

...Yeah We'll  
Print That

# THE BANNER

Vol. VI Issue IX

CSI's Official Student Newspaper

December 17, 1998

## Racial Cat-Fight Could Result In Expulsion



**Alycia Parker Talks To Supporters Before  
Entering Hearing  
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# Campus News Briefs

## CSI Student Wins Melani Scholarship

One of the College of Staten Island's outstanding students, Maria Gusenfitter, won the Melani Scholarship this year. This award, granted to an academically accomplished female CUNY student with financial need, was bestowed upon only three students in the entire City of New York. Ms. Gusenfitter had to write an essay describing her educational goals and career objectives as well as to obtain three letters of recommendation from faculty members. We in the Staten Island community can all take pride in her achievement.

In her award-winning essay (which follows below), Ms Gusenfitter details a life of hardship. Such things as the end of her marriage and having to care for a profoundly deaf child alone might have weakened the spirit of anyone in her place. Instead, Ms. Gusenfitter intends to devote her life to helping others.

Ms Gusenfitter would be a great asset to any community. The CSI community should be grateful that she chose ours.

Essay:  
I am a 35 year old single mother of one child. I have returned to college after more than a decade. In 1980, after graduating high school I attended Brooklyn College. After attending for two years and unsure of which path to pursue, I decided to take a year off from college. I thought that time would give me a better perspective of what I wanted to do with my life. Like many who take a year off, life intervened and I never had the chance to go back to college. I worked for several years as an insurance adjuster and legal assistant.

In 1993 my husband and I were blessed with our only child, a son named Jackie. Seven months after his birth Jackie was diagnosed as profoundly deaf. After speaking with many physicians, audiologists and language pathologists, we decided that it would be in Jackie's best interest that I quit work and

give him all the intervention I possibly could. My husband left us two months later, leaving me to deal with a nightmare of sadness and the realities of single-motherhood with a child who needed much more than most.

What I once thought of as a nightmare has become a blessing. My son has made extraordinary progress because of teachers who are committed. I have seen first hand the difference teachers have made, not only in my son's life but in my life as well. They taught me that regardless of circumstance, all can find their dream when touched by a teacher who will motivate them and give them the tools they need to become the best that they can be. They have inspired me to want to be that teacher.

Today and tomorrow have many challenges. Providing for my son's needs full-time and being able to continue my education has been a struggle that depends on education to help meet those challenges. Soon my son and I will learn a language where vision replaces sound. I see how he yearns to learn the words and meaning the world takes for granted. We are rebuilding our lives through the path of education. I am on that path to achieve a career goal and to prepare me to offer what I have been given in my life...

In my pursuit of a teaching degree many career objectives are before me. Special education, guidance counseling and elementary teaching are calling me to use my experiences, talents and the foundation I am learning at college to inspire others to be to my students the hope and motivation to better their lives. In becoming all that I can become through my education, I feel the need to pass along that dream to others, particularly children. Your scholarship will help make my dream a reality.

## Greens Call For State Minimum Wage Increase

The New York State Greens today called upon the State Legislature to raise the state minimum wage to \$7 an hour when they meet at the State Capitol next week to discuss raising their own legislative salaries.

The Greens, who recently became an official party in New York, said any increase in legislative pay should be tied to raising the salaries and benefits of low and moderate income New Yorkers.

"The day after Thanksgiving is referred to as 'Black Friday', since it is the day that many retail businesses begin to show a profit for the year. Unfortunately, far too many New Yorkers find themselves in the 'red', with their salaries or government benefits falling far below the poverty line. Individuals who work should be able to support their families without having to turn to food pantries or other charitable groups to pay their bills. The Greens support immediately raising the state minimum wage to \$7 an hour," stated Mark Dunlea, chairperson of the Greens legislative committee.

The state legislature has refused to raise the state minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour to even the federal level of \$5.15, let alone to an adequate level. More than 20,000 workers, primarily farm workers and seasonal workers at amusement parks, are only covered by the lower state minimum wage. Historically, the minimum wage was set at a level to allow a full-time worker with two dependents to be at the federal poverty level, presently \$13,650 for a family of three. Based on this standard, the minimum wage would be \$6.56 an hour.

Once the State Legislature raises the state minimum wage to \$7.00 an hour, the Greens would require that any raise in legislators pay result in a corresponding raise in the minimum wage. The Greens would cap Legislator's pay at four times the state minimum wage.

State legislators presently make about \$1,000 a day for their two to three day a week job from January to June.

"Legislators don't deserve a pay raise because they haven't done their job. One in four children lives in poverty. The richest 20% of New Yorkers are now making 20 times more than the poorest 20%, giving New York the most unequal income distribution of any state in the most unequal industrial country in the world. Poverty and inequality have been increasing while State Legislators have acted like Robin Hood in reverse, cutting taxes for the rich and forcing increases in local regressive taxes such as the property and sales tax, so that the poorest 20% pay 16.2% of their income in state and local taxes while the richest pay only 8.9%," stated Howie Hawkins, a member of the Syracuse Greens and recent Green candidate for State Comptroller. Hawkins said the minimum wage should be raised to \$10 an hour in the next few years to provide workers with a living wage.

The Greens said that legislators should have to give up speaking fees and gifts and dinners from lobbyists in exchange for a pay raise, and should enact the Integrity in Government Act to prohibit lobbyists from giving them campaign contributions (i.e., legalized bribes) during the legislative session. The Greens also announced support for an increase in SSI and welfare benefits to raise poor children, seniors, disabled adults and other needy individuals out of poverty.

A SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT TO ALL THE BANNER ALUMNI THAT HELPED US WITH THIS ISSUE.

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# Alycia Parker

**P. Melissa Dreznick**  
Editor-In-Chief

On December 4, Alycia Parker, a Student Senator, was brought up on charges by the Student Faculty Disciplinary Committee (SFDC) that could lead to her expulsion. The SFDC held the meeting in 1P in a secluded conference room.

The charges that were brought against her were due to an alleged fight between Ms. Parker and Olga Poza, a fellow classmate of hers on November 18. The fight ensued when Olga Poza had gone into the ladies' room after the sign language class the two women were both taking. The situation began at the beginning of the semester when Ms. Parker

claimed that Ms. Poza started taunting her in the sign language class. According to Ms. Parker, an African American, she could not take any more of the verbal abuse, which was racial in nature, that Ms. Poza was inflicting upon her.

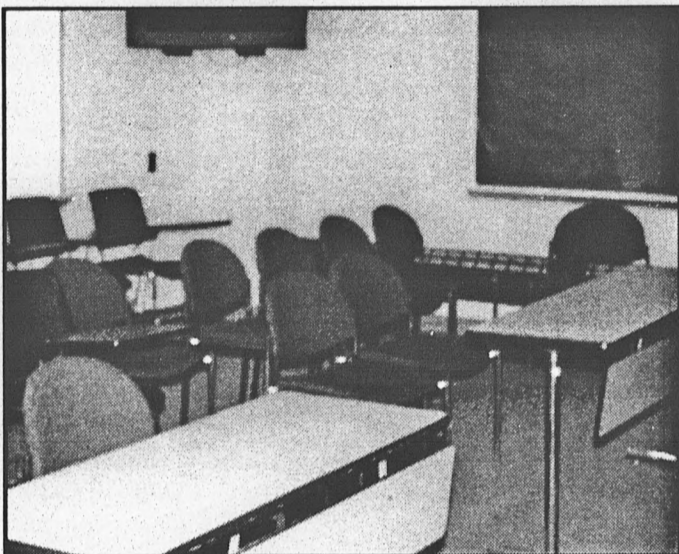
However, according to Ms. Poza's brother, Anthony, it was Ms. Parker who was the tormentor. "She called her a 'white bitch'. She's not even white, she's Ecuadorian."

Ms. Parker allegedly scratched Ms. Poza with a set of keys and kicked her repeatedly.

Ms. Poza's brother also stated that, "The school has an obligation to provide a safe environment." This is why he and his family are pushing for Ms. Parker's expulsion.

The proceedings of December 4 were closed to the public, and no press was admitted. Only Ms. Poza, Ms. Parker, Kathleen Galvez (Ms. Poza's attorney), George Springer (Ms. Parker's advocate) and the committee were allowed to witness the proceedings. Witnesses and immediate family of Ms. Poza and Ms. Parker were allowed to wait in a separate room.

Ms. Parker requested that the



The site of the trial of Alycia Parker.

proceedings be made open, and attempted to have William Wharton admitted as a second advocate, since she was unable to obtain an attorney, but her requests were denied. Upon this denial, a motion was made to postpone the hearing until Ms. Parker could get an attorney, this request was also denied.

Ms. Parker spent much of the time the proceedings were in progress outside them in protest. Ms. Parker, along with Springer, Wharton and several other supporters tried to find ways within the by-laws of the proceedings to have things go more in their favor.

An open hearing was requested by Ms. Parker. This request, too, was denied, even though the CUNY by-laws state that the student charged has the

right to an open hearing.

Even though the hearing was ruled closed, members of the press requested entry. The College Voice and

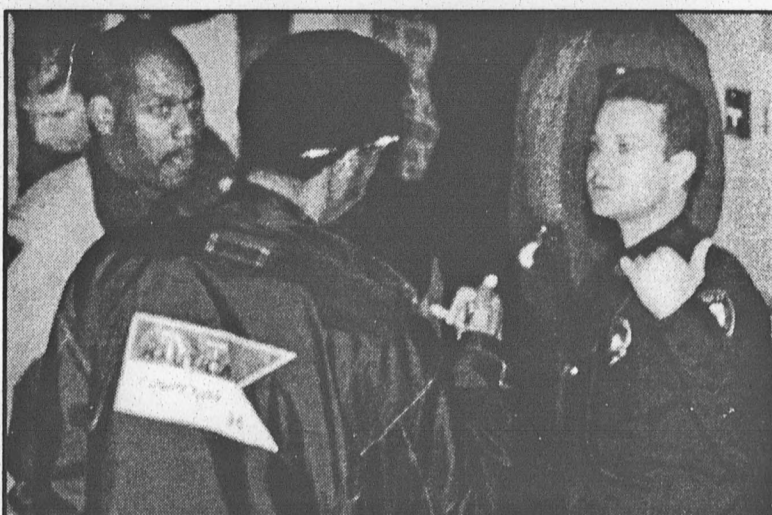
The Banner both expressed the need to convey the goings on of the hearing to the CSI community. The Black Reign, a professional publication, was also present for the day's events.

Both college publications submitted written requests for admittance, and The Black Reign had a press pass that the police will accept. These were still not good enough to gain admission to the hearing. The editor-in-chief of The Black Reign even made a personal appeal to Vice President of Student Affairs Carol Jackson, but was still barred from the proceedings.

The mood outside the hearing varied greatly throughout the day. The worst of it was in the morning, when supporters for both sides learned they would not be permitted inside. People were milling about angrily and complaining in forms varying from shouts and near protests to simply walking away in disgust.

To make the events prior to the hearing even more volatile was that 1P was hosting two different shows for elementary school children in its theaters, and there were two productions of each show. This led to hundreds of small children being exposed to the hostile situation.

Eventually, the supporters calmed down and the children left. This let boredom set in. At one point some supporters started praying just outside



Security bars access to the hearing.

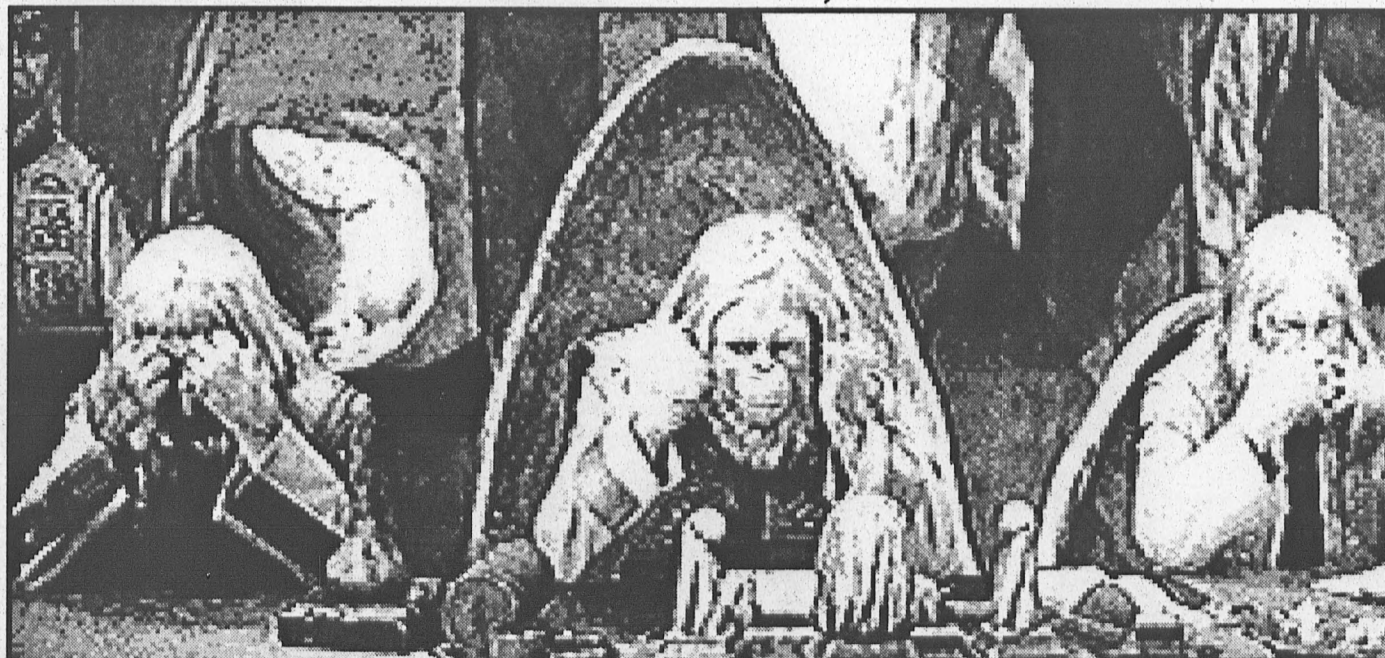
the building as Ms. Poza's brother taunted them.

To further outrage student supporters, lunch was provided for the people who were allowed inside by Auxiliary Services. After the proceedings, evidence of a huge amount of sodas, sandwiches and fruit platters was present in the several rooms that made up the area in which the proceedings were held.

Ms. Parker's mother waited patiently outside the proceedings the entire time. She explained that her daughter could not have possibly done some of the things for which she stood accused. "How could you straddle someone and kick them at the same time?" asked Mrs. Parker.

Ms. Poza's family tried to distance themselves from the press and Ms. Parker's supporters by either waiting inside the witness rooms or outside the building.

At approximately 5:00, the



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# BANNER Letters



To the Editor  
The Banner

It is unfortunate that your recent article, "Parking is Hell" (Vol VI • Issue VII), which addresses legitimate concerns about campus parking, was written without interviewing the Director of the Office of Parking Services, The Executive Director of Auxiliary Services, or the Chair of the Committee on Campus Parking. While we commend you for bringing the issue of parking at CSI to the forefront, perhaps by printing this response, the members of our community will have a better understanding about parking at CSI.

Probably the primary complaint about parking is stated appropriately at the beginning of your article, namely, that finding a spot close to your building can be a frustrating experience. One should consider whether this is uniquely a CSI problem or a reality of driving and parking anywhere, that is — the best spots are always taken, whether it's at the mall, at the bank, at the supermarket, etc. Not all spaces can be in front of one's desired destination. As you know, the majority of the classrooms at CSI are located in the south quad, where parking is, unfortunately, rather limited (Lots #2 and #3). But here, like everywhere else, you can risk

precious time and hope for someone to leave, or simply look further away for an available spot immediately. Those who use the latter strategy find it is ultimately a time-saver and certainly less stressful.

Fortunately for CSI students, if one must park any distance from class, the college operates a free shuttle bus service continuously every school day. For those who choose, the campus grounds, by most standards, affords a reasonably pleasant and short walk. Except for the first week or two of each semester, Parking Lot #6 (by the Sports and Recreation Center) provides an available parking space for everyone with no time lost to waiting or searching. There are signs along Loop Road directing drivers to Lot #6, identified as, "Easy Parking."

Advising people to park two or three parking lots away from their class is one viable approach to a problem that is often found on college campuses, where classrooms tend to be clustered and not directly in a front of a parking lot. In many non-college settings, shuttle buses, trams and even monorails often provide transportation from parking space to destination because it is just not possible to create sufficient parking in the immediate vicinity of a building drawing large numbers of people

With respect to the sale of decals, your article regrettably adds to the confusion among some by stating that "more stickers are handed out compared to the amount of spots available," and quoting an anonymous secretary with, "I know I don't keep count of what I give out." The college does not limit the number of decals it issues because it recognizes the transient demand for parking during each school day. While classes are in session from 8 AM to 10:30 PM, students, and even some staff, are on campus for only a few hours at a time. Many have classes only one, two or three days a week. With students coming and going throughout the day, there is a constant turnover of parking space. To limit the number of decals sold simply by the number of parking spaces would fail to acknowledge this fact and would deny parking to the vast majority of our students and staff. We believe the present decal strategy is the fairest and most sensible approach to parking on this campus.

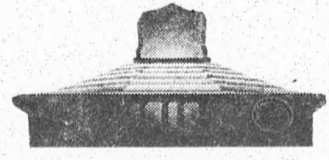
Several times each semester, The Committee on Campus Parking, a group of students, teaching faculty and administrators meet to discuss and take action upon matters relating to parking. This Committee on Campus Parking makes recommendations to other governing bodies on campus and has been a positive force for change in policy matters. It has been and continues to be

instrumental in the quest for improved parking. The Committee reviews all correspondence it receives and responds in kind. Mail for the Committee on Campus Parking may be sent in care of The Office of Parking Services, South Administration Building (1A), Room 102. The Parking Services Office is always available to assist students, staff and visitorvisitors to the college with all matters relating to parking. The phone number is 982-2294.

Sincerely,  
  
Barry Sommers  
Director  
Office of Parking Services  
  
Ira Persky  
Executive Director  
CSI Auxiliary Services Corp.  
  
George Targownik  
Director  
Office of Campus Planning  
Chair, Committee on Campus Parking



# BANNER Editorials



## The Banner: I Don't Know... Maybe

**James Scotto-Lavino**  
 Ex- Editor-in-Chief  
 CSI (Banner) Alumnus

This was the editorial column written as when I was editor-in-chief of this newspaper almost two years ago. If you'll allow my cynicism to die for a moment, please let me believe that someone out there is wondering what this issue is all about. It's like this . . .

The Banner has been run by an ever-changing gaggle of editorial staffs over the years. Our run started in 1993. When I say "our" I refer to the bunch of charming young alumni that submitted to this issue. Supposedly, this is where I ride the cliché by saying that time is passing by so quickly and it is becoming harder and harder to grasp back for those days of freakin' yesteryear or whatever. I'm not going to say something so tired.

What I will say is that absence does

not necessarily make the heart grow fonder. It might, for a time, but soon enough fonder becomes "ah, what the heck? My life is probably easier now. Life goes on its tawdry, tawdry path." Forgive the insanity. What I mean is for an undefined length of time, being on The Banner is still a fond memory, and I miss the place. So while the patience exists, I decided to come back and do another issue and my comrades-in-arms have done the same by submitting. The picture included are four of us. From left to right: Yvonne Villa, News Editor, Chris Zeyer, Associate

Editor, James Scotto-Lavino (me), Editor-in-Chief, and Alice Marino, News Editor.

We tried to bring back all of the feature articles we used to do back then. TomKo on Beer by Tom Kolakowski has had many, many installments, and he taught us all to make alcoholic beverages from common household items. Pissed Off, originally written by Chris Zeyer and Rich Arroyo, is back. The Final Frontier by Jim McNulty was, in its time, one of the most controversial comics to ever grace these pages. The Net Unleashed is Ralph Masterangelo keeping up on the internet,

and had been even before most of us were online.

Also contributing to this issue are Alice Marino, wrecking the competition with her poetry and publishing information, and Mike Anderson, the best, and I mean the best Sports editor this paper has ever had. I wussed out by sticking to layout, although people have talked me into making a Progression comic, a regular for The Banner, but probably long forgotten by all. In addition, I made the new Banner masthead with a (go figure) BANNER draped over the campus center. So if you hate the new design, all hate mail to The Banner should have a "c/o James Scotto-Lavino" written below the address.

So, it's Saturday, and I've wasted another day of my life fiddling around in The Banner office. I feel hollow, destroyed, frustrated, angry, and I want to kill someone. Maybe everybody. I don't know . . . maybe.



Photo: John LaMantia

## The Banner: Our Students, Our College, Our Community

**Amy Veneziano**  
 News Editor

Students have long complained about the prices and quality of food provided by CSI's Auxiliary Services Corporation(CSI-ASC). Many times an employee of CSI-ASC will try to make provisions so that students do not feel they are being ripped off.

Some of you may have noticed that Curtis Jackson, who used to work at the grill and deli, has not been in the cafeteria. This is because Jackson made a sandwich for a female student who decided that she did not want to pay. The student put the goods in her pocket and walked out. Jackson did not witness the act, and

so he did not try to stop the student. When he did realize what had happen it was too late for Jackson to do much about it, unless he went running after and searching for the student. An argument arose between Jackson and Victoria Cicero, a manager for ASC's cafeteria. The fight escalated when Jackson stated that he was not a security guard for ASC but a cook. Ms. Cicero relieved Jackson of his duties as grill cook.

As a previous employee of the CSI-ASC I was not at all surprised by Jackson's dismissal. The way the cafeteria is run is atrocious. Prices are jacked up and portion sizes are cut down so that students get screwed even more than they already do.

There is a huge employee turnover

rate at the cafeteria due to the stress that managers impose on their workers about the controlled portion sizes. The portion size for a sandwich is 3oz. of meat (roastbeef is 4oz.), and two pieces of cheese. The cold cuts are supposed to be cut in one ounce portions. This puts the employees in a bad position because they are the ones who take the brunt of the attacks from students. This also makes the employees feel sorry for the students because they know what the cafeteria is doing to them. The stress involved in working for this company is phenomenal. If one is not being attacked by students, the managers are jumping down the employee's throat for one reason or another.

The quality of the food is a separate

matter in itself. The cafeteria tries to cut corners in any way they can, without causing any serious repercussions. For those of you who do not know, there is a restaurant located next to the cafeteria that is run by ASC. In fact the quality of food is much better there than in the cafeteria.

What is this supposed to say to students? Is this Auxiliary Services way of saying that students don't matter? Or are they trying to say that if you want to pay even higher prices (though they are already charging an exorbitant amount) you can have good quality food? When will the robbery end?

There is a huge employee turnover rate at the cafeteria due to the stress that managers impose on their workers about the controlled portion sizes.

The cafeteria tries to cut corners in any way they can, without causing any serious repercussions.

**Attention Students, Faculty, Staff & Administrators:**  
**The BANNER would like to hear from YOU!!!**  
**If you have an opinion about ANYTHING please send your response to:**

<b>SNAIL MAIL us at</b> The Banner 2806 Victory Blvd. Room 1C-228 Staten Island, NY 10314	<b>E-Mail us at</b> THEBANNER@STUDENT.CSI.CUNY.EDU	<b>or FAX us your letters at</b> (718) 982-3140
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## *Pissed Off The Unfunny Returns (and Leaves)*

Duckman and Cornfed, CSI (Banner) Alumni  
(a.k.a. Rich Arroyo and Chris Zeyer)

### Things That Piss Us Off About Graduating, Having to Get Real Jobs, And Rules On How Businesses Work

This is the latest (and we hope to God) the last Pissed Off from us. We know we have said this in the past, numerous times, but this time (please God) is it. The reason for returning from hiatus is we read the bastard offspring paper. And it is a true bastard creation. We were there for the conception, but we hadn't seen or heard of it since. Why? We graduated and got real jobs. It has been an experience, and it has given us new material. So here it is:

#### Things That Piss Us Off About Graduating and Having to Get Real Jobs

- Having to explain to the guy giving you the interview why it took seven years to get a degree. Getting rejected for a job not only in person, by mail, e-mail, phone, and/or court order. Trying to get a job without experience, or trying to get experience without a job. Watching more commercials than all of the textbooks we read in college. When your mom won't let you apply for the job at a sex catalog. Her knowing it is a sex catalog by its name. Getting a f\*\*\*in' job. Having to see those damn people on the ferry you tried to avoid while you were in college. Having to learn to tie a necktie. Going through all the paperwork before joining "the team".
- People that refer to their coworkers as a "team" or "family." When we get Bernie Williams' money, then we'll call them a team. And do you want to know the difference between your job and your family? The job pays you to get aggravated with work. Also, you can tell your family to go screw themselves, and not get written up as "uncooperative".
- "Please swipe again." Gridlock alert! Being in a union, or not being in union. Either way you're grabbing your ankles. Having to sign a mandatory, voluntary dismemberment clause before getting your health insurance. (Think about it...)
- Drug tests and the people that keep telling you how to beat them. The fact that Dilbert sucks and the people that find Scott Adams amusing. Manhattan prices for anything. If you think C.S.I. gouges you, have lunch at a pizzeria in midtown. You have a good paying job, and still can't

get dates. See, money doesn't matter guys.

#### The Pissed Off Rules on How Businesses Work

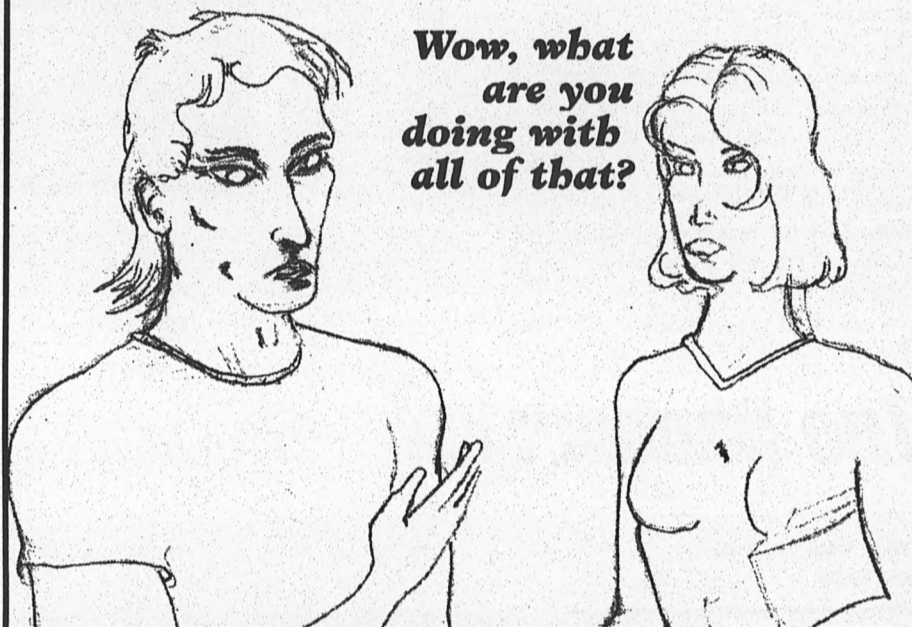
- Do your work correctly and efficiently and you get more work. If you are a lazy son of a bitch, they take work away from you and don't fire you. Therefore, be just a little better than the lazy son of a bitch and you will have the right to complain about anything.
- Coworkers who aren't at their desks when work and/or phone calls come in. Coworkers who feel they can "bang" any woman in the department, when in reality they couldn't bang a drum. The one coworker that comes to you every week to get money for birthday parties, welcome back parties, so long parties, congratulation parties, the coffee pool, to buy candy for their kid's charity, and just to see if you will give them money.
- Having *The Banner* on your resume is a kiss of death from almost any business. We graduated and we are still writing for this paper. Mad TV. Fraternities and Sororities have networked themselves away from their hazing, and we had too much self-esteem to go through it. (Note: C.S.I. does not have Fraternities or Sororities, so none of you G.L.O. people can get pissed off... understand? Or should we use smaller words, with fewer syllables.)
- Yeah, we know what you're thinking. "This is the worst piece of crap you two losers ever wrote." Y'know, you're right. (Not about the loser part and screw you all for thinking of it.) This was the worst. Why? Because we're not really that angry or "pissed off" anymore. There is life after college (Andre we're talking to you) and it's wonderful.

So... we have thrown in the towel, got blood from a stone, beat the hell out of the dead horse, and have realized that this idea has been done like a dirty whore. It's time to give up and leave this for the next generation. Last words: Like you'd give a crap.

## THE FINAL FRONTIER

Jim McNulty  
CSI (Banner) Alumnus

*Well, I got my bachelor's in psychology.  
Now I'm majoring in philosophy with a  
minor in history.*



*Wow, what  
are you  
doing with  
all of that?*

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**WARNING: This article may be offensive  
and foul to some. The views expressed  
are not necessarily shared by *The  
Banner*. Don't say we didn't warn you.**



# On Beer: Beer 101 An Introduction to Beer

**Tom Kolakowski**  
CSI (Banner) Alumnus

Beer. We've all heard of it, and most of us have tried at least one in our lifetime. But what do you really know about this wonderfully intoxicating beverage beyond what Budweiser and Coors tells you in their commercials? Since CSI is an institution of higher learning, we would be remiss in leaving your education of the fine art of brewing incomplete.

The first fact one must accept is that Budweiser is only one of many hundreds of unique styles of beer. In many countries Budweiser is laughed at as cheap American piss-water and has hurt our reputation world round.

**So we have our first question. What is Beer?**

The answer, in simple terms, is that beer is a alcoholic beverage made from fermented malted barley or malted wheat, water and hops. Under the terms of the Reinheitsgebot, the German beer purity law of 1516, these are the only ingredients allowed in beer. In many nations additional ingredients are added, such as rice, corn sugar, fruit, molasses and spices. These additions are known to brewers as adjuncts, and are found in many nongerman beers.

**Our next question is: What are Ales and Lagers?**

The world of beer is divided into two broad classifications, Ales and Lagers, each having numerous subclasses. The basic difference between the two styles is the yeast used. Ales, know as top-fermenting beer, is brewed mainly with a class of yeast called Saccharomyces Cerevisiae. This is the oldest style of beer, because the Saccharomyces Cerevisiae yeast ferments best at 59° to 79°. Since refrigeration was not a option in "olden days", this was the way beer was fermented. The second type of beer is the Lager. Lager beers are named for the process started in the Bavarian Alps in the 15th Century called Lagering. Lagering is a process of storing the beer in mountain caves at near zero temperature. The Lager yeast is often called Saccharomyces Carlsbergensis or Saccharomyces Uvarum. Lager yeast ferments best at temperatures from 41° to 50°, but can go as low as 34°.

Ales are the probably the oldest form of beer. The oldest record of beer is in Ancient Sumeria, and is known to have been drunk by the Ancient Egyptians. One brewery recently began producing

a beer from a recipe inscribed on the walls of the Tomb of King Tut. [Beer Trivia Fact 1: Workers building the Great Pyramids were paid in beer. This was called "Kash," which is the source of our word "cash"] Ales were the first brewed due to the warm temperature tolerance of the yeast.

Amongst Ales we have several broad subclasses, some well known... others only by trufen! The most common styles of Ales originate in the British Isles (England, Scotland and Ireland). The darkest of the British Ales are the Stouts. Most Stouts are sweeter and less hoppy than their lighter cousins. The darkness of the brew is mainly caused by the addition of flaked and Roasted Barley to the mash (the unfermented beer). Stout is usually either Dry or Sweet, with a distinct version being the Imperial Stout. Imperial Stout has a higher alcohol rate, mainly due to the addition of Brown Sugar and larger amounts of fermentable sugars. [One interesting note is that Guinness Stout has a higher alcohol percentage in the US than Ireland due to the UK oppressive tax system there!]

The next darkest Ales are the Porters. This style once "ruled" amongst the drinking elite of the 19th Century. The first Porters were a blended mixture of Stouts and Bitters (house ales). As their popularity increased, brewers began to brew Porters as a separate style, rather than blending. Unfortunately, the love of porters died quickly, driving the style to extinction in Europe. The only American version that continued to be brewed was Pennsylvania's Yeunglinger's Porter... which was actually brewed as a Lager, Luckily for beer lovers a sunken British ship recovered a few years ago had an ample supple of original English porter, thus allowing the rebirth of a classic style of beer!

The most popular styles of British ales are the bitters. Bitters, or Pale Ales (as they are usually called in bottle form), as the name implies, are the most bitter tasting of ales. There are several grades of Bitter, such as Pale Ale or ESB (extra special bitter).

Besides the British Isle, Belgium is a nation of Ale brewers. Belgium's ales are vast and varied. Amongst the many unique styles are the Trappist Ales (brewed by Trappist Monks), Lambic ales (brewed with wild yeast and fruit), and strong ales. In Belgium beer is both a drink and a cooking ingredient. The Belgians use beer in much the same way that the French use wine.

Lagers: These are the new kids on the block. The style probably originated in the cold climes of the Bavarian Alps, where temperatures were often too low to allow for proper fermentation using ale yeast. As the use of yeast was

unknown at the time it is most likely that wild Lager yeast that entered the brewing vessel kicked in during the winter months and fermented the beer.

Probably the most famous style of Lager is the Pilsner, a style named after the Czech of Plzen, is the basis of most of America's most common style of beer. Pilsners are light in body and hoppiness. Other types of lagers include Bock, Doppelbock, Dunkel, Helles and Dortmunder, just to name a few.

Fall is an interesting time for brewers, with many rare and experimental brews appearing. One very unusual, yet appropriate for Halloween, is Pumpkin Ale. Currently there are at least three breweries producing Pumpkin Ale, with Park Slope Brewery making one of the most interesting of this

**TomKo picks the Beers.**

genre.

Here are my beer picks of the Month:

**Georda Mountain Maple**

(Friends Brewery) This beer is the perfect beer for breakfast. As you open the bottle

you are immediately hit with the wonderful smell of maple. Every time I open a bottle I get the overwhelming urge for Pancakes and sausages! It's sweet and smooth... a wonder to behold! Unfortunately, it is not readily available here in Staten Island. My Rating: 9

**Spaten Oktoberfest**

(Spaten) This is THE beer of Oktoberfest, which just ended a week or so ago. It is a beer with Malty sweetness, yet has a balancing bitterness to it. Spaten has been making this beer for Oktoberfest since the very first one. Luckily, it is now available year round. It is available everywhere. My Rating: 9

**Spaten Optimator**

(Spaten) This is TomKo's favorite beer. This beer is STRONG and sweet. Most people can not drink for then a few of this "manly" brew. If you normally drink Bud, keep away from this beer. If you are up for a challenge - this is it! My Rating: 10

**Park Slope Pumpkin Ale**

(Park Slope Brewpub) One of the more unusual brews, Pumpkin Ale is definitely an acquired taste. This is not the beer for everyone, but is worth a try for a change of pace. My Rating: 6

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# The Net UNLEASHED

**Ralph Masterangelo**  
CSI (Banner) Alumnus

## Online Shopping The Safe Way

Welcome to the encore edition of *The Net Unleashed*. Instead of boring you with details of how the web works, which service is best, or which Operating System is best. I decided to give some information that will help with the upcoming holidays, I personally have done a lot of shopping online and love it (no lines, or pushy people). This is my advice to you, take it as you will, but if you only take on peace make it this, shop smart and I don't mean prices (though that helps)

**ONLINE RETAILING(some facts)**  
Online shopping is expected to surge this holiday season as more and more U.S. consumers choose the comfort of their own homes to do shopping rather than go to a mall. According to a recent survey by Dell Computer Corp. and Louis Harris & Associates Inc., 43 percent of Americans who use computers said they were likely to shop on the Internet this holiday season. That is a 330 percent increase over the 1997 holiday season when just 10 percent shopped online.

"More and more Americans are buying online and they're happy with the results," Scott Eckert, director of Dell Online, said in a statement released Monday. "It's a trend that's taking the country by storm because it's convenient, easy and secure." (CNN News) Seventy percent of the 1,943 adult survey respondents who use computers and the Internet said they enjoyed shopping online while 36 percent described a trip to the mall as part of their holiday fun. But even 61 percent of those consumers who liked mall shopping gave electronic commerce a thumbs-up.

Respondents said the benefits of online shopping included that they could shop any time of day, the ease of shopping from the comfort of their homes and the fact that they could find anything they wanted through the Internet.

Security of online transactions remained a concern, with 89 percent of the respondents citing security as a worry. But 76 percent of those who have not shopped online said they would be about as or more likely to shop online if companies offered security guarantees.

The Dell/Harris survey showed that computer software was the most popular item holiday shoppers bought online, followed by books, music, computer hardware and airline tickets.

When you picture pads and helmets, you think football, right? But they

could just as easily be a uniform for the mall during the holidays. All the more reason to shop online. A recent Visa USA survey found that 46% of Internet users are planning to shop online during the holidays. Jupiter Communications estimates shoppers will spend \$2.3 billion online this holiday season (up from \$1.1 billion last year).  
<http://www.zdnet.com/chkpt/adstlink/www.zdnet.com/products/stories/reviews/0,4161,2156237,00.html>  
[http://www.zdnet.com/chkpt/adstlink/www.zdnet.com/anchordesk/story/story\\_2759.html](http://www.zdnet.com/chkpt/adstlink/www.zdnet.com/anchordesk/story/story_2759.html)

But online shopping has its limitations and dangers. Every site has a different way of getting around, a different way of buying. Making price comparisons can be challenging. Indeed, just finding a site that carries the products you want can be an adventure.

My advice (continued from intro) on when or whether to use a new technology. I give online shopping a yellow light. It's not for Net beginners. It's too easy to get lost and confused. And those with a slow connection will find waiting endlessly for photos to download and transactions to go through frustrating. But if you're comfortable surfing the Web, online shopping can save you time... and your sanity.

**Some safe shopping tips**  
If you're ready to experiment with online commerce, start by reviewing these tips on how to stay safe.

1) Get pertinent information: Write down merchants' phone numbers and addresses, so you can talk with a real person if trouble arises.

2) Always use a credit card: This paper trail is the best way to track a transaction gone bad. And to get your money back. If you are like me get one that you only use on the net this will help you track it if someone gets your CC-number.

3) Look for security guarantees/connections: Don't shop at stores without them. Stores usually prompt you with a security dialog when you give them your credit card. Only send information over an unsecured connection if you really have to, chances are though if you are dealing with a major service this will not be a problem.

4) Demand clear conditions: Make sure you know what the shipping and handling charges will be. The best sites tell you up front. Others don't fill you in until after you've entered your credit card info.

**Start slowly:** A recent Consumer Reports article recommends you start small (CD or a book) and use a reputable vendor.

<http://www.consumerreports.com/Special/Samples/Reports/9811buyo.htm>

**Stick with established vendors:** To find a reputable vendor (and to avoid the bad ones) check out eSmarts.

<http://www.esmarts.com/>  
And consult PC Magazine's online shopping recommendations.  
<http://www.zdnet.com/chkpt/adstlink/www.zdnet.com/products/stories/reviews/0,4161,2156237,00.html>

Plus, every major portal has a shopping gateway affiliated with top-notch vendors as well.

- Netcenter:  
<http://excite.netscape.com/shopping/>
- Yahoo  
<http://shopguide.yahoo.com/>
- Excite  
<http://www.excite.com/shopping/MSN>
- Infoseek  
<http://www.infoseek.com/Topic/Shopping?tid=2245>
- HotBot  
<http://shop.hotbot.com/>
- Lycos  
<http://www.lycos.com/shopnet/>

Now that you're armed with safe shopping information and my brain washing, I'll finish by recommending products that are especially easy to buy online along with links to well-known sites for those products. So have a happy holiday and safe surfing, until next time...

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Computer Shopper.com  
<http://www.zdnet.com/computer-shopper/>  
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<http://www.buycomp.com/>  
NECX <http://www.necx.com/>

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# What I Miss Most About CSI

**Michael Anderson**  
CSI (Banner) Alumnus

It's been almost a year and a half since I graduated from the College of Staten Island and went on to greener pastures. In my four years at CSI (yes, it is possible to graduate with a bachelor's degree in four years), there were many things I encountered. Looking back now, there were some things I can say I miss. Here is a list of what I miss about CSI. Some may be humorous, sarcastic, or truthful. You must decide what falls where.

- Watching the CSI's men's basketball team play in front of a capacity crowd of 100 people.
- Watching the CSI's women's basketball team destroy their CUNY opponents by scores of 80-12 and 72-20.
- Not being able to watch a men's basketball game because the field is either flooded, or ripped up.
- Trying to understand why there are so many baseball and softball fields to begin with.
- Going to the sports and recreation center, and watching people sit in the gym to earn their 20 hours of activity for PED 190.
- At the racquetball courts, watching friends play against each other, nailing each other in the head with the ball, and laughing about it.
- Going to the recreation center during club hours and watching people play like they belong in the NBA, and then wondering why they're not on the basketball team.
- Getting high by inhaling the chlorine from the pool in the recreation center.
- Driving around Staten Island and trying to get the frequency from WSIA.
- Listening to WSIA and hearing the DJs beg and plead for someone to call.
- Listening to WSIA and hearing the only requests come from the DJ's friends, girlfriend, or anyone else he or

she may know.

- Wondering when WSIA will play some good music.
- Looking at the neon WSIA sign which doesn't work half of the time.
- Seeing people use The Banner for its intended use— toilet paper.
- Watching the Banner staff pull a bunch of papers across campus so more people won't read it.
- Wondering why the fountain by 1P is not working in the spring or summertime, but working during the winter.
- About the fountain, just because it WORKS during the winter doesn't mean it has to be ON during the winter.
- Hearing all the rumors about carjackings, rapes, and assaults in the parking lots.
- Travelling through the underground tunnels just for the hell of it.
- Going to the Sleeping Dolphin Lounge for some real peace and quiet.
- Watching people abide by the rules of no gambling, yelling, or radio playing in the cafeteria.
- Paying an arm and a leg at the CSI cafeteria for a Dunkin Donut.
- Having teachers assign their own books as part of the class curriculum.
- Wondering, "Is 3A really haunted?"
- Wondering if the great lawn is really that great?
- Looking for a parking spot. (You knew that was coming.)
- Watching people scramble to register for astronomy or geology, not because they're easier than biology, chemistry, or physics, but because they are interesting.
- Trying to figure out who I have to know to register on the first day.
- Watching teachers give out over 100 over tally cards, and then complain that the class is too crowded.
- Going to the library and getting lost.

- Going to the library and trying to find a working change machine or copier.
- Going to the library and finding the book you need exactly where it belongs.
- Reading magazines in the library, and not being able to finish the article because it runs into the ripped out page of Cindy Crawford.
- Going to a CLUE challenge and coming back very informed.
- Two words: club hours. Besides being with friends, does anything else actually get done?
- Going to the bookstore and buying the most popular items—potato chips and scantron forms.
- Instead of pulling a door open and going right into a building, pressing the handicap switch and waiting an additional 15 seconds.
- Actually using the lounges in the buildings for studying.
- Looking at all the beautiful art located on campus.
- Going to a computer lab, and showing the teacher how the computer works.
- Registering for a class because your advisor says you needed it, and then seeing it on your transcript listed as an elective.
- Teachers taking attendance.
- Not making it to class on time, and having the teacher lock the door so you can't get in, just like high school.
- Thinking of how I will steal the golf carts used for athletics.
- The students that make going to college a career.
- Finding teachers and students upset because you will finally graduate.



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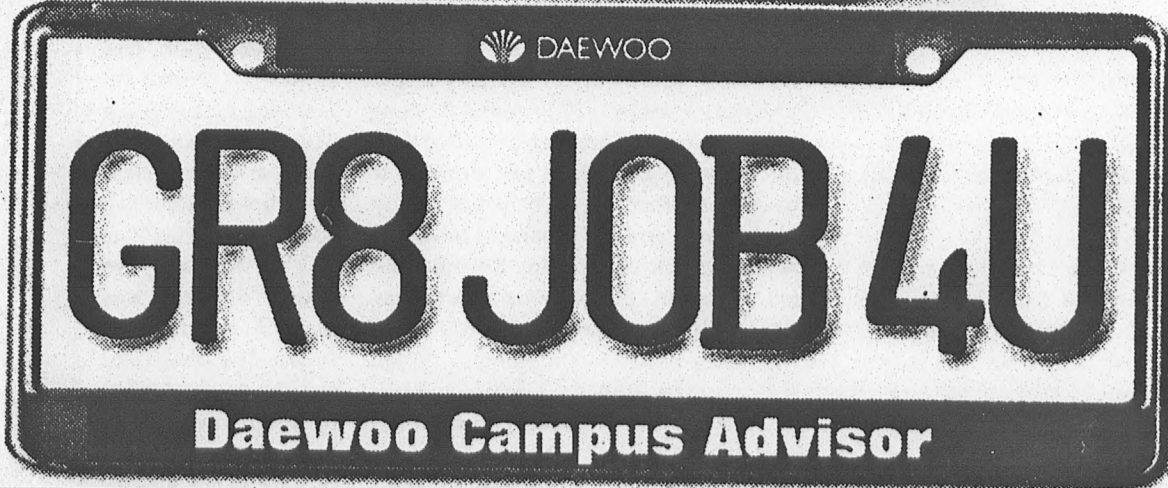
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# Broadway In Rev

**Chris Zeyer**  
CSI (Banner) Alumnus

How many times have you gone to see something because an old friend recommended it? He or she may not have known everything about the show, but damn well had an opinion about it. This is what you're going to read. This is a theater review of some Broadway shows you might want to check out during the holiday season.

Don't look for which shows won what awards, or who's who in each performance. To me it doesn't matter. What does matter is how good the shows are. If you are someone like Professor Kantrowitz, you might say that someone just didn't want to do any research. I'd say he's right. But I've seen them and can give an insight, so get off my back Arnie and let me do what I do best. That is, I criticize everything I can't do. Let start with the Best Musical on Broadway:

**Les Miserables** - This is an adaptation of the Victor Hugo classic novel "Les Miserables." It is

about a fugitive during the time of French Revolution named Jean Valjean, who breaks parole and tries to make a better life for himself, his adopted daughter Cosette, and those around him. The problem is he is being hunted by Javert, who had caught everyone who had broken parole previously.

There will be at least one song in this show that will evoke an emotion in you. Personally, I love "Stars" and "Do You Hear the People Sing." Both songs deal with fighting for what one believes in, but in different ways. One is for law, the other for freedom from it.

You will also love the rotating stage. That's right, it is performed on a rotating stage because of all the different scenes. This gives different points of view for various scenes, and also gives the show more freedom to have more elaborate sets. These words cannot do Les Miserables justice. This show you must see.

**Chicago** - This is a revival from 1976 when Bob Fosse had done the choreography. Those who do not know who Fosse was, just remember the video "Cold Hearted Snake"; that was a homage to Fosse's sexy (or raunchy) style of dance. The show is about a beautiful married woman who kills her lover (not her husband) and the lawyer who defends her.

The characters want to be big stars and try anything to get noticed. In the song "He Had It Coming" (which is set in a women's prison) the audience

learns that quite a few of the ladies have killed their lovers, spouses, and spouse's lovers, hoping that they will be acquitted and later become vaudeville stars. This is not an unfamiliar story for the 90's, but remember this was written and performed originally in the 70's.

The music is good, the dancing is hot, the story leaves a lot to be desired. The show establishes style over substance. There are many sarcastic commentaries about America and the Judicial system. It is worth seeing, but it shouldn't be on any one's A-list.

**Phantom Of The Opera** - This is the story of a wronged man, who haunts a Paris opera house and falls in love with one of the performers. He cares for her so much that he decides to do whatever it takes

for her to be the star of the opera house's latest show. Even if it involves threats or murder he must do it.

You will not regret seeing a performance

because it is a well rounded show. It has elaborate sets, a good story, and memorable music. To me, memorable music is the most important part of a musical. If you can't remember some of the songs, then the show has failed in some way. Songs in this show are known worldwide on their own. You may recognize for example, "Think Of Me", "Phantom Of The Opera", and "The Mirror." These at least stick out in my head, and if they can do that, it means something.

See this show, especially if you have never seen an Andrew Lloyd Webber production. See it because it's worthy of your time.

**Miss Saigon** - You have to like any show that opens in whore house. This show will blow you away on so many levels. The story is set in 1975 Vietnam. A young marine named Chris (great name) falls for a young girl who's just decided to become a prostitute to help her family. They marry and are separated when the Americans pull out during the infamous fall of Saigon. The show is about what, and who the Americans left behind when they pulled out of Vietnam. (If you walk past the theater, you will see statistics on the illegitimate children left behind by American soldiers.)

The music is probably the most diverse of any show on Broadway. From "Movie In My Mind" to "American Dream" you will remember them, if not for the songs themselves, then for the surrounding scenes. The production will

also be unforgettable. During "The Fall Of Saigon," a helicopter comes from the top of the stage to get the Americans out. It's dramatic and you can feel the wind in your face as they pull away. (The don't actually have a real helicopter, but the vents are set to full blast.) If you want to see a tragic love story with great music this is the show for you.

**The Scarlet Pimpernel** -

"They seek him here, they seek there . . ." You'll seek a better written show with more memorable music. The musical is based

on the novels by Baroness Orczy. Ever heard of him? This show has been dubbed in the theater world as "the poor man's Les Miserables". I think that is a little harsh, but somewhat accurate.

It takes place during the French Revolution, and people are being executed for going against the regime. An Englishman in London who is married to a French woman who he suspects to be a spy. He does not care for what the French are doing, and gathers a band of English Aristocrats together to help free French prisoners. Here is the catch (not the secret), he is perceived as a weak, prissy Englishman who would be more concerned about the number of ruffles on his shirt and cuffs than being a swash-buckling hero.

It has a good mixture of humor and adventure, but that's about it. I left the performance feeling happy, but I couldn't remember any of the music. Again, this is a decent show, but shouldn't be on any one's A-list.

**Ragtime** - This musical is based on E. L. Doctrow's novel, "Ragtime." It chronicles three fictional families in America during the turn of the century. Introduced are: an established white family, a Jewish immigrant family, and first generation free African American family.

The novel and the show are about class structure in American society.

I have to admit, "Ragtime" was one of my favorite books. The show is an excellent adaptation. It keeps everything from the novel, including the historical characters Doctrow used and was criticized for, like Harry Houdini, J. P. Morgan, Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, and Harry Thaw, to name a few. The

production is superior, the music memorable, and the story worthy. Put this on your list to see, right below Les Miserables and Miss Saigon.

**Smokey Joe's Cafe** - This is a musical

revue of the songs by Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller. I didn't know those names either, but I knew the music. They wrote the songs "Stand By Me",

"Love Potion #9", and "Yakety Yak." If you didn't guess, this is showcase of the writers' best songs. It is the equivalent of MTV on Broadway, except these songs are timeless (yes even "Yakety Yak"). This show is worth seeing if you are a theater lover, but that's about it. I liked it, but it's not a classic that will last forever.

**Titanic** - This show opened April 23, 1997, before that little movie came out. And I have the same opinion about the musical as I did about the movie . . . Why?

This is a musical about one of the greatest tragedies of all time. It's more informative than the movie, if you can understand quickly sung lyrics about bulk-heads and metal propellers. Also, the show has about a dozen subplots to keep the larger one going. There are so many characters that there isn't enough time for you to identify with any of them. The production also threw songs in just because they felt the need, not because they help with the story.

I can only recommend this show for those who study theater production because the set is so elaborate. If your studying theater see it, other than that, go past it and let it sink so another show can start.

I hope my descriptions are somewhat helpful for those who are interested in a show this holiday season. If you want more information about all the other one's playing, pick up a copy of New York magazine.

It's a lot better than hunting on the Internet and much more informative.



## Poet's nook

Goddess

in dark purple midnight clouds  
 she keeps company with the salamanders  
 speaking in their common tongue  
 an onlooker sighs in confusion  
 for hours and hours they converse  
 speaking of what i do not know  
 until finally he leaves and she is alone  
 for endless moments she ponders  
 meditating  
 upon what she knows that she must do  
 she raises herself up from her blood red pillow  
 and walks outside  
 she raises her arms in a silent prayer toward the sky  
 and the wind rises to answer her fervent call  
 but she does not heed its warning  
 and the sky turns as red as the blood that runs through her  
 veins  
 until it seems that the very sky has become a sea of blood  
 flowing every which way and then  
 it starts to fall  
 but it is not blood but fire  
 searing hot fire  
 cleansing and purifying the earth of the scourge that  
 haunts it  
 until all is destroyed  
 and the earth is pure once more  
 she lowers her arms to her sides and turns to walk back  
 the way she has  
 come  
 once again to meditate and ponder  
 what she has done  
 to the way it used to be there is no going back

-Heather Pele

fire place

Slide away from a day of  
 prosthetic smiles and miles of liars,  
 there are too many words and  
 I feel them taking over when  
 I open my diary and I kill you again.

Now I'm coiling and I'm turning  
 and I'm twisted and I'm burning  
 I blame you as a matter of course  
 I think I died when you retracted your heart  
 and I can't rip out this loveletter toetag

I have a thousand seething wounds on paper  
 in pages pregnant with you.  
 One million unblinking eyes  
 like red constellations in midnight skies  
 Pieces of murder that always feel new.  
 Catalogue the waves that pull me down.  
 I write for days but this undertow  
 will not be restrained  
 by the bright fantasia of blood and rage.  
 All I hear are my hollow words  
 howling to be stains.

I will storm down to your house  
 that hides beneath the bones of the overhead bridge  
 Inside the shadow of the cage  
 it's time to baptise you with the gift of my rage.  
 I will smash your door in, laughing  
 Shoot your husband in the face  
 A little game of hide and scream  
 before I install ruin of your bright dreams  
 I decide to take you in the fireplace  
 You're fucked in the ashes because I hope you see your

past is

bleeding in the corner without a thought of how  
 I'm tomorrow now

-Jacob Rust

emerge

I shall not want  
 I shall not need  
 I will shed 1998  
 Until I bleed  
 Ejaculating sorrow  
 and regrets I have to feed  
 All will be new tomorrow  
 so I soak myself in pain  
 Immerse my mind in all the loss  
 and rise up pure,  
 restored,  
 and sane.

-Jeremy Condit

Go Ahead Submit  
 We'll Lay You Out

## Passed On

**Alice Marino**  
**CSI (Banner) Alumna**

Run on, and on  
 Don't swagger and sway  
 Pull up your shoes  
 Walk on your face  
 It's not your best side,  
 Not anymore.  
 The laces are flapping,  
 Slapping me in the face.  
 It's time . . .  
 "Time Is Up"  
 Don't Stagger and  
 Don't Sway  
 Pull your shoes up  
 And pass on  
 Bye

This poem was written about 3 weeks ago, for a friend who died. Somehow it seems appropriate for this Banner Revisiting issue. In fact it is just about the only bit of writing I've done since graduation. It might seem strange considering I was an English Major with an emphasis on writing.

Presently, I am Production Assistant at a medical publishing company. I copyedit about 15 journals which may be the reason I don't write much. It could also be that I am not so angry anymore, as Duckman and Cornfed (see pissed off) have pointed out about themselves.

Included in this self absorbed article are a few pointers for those of you who want to be editors.

- If you want to be a writer, don't be an editor.
- Don't expect to get paid right away.
- You may find a low paying job at a small company after 6 months, if you join The Banner now. (I am serious.)
- Make sure that you are actually inter-

viewing for a job you would want. Companies have different definitions for positions. An editor may be what you would consider a writer, for example.

- A fancy title is not necessarily better. I spent one miserable year as an Associate Research Editor entering data on a useless database. I edit more as a production assistant.

- Trafficking means making lots of phone calls and taping corrections to inhouse blue.

- In house blue are not blue but this is where all the editors corrections are written. The Blues from the printer are blue and it costs money to make changes. Try not to do this.

- Learn QuarkXPress or Page Maker. This may help you get a job but it will also make you a better editor. You need to learn what a typesetter can and cannot do.

- Expect to be tested on interviews. The larger the company the more tests they have. A company like Miller Freeman will actually give you a few psychological tests. Some smaller companies do not test at all.

- Learn how to spell Tucson as in Arizona. Just think Tucs Medication. This was on almost every test.

- Toward not towards.

- Take a few classes taught by Professor Kantrowitz. He teaches grammar with great humor, and he is also helpful and supportive if you want to publish your work.

- Find a place you would like to work, and ask an editor what style manual they use. There are different styles for each kind of publishing. We use the American Psychological Association manual for the medical journals. You may have to order the manual directly from the publisher.

Good Luck!

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# Scenes From

## The Reel World

**Christopher Bligh**  
Staff Reporter

We've come to the end of a semester full of terrific films. Three new films are either in a theater near you presently, or will be released during the winter break.

Will Smith plays Robert Clayton Dean in "Enemy of the State." Robert is someone with a promising future. He has

a supportive wife and children, and is successful at his job. This positive stage comes to a halt when shopping for his wife, he sees a friend

fearful for his life. Unknown to Robert, his friend slips crucial information in his shopping bag.

This information links a recent murder of a US congressman to the National Security Agency (NSA). In this instance, his reputation is damaged and he becomes a man on the run from the government. The only way to clear his name is through a mysterious ex-operative named Brill (Gene Hackman).

This film, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, moves at one of the quickest paces I've ever seen in a movie. It starts out with as a standard thriller and Will Smith does a good job with his role. The movie becomes a little more than standard at the halfway point, and gets better as it moves toward the conclusion.

One of the actors that makes a big difference in making this movie terrific is the presence of Gene Hackman. Had the movie been carried completely by Smith, the movie would have been second rate.

Hackman's performance is solid and updates a character which makes this movie almost an unofficial sequel to the 1974 Francis Ford Coppola classic "The Conversation".

I was also impressed by the performance of Barry Pepper, who was last seen in "Saving Private Ryan" as the sniper of Tom Hanks' rescue squad who nails his shots accurately after saying a prayer.

The difference in this performance, as one of the pursuing NSA agents, is that he plays a villain you hate at the first second he comes into the movie whereas in the other film, he plays a character you care about all through the movie.

This film was directed by Tony Scott, who's work includes "Top Gun", "The Last Boy Scout" and "Crimson Tide". This is his third collaboration with producer Jerry Bruckheimer and in this effort he doesn't disappoint capturing the fear of being watched all the time brilliantly along with doing some visually striking camera work making good use of the Panavision

aspect ratio.

In conclusion, "Enemy of the State" is a first rate thriller taking many elements from past paranoia movies, such as "Three Days

of the Condor" and "The Conversation", and making it an entertaining thriller and one worth seeing on the big screen.

**Enemy Of The State (R)**  
Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1 (Panavision)



The word "original" could best describe our next feature "Rushmore", the new film from Wes Anderson whose previous feature was the film festival favorite "Bottle Rocket".

Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman) is very talented. He heads many extra-curricular clubs and has a scholarship at Rushmore Academy. Everything would be completely successful for him if only his grades could have the same enthusiasm as his clubs.

It's during this time that he meets the main financier of his school, Mr. Blume (Bill Murray) and a first grade teacher (Olivia Williams) that inspires him for an idea for a large aquarium for the school. His development of rapport causes him to have a crush on the lovely teaching widow.

This movie takes an odd spin on the love triangle theme with these three characters. As Max, newcomer Jason Schwartzman creates a character full of

ideas and a mind of obsession in his pursuit to win over the first grade teacher.

Bill Murray is at his subtle best as the school's chief financier. His previous movie, "Wild Things", gave him a scene stealing performance as a sneaky lawyer.

In this film, he portrays Mr. Blume as a lonely married man with an addiction to temptation. This performance is continuing proof that this has been one of Murray's best years going against type.

Olivia Williams delivers a heartfelt performance as the caring widow and the object of affection to Max and Mr. Blume.

She's a dead ringer for Elizabeth Hurley in this movie and her performance is a vast improvement over her previous work in last year's film "The Postman".

The only flaw out of this movie is that it takes a dark turn after the first third and goes into moments that can have an entertained audience questioning what it meant in the film.

The movie does pick up in its last third and satisfies even after the End Credits. Anderson divides the movie very intriguingly by different months and writes a very odd but entertaining screenplay with actor Owen Wilson, best remembered as the victim of Jim Carrey's bathroom beating in "The Cable Guy".

He also films the movie nicely in an anonymous town which gives good use of his Super 35 aspect ratio framing the colorful environment and Max's vivid environment.

In summing up, "Rushmore" goes through an odd but entertaining trip

itive one.

Our final film is Brian Robbins' coming-of-age football dramedy, "Varsity Blues". The setting is small town Texas, and the West Canaan Coyotes are the hometown football team that have won many division titles along the way under the supervision of Coach Bud Kilmer (Jon Voight).

Their championship hopes go along fine until their star quarterback Lance Harbor (Paul Walker) suffers an injury that costs his season. The teams regrouping turns the attention to Harbor's substitute, second string quarterback and novel sideline reader, Jonathan Moxon (James Van Der Beek).

The attitude of the substitute doesn't mince well with the Coach and both don't see eye to eye, placing a great deal of pressure on both Moxon and the team even outside the football field.

This film does have some good themes and Brian Robbins, whose films include "Good Burger" and the hip-hop documentary "The Show", explores the themes of temptation and being pressured in a high school society.

The performances from the supporting cast are very good, especially Ron Lester as the fun loving lineman who steals almost every scene that he's in.

Jon Voight continues his reign as the 90's quintessential heavy with his good performance as the unsympathetic high school football coach with the mission of winning and nothing else.

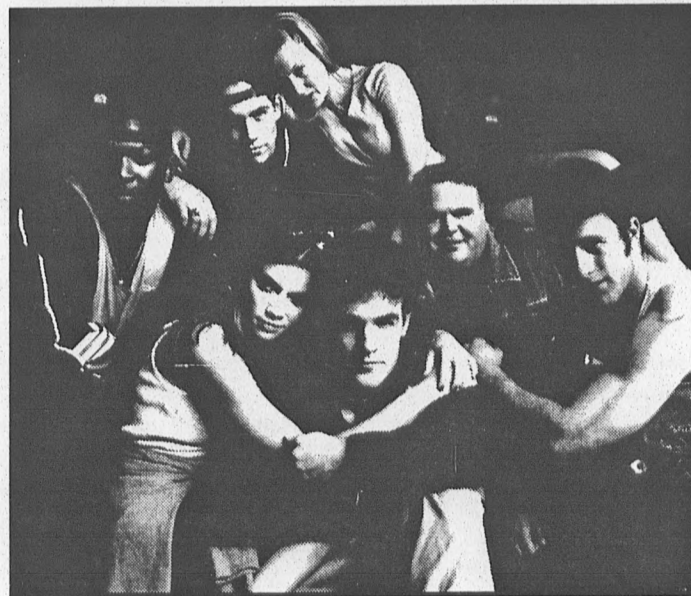
As for James Van Der Beek, he carries the movie well in the lead of the substitute quarterback who deals with his life despite all the pressures.

The movie's conclusion is predictable and a sense of uneven ground is present in this film. The attempts of humor works at some times.

Some of the

attempts don't work as well but the drama of the movie does work on a good amount of levels capturing some heart and emotion.

In conclusion, "Varsity Blues" is marginally good and goes deep in its themes. Although I felt the film could've gone a bit deeper in some of the underwritten characters.



**Rushmore (R)**  
Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1 (Super 35)



# The Balcony

## Flix Pick's

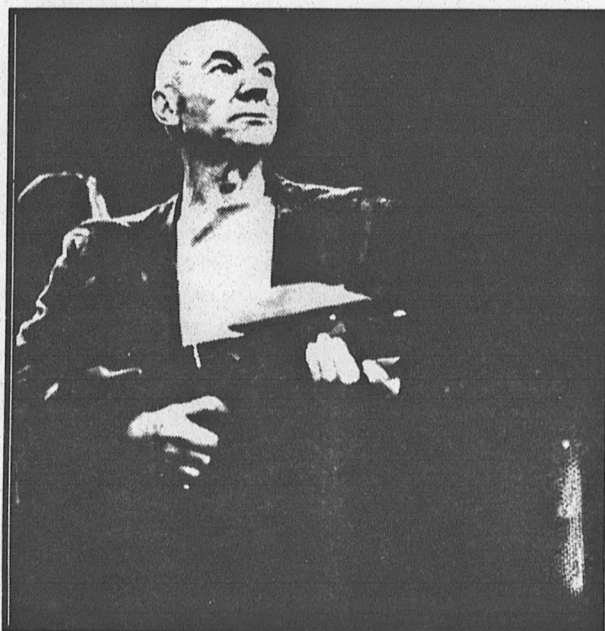
### STAR TREK: INSURRECTION

**Shawn Fisher**  
Business Manager

Star Trek: Insurrection is the ninth installment in the television turned feature film series. Insurrection reunites the cast of The Next Generation (TV), a self serving action since they also took over the film franchise with the Generations. The new film is definitely an A-level Star Trek

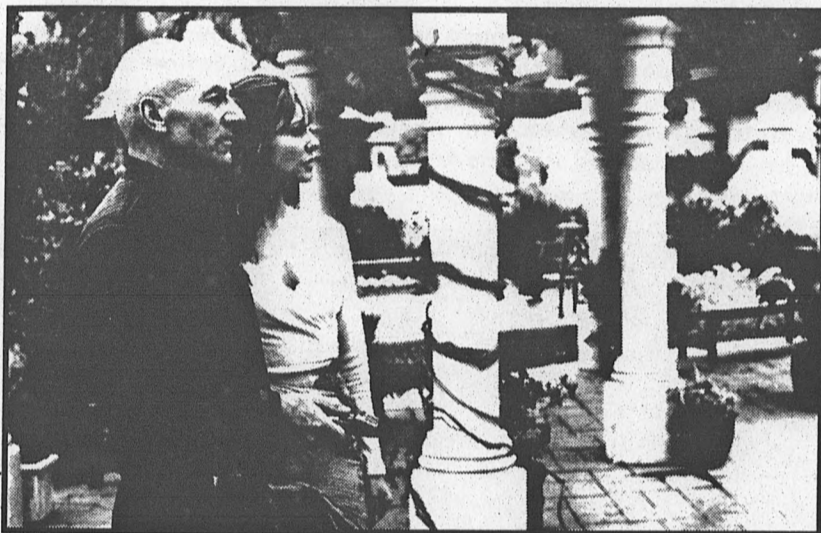
and taking a cultural survey team hostage. When Captain Picard and the Enterprise are called upon to stop Data they uncover a conspiracy. It appears that the Federation has allied themselves with the Son's, a technologically advanced race on the verge of extinction. The Son's want to remove the simple Ba'ku from their home world due to its ability to regenerate living tissue thereby being a fountain of youth. Since the planet is in Federation space and they too want access to the life extending properties of the planet they have made a

compact with the Son's. This is however in violation of one of the most sacred



Commander William Riker takes the Enterprise back to try to inform the Federation Council about its mistake. Picard and crew attempts to move the inhabitants of the planet to safety. Along the way they must ward off the countless attacks of the Son's. After several exciting space and ground battles Picard manages to bring the conflict to a close by making an astonishing discovery about a commonality between the Son's and the Ba'ku.

Insurrection is a breath of fresh air in what has recently been a relatively stale franchise. Its blend of



Federation laws, the Prime Directive. With this in mind, Captain Picard sets off on a crusade to save the Ba'ku from annihilation.

While attempting to sneak off the Enterprise quietly Picard discovers that the rest of his command staff is more than ready to assist in this mutinous action. So off they go to set right the wrong their leaders have wrought. The team splits up

First Officer

action and light-heartedness is a reminder of what Star Trek was once like. Insurrection should satisfy the most diehard Star Trek fans as well as entertain a general audience much the way Star Trek IV was able to do. After so much cookie-cutter Sci-Fi from the franchise it's good to see the return of a little care in the craftsmanship of what has been one of the most enjoyable Sci-Fi tales of the twentieth century. Star Trek: Insurrection rates four out of five dolphins for almost recapturing that magic that was the original Star Trek.

production in a franchise that has seen mostly B-level production for it TV and film production during the nineties. Insurrection succeeds by going back to one of the founding principles that made Star Trek so interesting, the Prime Directive—a law within the Trek universe that forbids any member of the federation from interfering with the natural development of less advanced cultures. It was always the avoidance or repair of damage to various alien societies that made Star Trek intriguing and Insurrection has captured that feeling.

The film opens with the android, known as Data apparently losing control



Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)



Varsity Blues (PG-13)  
Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1 (Spherical)



That's it for the semester. In the next Reel World rotation, a new semester filled with movies, award season standings, and much movie news in the cinematic world. While you're on your Winter Break, here's a list of movies which will be coming out during that time:

January 8th-

A Civil Action [wide release] (John Travolta, Robert Duvall)

January 15th-

At First Sight (Val Kilmer, Mira Sorvino)

Varsity Blues (see review for cast)

The Thin Red Line [wide release] (Sean Penn, Nick Nolte)

Virus (Jamie Lee Curtis, William Baldwin)  
January 22nd-

Gloria (Sharon Stone, George C. Scott) Still

Crazy (Stephen Rea, Billy Connolly)  
January 29th-

Baby Geniuses (Kathleen Turner, Christopher Lloyd)  
February 5th-

8MM (Nicolas Cage, Joaquin Phoenix)

Message In A Bottle (Kevin Costner, Paul Newman)

Rushmore (see review for cast)

\* Dates are subject to change

Have

A

Good

Break!

# Indisputable

**Steven Guzzi**  
Contributor

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:1-2).

All of this debate I have read in *The Banner* about questioning the righteousness of God can be summed up by the simple statement above. God is righteous. We need not question His goodness and righteousness. Saying it is silly and illogical that we as the creation of God would know more about what is righteous than the Creator who made us, and formed in our minds the very idea of righteousness itself is wrong. "Nay, but oh man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor" (Romans 9:21)

But all this antagonism towards God, that questions God's righteousness really stems from a simple Biblical truth. As the earlier verses teach, it not that God isn't fair, or righteous, or is cruel, or doesn't care, but it is that our sins separate us from God. This is

true in the sense that we are separated from a relationship because of our sin, but it is also true because our very nature itself is in rebellion against God. It is not that God isn't perfect or righteous, it is that we as rebels and sinners have turned away from him and that is why we reject following him. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6) What spurns hatred toward the God of the Bible by some people? It is their own sinful hearts. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately

wicked: who can know it" (Jeremiah 17:9)

Think about the following idea if you are one who are outwardly, boldly and I dare to say audacious-

**God is righteous. We need not question His goodness and righteousness.**

ly antagonistic towards God. Can you think of anyone else in the Bible who had a similar anger toward God, who questioned and defied him? I can - Satan. He was the one who was created by God, but by his own act of free will he chose to rebel against God and now is in open defiance against Him in every way. He hated God and His ways, for he himself wanted to be God. "How are thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations. For thou hast said in thine

heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne about the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." (Isaiah 14:12-14) Now if you are antagonistic towards God or you reject Him in some way, defiantly or just by not accepting His song Jesus to be your Savior, then you are mimicking Satan. That is someone's example I wouldn't want to follow, seeing his destiny. So, why are you, if you are?

Now you could say Satan is a myth, one who is made up to be a negative stereotype of those who don't want to follow God, in order cause people to believe in him. But these verses, nor the rest of the Bible verses were written as a manipulating plot to take advantage of people. I have no interest, nor did the Bible writers in manipulating you to follow beliefs in order to manipulate you. In fact, that is one thing the Bible condemns. Now, there are people who

## The Guzzi

## Final

**Jeremy Condit**  
Features Editor

This is the last chapter in these debates; the religious propaganda in *The Banner* is at an end, while I am Features Editor of this newspaper. This has been like trying to speak with an ex-girlfriend: futile miscommunication, and strangely hostile, personal bickering.

It is essentially trying to address something that will not change, grow, or learn. This has had nothing to do with God, just people reinforcing their egos. I refuse to discourse with someone that is on a mission that involves my life or my soul. These people want to eat your hearts. I'm not submitting the readers of this pub-

lication to any more of their repulsive, superstitious insanity.

The dialogue is always the same: an endless loop that drones on and on, "you are bad, you are bad, you are bad..." According to these delusional fanatics, being human implies you are wrong, down to your soul. Are you a bad person? Do you want someone to tell you over and over that you're a horrible person for being born? The only way to not be a terrible person, apparently, is to subjugate yourself to human rules, human ambitions and human villains. Spiritual sodomy to alter boys and girls. These rules and the Big Book they claim them from change with every generation, with every rewrite.

Speaking of that book, as a final

example, I offer one last whisper of wisdom against a chorus of people trying to drown out their

**This has been like trying to an ex-girlfriend: futile miscommunication, and strangely hostile personal bickering.**

obsene (read: human) desires with their deafening prayers.

This article contained a quote from the book of Isaiah. The quote offered was "All we like sheep

have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6)

The reporter added Jesus' name in brackets. There's only one major flaw in his action; the book of Isaiah was written a

thousand years before the time of Jesus. the full section which the article skims is as follows:

"He grew up before the Lord like a young plant whose roots are in

# Righteousness

will use the Bible to manipulate you, but they do this in violation of the scriptures.

The scriptures themselves are pure and without fault. You can't put them on the same level as other writings, nor do they in any way convey evil motives. On the contrary, the standards and doctrines of the Bible are the highest, purest, noble moral truths known to man. Read the ten commandments. Do they seem to convey evil ideas by greedy men looking for their own gain? I think not, unless you want to do evil. So why do people use outdated arguments against the Bible, like it is some evil, exploiting and ignorant book?

It is because they choose a simple truth that men are sinful, so they would rather choose the evil over good. "And this is the condemnation, that light [the Word] is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are

wrought in God." (John 3:19-21)

To remove the good, you must get rid of the Bible (the Word), so you can do your own thing, go your own way and be your own God, just as Satan. You don't have

**"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid upon him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6)**

to kill people to be a sinner; if you reject God in some way to do your own thing, that is a sin. In fact, to reject God is the root evil, by which all other outward sins we see and talk about (like stealing and murdering) come from. We do wrong

because our nature is wrong, but it happened by a choice that man and not God has made.

We can't pin our own decisions on Him. If a loving father teaches his children right and

wrong, yet the children choose the wrong, how is that the father's fault? The choice itself is a consequence of being human and being created in the image of God; for God himself has a free will. So free will isn't an evil concept, but we

are accountable for our choices as a race of people created in an image of God.

May God be merciful to us! Fortunately He has by allowing us another day where there is still hope of salvation. God's goodness

and righteousness can't be disputed. It is demonstrated as he himself hung on a cross, going to hell for rebels who have sinned and rejected him. The unmerited favor of God, where He would love us so much that even though we could reject and sin against him most of our lives, he would forgive, love and die for us. That is our God. That is the God of the Bible. Hate him if you will, spurn him if you like, and reject him if you must, but God's righteousness is an indisputable fact and His love and faithfulness is beyond reproach.

What a God! Trust Him and be saved; salvation is for you no matter who you are, or what you have done, but salvation is in His son who died for you. Believe Him for it and humbly admit your sin, asking Him to save you for hell, a consequence of sin, and he will hear you and gladly save you. He awaits you. The decision is yours.

## Chronicles

### Chapter

parched ground; he had no beauty, no majesty to draw our eyes, no grace to make us delight in him; his form, disfigured, lost all the likeness of a man, his beauty changed beyond human semblance. He was despised, he shrank from the sight of men, tormented and humbled by suffering; we despised him, we held him of no account, a thing from which men turn their eyes." (Isaiah 53:1-6)

When was the Christos ever described as "disfigured", with "no

majesty" and "no grace"? If you're going to read nothing but the Bible, at least understand it. Read

**The only way to not be a terrible person, apparently, is to subjugate yourself to human rules, human ambitions and human villains. Spiritual sodomy to alter boys and girls.**

it correctly. I think that might impress your God more than simply how much of it you can recite.

If you want to be a good person, do so because of the strength you have in humanity, if not yourself. Hell is the only thing that has kept these animals

in check, not the love of their wretched, spiteful spirit in the sky. They fear consequence, and this is all that restrains them from being truly human; or, rather, alive in this world, not afraid of life and banking on the illusion of painless immortality. Look forward to a time when all things will be fair, and there will be wonderful surprises. A place that you will be happy to wake up to in the morning.

And, if you need a god, one or a million, keep it to yourself. Some of us aren't sheep, and don't need someone to tell us what to do, or when to do it. Do you understand, dogma people? Go save yourself.

# CHRISTMAS COPS

**P. Melissa Dreznick**  
Editor-In-Chief

College of Staten Island (CSI) peace officers chose Christmas red and green over their uniforms to spread a little holiday cheer to children who will be spending the holidays in the hospital on Saturday, December 7. Officer Charles Carlino even spent the day as Jolly Old St. Nick! CPO Elenore Robertson was his elf.

The idea for the humanitarian event came from the planning of the officers' annual holiday party. They decided instead of throwing the party, they would take the money, over \$1,000, and buy toys to distribute to sick children. For children too young to appreciate toys, diapers were purchased. The good-hearted officers even got small gifts of plants and such for the nurses and staff. Although all the officers shared in

forming the idea, Sgt. Sal Gemma was credited by his fellow officers with doing most of the work.

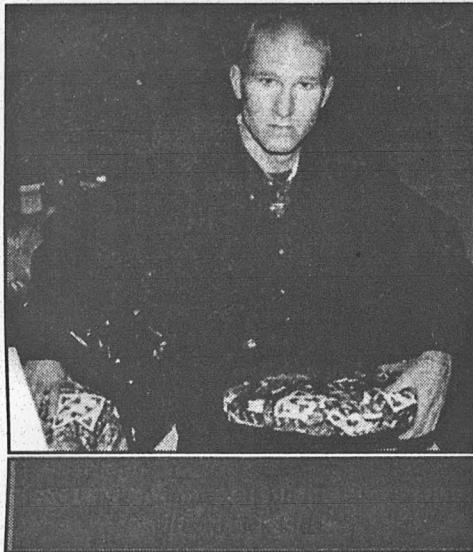
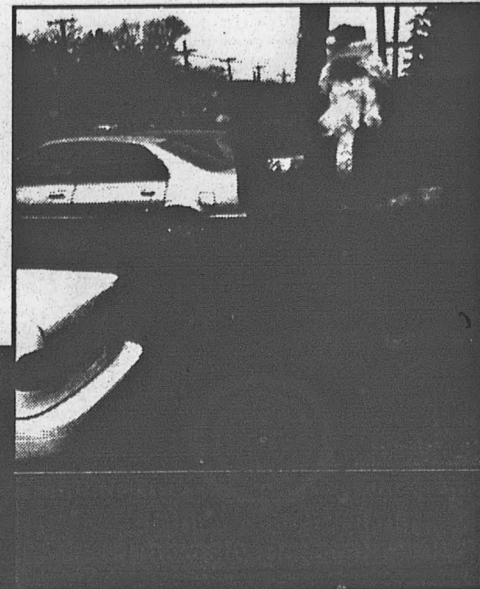
"We all did it, I don't want to be singled out," said Gemma of his contribution.

The officers took time from their lives outside CSI to spread this holiday cheer. The officers, some even brought their wives, who attended were: Sgt. Joe Morton

to go to St. Vincent's hospital, but they wound up with more toys than there were children to receive them.

The whole troop then piled into their cars and decided the good will would continue at Staten Island University Hospital North (SIUH) on Seaview Avenue.

Due to the fact that SIUH was not notified of their arrival, the reception was not nearly as warm as the one they



with his wife, Yvonne, Cpl. William Mazzaro, CPO Tim Flood, CPO Charles Carlino and his wife, Marian, Sgt. Sal Gemma, Assistant Director Rob Yurman, CPO Chris Adams, CPO Ade Canton, CPO Brendan Knott and his wife, Asha and CPO Elenore Robertson.

The officers were only scheduled

received at St. Vincent's. The officers were not discouraged by this. They followed orders as nurses told them which rooms they were or were not permitted to enter.

Even the day's setbacks were treated light-heartedly as inconveniences. The sight of "Santa Claus" feeding the parking meter outside SIUH elicited roars of laugh-

ter, not only from his entourage, but also from passersby who saw him. The time it took to clear that the group could go up to pediatrics was used to give toys to a family that had just been blessed with a baby girl. Toys were also given to them for older children the family had at home.

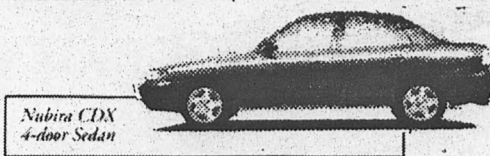
"Just making these kids' day a little better makes it all worthwhile," said CPO Brendan Knott. "One kid's face just brightened right up."

The officers bought so many toys and diapers that there was still more left over after completing rounds at SIUH. The remainder of the toys was entrusted to the nursing staff of SIUH's pediatric unit. The nurses were asked to give the toys to children as they are admitted.

The officers hope to make this an annual tradition.

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