

THE BANNER

February 2, 2004

CAROL BROWER SAYS: GET A STUDENT LIFE



Diana Illuzzi

Describe your average day.

There really is no average day at my job. Each day brings me new things and new challenges. Whether I am meeting with the heads of committees or speaking with students, my day always has a great range of activities to keep me occupied. In the morning I may be picking out the new furniture for the boardrooms and planning student events in the afternoon. The main objective of my day is usually to make sure that students have a great experience outside of the classroom.

What would you like students to know about the office of student life?

It is important for me that students

know what we are about and the importance of getting involved in activities outside of the classroom. Many students are under the impression that our office is all about fun and games. As much fun as people have at our events and in our clubs, there is a lot more to it. People also need to realize that our office gives students great opportunity for personal growth.

What would you consider your greatest accomplishment in Student Life?

I believe that since I have taken over, students have gained a lot more trust in this office. Our primary job is to try and assist clubs, publications and other organizations. We also want to give them as much freedom as we can and let them show their creativi-

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down for an interview with one of the most important and little known figures here at CSI. Carol Brower, Director of Student Life, gave me some insight into her life, her interests, and her days here at the college.

ty. The last thing we want to do is stand in the way. I am also proud of the fact that I have managed to put together a phenomenal staff. We have managed to make ourselves more accessible to students, which helps us to do our job even better.

What are your greatest challenges?

First of all, I would have to say the lack of space on the campus for students and their activities. The second thing would have to be making yourself available to all students. On a commuter campus life this, it is difficult to get the word out to all students and get them involved in student life.

I know that you are the mother of a young son. Has raising a toddler given you any insight into the mind of the college student?

Well, it certainly has not helped my energy. Being a mother has helped me to recognize the things that are most important in life. It also reminds me that we can all learn from each other. I learn as much from my son as he learns from me. It does not always matter how much experience you have at something, you can also absorb more from the people around you.

Would you say you are pleased with the percentage of CSI students involved in activities outside of the academic world?

I am getting more pleased, but I would still like to see more. I know that a lot of students have children and jobs and it is difficult for them to get involved. I hope that programs like Emerging Leaders will help to boost some of the involvement.

Can students look forward to anything new from your office this semester?

A celebration for the 10th-year anniversary of the Campus Center is being planned for some time in April. I would like to see students take more pride in the building and gain a greater ownership of it. I have heard too many students simply refer to 1C as the cafeteria.

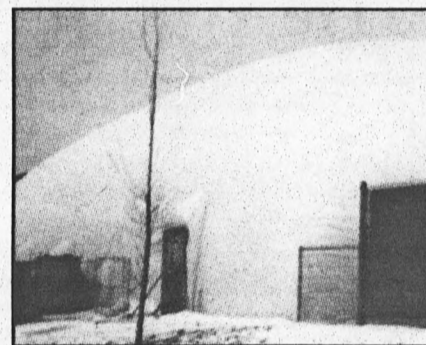
What would you like to see happen for the office of Student Life for the upcoming semester?

I would like for the other departments of the college to see all of the positive things this office offers to the students. Hopefully, this will also help us get the word out to more students.

The Opinion of Michael Bruno

BUBBLES ON THE BRAIN?

New CSI Tennis Center Will Cost Students \$25 An Hour. And It Looks Like a White Wart!



So CSI went and got themselves a tennis bubble. Good for us, I say. Why, I was thinking just the other day that the only thing separating CSI from other fully functioning universities was the strategic placement of an indoor ball-whacking facility. Now, we finally have it! Hallelujah, amen, our salvation has come!

On the magical weekend of December 20th-21st, CSI's up-until-now exclusively outdoor tennis courts were covered by a plastic canvas that can fittingly be described as white gold. The canvas was then inflated to create the "bubble" effect with air taken from the heads of those who would pay to use this thing.

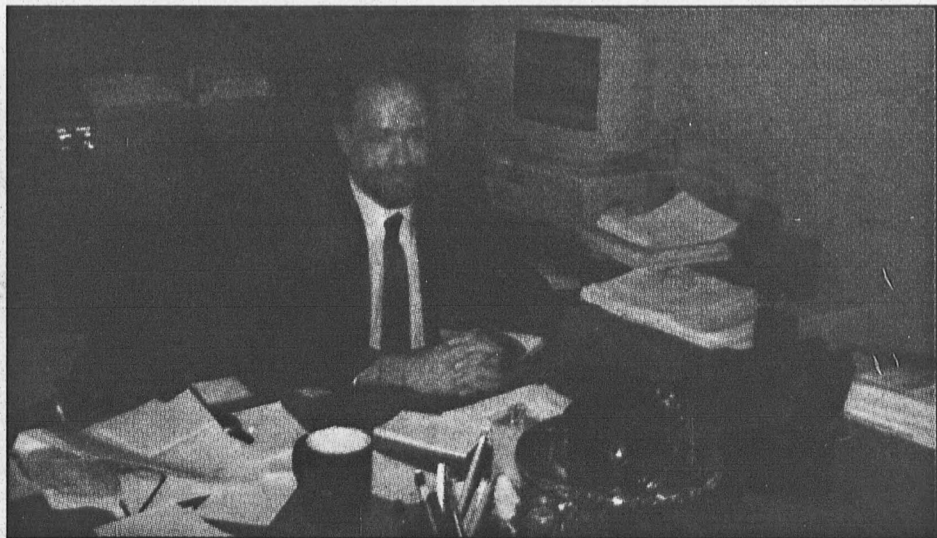
For the dozen or so of you out there wondering, the story behind the "bubble" goes something like this: The Staten Island Community Tennis Center, looking to expand and possibly compete with other Staten Island tennis clubs who already have a domed venue to play in (like the West Shore Tennis Club in Travis) offered the College a ten year lease that one source has asserted is worth about \$100,000 per year. A few signatures and handshakes later, the CSI campus became the Staten Island Tennis Club's personal tinker-toy and the unsightly white wart was on it's way.

"We've been working like crazy to get it done," said Max Buxbaum, a Staten Island tennis pro and one of the founders of the Staten Island Community Tennis Center. "Its good news for Staten Island...we're finally here and ready."

The facility is complete with new lockers and an adjacent pro shop

Continued on Page 12

SPRINGER ANNOUNCES PODELL'S APPOINTMENT TO PROVOST



"I'm delighted," said David Podell. "CSI has a lot to be proud of and I share in this pride. I am truly looking forward to continuing the progress that the College of Staten Island has made over the past several years and am very happy to be a part of it."

What Kind of Society Do We Want? Introducing the . . .

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY PROJECT



The New York Times

THE BANNER

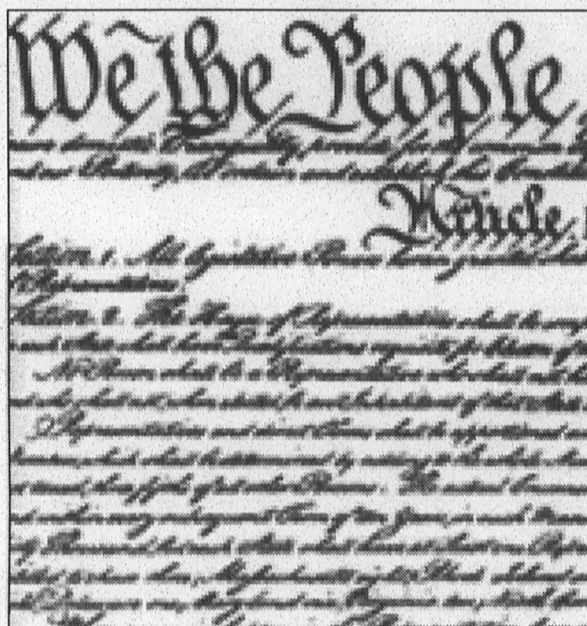
This semester, The Banner will be participating in The American Democracy Project. We will be dedicating a page of every issue we publish to articles, letters, and general commentary about local, national, and international issues relating to American democracy. The New York Times, a partner in the American Democracy project, will use its resources to link campuses nationwide together in a national conversation, provide journalists & commentators as part of that conversation. It will also host a website for the project. Please do your part. Submit your essays, articles, and editorials to The Banner at 1C 228, and we will try to publish them all.

What's the Problem?

Democracy works best with what Putnam calls rich "social capital"

- Social capital is created by interaction with others.
- Social capital allows citizens to resolve collective problems more easily.
- Social capital makes trust possible, and provides the "grease" for social and business transactions.
- Social capital increases our sense of linkage to one another.
- Social capital is created by engagement (volunteering, working with others, participatin)

But engagement is declining



We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...

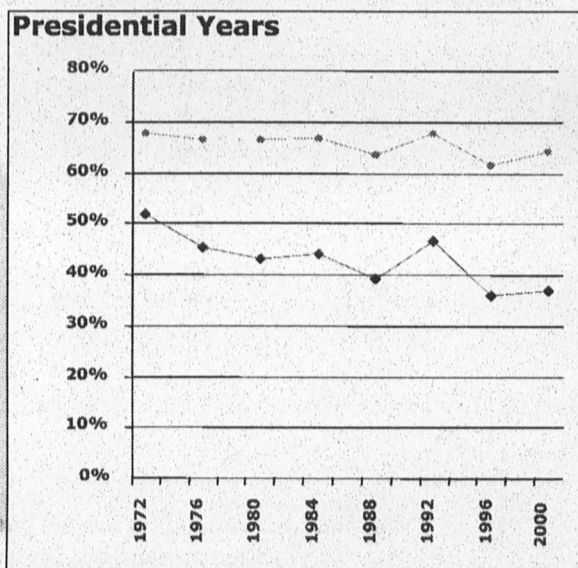
Facing Economic Reality: The Present

- State governments are facing "the worst fiscal conditions since World War II." Source: National Governors Association
- 48 states face budget deficits, ranging from 2 - 20% Source: National Governors Association
- For the first time in 30 years, most college endowments are losing money: -3.6% in 2000-2001 -6.0% in 2001-2002 Source: NACUBO
- Private giving to colleges and universities is steady or declining in most areas. Council for Advancement and Support of Education

Facing Economic Reality: The Future

- "...states' fiscal problems are only partly due to the cyclical downturn in the economy. Two long-standing structural problems—an eroding tax base and the explosion in health care costs—are the major causes ... the current problem is long-run and structural." Source: Ray Scheppach, Ex. Director, National Governors Association, 2003
- If higher education costs and revenues grow at the rate they have in the past twenty years, higher education would face a shortfall of \$38 billion by 2015—nearly a 25% shortfall. Source: Council on Aid to Education, 1997
- The higher education price index (HEPI) consistently grows faster than the rate of inflation. Source: NACUBO
- "A sector whose costs grow faster than inflation for an extended period ultimately reaches the limits of available resources..." Source: Council on Aid to Education, 1997

Youth Voter Turnout is Down



Source: Current Population Survey (CPS), November Supplement calculated using CIRCLE method.



The trouble...is that we have taken our democracy for granted; we have thought and acted as if our forefathers had founded it once and for all. We have forgotten that it has to be enacted anew in every generation.

- John Dewey

216 years ago, Benjamin Franklin issued a challenge to all of us. What shall our response be? Will America's democracy remain a beacon of hope for ourselves and for people everywhere?

OFFICE OF CAREER PLACEMENT, THE BEST KEPT SECRET ON CAMPUS

Nuha Othman

For many of us, marching to the beat of Pomp and Circumstance is just around the corner. Just as the stress of assignment deadlines fades and the freedom from the teacher evaluation bubble sheets begins, reality kicks in. It's now time to grow up and get a real job. What do you do? Where to turn? CSI's Office of Career Placement, Scholarships and Awards (1A-105) is the place.

Assistant Director of Career Placement, Joanne Hollan, has come to realize that "finding a job for some is uncharted territory." Hollan strives to help students find a career that relates to their majors, something that could expand their personal skills and aptitudes to better suit the needs of a prospective employer. Not only does the Office's eager staff provide helpful information about full- and part-time job listings, they offer mock interviews, video taping of on-

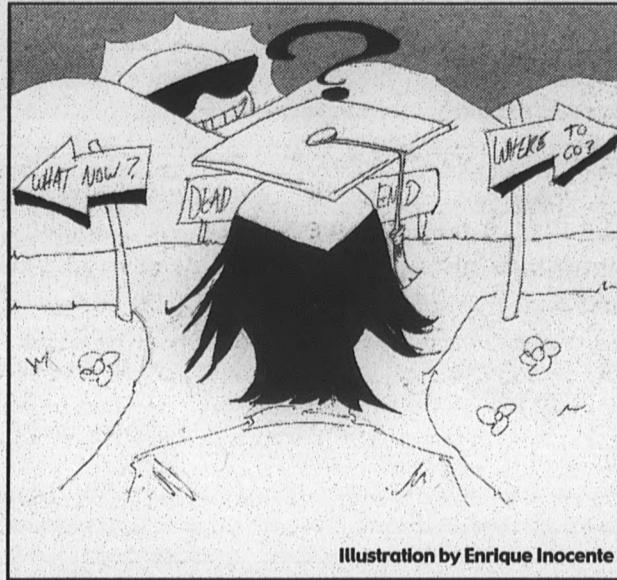


Illustration by Enrique Inocente

campus practice interviews, and resumé referrals. The Office offers workshop devoted to learning the importance of networking, as well as professional etiquette preparation.

"The core of a job search is an

internship" says Hollan, and reiterates this point by recommending exposure to at least one or two internships throughout a college career. Career Placement has lists of internships for every CSI major. Internships are offered in several categories. They are either paid or unpaid. Some will help you earn college credit. Internships give students the chance to experiment in the real world.

Career Placement provides various benefits to the eager and ambitious. Disabled students will also find job listings and internship possibilities, along with a vast selection of scholarships and fellowships.

The Office of Academic and Personal Counseling (1A-109) works with Career Placement to assure a comfort level for all types of students, from undecided majors to those entering graduate school. All counselors, directors and support staff will do the best they can to explore the best possible career choice for your own set of goals and objectives. No to mention your own personality.

"I would show students how to access the database," said Eithne McGowan, a former Career Placement employee. "[The information] would be right there in front of them. It was then their choosing to absorb their preferred information." McGowan said students found the services extremely beneficial.

So visit the Office of Career Placement, Scholarships and Awards. They are located in building 1A-105. You will find a support staff waiting to help, including Linda Roberts and Florence Zurica. For those of you with no time for a visit, Career Placement Director Caryl Watkins has provided a clear, concise and easy format to follow on the Office's website: www.csi.cuny.edu/career/

Joanne Hollan suggests that students visit the office as early as their freshman year. But even if you show up after graduation, you are not necessarily, headed for tragedy.

HOLLAN'S HELP TIP#1:

Keep your resume updated. It is a living document that grows and improves with time and experience.

The New WOMEN'S CENTER at CSI Asks: How Crazy Is Your Life?

Are You . . .

- A woman who holds a job while attending CSI?
- A mother of young children who attends CSI?
- A woman who has returned to school after several years away, now at CSI?
- A woman student who has a demanding schedule for other reasons?
- A man who shares and supports these women's concerns?

We need your input. Help us plan an event to explore how CSI women juggle the roles, bridge the gaps, and rise to the challenges.

JOIN US IN ROOM **2N 217**
ON EITHER
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AT 8:30 P.M.
OR
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 2:15 P.M.

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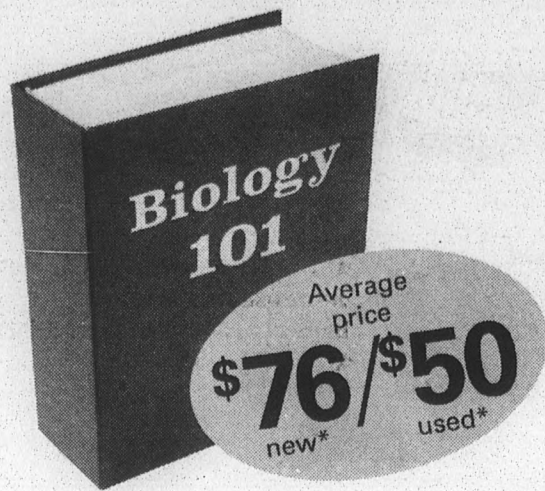
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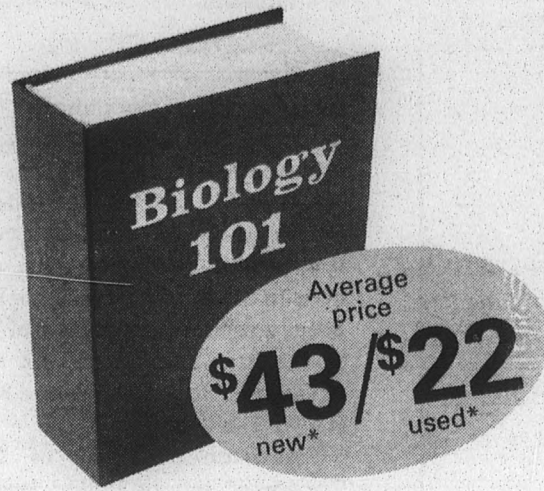
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Letter From the Editor...

Over this past week, out of politeness and genuine curiosity, I have asked several people how their winter break was. The most popular answer I received was "restful, very restful."

Most people would consider rest and relaxation to be a complete and total waste of time. They believe that rest is a time in which an individual does not partake in any productive activity. "I'll sleep when I die," they say. "I ain't got time to bleed."

I believe that nothing could be farther from the truth. Despite what many may say, rest is good. In fact, rest is excellent.

In my last letter to Banner readers, I displayed a great deal of general hostility:

I spend more hours in this office a week than I do at my actual job, I wrote . . . and get twice the aggravation. To be honest I have recently resorted to asking myself the question, "Why do I do this?"

Many saw my desperate words as signs of anger. I even had several individuals approach me assuming that they were the cause of my frustration. For that, I apologize. The truth is that my intense agitation was caused by my lack of...rest.

Did you ever deal with a three-year-old child who is in desperate need of a nap? Well, imagine that child with tons of work and responsibility added to the equation. I am not whining or making excuses for bitchy behavior. Rather, I am pointing out that I am not alone in this situation. At the end of last semester we were all in the same boat. The majority of CSI students and faculty were feeling the last minute pressures of the fall. There is no shame in this. We all just need to learn from it.

A new semester is upon us. New classes, new ventures, and new challenges face all of us for the upcoming months. In other words, there is a whole more bunch of stuff coming in to our lives that will drive us crazy. Have you begun to feel a little stressed lately? All those new reading lists and course syllabi eating away at your equanimity? At least now we know that it is okay to flip out, to lose it. We are not alone.

We also know that the answer to much of our stress lies in a simple nap or yoga session. Take my advice. Take a few minutes for yourself every now and then. Go shopping. Or loosen up by acting on Jessica Mendez's suggestion (see page 10). Ladies, get a manicure. Gentlemen, get a massage.

Rest may be just the thing to keep you from being seen as a scary monster by your friends, family, classmates, and professors. Rest may give you peace of mind. Or at least peace for a minute.

Diana Illuzzi

Letters to the Editor

The Banner welcomes letters, which may be edited for length, but not content. Please drop them off at 1C 228. Let us know what you think!

Life...Love and Sex

I feel this is totally unnecessary and basically no one cares about Mendez's sex life because they are busy worrying about their own. This article is useless and makes her look pathetic to the student body!

-Tara Trezza

I'm sorry but this cheesy high school romance has nothing to do with college life. If you would like to write about sex, write about pertinent issues. Maybe explain the risk, and explain what things need to be known. Hey, how about an idiot's guide to having sex? When you experience something real, something interesting, something worthwhile, then write about it.

-Frances Amate

Don't you feel a little uncomfortable sharing all of the explicit details of your love and sex life with CSI? Some things should be kept personal. You are giving the students at the college the opportunity to judge.

-Justin Goodman

I have two simple words for this story-Who Cares! The last thing an individual wants to hear is about someone else's problems. Boo Hoo...Get Over It! Nonetheless, as I came to the end of this sappy cry for support and the picture of the tear falling down her face, I could not help but notice that nothing relevant had happened.

-Lisa Murino

I'm very disappointed in your last two issues' Life, Love and Sex sections. The writers for these articles take a very childish perspective on the topics of sex, sexuality and mostly oral sex. To quote "The Tao of Christina," Mendez states "let's just say his tongue is still tired." Her articles, as well as others in the section deliver a myriad of "he-said-she-said" gossip stories and do not focus on the subjects at hand. In the latest issue, Mendez brings yet another boring piece of her personal life to the table, taking up space in a section that could better serve the students in CSI with news and facts relevant to All students (not just Ms. Mendez) using correct terminology rather than high-school-style implications.

-Michele Obler

I wonder what The Banner's real purpose is. Is it to give us stories of the sex-capades of the Banner staff? I am quite sure you get story submissions from outside the anointed Banner staffers about topics that face students. What does it take to break that wall? Maybe one day this will be a paper with substance. I have one more year here. I won't be holding my breath.

-Katie Rudolph

The editor-in-chief responds: First parking, now the sex column. What will you harp on next? People really need to open their minds. I perfectly respect the fact that some readers may have distaste for the bi-weekly Sex Column. I, as editor, see the column as a relevant, and even sometimes needed, addition to this publication. If you don't like it, don't read it. As for the supposed submission "wall," this very afternoon I assigned three new articles to three new writers. If you want to contribute to the Banner, come on by!

Students Start Your Wardrobes:

What was the need to print "Students Start Your Wardrobes?" There has to be more interesting things to print in the Banner than if a person's outfit matches properly. You could have printed many stories about things going on at CSI. Maybe more about how our school is over crowded because there are too many students in classes. Besides, the pictures were very fuzzy. Why waste space on fuzzy nonsense?

-Christine Siesto

While you and the rest of your Banner staff sit around and wonder why no one cares to read the Banner, you should pick it up and read it yourselves. Who cares about someone else's sex life? Not to mention the two-page spread which is a clear waste of space on fashion. I can make clearer pictures on an etch-a-sketch. I feel you should shape up this paper.

Don't get the wrong idea, I am far from a professional journalist but I also am not the one writing this jibberish.

Now it's not all gibberish, some is rambling and some pieces are actually interesting. I can understand you may be short on work but there is no need to fill it with nonsense. Maybe you should skip a month until you have enough solid work to make a good paper cover to cover instead of wasting trees on stories like Matt and Maura's sex life. Those trees should be used for a more useful purpose like paper towels in our bathrooms. I am far from knocking it all, I do actually like work I have seen but overall you need to shape up before you ship it out.

-Vincent Banis

Badfish:

Jennifer Mosscrop's review of Badfish, the Sublime cover band, was very much appreciated. Being an avid Sublime fan myself, I've been looking for a decent cover band so I can rock out to the tunes of one of my favorite bands. But the timing of this piece was way too late. Badfish performed on Saturday, December 6th, but the issue only came out the day before. It's a shame that I, along with other Sublime fans, missed the show because they found out a little too late.

-Unique Sotirakis

Mosscrop Responds: I am sorry about the timing of my article. Luckily, it was cancelled that night due to snow. Badfish will be back in town on February 14th, so take your sweetheart out for a romantic evening of enchanting Sublime music. I know I will!

Consumed by Lust

You mention "seeing each sacred piece of flesh for the first time" versus viewing sex on the Internet. Most of us view pornography whether it is on the computer or on television for pure entertainment, not for eternal love.

Abercrombie and Fitch use their models because sex sells—if you haven't figured that out by now. Other than that I enjoyed the idea of young girls and boys dealing with their discovery of masturbation. It brings it all back to our childhood days of nervousness.

-Gregg Galante

Retraction: Shedding Light on CSI's Darkroom.

Diana Illuzzi, in my mind, has committed the ultimate form of plagiarism in her retraction about 1C darkrooms. Half of the information relating to who runs the darkrooms and their condition came from my own retraction that I submitted to The Banner's Office two weeks to the release of the December 5th issue of the Banner. I also gave a copy of my retraction to Carol Brower from the Office of Student Life before, in case something like this happened.

To see my words being authored by somebody else was more insulting than seeing some of my information from my article being altered without my knowledge before it was printed. Yes, there were some inaccuracies on my part from the original article, but the Banner made one critical mistake by photographing the color darkroom, which was not mentioned in my article, along with mentioning that the darkroom that needed work was anonymously reported as 1L-227. Yes, this darkroom is working. I bet the Banner didn't know about the black and white darkroom. Hence the reason why I wrote the "original" retraction of my own.

-Bryan T, Ahl

The editor-in-chief responds: I do not believe in plagiarizing other people's work. It is blatantly wrong, and I have no need to do it. I consider myself a journalist and I take my work very seriously.

When you submitted an article with false information to The Banner, leaving my staff and me with extra work and a heap of embarrassment, you proved yourself to be irresponsible. When you dropped off your retraction to the Banner office and ran out of the door without speaking to me, I refused to take the risk of using it. Instead, I spoke with Carl Stiles and Carol Brower who gave me the correct information that should have been obtained in the first place. I then wrote my own piece based on this material. Writing a piece with correct—and very public—information is not plagiarizing. Perhaps you need a vocabulary lesson.

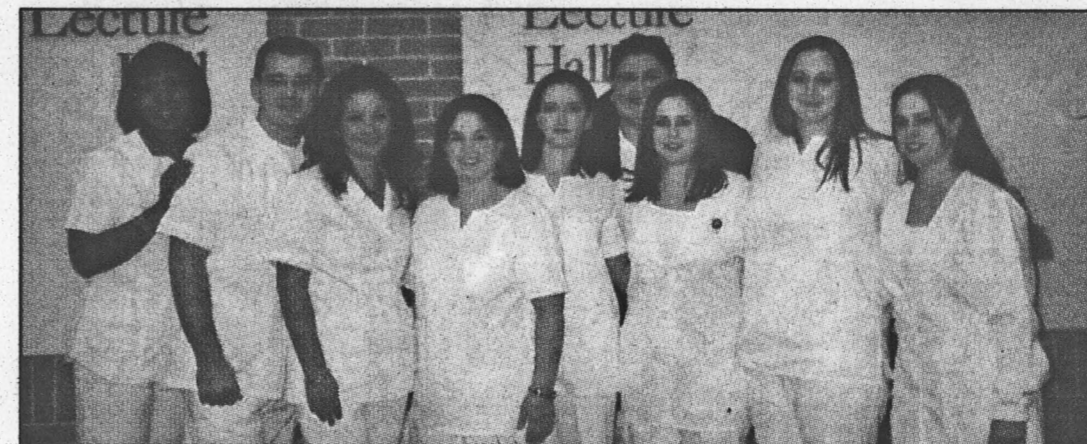
What makes a nurse? Heart,

On January 7th at the Center for the Arts, CSI's nursing class of '04 celebrated the traditional "Pinning Ceremony." In a few short months, they will be out of school and in the hospital. That is, if they pass those nasty Boards.

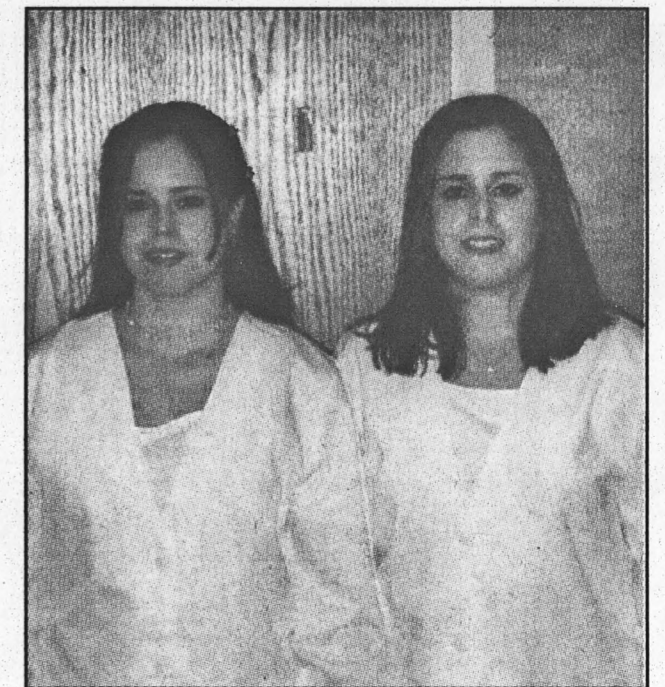


From left: Erin Gallagher, Valerie Pennachio, Melissa Modalone, Prof. Dana Sims, Michelle Corriero, and Melissa Corriero.

strength, and determination



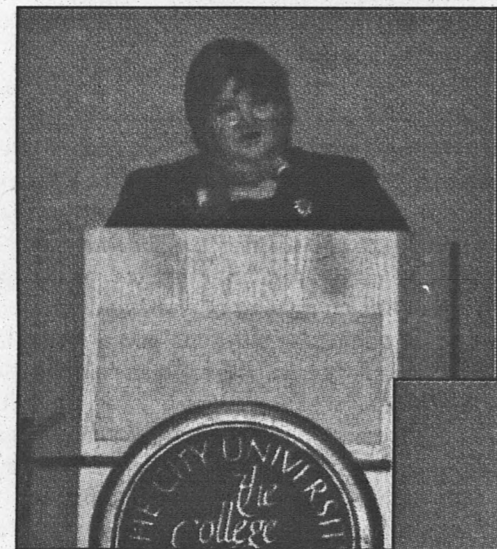
"We are confident that our professors have prepared us for what lies ahead," said Patricia DeFelice, student speaker. "We've been transformed from diverse backgrounds to a group of respected professionals."



Melissa and Michelle Corriero.



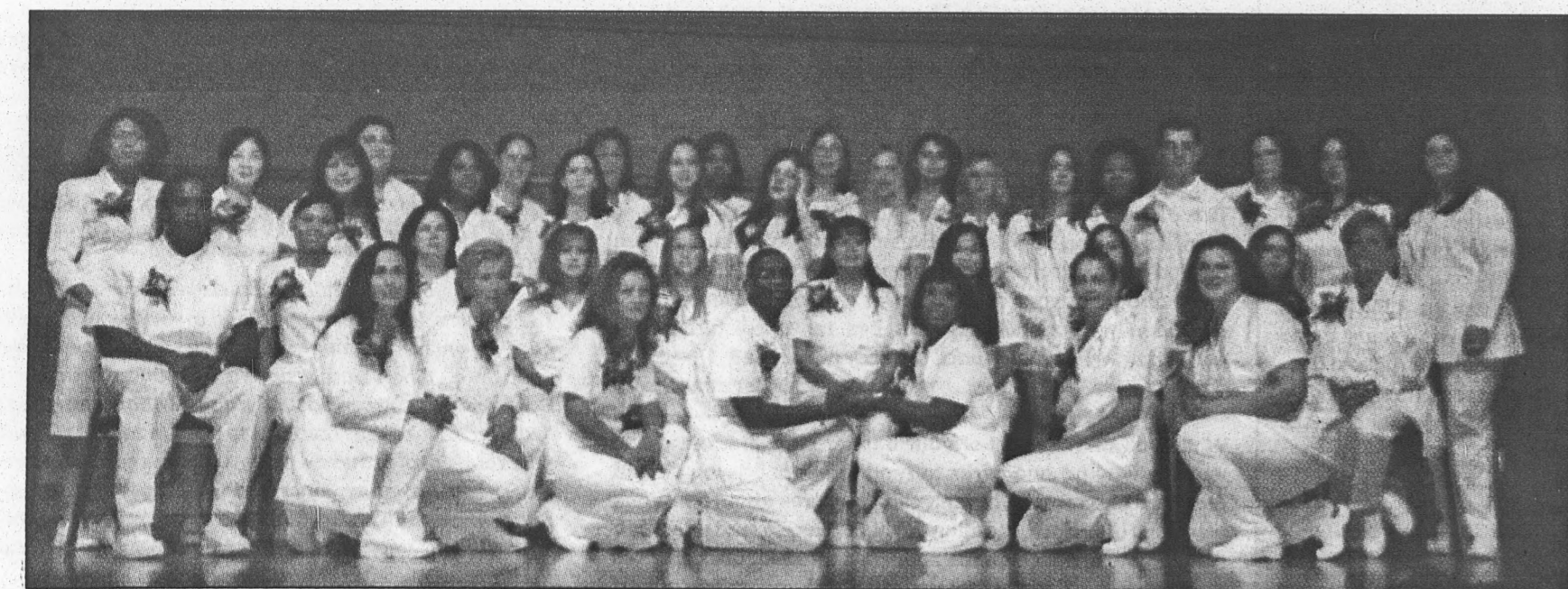
Joe-lynn Alves (right), and friend.



"Thank your family and friends who supported you through times of turmoil, studying, and missed meals," said Professor Linda Reese, Chair of the Department of Nursing.



"This is a major step in a wonderful career," said President Marlene Springer. "I hope I never have to meet you in a professional setting though."



The Graduating Class of '04. All photos: Jen Mossrop.

The Pledge They Took . . .

In the full knowledge of the task I am undertaking, I promise to take care of the sick with all the skill and understanding I possess, without regard to race, creed, color, politics, or social status, sparing no effort to conserve life, to alleviate suffering, and promote health. I will respect at all times the dignity and religious beliefs of the patients entrusted in my care, holding in confidence all personal information entrusted to me and refraining from any action which might endanger life or health. I will endeavor to keep my professional knowledge and skill at the highest level and give loyal support and cooperation to all members of the health team.

"Be confident. You are ready. You can do it."
Guest Speaker, Patricia Discenza.



From left: Frank Agivaive, Erin Gallagher, Melissa Corriero, Kassim Nesbitt, Michelle Corriero, Shawna Townsend, and Melissa Madalone.



Frank Galante and Christina Bonomi.

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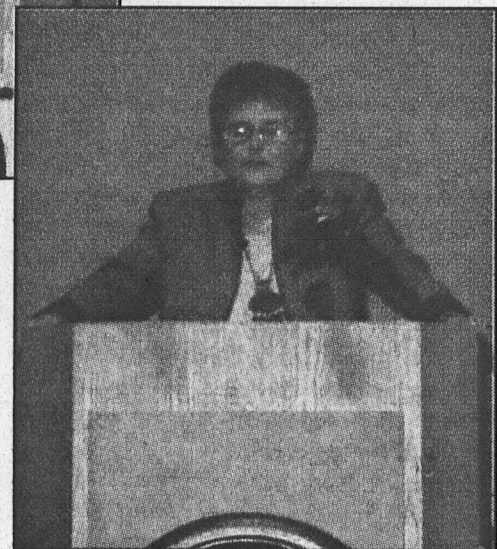
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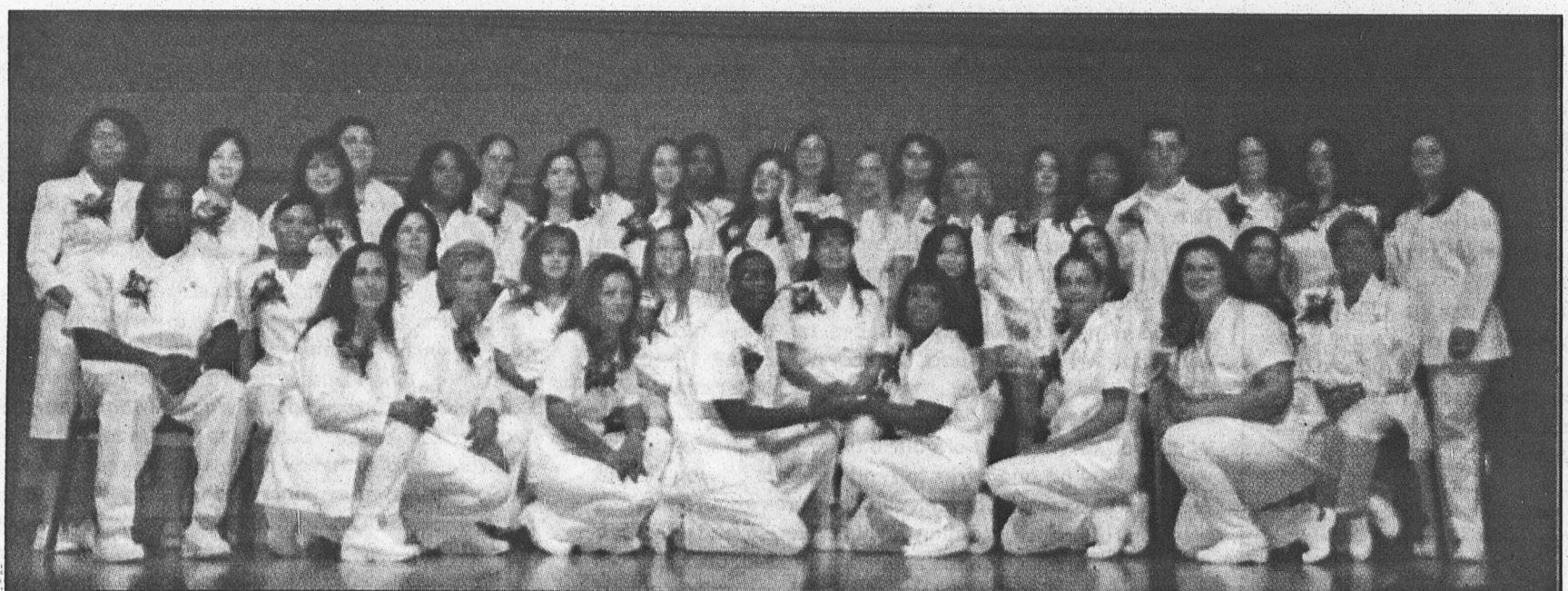
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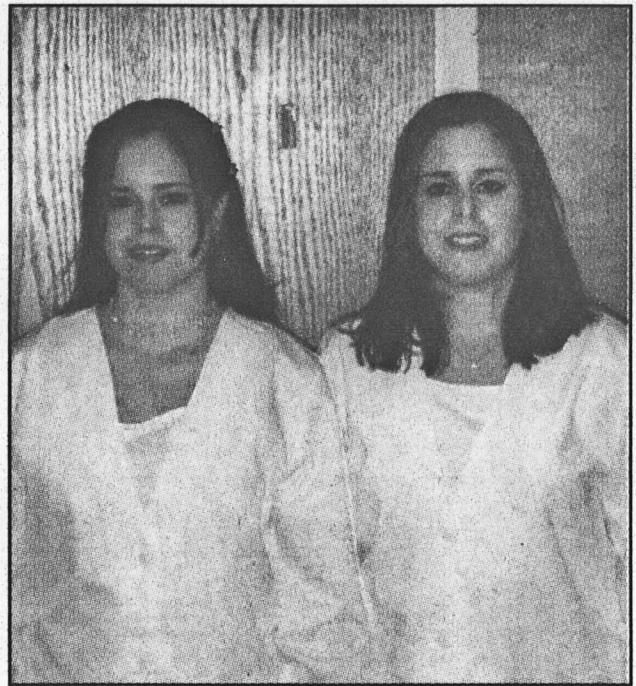


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Melissa and Michelle Corriero.

The Pledge They Took . . .

In the full knowledge of the task I am undertaking, I promise to take care of the sick with all the skill and understanding I possess, without regard to race, creed, color, politics, or social status, sparing no effort to conserve life, to alleviate suffering, and promote health. I will respect at all times the dignity and religious beliefs of the patients entrusted in my care, holding in confidence all personal information entrusted to me and refraining from any action which might endanger life or health. I will endeavor to keep my professional knowledge and skill at the highest level and give loyal support and cooperation to all members of the health team.

"Be confident. You are ready. You can do it."
Guest Speaker, Patricia Discenza.



From left: Frank Agivaive, Erin Gallagher, Melissa Corriero, Kassim Nesbitt, Michelle Corriero, Shawna Townsend, and Melissa Madalone.



Frank Galante and Christina Bonomi.

THE BEACON PT.1 of 9 enrique inocente

PROFESSOR DOCBROWNE, SEEING AS HOW YOU'RE THE FACULTY ADVISOR FOR THE OFFICIAL CAMPUS NEWSPAPER, THE BEACON, I THOUGHT YOU COULD HELP US.

YOU SEE, THE COLLEGE WILL BE MAKING A LOT OF CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS THIS SEMESTER, AND I WAS HOPING TO GET YOU AND YOUR STAFF TO AVOID COMMENTING, CRITICIZING OR MAKING PUBLIC ANY FACTS THAT WOULD EMBARRASS THE ADMINISTRATION.

BUT THAT COMPROMISES THE INTEGRITY OF THE BEACON. I WON'T. BESIDES, IT'S A STUDENT RUN NEWSPAPER. THEY DECIDE THE CONTENT. I'M THERE JUST TO MAKE SURE THEY DOT THEIR T'S AND CROSS THEIR I'S.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

BUT THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SOMETHING SOMEONE WHO WANTS TENURE WOULD SAY, AND IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN YOU ARE UP FOR TENURE CONSIDERATION SOON... VERY SOON.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES, DOC. TAKE CONTROL OF THE PAPER. MAKE IT FAVORABLE TOWARDS THE COLLEGE. THAT MEANS NO MORE ARTICLES ABOUT THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S QUESTIONABLE HAIRCUT. NO MORE CRUDELY DRAWN COMICS SECTION, OR SEX COLUMNS WRITTEN BY LOOSE WOMEN. CLEAN UP THE CONTENT, SO CLEAN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WIPE A BABY'S BACKSIDE WITH IT, Y'HEAR?

IMAGINE OUR NEXT FUND RAISING PARTY WHEN WE FLASH ALL THOSE WEALTHY DONORS A COPY OF THE BEACON. THEIR EYES WILL LIGHT UP TO SEE ALL THE PRAISE SHOWERED ON THE COLLEGE.

A COLLEGE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL TO A NEWSPAPER LIKE THAT. MAYBE EVEN GIVE IT MORE FUNDING THAN OTHER STUDENT PUBLICATIONS FOR PRINTING AND NEW PC'S. HELL, MAYBE THE COLLEGE MAY EVEN CONSIDER GIVING TENURE TO ITS FACULTY ADVISOR.

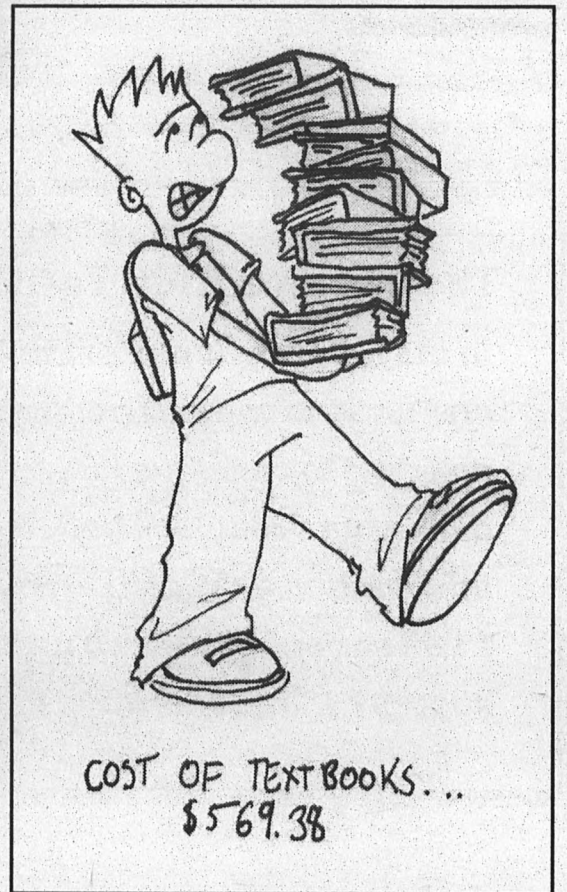
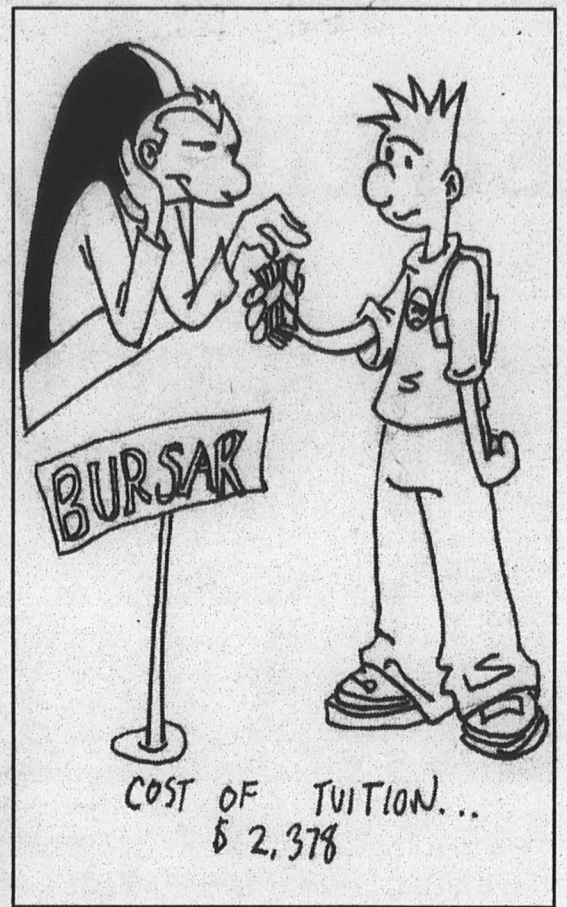
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE TENURE DOESN'T INTEREST YOU. MAYBE YOU DON'T WANT JOB SECURITY. THERE'S NO SHAME IN BEING AN ADJUNT FOEVER. *SNICKER* *GIGGLE*

So... WHAT DO

OH WELL. I'VE ALWAYS FELT INTEGRITY OF THE PRESS WAS OVER-RATED. IT PAYS TO SELL OUT... HE-HE.

EXCELLENT.

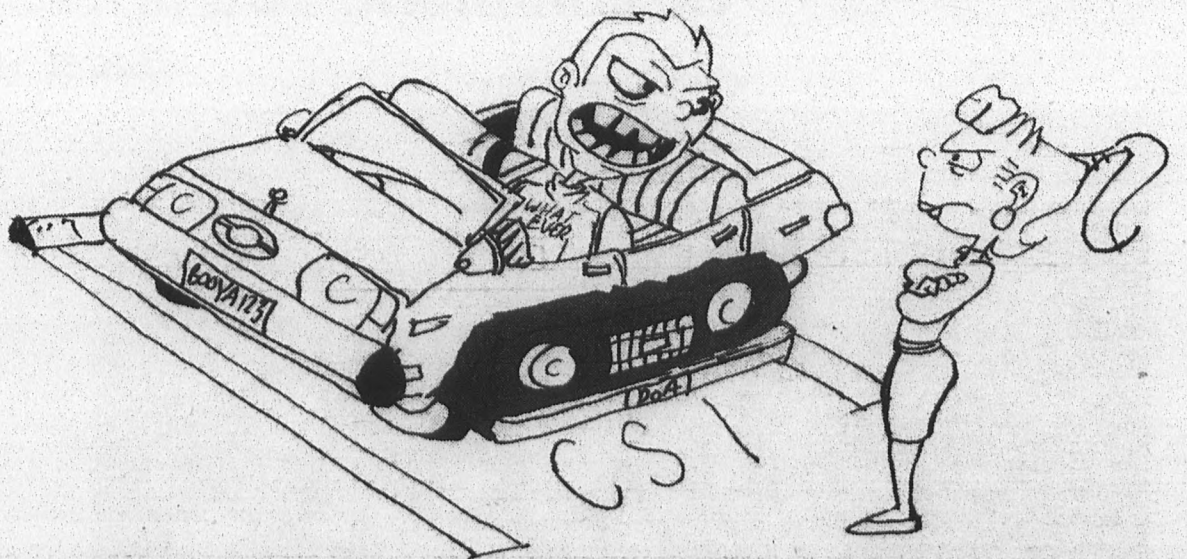
YOU SAY, DOC? YOU A TEAM PLAYER?



Do you draw, write, both, or just plain love comics?
GET YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

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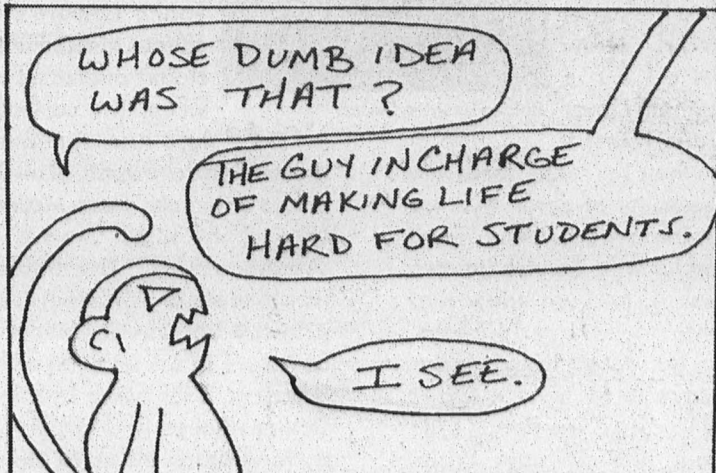
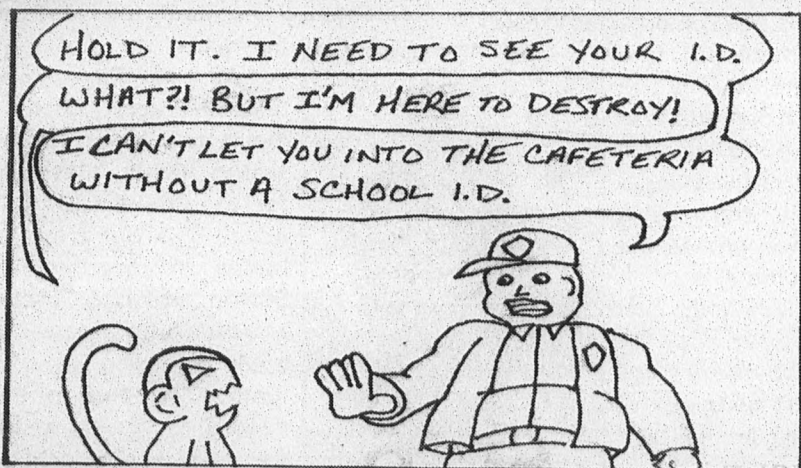
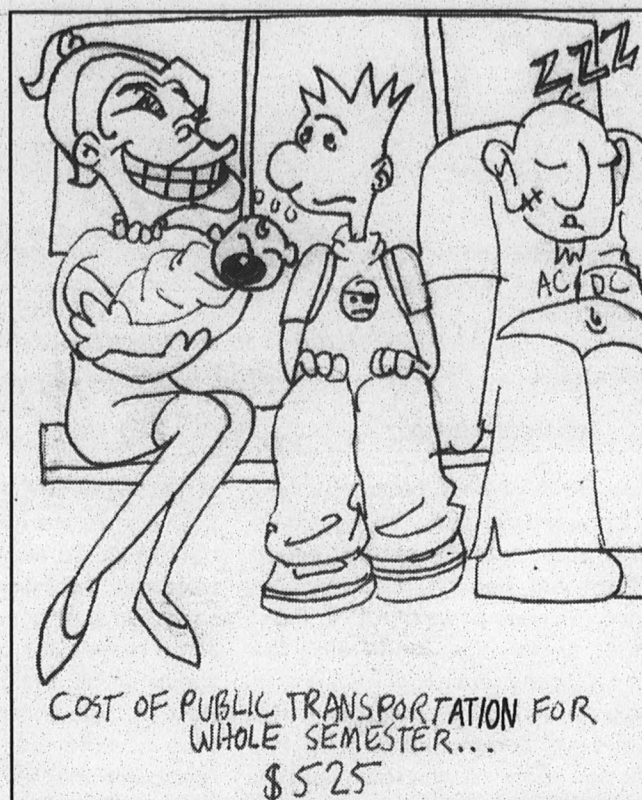
LAFF QUICKIE
enrique inocente



"HEY! DONT BE MAD AT ME! IF THERE WERE MORE PARKING THIS COULD BE AVOIDED! I'M A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES!"

THE BEACON PT.2 of 9

enrique inocente



Life.... Love... & SEX

DANCING WITH MYSELF

Masturbation is so commonplace in society, yet most are apt to treat it as either a taboo or an afterthought. The truth is, masturbation is a lot more complex than we give it credit for.

Jessica Mendez

"Do you, on a regular basis, masturbate?" Craig leaned his linebacker frame forward, every blonde, spiked, gelled strand on his head tensed for my response. We were playing truth or dare, and after performing (and being the object of) many dares, I decided to choose truth. To me, this was the easiest truth I had ever been asked. To Craig, this was better than all the lap dances, smooches, and debauchery combined.

"Absolutely," I responded immediately. The girls giggled, the guys grinned and gasped. Apparently, I had broken some code of silence among women to never ever admit to jilling off. What is it about female self-pleasure that causes such a reaction while men can pump their penises until kingdom come without so much as a second glance? The fact is, the boys got this one right—they have no shame! Both men and women masturbate. What better way to stay warm and de-stress from all the upcoming scholastic pressures?

LOVE WITH (OR WITHOUT) A REASON So, why do we masturbate? Hell, why not? In "Y Tu Mama También," Diego Luna and Gael Garcia Bernal spill their seed poolside to pass the time with the same casualness as they would play a soccer game. In Spike Lee's "She's Gotta Have It," the character of Nola Darling tries to curb her sexual appetite, a repression that leads her hands straight to her hot button.

Then again, she-bopping can get pretty emotional. Both the actress Naomi Watts (in "Mulholland Drive") and the character named Echo, protagonist of Francesca Lia Block's eponymous novel, use masturbation while in emotional turmoil to stir feelings that they wish to feel with someone else. For me, petting the kitty is often a combination of these things. Masturbation is comforting, satisfying, and a fulfillment of the most primal of all urges. With that said, let's get....

WET, WILD AND WARM Masturbation can often become routine, yet it is the way

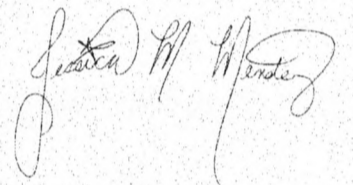
we explore and discover our bodies. Many of us are apt to experiment with a partner, but treat sex for one as a rudimentary awakening. Listen; if you can switch up your shampoo or deodorant, surely you can pamper your genitals. Get creative! Guys, doesn't the hand-cream-and-tissues combo (or worse, plain old spit) get old? Ladies, self-lube is fabulous, but do you really want to wait to get the juices flowing. Vaginas and penises, introducing K-Y Liquid! It's clear and slick, easily accessible, and comes in a variety of formulas, from Silk-E to Warming, making your hands able to simulate the real deal better than ever. But why stop there? Get yourselves to Nitecap Video, your very own sexual playground. Too shy for that? Massaging showerheads and "back massagers" (manual and electronic) are made for you. My three-pronged manual back massager has become a close personal friend.

A word of caution—treat your body kindly and responsibly! I am not liable for

acts of idiocy such as electrocution and chafing. Please check the speeds and go slow! Now, go out there and....

SHARE THE WEALTH Take what you know and put on a show for your partner. The first time I gave my boyfriend—at-the-time a saucy one-woman show, I was nervous. But trust me, the power of control over my body is such an aphrodisiac; it has become one of my favorite acts of foreplay.

Whew! Who knew one deceptively simple act could be so complicated? The more you know about your body, the better sex will be with other bodies; and your knowledge of yourself will improve vastly. Now, isn't it time you reached out and touched yourself?



BIG FISH: The Golden Ring Captures our Imaginations

Jessica Mendez

I have discovered the true lord of the ring, and it's not a hobbit named Frodo. No, it is Edward Bloom, for in Columbia Pictures' Big Fish, Edward uses a treasured wedding ring to catch the uncatchable fish in a lake on the day his son was born. Or so he likes to tell people. To Edward, the moral of the story is that the only way to catch a good woman (as the catfish is female) is with a ring. To Edward's son William (Billy Crudup), the tale is positively demoralizing, and he is sick of hearing it, as we see Edward telling and retelling the story throughout William's life. It is finally at William's own wedding that he reveals his disgust and



Ewan McGregor stars as the young adventurer Edward Bloom in the fantasy-rich family drama Big Fish, directed by Tim Burton. Photo credit: Zade Rosenthal

ceases to speak to his father for three years. It is only when Edward takes ill that William returns to his childhood home with his pregnant wife Josephine (French actress Marion Cotillard, in her American debut), determined to separate the man from the myths.

All of this could become very Lifetime Movie of the Week in the wrong hands. Blessedly for us, Daniel Wallace's novel was put into the hands of director Tim Burton, a man whose eccentric brilliance has yet again created a world of fantasy steeped in the deepest reality—the heart. The novel was adapted by John August, who also brought us indie hit Go and mainstream postfeminist popcorn flick Charlie's Angels. Burton

and August take this story and craft a magical world where Edward Bloom's stories are a reality, where giants live in Alabama and the ghosts of our future mingle with the dreams of our present. In this world, young Edward (played with aw shucks goodness by Ewan

McGregor) can be the ultimate hometown hero. He scores the final touchdown, the winning basket, the final homerun—all that and he befriends a gentle giant (Matthew McGrory). The film weaves elements of young Edward's past with Will's present struggles with Edward (Albert Finney). We see Edward fall in love with Sandra Templeton (Alison Lohman, a perfect southern belle), doing anything to find out more about her, including shovel horse manure at a freak circus run by the trickster Amos Calloway (Danny DeVito, looking even greasier than usual). Edward faces death in the eye—the eye of the mysterious town witch who looks strikingly similar to sweet Southern girl Jenny

(Helena Bonham Carter in dual roles). It

is when he really faces the possibility of death that we see the love between Edward and his wife, Sandra (Jessica Lange), and we know that those stories have a purpose.

So, do all these stories prove to be true or false? Who cares! The film is brilliant, the ultimate fable. Sometimes, emotions and



Helena Bonham Carter. Photo credit: Zade Rosenthal



Alison Lohman plays the young Sandra. Photo credit: Zade Rosenthal

events are so grand that the reality doesn't compare to the fantasy our emotions create in our minds. Burton and August understand this and, along with an incredible Oscar-nominated score by Burton mainstay Danny Elfman, get the audience to comprehend it as well. Colleen Atwood, Oscar winning costume designer for Chicago, designed the beautiful costumes, from Sandra's airy dresses and young Edward's dashing suits to Josephine's understated oversized cardigan wrap. The costumes capture the femininity, the

mystery, the chutzpah, of all the characters brilliantly. Ewan McGregor has said of the film, "Stories are our dreams, really." This film is every moviegoer's dream, from the brilliant British/American/French cast to the costumes to the spot-on writing and direction. After being shut out of the Golden Globes and largely shunned by the Oscars, it's up to the public to give this magnificent film recognition.



Ada and Arlene Tai play conjoined singers. Photo credit: Zade Rosenthal



Steve Buscemi plays Norther Winslow, a poet turned bank robber. Photo credit: Zade Rosenthal

Francesca Lia Block

The Flight of Literature's Dangerous Angel

Jessica Mendez

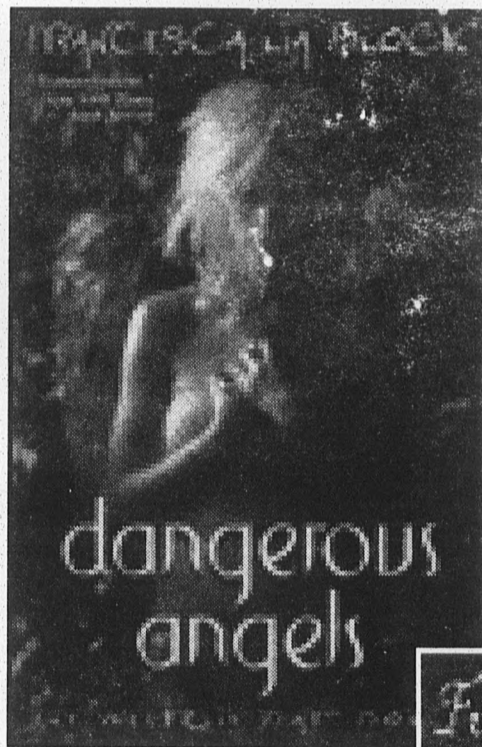


Francesca Lia Block is giggling. Well, her answering machine is, anyway. "Leave a message," the 41-year-old author manages to laugh delightfully in her soothing, distinctively feminine voice as one of her two children coos precociously. I am not surprised, for Block is the genre-defying angel of the literati who breathes magical life into even the most mundane events in her character's lives. In Block's world, people don't light each other's cigarettes; "lips kiss ash." Pizza is "the rich smell of scalding cheese." Sex, even threesomes and transgendered love affairs, is treated with dignity and grace, eschewing tawdriness for emotion. Block is the mistress of crafting incandescent poetic prose, tales of pain, loss and the healing and redemptive powers of love that transcend gender, time and even reality. Her stories are part journal entry, her characters candidly divulging their innermost musings, and part fairy tale, their lives enchanted with magic, ghosts, and fairies, all set in the magical realm of Shangri-LA, also known as La-La Land or, to us mortals, Los Angeles.

Block is often pigeonholed as a "young adult" author, something that is both frustrating and wholly incorrect. "I have published *Nymph*, an erotic story, and *Guarding the Moon*, [a memoir] about my daughter," says Block when I talk to her from her home in Shangri-LA. "A lot of my books have crossed over, and I have a lot of readers that are older." She sighs. "But there still is that stigma." Block knows that reading YA novels can be daunting, saying, "I understand because I feel the same way, in that there are some wonderful books [for adults] there, but they're next to a little children's book," she laughs. "Books are really not about age as much as a state of mind," she muses. "It's really a fact of marketing."

Francesca Lia Block became a cult figure, an edgy underground JD

Salinger for the fantasy set, after she published *Weetzie Bat* in 1989, about Weetzie and the powerful bond between her and her eccentric band of friends and family. *Weetzie Bat*'s success paved the way for four more books in the Weetzie series: *Witch Baby*, *Cherokee Bat* and the *Goat Guys*, *Missing Angel Juan*, and *Baby Be-Bop*. All five books can now be found in a collection, *Dangerous Angels*, which Block loves for the

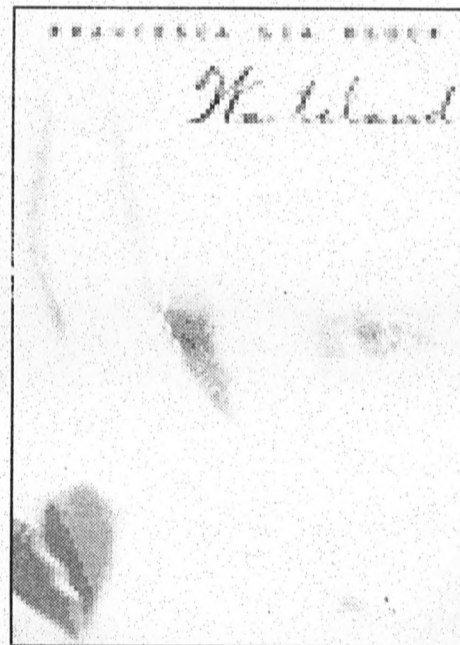


"saga element...all the books come together as a whole history of all these characters" and recommends this book as an introduction to her work.

Block's characters face a great deal of trauma, some of which morph into eating disorders. Block's sensitivity and comprehension of these disorders is unrivaled. In *Echo*, the eponymous protagon-

nist describes her hunger as "the cat in my stomach." Block reveals that she has done little research besides "experiences in [her] own life." Block does admit that, though none of her books are about her, *Echo* is "the most autobiographical."

Block also explores the power of friendship in her stories, particularly *Violet and Claire*, the tale of two girls who are lost in their own worlds until Violet's darkness and Claire's hopeful light merge to form a powerful bond. A friendship of a more fantastical nature is the subject of *I Was A Teenage Fairy*, where two very beautiful people lost in an ugly pain befriend Mab, a magenta haired pixie fairy with a wit as sharp and bright as her hair. Block also has penned *Zine Scene*, an out-of-print how-to guide to publishing,



with Hilary Carlip. Also in the Block canon are two short story collections: *Girl Goddess #9*, which features the brilliant story "The Canyon," and *The Rose and the Beast*, modern retellings of classic fairy tales with no taboo unturned, including abuse and homosexuality.

While many of Block's characters face loss, two of her books in particular focus on the pain of death in the family.

In *The Hanged Man*, one of Block's favorites, Laurel deals with the loss of her father and the shattering secrets that continue to torture her. *Wasteland*, Block's latest effort, deals with the tragic death of Marina's brother and best friend, Lex, in which Block dissects the intimate sibling bond. "I wrote what I consider to be a tragedy in *Wasteland*," she says. "To me, it was important to write about adolescence in a tragic way." All of Block's work stress the importance of hope: "There has to be a lot of hope, and I tend to write hopeful endings...I'm writing

literature that's dark, but I want there to be a light about it."

If you're still unconvinced that Block is worth braving the YA section of your local bookstore, there are still options. There is the aforementioned *Nymph*, which takes Block's sensual, lush exploration of sex and its various joys and consequences a step further. "[*Nymph*] is a very adult [novel]," concedes Block. Released by Circlot Press, publisher Cecilia Tan says, "Francesca's use of fantasy elements and...deep understanding of the importance of the erotic" is what makes it more than just erotica. For the erotica-shy, there is the re-release of Block's revamped fantasy novels, *Ecstasia* and *Primavera*.

The biggest news, however, is Francesca Lia Block's return to the world of *Weetzie Bat* for an adult audience, both introducing a new audience to Weetzie and satiating her fans' thirst for Block's cult character. Why did Block return to the story she admits to having said was finished? "I had felt that the magic in my own life had sort of gone away. [By writing about Weetzie] it started coming back into my life." She reveals, "It's about her being an active heroine." Block hopes to do a large-scale book tour for the novel, though the ink is barely dry on the paper. No official publication date is set.

"When I write a book I'm just thinking of...creating a picture and hoping that an audience will find it," says Francesca matter-of-factly. "There is a sense of magic realism, which is something that, in America in particular, we tend to relegate to the realm of the young, which I don't see the case for." Especially when it is written with such transcendent beauty as Block's searing, luminous prose that turns reading into a rich, sensual experience.

SPORTS

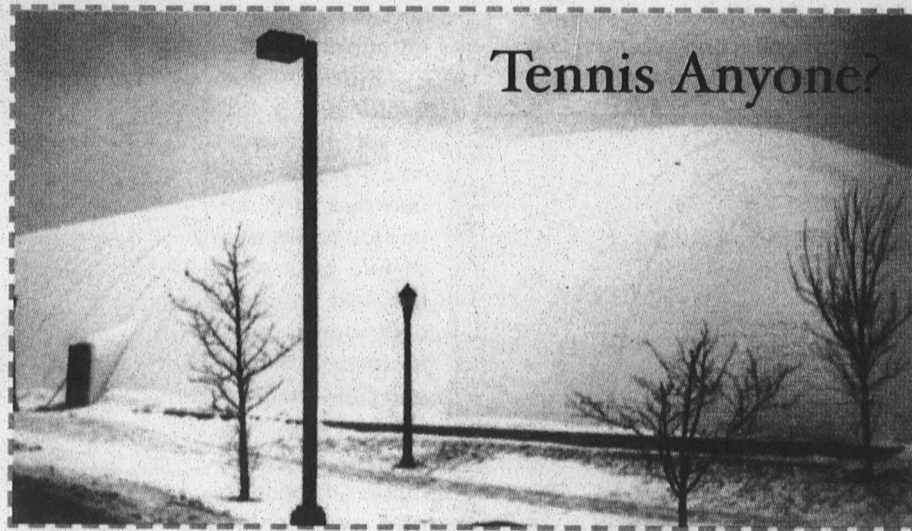
February 2, 2004

Bubble Is Part of a "Master Plan" to Upgrade Playing Fields to . . . Astro turf?

where you can purchase all the accouterments your fluttering, tennis-loving heart desires. Isn't it great folks?! Now students and the school's tennis team can play or practice all year round and not have to worry about ice, wind or acid-snow! And since we're students here, it's all free! Isn't it?

Oooh, sssorry... "free" was not the correct response. I'm afraid the correct response was \$25 per hour for the use of one indoor court by a CSI student. Others must pay between \$30 (the non-CSI-student discount) and \$44 an hour. The CSI tennis team has made arrangements for free practice time, and an intramural schedule is forthcoming.

Thanks, Alex. Thanks for nothing. Well, we can all take solace in the fact that anyone wishing to use any of the



courts that remain outdoors will be mercifully granted admission free of charge...but uh, only between the months of September and May, when

school is in session and the weather is mostly lousy. So make your reservations selectively, as you've only got about a month-long window of

decent weather to play tennis for free at your own college that you've already paid for.

Maybe we should be happy. The school may be getting \$100,000 a year for this thing. It's a good business decision. According to the school's department of finance and administration, the tennis bubble is part of a master plan to install astro turf for the soccer and softball fields.

You remember astro turf, right? A playing surface so rigid and out-dated that organized teams everywhere are ripping out the stuff and burning it as if it were infected with mad-cow or something. But for this college that seems to want to be more like the home-shopping network than an institution of higher learning...it's a good business decision.

Milestones and W's Abound for CSI's Winter Sports

Michael Bruno

It's been an eventful winter for Dolphin athletics. Among other things, records fell and a tennis bubble rose (see story on front page). The women's basketball team is in the midst of a seven game winning streak and are undefeated (8-0) in the CUNY conference. The women's swim team posted seven consecutive victories of their own to start their season and the men's squad is also undefeated within the CUNY conference (4-0). Finally, the crown jewel of Dolphin athletics, the men's basketball team, has overcome some recent inconsistency to remain a factor in the CUNY race with a 6-2 conference record (11-6 overall).

However, the biggest stories surrounding CSI's athletic winter are not constricted to mere wins and losses. Records are made to be broken and over the winter break three CSI marks were shattered and another significant milestone was reached as Dolphin sports conducted their business while the rest of us recessed.

On January 8th there was freshman Vlad Fedossev churning his way to a time of 1:57 in the 200 meter freestyle, thus setting a new CSI record. On the same night, fellow freshman and last minute roster addition Eros Qada set a new school mark in the 100meter butterfly with a time

of 0:54.92 seconds. Both swimmers contributed that night for CSI's 123-73 drubbing of visiting York College.

Michael Stewart scored his 1,000 career point for CSI as the men's basketball team snuck by The United States Merchant Marine Academy 74-70 at King's Point in Long Island on January 17th. Stewart scored 20 points on this night to pass Kaseem Nesbitt (1,001 pts.) and move into

20th on the school's all time scoring list. Only two thirds of the way through his junior year, next season Stewart may have a chance to assault the all time record of 1,684 points held by David Paul who played for CSI from '98 till '02. Stewart, who is averaging 16.6 points

per game, is just the 5th player in CSI history to capture his 1,000 point while in his junior season. He currently leads a young and somewhat splintered squad that is still getting to know one another. This year's team has struggled to find some consistency as they've excelled on the road (7-1 road record) and stumbled a bit on their home court (3-4 home record). However, time will tell with this inexperienced group. In their most recent game, (as of press time) on the 24th of January at home in front of SI Cable TV cameras, the Dolphins blew past defending CUNY champs CCNY 63-48, led by Stewart's 25 points and Senior Neville LeStrade's 10 rebounds.



Women's basketball Junior forward/center, Jaclyn Rock



Top Row (L-R): David Yanovsky, Evgeny Shenker, Vlad Fedossev, Gerard Francois, Keith Marsh, Bill Gagliardi, Assistant Coach Ann Marie Lund, Assistant Coach James Cooney, Head Coach Oleg Soloviev. Bottom Row (L-R): Boris Molchanskiy, Allan Kok, Terry Downing, Adam Lazatin.

LeStrade also has 45 blocks on the year, that's 34 more than the team's next best shot blocker.

Though all of the above milestones are quite impressive and deserve recognition, none matched the landmark reached by the women's basketball Junior forward/center Jaclyn Rock. On January 16th at CSI's sports and recreation center, the Lady Dolphins cruised to a 94-63 pasting of SUNY Farmingdale. On this night, Rock would score a season high 28 points and collect 18 rebounds, the last of which catapulted her into sole possession of the top spot on the school's all-time rebounding list. Rock's 854th career rebound surpassed the previous record holder Keisha Cook who was on hand to celebrate Rock's accomplishment. Rock has and will continue to pull away from the rest of the pack as she has added 52 more boards since her record breaking game. Truth be told, these Lady

Dolphins are no one woman team. Along with Rock's 15.6 points and 16 rebounds per game, Sophomore Kim Thompson (14.6 ppg) and senior Tamara Taylor (11.6 ppg) have helped guide a team whose average margin of victory is an astounding 20 points per game. Not too shabby, eh?

The hard work and dedication shown by some of this school's athletes over the recent months reminds us, in this climate of little league parents killing one another and multimillionaire point guard rapists, that there are still good things in the suddenly jaded world of organized sports. Juggling a school schedule, a job and a roster spot on a division III team for which you essentially receive no recognition or reward is as thankless as it is difficult. These days, a notion as bankrupt as playing for love of the game deserves more attention than it gets. But for those already practicing this concept, attention never really mattered anyway.