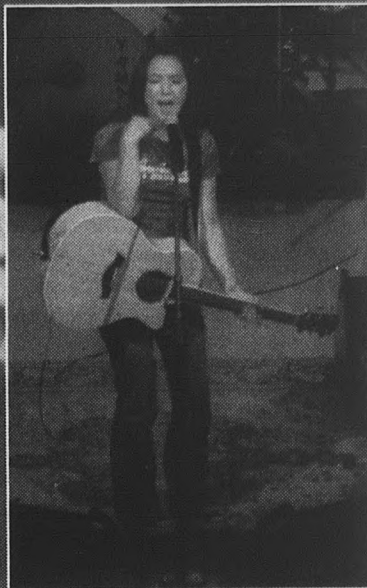
We need a presidential candidate with a pair of balls, and every time Ralph Nader appears on television calling Bush a "giant corporation masquerading as a human being" or refers to Iraq as an "illegal and unconstitutional" quagmire America gets served a big fat truth sandwich. Whether we know it or not, when it comes to truth sandwiches this country is borderline anorexic.

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**Tyler Hilton
rasped country
pop at the
Campus Center
Festival**

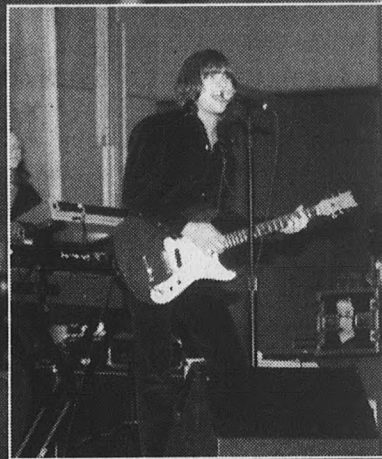
MICHELLE BRANCH

*the headliner
had a sore throat
but still covered oasis'
wonderwall*



ROONEY

*he tore the mother up
and security didn't seem to mind*



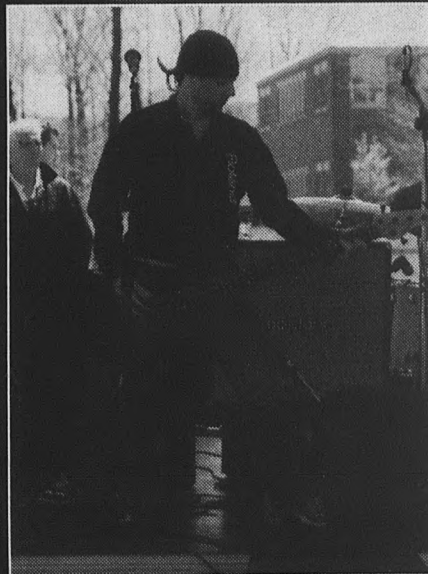
JOE FIRSTMAN

*he didn't know if he wanted to be
elton john or led zeppelin
. . . and why did he head bang
to the piano?*



CHRIS GRACE

session bass player let it loose



BAD BEN FRANKLIN

*stay away from me
with your girl arm*



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

"Thank You For Not Going To See Michelle Branch"

Mendez & Mosscrop

Real CSI Talent Shines at the Muddy Cup

Mindless, generic, inoffensive, bland pop not your thing? Then you were most likely watching Bad Ben Franklin's raucously hysterical showcase of off-kilter comedy Wednesday, April 28th, at Staten Island's independent film haven, the Muddy Cup.

Team BBF knew what they were up against and thanked the packed house for supporting them. "Thank you for not going to see Michelle Branch," quipped John Szeluga, a member of BBF, which also includes mastermind Chris Sorrentino, Bryan McGuckin (see below), and newest addition Frank LaMonaca.

The show opened with a sappy tribute to Jonathan Brandis, teen star whose suicide touched hardly anyone but John Szeluga. As he tinkered on the piano and Sidekicks projected, John moved the crowd to tears (of laughter) by crooning such lines as "cause you were the kid from Lady"—dramatic pause—sniffle, sniffle—"Bugs . . . Dressed like a girl in Lady"—pause, sniffle—"Bugs," (followed by open sobs). And this was probably the least offensive skit of the evening.

The trash-can punch of brilliantly sick, offensive humor had the crowd laughing, while questioning whether such shorts as "Dead Baby factory" should have them laughing at all (the obvious answer is Hell yeah, lighten up!) Other skits such as "He Finally Did

It," "I'm a Stereotype," the Hollywood remake of "Mr. Belvedere" and the alternate ending to "The Passion of The Christ," (a Benny Hill homage that would make Mel Gibson giggle, before condemning the boys to hell of course), had the audience doubled over, snorting their mint lattes on themselves (quite literally).

The Agent Eric episode, "The Main Gate," played in three parts throughout the evening, demonstrated the team's ability to spoof 007 like no other. If three Chris Sorrentinos (yes, three) or Agent Eric's, AKA Mr. Mustache's, gross mustache didn't get you giggling, then Dr. Thunder's Richard Simmons-lite hair surely did. Add in the inquisitive minute Hash Brown, played with comic naiveté by Frank LaMonaca and you have one funny spy situation.

Of course, no BBF showcase would be complete without the cult classic-in-the-making, "Girl Arm," declared, "Favorite Video of 2003" by Bill Woods, the Independent Film Night Coordinator for the Muddy Cup.

Also featured was a disturbing sketch from the group's half-video, half live sketch comedy show, "The Top Secret Files of Professor Sandwich Revealed," which played at CSI this past July. The skit featured Brian McGowan, friend of BBF, getting gory with the Deli man, who uses his "professor sandwich" to transmit government con-

spiracies. Eye gouging, moms and menstruation, and the Deli man's valiant ancestor, "Oscar of Meyer," blend to form the most sadistic sandwich story ever. Take that Subway club!

Nothing compared to the team's latest effort, "Star Wars II.V: Chubby Wan Kenobi," a Star Wars fan film, starring Bryan McGuckin, currently in the works for atomfilms.com. Due out this June, team BBF gifted the audience with not one, not two, but THREE Chubby Wan-related featurettes. First up was the documentary, showcasing the team's grueling work, dedication and passion to their craft. The shots of various goofs and outtakes merged

nicely with green-screen drama. The hilarious auditions for the voice of Yoda, that was held in CSI's 1P followed. Our very own Dominic Fedduccia renamed "Yoda Virgin," gave an audition which can only be described as "touched for the very first time."

One audition included "Yoda's Evil Twin," who does a mean Gollum/Yoda hybrid rendition of MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech. Entertaining, yet frightening

After that was the trailer for "Chubbi-wan Kenobi." The trailer is promising, with impressive editing, special effects and cinematography. Obviously, the script is well written. The film looks to be a true step to a major career in film for the boys.

In between skits, Bryan, Chris, and John would speak to the audience, and their camaraderie is evident. There's no doubt that it is this, combined with individual talent, that makes team BBF truly great.

So, what the hell are you waiting for? Go visit badbenfranklin.com for all the latest news and release date for Chubbi Wan Kenobi. And damnit, vote for the boys on atomfilms.com when Chubbi Wan Kenobi is released.

And to all you teenies who opted to stick around for the PLJ-esque pop-fest instead of checking out Bad Ben Franklin: SUCKERS!



Bad Ben Franklin, with a side of hash brown. From left: Chris Sorrentino, Bryan McGuckin, John Szeluga, and Frank LaMonaca. Photo: Jen Mosscrop.

Aspirations and Inspirations of a Young Star

Bryan McGuckin talks film, comedy, and his unlikely introduction into the world of entertainment.

Khadijah N. Rentas

additional reporting by Jessica Mendez

In his torn green and blue plaid shirt, comfy blue cargos, and red scraggly beard, 23-year-old Bryan McGuckin sits behind a desk in 1P's Cinema Production Lab dreaming comedy and filmmaking.

If you have ever taken a film class in CSI, then you have seen Bryan McGuckin. This Cinema Lab fixture is more than the guy who helps check out equipment in the lab and tests your cameras. He is an actor, a writer, an editor, a director, and an immense talent.

McGuckin currently works towards either a future in film or comedy. He majors in film at CSI and realized his love for it in the summer of 2001 when he created an experimental film titled "unfinished Found Footage Project" in Cinema 111. "Film is a way of representing myself artistically and having something to show for it," he said. He has worked on several independent films. He has starred in five, directed three, and either edited, wrote, or worked on the technical aspects of four others. His ideal job in film would be as an editor. "It's an old cliché that everyone wants to direct," he said. "I'd throw my hat in there a few times if I could."

A career in the entertainment industry has always been McGuckin's dream. However, he previously

aimed for a career as a teacher and a police officer. "I always pictured myself being a teacher," he said. "I don't know why, but it seemed like the thing to do." That changed when Bryan met John Szeluga of Bad Ben Franklin, an independent film outfit that at the time consisted of Szeluga and Chris Sorrentino, in a cinema class back in 2001. McGuckin soon became a part of Bad Ben Franklin, acting in "Girl Arm," a cult favorite on Staten Island. Despite "Girl Arm" being McGuckin's favorite, it's the film he has had the smallest amount of involvement in. "I kind of look at [Girl Arm] as my initiation into Bad Ben Franklin," revealed McGuckin. "Most of the dialogue was improvised, and I didn't edit."

Since "Girl Arm," McGuckin's involvement with Bad Ben Franklin has grown tremendously. McGuckin writes, edits, and acts in most projects. But McGuckin insists that Bad Ben Franklin is a complete team effort. "After Girl Arm, everything is considered a complete collaboration," said McGuckin. "If one guy writes more, another guy will edit."

This collaborative effort has created a close bond among the Bad Ben Franklin team. "As we go on, we get more comfortable with each other's writing style," said McGuckin. "You pretty much know what the other guys

are going to say yes to." This fraternal atmosphere allows the comically inclined McGuckin to bring his ideas to the table, no matter how silly they may seem. "I'm not afraid to say stupid things because stupid things sometimes come out funny."

Currently, McGuckin is working with Bad Ben Franklin on "Chubbi Wan Kenobi," a Star Wars spoof/homage for atomfilms.com that McGuckin says the Bad Ben Franklin team "all co-wrote" and is definitely for the Star Wars lover. McGuckin stars in "Chubbi Wan Kenobi" and is a co-director.

McGuckin also has an interest in writing comedy for television. His ideal job in that field would be writing for "The Simpsons." While film is a relatively new life interest, he has always leaned towards comedy. He previously worked as a comedy writer, providing raw jokes for his friend, an aspiring comedian, who then structured the jokes for stand-up. "It's not only writing ideas," he said. "It's timing."

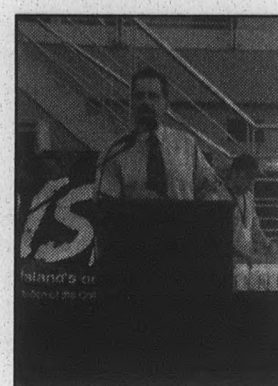
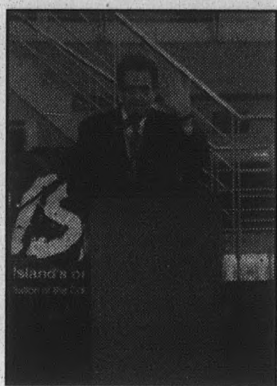
For stand-up comedy, remembering specific beats critically affects a performance. In high school, he participated in a few spring musicals, but had horrible stage fright when he had to interact with another actor. Combine these two and he just cannot perform stand-up. "I don't know if it's the fright that messes up the timing,"

he said. "Or the fact that I don't have timing that messes with the fright."

McGuckin's grandfather inspired him to pursue comedy in particular. He has memories from when he was six of staying with his grandparents in the summer. "My grandfather cooked breakfast eggs, bacon, pancakes," he said. "And he'd start the day off telling jokes." Some of those jokes included, "Mommy, mommy, I don't want to go to France." "Shut up and keep swimming." McGuckin still chuckles at the memory. His grandfather's eccentric humor incited McGuckin's interest in comedy.

So far, McGuckin has participated in comedy writing and collaborated on film. His job at the Cinema Production Lab on campus officially leaves him surrounded by film. His mother has no preference for her son's career. "I wish you the best success in anything you do," she said to him in an interview. His coworker, Tom Ng, who also worked with McGuckin in a Black Box live video show titled, "Professor Sandwich," believes McGuckin has the talent for the entertainment industry. While McGuckin works hard to achieve success, he remains modest. "I'm one of those 'don't give myself too much credit' type of people," he stated. "It's a good thing because it makes me want to work harder."

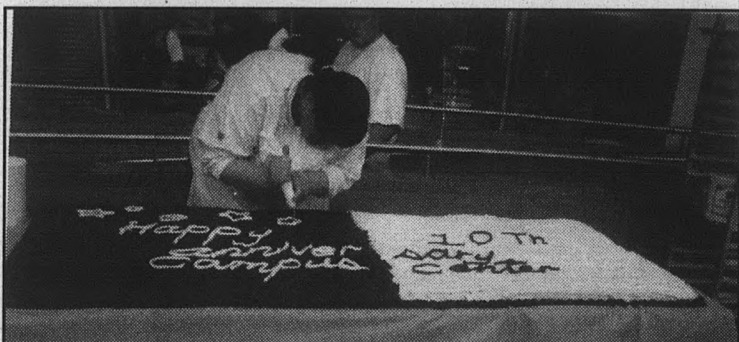
Spring Week,



HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

Mike Daniels (left), who opened the Campus Center ten years ago, celebrated a decade of clubs, publications, and cafeteria food. Daniels was joined by Marlene Springer, Carol Brower, and Carl Stiles. Photo credit: Diana Illuzzi.

1C's Anniversary,



HAVING YOUR CAKE AND EATING IT, TOO

Marlene Springer cuts into ten more years of the Campus Center.

and a BBQ



CHICKEN OR BEEF?

Banner art critic Igor Gembitsky chows down on some delicious grub at the Spring Week Barbecue.



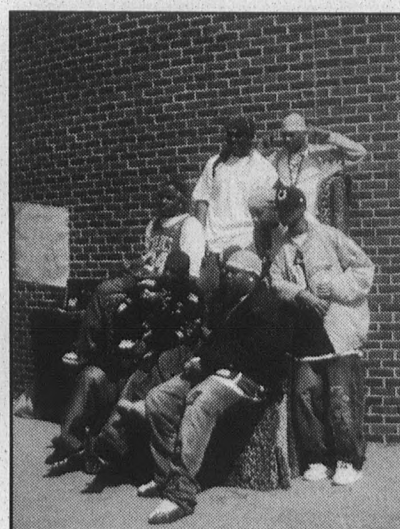
FREE FOOD!

After stuffing their maws, some students opted for stress-relief in the bouncy boxing ring. Hope they didn't toss their cookies . . .



HEY, DID THEY SHRINK?

No, it's just the big chair. Students piled on for their chance at a free photo.



The Spirit of The Village

Diana Illuzzi

April 28, Campus Center lawn—A sunny, windy Wednesday morning was the scene for the Virgin College Mega Tour Interactive Village. From 11:30 am until 5:00 pm, CSI students had free access to games, bands, and giveaways.

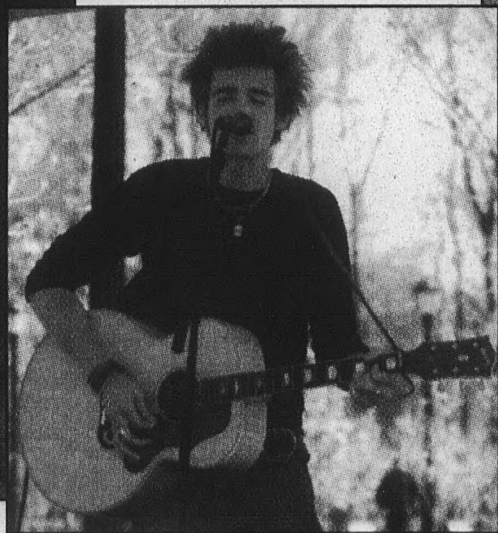
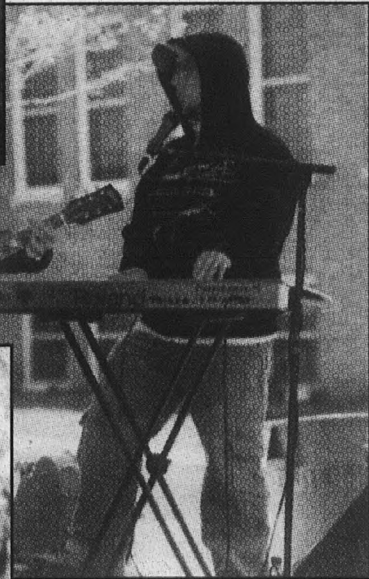
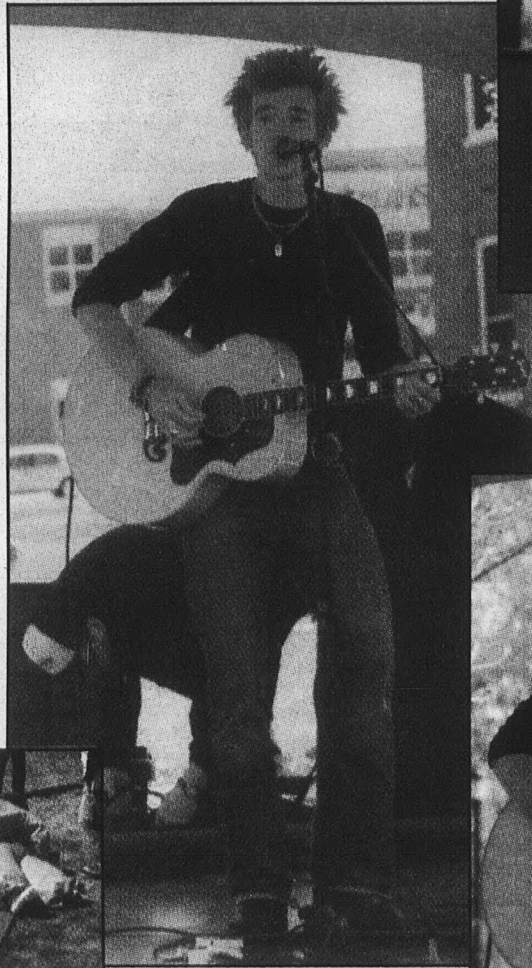
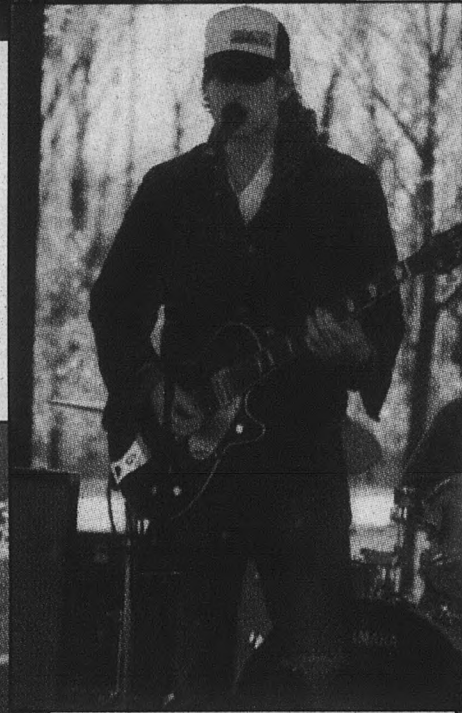
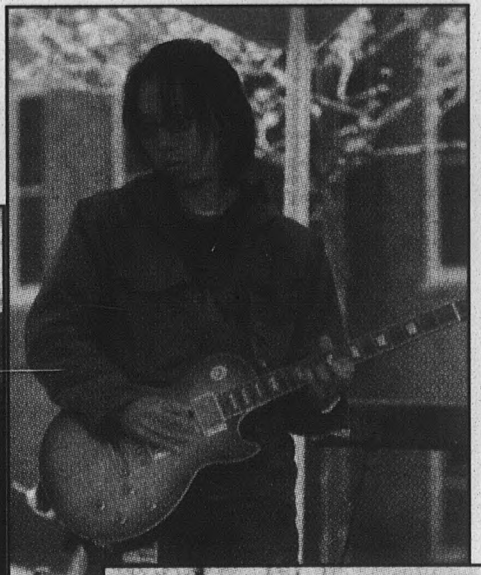
CSI staff and dozens of Program Development Committee volunteers were on campus as early as 7:00 am to assist in the set up of the tents and displays.

With anticipation of the upcoming concert in the air, students gathered to participate in sumo wrestling competitions, sit behind the wheel of a brand new Volvo, play the latest games from X-Box, and have their picture taken with comedian Will Ferrell (well a cutout anyway).

By simply spinning a wheel, participants could take home prizes such as laundry bags, T-shirts, carbineers, CDs, and all the Dentyne Ice they could chew. Students also had the opportunity to create their own karaoke recording and be broadcast to the CSI community. Even President Marlene Springer got in on the action with her rendition of The Eagles' "Take It To The Limit."

Other musical entertainment was provided by Chris Grace, and Tyler Hilton who transformed the ladies of CSI into a pack of screaming teenie boppers.

The only disappointment of the day, besides the windburn, was the relatively poor student turnout. One would think that so much free stuff would be the most effective ways to get college students involved with the campus. But no!



Resident Virgin on Campus

Joe Firstman, Rooney, and Michelle Branch invade campus for College Mega Tour

Diana Illuzzi

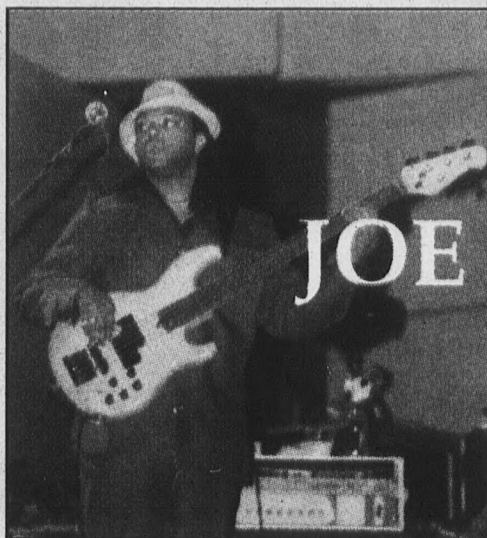
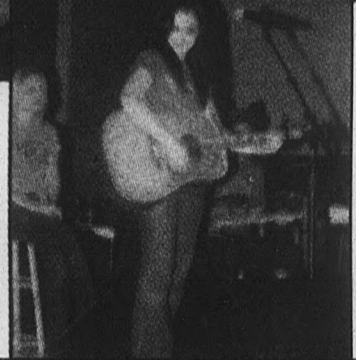
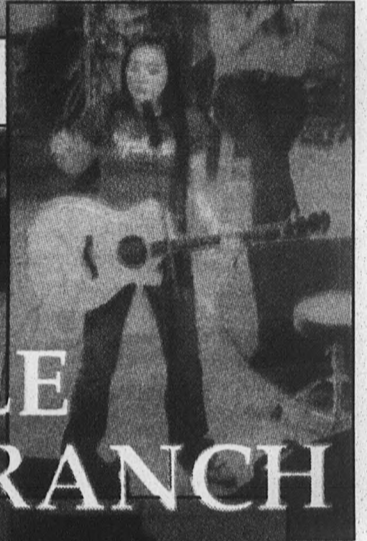
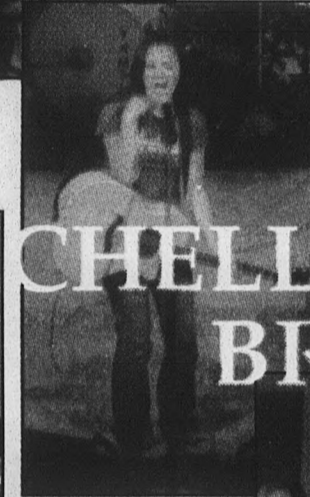
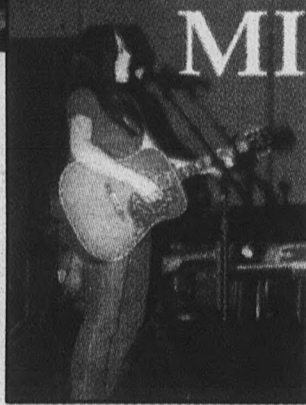
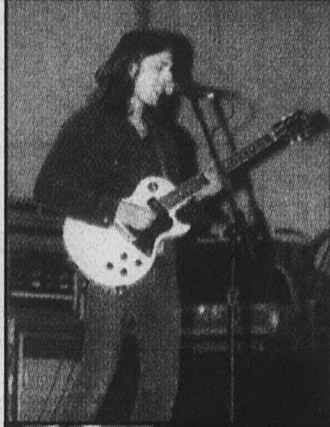
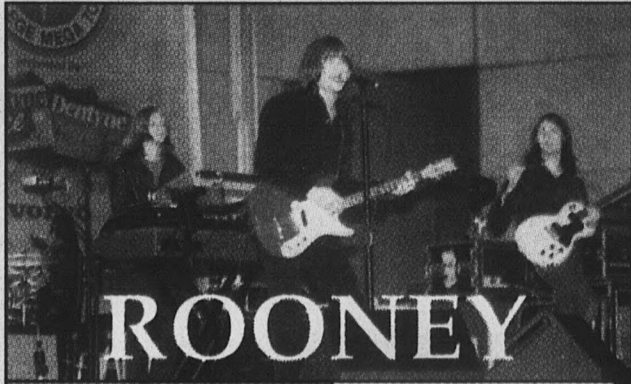
The Concert Hall in the Center for Performing Arts was transformed into a pop-rock epicenter on the evening of April 28. CSI students and residents from all over Staten Island gathered for one of the biggest events to hit CSI in recent history.

The stage grew dark promptly at 8:00 pm before an audience of 600 plus fans. Atlantic recording artist Joe Firstman opened the show in his bare feet, setting a casual and friendly tone to the audience. His combination of jazz and rock was effective in getting viewers into the groove of the evening. Firstman seemed at times a bit too involved with screaming rather than with the quality of his performance. However, when he was joined on stage by Rooney guitarist Taylor Locke for a cover of Paul McCartney's "Maybe I'm Amazed," his talent truly shined and the audience took note.

After a brief intermission, the stage once again grew dark and without so much as a word of introduction, screams and whistles rose from the audience. Silhouettes of the five musicians appeared from backstage. Rooney was there and very present.

As the lights came up, these long-haired talents began their set, asking the audience to get on their feet, but of course clearing it with security first. Their Beatle look and California sound took the audience on an incredible ride. Among old favorites like "I'm Shakin'," fans were also treated to new tracks such as "Tell Me You Love Me" and "Are You Through With Me?" Enthusiastic concertgoers surrounded the stage floor as Rooney belted out their sound, which I can only describe as The Beach Boys meets The Strokes. CSI was Rooney's last stop on the Virgin College Mega Tour before leaving for a tour in Europe. It is safe to say that they concluded on a high note.

Clad simply in a T-shirt and jeans, Michelle Branch walked onto a muted stage set with a guitar over her shoulder. She shyly greeted the audience with grateful thanks. Fighting a



Life... Love... & SEX

PRIVATE DANCER

In the age of pro-sex feminism, the newest key to female empowerment is getting stripped, or at least dancing like a stripper.

Jessica Mendez

Dancing is the clothed version of sex. I am normally a shy girl (no, really), but when I dance my inhibitions dissipate, and sensuality pours out of me in rivulets of rhythm. My body absorbs music. For instance, one night I was cleaning up my friend Phoenix's table after a dinner we had with my friend Kali. I spontaneously began swaying my hips to a Sade CD Phoenix had put on in an attempt to be "suave." I was oblivious to the fact that I was even moving until Kali came over and said, "Girl, he is drooling!"

"What?" Yeah, sometimes, I'm a bit slow to the draw.

"He asked me if you were drunk," she giggled. "I told him that that's just how you are, that you dance like that all the time." She pointed to Phoenix, who was watching me with delicious intensity. "He said you didn't even know what power you had."

Kali "went to use the bathroom" (read: got the hell out of there), and I danced over to Phoenix. Within minutes, this boy, who had not been able to take his eyes off of me, was doing exactly what I wanted him to do. And I still couldn't grasp why.

After that experience, I decided to hone my skills at an "Art of Exotic Dancing" class. AOED is a program run by Leah Stauffer, one of the owners of

Philadelphia Films and the instructor of my class for the evening. Leah is a tall Amazonian goddess of a woman, assertive but soft-spoken. The goal of AOED is to help women gain confidence in the bedroom and in everyday life, something every girl in that class (including me) felt they were lacking.

Mood Music—The Key to Self Expression

Leah begins the class by performing a basic striptease dance to "In My Place" by Coldplay. Yes, you read that right. According to Leah, music is the key to being comfortable with the dance and with yourself. During the class, we danced to everything from Alicia Keys' "A Woman's Worth" to Nine Inch Nails' stripperific "Closer" (that song is the sex!). Song choice is imperative to setting the mood, so go with what you love to dance to! I slink well to Kylie Minogue and NIN, but for someone who enjoys R&B, Alicia Keys may make that person feel sexy. Don't be afraid to experiment with music to find what you like.

You Sexy Thing—Body Confidence and Giving Good Glance

One thing I always shy away from when dancing is eye contact, but Leah made us practice maintaining eye contact with each other, which led to lots of nervous giggling and, in the case of my partner, major frustration. But intimacy is more about eye contact

than anything else. Swivel your hips all you want, sweetie, but a well-timed glance gets temperatures (and appendages) rising much faster than a hip roll alone (more on that later).

Walking is so important to how people see you and, more importantly, how you see yourself. Leah taught us all the "step-drag-walk," the sexy glide that makes you instantly swing your hips like an extra in "Showgirls." Slinking to and from a mirror may sound silly, but it's an excellent way to scope out your posture and body language.

Hippy Shake Shake

Hips are shaken, stirred, and swung, but there's nothing like a hip roll to really get things going. AOED teaches four types of hip rolls that loosened us up and gave us a basis for the wondrous snaky movements hips can make. After that, it was time for floor work, where we rolled and writhed without inhibition. The shift in attitude from shy girls to all out sex goddesses was apparent by the end of the night, where we all danced independently based on what we had learned. I forgot other people were even present until I heard Leah exclaim, "Jessa! Beautiful self expression!"

At the end of class, we all reconvened to speak about how the class worked for us. The response was

overwhelmingly positive, with every girl feeling like they owned their bodies. For the first time in a very long time, the power that I felt I had lost, the power of femininity, had come rushing back. When it was my turn to speak, Leah just turned to me and said, "Ms. Self-Expression! You didn't even need this class!" Just hearing that made me realize how much I did need the class to recognize my own sense of self.

AOED classes are a one-shot deal, and the \$80 price tag is reasonable for the 3hour+ class time. For those of you who can't get to a class, AOED has instructional videos, DVDs, and books. The book is a great reference tool, and the beginning instructional video is great, too, as it teaches you all of the basic moves. The "Perfecting Your Routine" video is a bit disappointing, as the graphics are a bit slapdash and production seems rushed. I suggest sticking with the "Core Moves" video and the book. The class is fun and empowering, and I highly recommend it. The AOED classes are given throughout the US and UK, including Manhattan, with plans for classes to be offered more frequently. For more information about AOED and to sign up, visit AOED.com and get ready to shimmy your way to empowerment.

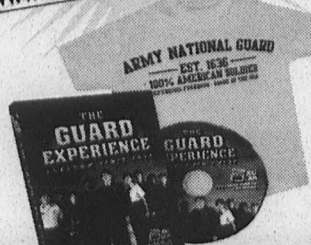
Jessica Mendez



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'The Punisher' Punishes Its Audience

Poorly designed movie lacks any meaningful value

David Maltz

What do you get when you combine an epic comic book story together with poor acting, a weak plot, boring dialogue, and brutal violence? The Punisher.

The Punisher is based on the Marvel comic that bears its name. However this movie has a relatively grim view from beginning to end. "The Punisher" is an ex-special ops FBI agent named Frank Castle (played by Thomas Jane) who sets up a gun deal that goes bad, killing the son of a money launderer named Mr. Saint (played by John Travolta). As a retaliation Castle's entire family is killed, even his in-laws. Castle gets the last laugh by wiping out Saint's entire family and business associates.

This movie starts out with the gun deal that went bad in Tampa, FL. From there, it teleports to the Saints' house, where an angry Mr. Saint proceeds to shoot the man responsible for looking out for his son in the groin, three times. Then, at a Castle family reunion in Puerto Rico, where the entire Castle family—except for is massacred in a bloody 10-minute scene, that includes lots of sorely needed special effects. Mr. Saint assumes that Castle is dead as well, but he is proved wrong.

The rest of the movie deals with Castle's resurrection as The Punisher. He moves into an apartment with some interesting roommates and turns into a grimly portrayed severe alcoholic, drinking bottles of Wild Turkey non-stop. During this time he

arms himself with small and heavy weapons and plots ways to get back at Mr. Saint.



Thomas Jane makes a pitiful effort to look scary. And he's so cute! Note: Why do movie studios feel compelled to take perfectly good comic books and magically transform them into steaming piles of dung?

Castle sets Mr. Saint up into believing his best friend is sleeping with his wife. Saint then kills his friend and throws his wife onto a train track, where she promptly gets run over by a train. In the end, the entire Saint family and business is destroyed by The Punisher. (Don't worry, this isn't the ending. It *should* have been, but it isn't.)

If the story sounds spotty on paper, it is executed even worse. The incredibly dull plot takes nearly 40 minutes to fully develop and even

then gets further broken down into subplots, which are equally meaningless. Once everything gets going, the narrative remains weak, and a lousy acting performance by John Travolta does not help the situation.

The story line and screenplay in the movie are weak, grim, and incredibly boring. Most scenes were way too short, with many lasting 30 seconds; the longest single scene was a whopping 5 minutes. The music-video style scene changing only fueled the confusion regarding what was going on at any given time. Such editing proved to be especially frustrating, since most scenes in the movie lacked point.

The obscenity-ridden dialogue was, for lack of a better word, terrible. There are several verbal attempts throughout the movie to make the audience laugh, but it just doesn't work and the few visual attempts are just as pathetic and ineffective.

The desperately needed action scenes were packed with shootings and spectacular explosions that were incredibly thrilling to watch. However, less than 40 minutes of the movie had any real action; this leaves 84 minutes of boring material that should've been suspenseful, but wasn't. The violence and gore was graphic beyond belief and for the most part, completely gratuitous. Among the scenes included were one where a man in a neighboring apartment has each of the rings from his multiple piercings plucked out one by one with pliers by a mercenary sent to kill Castle.

The cinematography of the movie was pedestrian. The camera was constantly aiming away at mild

violence like gunshots, but focusing intently on violence that was painful to watch, like explosions that blew people to pieces. There were some nicely shot scenes, like one which showed Castle having flashbacks of his family through his Wild Turkey bottle while drinking, which leads to him suddenly having an upbeat attitude and dropping the bottle on the floor.

Without giving away the ending, let's just say that you will ask yourself why you've been sitting in your seat for the last 2 hours. The Punisher was doomed from the start, and was unable to recover. What should've been an excellent comic book based movie turned into a complete bomb. Avoid this movie at all costs, as it is incredibly boring, disappointing, downright painful to watch, and is definitely not worth your hard-earned cash. Don't punish yourself.

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THE ONE WITH ALL THE HYPE: "Friends" finale is, thankfully, *the one where they all go away*

Michael Bruno

Come on, people. Was the show really that good? Are you really going to miss it as much as they're making you think you are? Now, some of you may start gouging your eyes out for fear there will be nothing left to watch once the "Friends" make their last trip to the latte shop. Before you do, a few points concerning the show's mind-boggling ten year run ought to be made clear.

Number one: This show has been done many times before. A group of reasonably young people try to coexist in the kooky world we live in...hilarity ensues. Sound familiar? It should, because it's the premise for every sitcom ever conceived! Except maybe "Golden Girls" which was about a group of reasonably old people trying to coexist in the kooky world we live in and the only thing that ensued were nightmare inducing visions of Bea Arthur hot-tubbing with a retired longshoreman. But if the show is nothing more than a recycled foundation, then why is it more popular than breathing? Because it's a recycled foundation with a fresh infusion of breasts...percolated ones

at that. "Friends" is a great seller which caters to the lowest common denominator, a champ of a formula in this country. It's like "Cheers" without the alcoholism, "The Brady Bunch" without all the creepiness, "All in the Family" without the big

"Friends" is a great seller, like "Cheers" without the alcoholism,
"The Brady Bunch" without all the creepiness,
"All in the Family" without the big words,
and "Good Times" without all that pesky, hard to sell color.

words and "Good Times" without all that pesky, hard to sell color.

Number two: You're all lucky you even got to see it in the first place! For four years Monica, Ross, Rachel, Chandler, Phoebe and Joey were dragged along for the ride by Jerry, George, Kramer and Elaine. Otherwise, there's no telling how deep into the 99 cent bin "Friends" would have slipped. Yet, as it is, the show about nothing seemed to segue perfectly into the show that said nothing, thus saving a been-there, done-that, run of the mill sitcom from the same fate suffered by "Jesse," "The PJ's," and "The Wanda Sykes Show." The change of scenery was

just too much to ignore. People who sat for a half an hour watching the aquiline Kramer trade verbal jabs with the manatee-like Newman were given a major visual reprieve when "Seinfeld" ended and gave way to hunky Matt LeBlanc trading flirtatious

twaddle with statuesque, raven-haired Courtney Cox.

Game, set and match.

America didn't have a chance to miss this show.

Number three: Dry your eyes and cancel all those extra visits to your therapist. Your "Friends" aren't going very far. You gotta know that the success of this show has ensured each cast member's marketability for years to come. I'm sure you'll see Courtney Cox and her mentally disabled husband (bad movie icon David Arquette) in a number of films featuring dogs and serial killers. Miss Aniston will get plenty of exposure while she and her fantastically buoy-

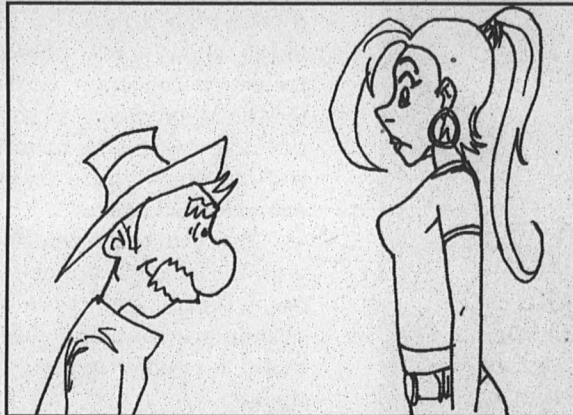
ant breasts engulf the arm of Brad Pitt. Matthew Perry ought to be getting inundated with scripts after "The Whole Ten Yards" broke all of Mexico's box-office records. And don't you dare worry about Ross and Phoebe. Mr Schwimmer and Miss Kudrow will always have a place as a guest star on (and this is NOT a joke) Matt Le Blanc's upcoming and imaginatively entitled spin-off, "Joey."

So there you go. The end of "Friends" is not the end of the world. Sure, there were a lot of reasons to like the show. There were a lot more reasons to ignore it until it went away like the rest of television's regurgitated contrivances. For those of us who chose to do the latter and spend our Thursday nights helping some poor young stripper pay her way through college rather than waste time looking at breasts we'll never get to touch (not even for a dollar), I offer congratulations.

We won't have to deal with these idiotic "Friends" finale parties, after parties or any other random acts of stupidity. We waited it out and now they're gone. We win. Game, set and match.

COMICS

SWEET TARTS written and drawn by Enrique Inocente

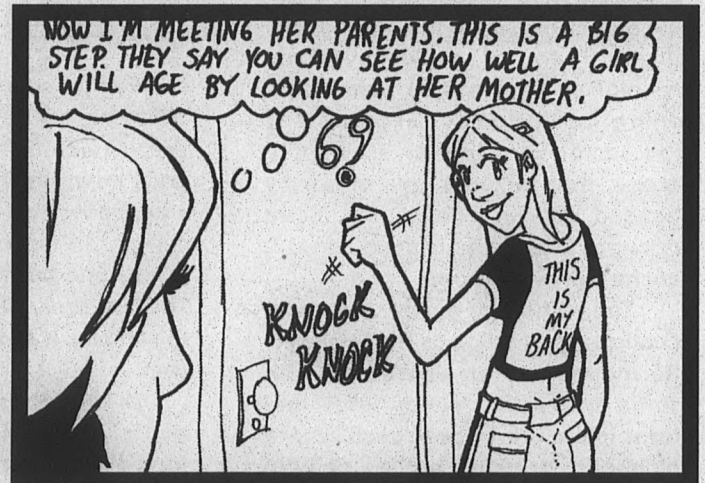
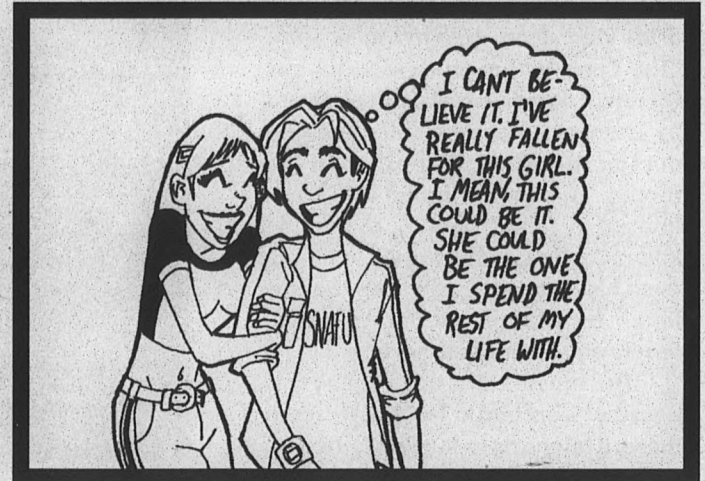


LAME JOKE OF THE DAY

What does Michael Jackson like about thirty six year olds?

MILFTACULAR

Enrique Inocente



There's thirty of them

From the Arts Editor

Editing this issue has been one big exercise in the art of compromise. Arts and Entertainment—it sounds fairly tame, sure. The problem arises when big business PR interferes with an artist's vision. And when a major label artist (heretofore referred to as "you know who," as I refuse to name her one more time in this issue!) comes to CSI with much hype and fanfare, it is inevitable that other things will get pushed aside.

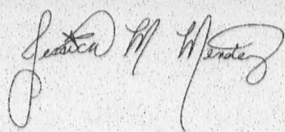
Unfortunately, that "thing" happened to be Bad Ben Franklin's show-case at the Muddy Cup, which fell on the same night as a certain tour (now known as "you know what"). To me, the real story is obviously the Bad Ben Franklin event: a talented group of CSI Students and Alumni on the verge of becoming something truly great in the cinematic world. Frankly, I'd rather support a talented young group of students than "you know who," a girl who garners press from just about every major magazine worldwide. However, "you know what" was such a huge event on campus that, plain and simple, we just had more images about that event than Bad Ben Franklin's big night.

So, in the interest of creating the most interesting and visually arresting paper possible, I gave the spread (and a good portion of the A&E cover) to "you know what." But I refused to give the cover shot to "you know who" (Hell she had Maxim, she hardly needs us!). Instead, we gave the rookie of the group, Tyler Hilton, a young up-and-comer who serenaded festival-goers.

Trust me, I fought for a different spin to this issue. Some debates got so heated I literally walked out of the room, kicking and screaming. I was so frustrated because I felt I had sold out and made the wrong decision.

But the fact is, this isn't just my paper. I was outvoted, and so "you know what" got some major press. "You know what" was attended by more high-school mall rats and teenyboppers than actual CSI students, while Bad Ben Franklin's event had a high percentage of CSI students, and they get, total, one page. That is big money PR, people; that's life. And that is a damn shame.

We have some major talent in this issue! Besides BBF, we have Natson, a brilliant local sculptor who waxed poetic with Igor Gembitsky about art and humanity. We explore the Art of Exotic Dancing, the loooong-overdue finale of Friends, and more! Hey, read what you like in this issue, as it is well-written and every word and image was chosen with a lot of thought. However, I urge you to check out the pieces on Bad Ben Franklin, on page four. Seriously, I'm tired of the little guy getting crapped on. Support your students and friends. And don't worry, BBF, when you guys are famous, CSI will be wetting itself to put you on the cover.



Letters to the Editor

Re: ADP, Student Government

I like that the bulk of the Banner was dedicated to the Student Government candidates. It's a good way to get students involved at The Banner and in campus affairs.

• Vito Conenna, Senior

Re: Staten Island Ferry and a Cup of Coffee

As someone who does not live on Staten Island, I had no idea that places like the Muddy Cup existed. Thank you, Lacey Axelrod, for informing us of such events and giving us a chance to experience something other than movies and bar hopping.

• Jennifer Anello, Senior

Re: There's something about Spring Break

Zzzzzzz? Spring Break is over? Oh crap, I better get back to class! Damn, it went by too fast I want more, hiccup! **Zzzzzz?**

• Lou Leccese, Junior

Re: There's something about Spring Break

Hey, I love Spring Break but if it was any longer, I may never be able to recover in time to pass my classes. Brain cells don't return as quickly as they are removed.

• Frank Consolvo, Junior

Re: Choosing a Major is a Major Pain

After reading this article, it made me want to go to the career counseling office. Nowadays people are looking for stable jobs, just like myself. I have been taking city exams, anything to ensure a good future. Thanks for the bit of guidance.

• Katherine Katib, Senior

Re: From Japan to England to Malaysia to Staten Island

I really enjoyed Jennifer Anello's article. It was nice to discover some aspects of Professor Emori's background. She is a great listener and helps out as many students as she can. She is one of the best teachers I have ever had.

• Kristy Calabro, Senior

Re: Comics

If WSIA played Top 40 songs, what difference would there be from any other radio station you hear? The music WSIA plays is unique and it is what sets the station apart from the rest. For those who are fans of

the "crapastic, no-label, indie bands" WSIA is one of the only places where they can be heard.

• Nicole Lanzisera, Sophomore

Re: Comics

I noticed that the comics section has been looking a wee bit scarce the past two issues. More comics equals happy people. :)

• Mellissa Secharan

Re: Life...Love & Sex

I love this article. I know women who could identify with this article. Unplanned pregnancy does happen, and the fear is intense. I guess even more so now, with the fear of AIDS. So please use a condom. It is no fun living in fear and stress.

• Debbie Jones-Shaw, Junior

Re: Life...Love & Sex

After reading Jessica's article on pregnancy, I was truly glad that she was negative. I cannot even begin to imagine how a woman must feel while waiting to see if she is pregnant or not. On the other side of the story, if her fling was to discover that Jessica might be pregnant, would he step up and be a man?

We as men need to step up and take responsibility for our actions. Relationships sometimes do not work out, but if a baby is involved, both parties must find a common ground and be able to resolve the situation, either by actually having the baby or getting an abortion.

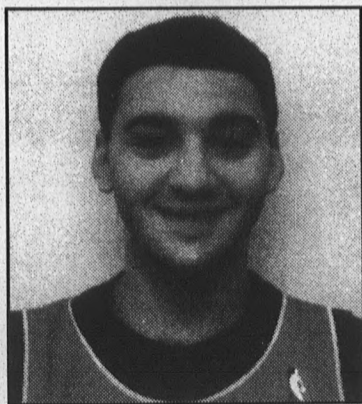
I applaud you, Jessica for having the courage to actually be able to talk about this private subject in a public light.

• Boris Kreynstein

Re: Life...Love & Sex

I enjoy these articles very much, but how can Jessica Mendez start preaching at the end of this column about being adults and not getting pregnant? This sounds quite hypocritical coming from someone who twice thought she was pregnant herself and who regularly writes about having casual sex. These articles entertain me, but I'll never take advice from you on the topic of how not to make babies.

• Craig Todaro, Junior



Name: Robert Barlotta
 Title: Senator Junior/Senior Seat
 Sex: Male
 Nickname: N/A
 Favorite Sesame Street Character: Gonzo



- B • So What exactly do you do at SG?
- RB • I approve clubs, allocate money and basically try to improve the campus.
- B • How long have you been involved with SG?
- RB • This is my third semester.
- B • If you could pick one way to improve the school, what would it be?
- RB • We made several positive changes to improve the school.

Slowly but surely the parking problem will be corrected.

B • Name one thing that SG has done for the student body.

RB • A big problem last year was the lighting on campus. Lights have been put up this year to make the college a safer place.

B • Name your dream job.

RB • A scriptwriter. And I would love to be an A&R for a record company, since I write lyrics and I feel I could assess talent well.

B • Boxers or briefs?

RB • Boxers.

B • If you could clear up one misconception about SG, what would that be?

RB • We're multi-talented students who care a lot about our school, not robots.

BBF

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SPORTS

May 3, 2004

Dolphins and Coach Klein Snap Three-Game Losing Streak With Win At Home

Marcel Sandougout

April 19—The Dolphins got their first win of the season against Hunter College (8-1), at home, thus snapping their three games losing streak. This victory was also a first for interim coach Robert Klein. "I was very proud of you guys today," he said. "You fought and never gave up."

Number one, Ilchenko had a victorious comeback and won in three sets, 3-6, 6-4, 7-3. He did not play his best tennis but got the win.

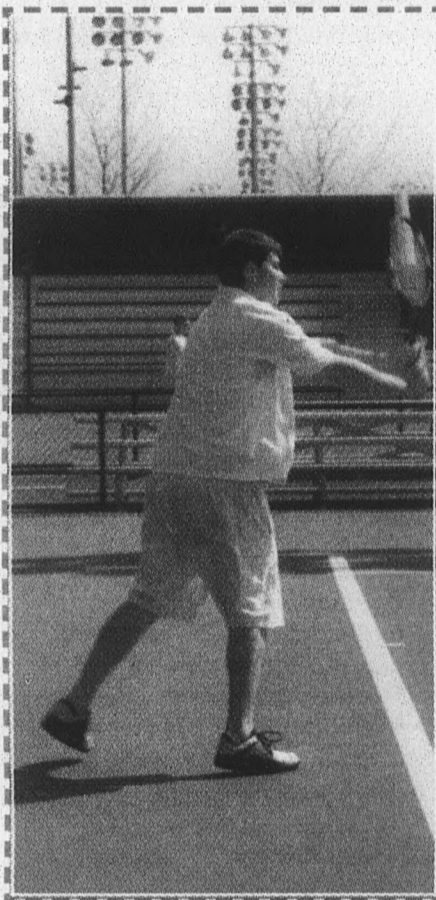
"Alex had a good game, and I'm happy he came back," said Klein. The rest of the team did as well as Ilchenko. At number three, Sheer easily cruised 6-2, 6-0, and a number five, Sandougout won 6-1, 6-2. At number four and six, Gellerman and Mendis respectively won three sets, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 and 6-4, 2-6, 7-5. The only loss came from Sherman, the number two seed, 6-4, 6-3..

In doubles, the Dolphins swept their opponent. Number one seed, Ilchenko and Sheer won 8-5 and number two seed Sherman and Gellerman imitated them with the same score. Finally, the pair Sandougout/Mendis won their match 8-3.

"The guys played terrific today," said Klein. "Sandhum and Craig were down, and found their way back."

On April 20th the Dolphins were unable to win their second game and lost to Brooklyn College, 5-4.

In singles, Ilchenko lost the first match by default. Sheer and Mendis



Eugene Sheer cruised to victory, 6-2, 6-0.

lost in three sets, 6-0, 3-6, 7-2, and 6-4, 2-6, 7-4. CSI's wins came from Sherman, 6-0, 6-0, Gellerman, 3-6, 6-4, 7-4 and Sandougout, 2-6, 6-1, 7-2. "Come on guys, let's win those doubles," said Assistant Coach Wantowski, after both teams split in the singles.

The pair Ilchenko/Sheer came on top in the first single and won 8-2,

thus giving CSI the advantage, 4-3. In the second double, Sherman and Gellerman lost 8-5 and Brooklyn came back 4-4.

"This is it guys, you need to win," said Coach Wantowski to the Sandougout and Mendis. They started their match on the right foot, with Sandougout winning his serve. However their opponents kept up with them and held their serve as well. At 5-4, Sandougout had a chance to put CSI up two games but he failed and lost his serve.

Brooklyn came back and Yapher won his serve, thus putting his team up 6-5. Mendis won his serve and the Dolphins came back, 6-6. Both teams, held serve until 7-7.

Unfortunately, Sandougout lost his serve again, and after a long forehand by Mendis, Brooklyn won this decisive match.

"It was pretty close, and it's too

bad we couldn't come up with a win," said Coach Klein.

On April 23rd, CSI bounced back and swept York College, 9-0. The Dolphins were on a roll and looked like they were in a hurry. The first four seeds, Ilchenko, Sherman, Gellerman, and Sandougout cruised through their matches.

In doubles, Ilchenko and Sherman did not give any game to their opponent and won 8-0.

The Dolphin's record is 2-6 and they have three games left in the regular season. They currently rank in the bottom three and will not be able to reach .500 before the season ends. However, the Dolphins need to win the remaining games of the season in order to get good seeding at the CUNY Tournament that starts in about two weeks.

"Right now, every single match counts," said Coach Klein.



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CSI Returns To The Finals

Michael Gutierrez

April 28—After a year's absence, the CSI woman's softball team has returned to the CUNY Softball Finals by defeating John Jay College 3 - 0 in CUNY semifinal action. The Dolphins will once again play Hunter College, who downed Baruch, also by the score of 3 - 0.

The Dolphins were powered by the arm of senior, Theresa Caputo, who pitched a complete game. Caputo struck out 13 of the 22 batters she faced, giving up just three hits.

Caputo breezed through the first three innings without giving up a hit and seemed destined to take over the game.

"I felt better than I have been feeling," Caputo said. "My leg was feeling better. I knew it was a big game."

CSI attacked early on offense by scoring two runs in the first inning. Jennifer Doscher led off with a double to left field and scored on an error by John Jay's first baseman, after a single by Donna Przybyszewski. Caputo hit a sac fly to left field which scored Przybyszewski, making it 2 - 0.

In the home third, Doscher singled and Prztbyszewski hit a sac bunt to third. The speedy Doscher was running on the pitch and wound up scoring all the way from first to make it 3 - 0.

In the top of the 7th, Caputo started out a bit shaky. She gave up a lead-off single and walked the next batter on four pitches. "Just got a lil' behind."

It didn't take long to get back on track, as Caputo struck out Fanny Echavarria and then got Stephanie Cutinola to hit into a 6-4-3 game ending double play.