

# THE BANNER

March 15, 2004

## IN ART AS IN LIFE: Sarah Schulman Provides A Much Needed Education



Michelle J. Pritsker

Being different on Staten Island—our little, desolate island, far from advanced civilization—isn't exactly easy. For some odd reason, we haven't quite caught up with the rest of the city, which not only accepts the diversity of its occupants, but also embraces it.

Sarah Schulman, who has been teaching at CSI for five years, recognizes this problem and has made a distinct effort to debunk such ignorance.

"The homophobia is so profound that it limits their education," said Schulman. "This campus is very far behind for gay people."

But that hasn't stopped Schulman

from being open about her sexuality and allowing her students to delve into a world which most of the campus has been missing out on.

"Just because Staten Island is a very prejudiced place for gays and lesbians doesn't mean that it has to be like that in my classroom," she said.

Schulman doesn't spend her time hiding in the closet. She is honest with her students about who she is. But that doesn't mean it makes teaching easy.

"I have to talk to people in a way that they will learn from me," said Schulman in reference to reaction many students have to her openness. It's harder for the girls to adjust explained Schulman. "But people have to overcome their prejudices and I think that once they do, they feel

Writer and professor sheds light on topics that have been in the dark for too long.

"Just because Staten Island is a very prejudiced place for gays and lesbians doesn't mean that it has to be like that in my classroom."

much better about themselves."

A soft-spoken woman, in her mid-40s, Schulman isn't exactly the epitome of frightening, but she manages to get her point across. An author of nine novels (seven of which have already been published), two nonfiction books and 10 plays, her voice has definitely been heard by many.

"She is one of the most famous writers in America," said her colleague at CSI, Professor Fred Kaufman.

Schulman began her journey on the road of written expression at a very young age.

When she was six years old, she was given *The Diary of Anne Frank*, a story about a Jewish girl who lived during the Holocaust. "I think it was meant to teach me a lesson about history," said Schulman, "but instead, it taught me that girls could be writers."

Schulman's first novel, *The Story*

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### Commuter Woes

CSI CONFERENCE WILL ADDRESS TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

You thought parking on campus was bad?

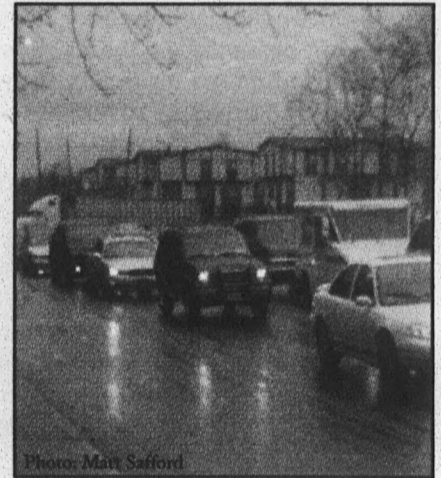


Photo: Matt Safford

Michael Bruno

Commuters be comforted, for one of CSI's newest programs is taking its initial steps towards ameliorating one of Staten Island's more aggravating and debilitating problems. On March 19th, after barely a year in existence, The College of Staten Island—Staten Island Project (CSI-SIP) will be holding the first of what is to be an annual conference focusing on issues that affect the Staten Island community in the area of public affairs.

The inaugural conference will deal with the ever increasing problem of traffic and mass transportation on Staten Island, an issue of great importance considering the borough is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and has the third highest reported commuting time in the nation (behind The Bronx and Queens).

Staten Island's commuter time, said CSI-SIP Director Mirella Affron, "really has a negative impact on the whole social fabric of the community as well as the economic vitality. The purpose of the conference is very much the purpose of the whole project."

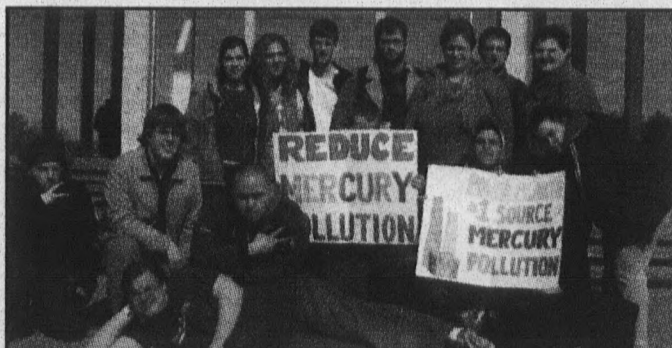
The goal of the Staten Island Project is to mend the borough's

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## CSI Joins CUNY and SUNY at NYPIRG's Spring Conference

A Movement Heads to Albany to Raise Student Awareness and Prompt Student Action

Igor Gembitsky



Members of CSI's chapter of NYPIRG met with State Senators and Assemblymen to lobby against the Governor's proposed education budget plan.

More than 200 activists from 22 CUNY and SUNY schools showed up for NYPIRG's 2004 Spring Conference in Albany to participate in education workshops, held March 5th-8th. These workshops accentuated many of today's troubling issues in desper-

ate need of reform. They emphasized the need for change and the fact that we are not powerless to procure these changes.

"If you don't like it, fix it!" said Josh Turner, Project Coordinator from Buffalo State and a SUNY Oswego graduate.

On Sunday, March 7th, a hearing on the "Mercury Shadow" was held at the University of Albany. A huge turnout with a multitude of multicolored banners and slogans depicted the vicious effects of mercury emissions from factories on the environ-

ment and people.

On that following Monday, student activists marched to the Capital building and met with over 200 Senators and Assemblymen to lobby against the Governor's proposed education budget plan. Meeting face to face with the politicians, students presented their case and shared personal stories about their dependence on financial aid.

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### Conversations with the President

This semester, President Springer will continue to hold office hours for informal discussions with faculty and staff. The first meeting was scheduled for Friday, March 5th from 1:30pm to 2:30pm. The second meeting will be held on Monday, May 17th from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. No appointment is necessary. Meetings will be held in the President's Office, 1A-404.



## FCC Gone Wild

*Howard Stern Cornered by Politics, Religion, and Clear Channel*

Jennifer Mosscrop

February 24th was a normal day for the Howard Stern Show, or at least until the Federal Communications Commission declared war on Shock Jocks across the nation. The day after Clear Channel announced its zero tolerance policy for indecency, under the ever-present eye of the FCC, Stern was pulled off the air in San Diego, Pittsburgh, Rochester, Louisville, Fort Lauderdale, and Orlando, Florida. The excuse was that the show included references to anal sex, and racial slurs; nothing shocking to avid Stern listeners.

Can one 5 second flash of a female breast change life as we know it? Apparently so. Ever since Justin Timberlake yanked on Ms. Jackson's clothing, right-wing conservatives

have been in an uproar. The FCC also plans to reverse the findings that U2's Bono was not indecent in the 2003 Golden Globe Awards when he said "this is really, really, f----- brilliant when receiving his award.

The sweep up of television and radio is tied to President Bush's campaign for re-election in November. The FCC may now delay fines until after the elections. In fact, a March 8th article states that FCC chairman Michael Powell (Colin Powell's son) is worried that Stern's case might interfere with Bush's campaign. "He's just a little afraid he's turning me into a martyr and that this could cost Bush the election," said Stern during his program.

Stern has been denouncing Bush's presidency and is now supporting Sen. John Kerry. "Wake up.

The Republican Party, as we knew it under Ronald Reagan, doesn't exist. It has been hijacked by a bunch of religious freaks who are sitting there, and plotting, and planning what you should listen to, what music you should buy and it's working. Clear Channel is doing it. They're gonna force Viacom to get rid of me and they buy Viacom's radio stations. Watch and see if I'm not right," said Stern.

Religion is supposed to be separate from the State, but religious groups seem to be playing a big role in the new purification of American entertainment.

Stern, sure of being fired, has even revealed the secretive religious-right Christian sect called The Fellowship that dozens of U.S. Senators and Congressman are members of including Sen. Sam Brownback, who wrote Viacom demanding that they fire Stern. President Bush attends the annual prayer breakfast organized by Washington-based religious sect,

which leaves its name off the program and whose members deny its existence or refuse to answer questions about it. "Anybody have a problem with a United States senator being funded by a religious organization?" asked Stern after he told listeners that Brownback is living in a million dollar Capital Hill townhouse subsidized by the Fellowship with 6 other members of Congress.

Howard Stern is the epitome of free speech in America. If the American people allow the FCC to police what we watch, we will be paving the way for the government to stifle other freedoms of ours. Although Viacom and Clear Channel have immense control over the market, they choose to stick their tails between their legs and walk behind the FCC as they allow them to treat the American audience like children that cannot think for themselves. The big boys of media should flex their corporate muscles, take a stand and be on the people's side for once.

## All Hat and No Cattle?

The First of a Two-Part Series on President Bush and His Cabinet

Matt Safford

At the recent Indianapolis 500, President George W. Bush was allowed an opportunity both to start the race, and to perhaps garner some potential votes from the newly coined NASCAR dad constituency. The irony here is that Bush has been at the wheel, racing America haphazardly all over the course, for the past 3 years. With his record, perhaps he'd be more suited to kicking off a demolition derby.

In this election year, when the mainstream press will likely spend most of its time getting sound bites from photo-ops like the one noted above rather than laying bare the facts of the previous three years of Bush Jr.'s presidency, it is important to step back and examine what our President has accomplished, or hasn't, what he has done since 2000, how he has reacted, and where he has led us as a nation.

While the September 11th attacks and the subsequent sympathy of the world and the people of his nation, as well as his swift use of military retribution may have helped push Bush's approval rating up to nearly ninety percent, the Enron scandal, lengthy wars, continued American casualties, and the incessant sputtering of the economy have recently dropped his

approval numbers to below fifty percent for the first time ever. The increased interest in kick-starting the American economy may be the main reason for Bush's slump, but many other factors have contributed to the slippage. Indeed, it's questionable if, without the wash of bloated patriotism that saturated the nation in the months after the terrorist attacks, Bush's approval rating would have ever edged much over the fifty percent mark. While it once seemed inevitable that the wake of these events would carry the President into a second term, that notion now seems less and less likely.

An important question seems to be whether there was ever any real substance to Bush, his policies, and his actions as President, that warranted his once soaring national support, or if he and his cabinet are indeed, to borrow a phrase from Bush's home state of Texas, "all hat and no cattle".

The scandalous 2000 election will be remembered for many reasons, not the least of which was that George W. Bush lost the popular vote by a narrow margin. In some black precincts in Jacksonville, one out of every three ballots were thrown out. In Miami-Dade County, voters in heavily African-American precincts were three times more likely to have

not recorded a vote for president than in precincts where black voters made up less than 30 percent of the population. The rejection rates were easily enough to have affected the outcome of the election.

Regardless of these and other complications, the nine members of the US Supreme Court, seven people appointed by earlier Republican Presidents and two who were not, ruled to stop any further recounts, and let the election and the presidency stand on the votes as they were counted at that time, in essence, appointing George W. Bush as the forty-third President of the United States.

Debates and revelations about the 2000 election had scarcely begun to sink below the surface of the oceans of American media, when what will probably be the biggest news story most of us will ever live to see, rose to the surface. Now, while no one can dispute the fact that 9/11 was a horrible tragedy that most people never saw coming, reports that have surfaced from inquiries have raised many a question about just what our President, and his people did know, prior to the attacks. The Chicago-based bi-weekly magazine In These Times reported that the CIA had warned Bush personally of Osama Bin Laden's intent to use hijacked planes as missiles. The Associated Press revealed a pre-9/11 FBI memo from an officer in Phoenix warning of suspicious Middle Eastern men training at flight schools—a warning that went unheeded.

Whether one is prone to believe

in conspiracy theories or not, these facts remain, and they weigh heavily when we consider that before 9/11, Bush seemed to be wandering aimlessly through his presidency, with mediocre approval numbers, an economy still deeply mired in the muck of the burst dot com bubble, and a nation that was slowly waking up to the fact that Bush was not the man they had elected, and yet somehow, he was their leader.

However, feeding on his nation's anger, Bush swiftly ordered troops to attack Afghanistan, the nation that harbored the man thought to be the mastermind behind the attacks. This move sent his approval numbers through the roof, into the mid and upper eighties, where they remained, give or take five points, for 17 weeks, the longest run of this type in US Presidential history.

Suddenly, with "The War on Terror" Bush had an enemy, just as Regan did with Communist Russia in the 1980's, a purported goal: to rid the world of terror, and the support of most Americans. Bush also had enough fear in the hearts of most of the Democrats, to push through bills like the US Patriot Act, which repealed many hard-earned civil liberties, at least temporarily and vastly increased military spending for the sake of "homeland security" and the potential war on anyone who wasn't one hundred percent behind his plans. As he stated in a speech on November 6, 2001, "You're either with us or against us in the fight against terror."

**Student Awareness, Student Action: CSI Heads to Albany**

*continued from page 1*

"NYPIRG gives students the tools to make long lasting and effective change," said Natalie Shaya, CSI's elected state board of directors representative for NYPIRG.

"It is important for students to realize that they can make a difference, on campus and in their communities," said Dan Botting, CSI's NYPIRG Project Coordinator. "History shows that when it comes to social change, students are the movers and shakers, and we work to carry on that legacy."

What do all these marches and meetings mean to you? Well, are you finding it hard to pay your tuition bill? You're not alone.

As drop out rates slowly increase, tuition rises. Last year alone, the Governor's education proposal raised tuition 28%. The median balance for undergraduate student loans was \$16,500 in 2002, up 74% since 1997, and that was before the tuition hike. About 77% of undergraduates at four-year colleges and universities have jobs, and 26% work full time while in school, according to the American Council on Education. At the \$5.15 an hour minimum wage, it's amazing that students are able to make ends meet, and still have enough energy to keep those grades up.

The sad fact is that many students are finding it too difficult to keep up with the constant bombardment and neglect of Higher Education, so they abandon the system altogether. If that's not scary enough, the governor's current proposal is to defer 1/3rd of TAP, a major source of financial assistance to nearly 60% of NYS College Students, as well as significant cuts to many opportunity programs and community colleges.

The governor's justified his atrocious proposal by saying that it will serve as an incentive to get students to graduate on time. Ingenious! You take away financial aid and get students to scurry about trying to make up the difference at \$5.15 an hour, while also taking a 12 credit semester, which is a requisite of TAP. Correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems apparent to that Albany's latest proposal will make it even more difficult to graduate on time.

So why exactly is the governor abusing the underprivileged college students of NYS, who are already paying some of the most outrageous tuition fees in the country in a system that was fundamentally designed to

be affordable and accessible to all residents of the state? Probably because there's not a damn thing that we do about it. Sad but true, college students are the largest demographic of non-voting citizens. The governor feels confident in cutting funds from the Higher Education program to address the State's budget deficit.

Fortunately, there is a war being waged, though most students are oblivious to it, as most college students tend to be about most matters which concern themselves or the world around them. The New York Public Interest Research Group, or NYPIRG, continues to fight for student rights and higher education, as well as other issues concerning the environment, health, social justice, energy and many others. Currently on the agenda is the fight to raise minimum wage to a moderate \$7.10 an hour, to stop any tuition hikes or financial aid and opportunity program cuts, and for the investment of more money into our higher learning institutions.

NYPIRG is a non-partisan, student-run, student-led advocacy group. It is well known and highly respected, particularly due to the highly influential and dedicated leadership of prominent names such as Blair Horner, the Legislative Director, noted as one of the top 25 most influential people in the state of New York; and Chris Meyer, the executive director who has been with NYPIRG for 20 years, and actually started his career as a Project Coordinator at CSI.

Although NYPIRG has been successful in many of their endeavors, it still needs the support of more students to be all the more effective.

Do your part. Join NYPIRG. Their office is located at 1C-21. Call them at 718-982-3109. Voice off in your student government, located at 1C-207 or call them at 718-982-3082.

If you don't vote, you lose your significance. Register at <http://www.DeclareYourself.com>. Or pick up a registration form from student life, 1C-201.



"Students are movers and shakers," said CSI's NYPIRG Project Coordinator.

**SARAH SCHULMAN**

*continued from page 1*

of Sophie Horowitz, was published in 1984, when she was only 26 years old. In addition to being a writer, she has also been teaching for 14 years.

"A lot of CSI students have never had a chance to express themselves artistically before coming to class," said Schulman. "The important thing for me is to help them think complexly about their own emotional lives, so they can make art."

"She's very honest," said Marisa Cerio, a CSI junior who is currently a student of Schulman's fiction writing class: "She's really good with her criticism."

Schulman feels that "gay students are very oppressed." Can we blame her?

One thing is for sure, if we don't start somewhere, we will never get



CSI English Professor Sarah Schulman has published nine novels and 10 plays. "To date, no American novel with primary Lesbian content has been recognized for its merit, but as long as we don't capitulate to the pressure to alter that content, that day will come."

anywhere. Schulman has helped to spark that transition—from ignorance to knowledge—not only for CSI students, but for the rest of the world. So those of you who are gay or different in any other way, do not succumb to monotony.

According to her biography on the Act Up Oral History Project website, her books have been translated into French (L'Incertain, 10/18, H&O), Spanish (Alfaguara, Huega y Fierro), Japanese (Magazine House), British (Sheba, Cassell, Penguin), German (Argument Verlag), Dutch (An Dekkar), Greek (Aquarius) Swedish (Anima Verlog), Portugese (Distribuidora Record-Brazil).

In the preface of her book, *Girls, Vision and Everything*, Schulman wrote: "To date, no American novel with primary lesbian content has been recognized for its merit, but as long as we don't capitulate to the pressure to alter that content, that day will come."

# BANNER

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## The Howard Stern Experience

Former CSI student interned for the most successful and controversial radio show in broadcast history

Kristy Calabro

Robyn Fitzsimmons had the opportunity last fall to intern for "The Howard Stern Show." As a news intern, Fitzsimmons had to read newspapers like the Daily News, The New York Post, and USA Today, then highlight interesting stories for the morning show. For doing this, she also earned three CSI credits.

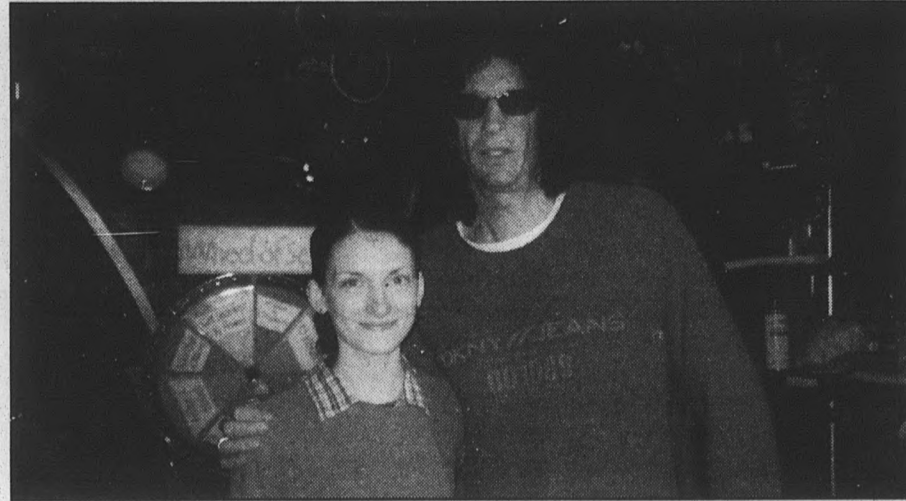
"As a fan of the show, I thought about how great it would be to work there," Fitzsimmons said. "I never thought this idea would become a reality." More than a year later, Fitzsimmons still feels her Stern experience was surreal.

Every morning the alarm would go off at 4 a.m. and Fitzsimmons was out of her house to catch the express bus to Manhattan. "I felt like a zombie," Fitzsimmons said. At 5:30 a.m., she stepped off the bus onto a deserted 6th Avenue and headed toward the station to start her day.

"It was strange being in Manhattan and getting to work before everyone else," Fitzsimmons said. "It was dark, empty, and scary."

In the beginning, Fitzsimmons had a hard time juggling her crazy schedule. She was up so early and she also had school after the show. "I had night classes and it was tough trying to focus, let alone stay awake."

The most important and hectic



CSI Grad Robyn Fitzsimmons interned for "The Howard Stern Show." Although she had to get out of bed at 4:00 each morning, answer phones, and sort through breakfast orders, there were compensations. "One time I put through a caller with a unique name and Howard turned it into a 20 minute long bit. I felt proud because I had contributed."

duty of the day was ordering breakfast for everyone. "I had to place 10 different orders," Fitzsimmons said. "I had to make sure everyone got the correct food." This might not seem tough but all at once the whole office would give their specific orders to Fitzsimmons. The breakfast would arrive in brown paper bags and Fitzsimmons would have to sort through everything and make sure everyone got exactly what they had asked for.

Fitzsimmons also was in charge of answering phones and going through the mail. Feedback from the fans is very important. Listeners give

their advice and opinions, then Stern and his crew make sure they talk about those subjects.

The producers do prepare for the show ahead of time, however they also improvise, especially when people call to add to a conversation already in progress. Fitzsimmons had to listen to the show

and put through callers she felt would add interesting ideas to the discussion. "One time I put through a caller with a unique name and Howard Stern turned it into a 20 minute long bit," Fitzsimmons said. "I felt proud because I had contributed to the show."

Fitzsimmons realized that even though the internship was within the entertainment industry it was still a job and a business filled with routines just like any other type of work. "I know as much as I complained about it, I miss the experience and I value everything that I've learned," Fitzsimmons said. "I'll even miss waking up at 4 a.m."



Fitzsimmons helped Robin Quivers, who is Howard Stern's sidekick, prepare the news segment of the radio show.

## meet your classmates

### Queer Eye for the Fight Against Discrimination

CSI Transgender Helps Friends and Families of Gay/Lesbian Students Overcome Homophobia

Louis E. Leccese

She walked into the crowded CSI cafeteria wearing jeans, white sneakers, a yellow t-shirt, and a scarf of patterned blue, pink, green, and orange. Her long, curly blonde hair reached past her shoulders and her deep blue eyes sparkled.

Her entrance drew looks of astonishment and curiosity from the students eating lunch.

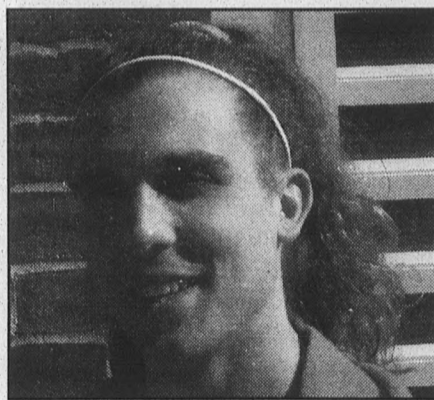
"What is that?" one woman in her early twenties asked out loud to her friends.

"Is it a dude or a chick?" a man of 19 asked his friends, who chuckled loudly at his question.

CSI Linguistics Major Katee Freitag was unfazed by such remarks. She has grown accustomed to them.

"They just don't get it," Freitag said of CSI students. She hears the whispers and chooses to ignore them. "I choose my battles," she said. "Sometimes I just have to eat it up. Sometimes I approach them directly. Sometimes I want to run."

When students ask her what she is, she responds: "The world identifies you by who you sleep with. I don't identify myself by who I sleep with. I have no sexual preference or orientation. I'm



Katee Freitag, CSI Linguistics Major, will travel to Taiwan for sex reassignment surgery. "I don't identify myself by who I sleep with. I'm just queer."

just queer."

Since age eight, George Freitag realized that he did not think like the average boy. He had dreams of being a girl, and truly felt as if he were one. But he had fears of revealing his true nature.

"I knew there would be hell to pay from society, school, and parents if I said something," Freitag recalls. "I brushed these feelings off and did all the stuff I was supposed to do as a boy, like playing baseball."

Holding back true feelings was hard for Freitag. It was harder still when the teenager dated women. "I

became jealous of some of them," Freitag recalled. "I wanted to be like them."

At age 18, Freitag "came out" to his mother, and discussed his plans to transform into a woman.

"She cried her eyes out and then she hugged me," Freitag said. "She felt as though she was losing a son, that I was dying, and that gaining a daughter would not replace the loss of her son."

Things have progressed since that fateful day five years ago. Freitag's mom is no longer judgmental. "She is tolerant, and perhaps on her way to acceptance."

Homophobia is something Freitag has become determined to destroy. "I heard it would require social upheaval to get rid of," she joked. "But it's not impossible."

Freitag is now taking estrogen shots that have given her the ability to grow breasts. She plans to undergo "sex reassignment surgery" in the near future to complete her transition into a woman. This surgery will be performed in Thailand, because the surgeons there do not waste any skin on the penis when transforming it into a vagina. After the surgery, she will still be able to

experience orgasm during intercourse.

Freitag is currently a Teacher's Assistant to Dr. Katie Cumiskey, for the course, "Gender and Sexuality." She is also the treasurer of The Gay Straight Alliance, which is a student-run club that has as its goal the creation of a community of "LGBTQ" (Lesbians, Gays, Bi's, Transgender, and Queers). The club meets every two weeks, alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays. Meetings are open to all who wish to attend.

Freitag is also the president of PFLAG (Parents, Friends, and Families of Lesbian and Gays), which is a group that educates people about homophobia and the gay/lesbian community. Her younger brother, Dave, has attended meetings to better understand his sibling's lifestyle. "He is starting to get a clear picture of who I am," said Freitag.

Religious individuals have approached her, trying to save her from herself. "They want what's best for them not for me," Freitag stated. "I am not a sinner. I did not choose this, and it is not a choice. My God, if I had one, would believe in something different than theirs. Don't send me to aversion camps and zap me with electricity until I am not 'gay' anymore. I get zapped enough trying to get rid of my facial hair."

## Letter From the Editor...

The time for spring cleaning is upon us. As you pillage through piles of out-of-date sweaters, worn out socks, and useless nick-knacks that your aging relatives brought you from their trips to Florida, you may actually come across some interesting pieces of nostalgia.

Remember that yearbook from 19@#? Had you saved any copies of that beautifully edited school newspaper that was always overflowing with poignant information about your beloved school? Did you ever give a second thought to that literary magazine that you made that one submission to only because your friend, the editor, begged you to? How about that political journal that allowed you to lament about the clown-like administrations of Dubya., Bubba, or George Sr., and so on and so forth?

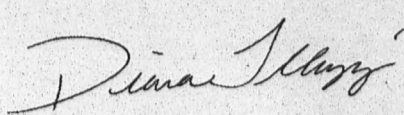
Publications such as these show your face, publish your words, and tell your story. Not only do they eventually embody the memories of your school days, but they also provide a well-needed creative outlet and a positive experience for their staffs and contributors. I am well aware that you are all disgusted about hearing me pump up the publications on campus (especially The Banner), however the issue has indeed taken a more serious turn in the past couple of years.

Still not concerned? Still don't care? Fine. How would you like to graduate without a yearbook? This is the reality that you are facing. However, none of you should be surprised. I know that you are not working on a yearbook. No one is. No one cares. But maybe now you will.

You can say until you are blue in the face that you do not have the time to invest or the know-how to make a publication, especially one as big as a yearbook. Sorry folks, but I am not buying it. When I came to The Banner I was taking sixteen credits, working two part-time jobs, and putting up with my large obnoxious Italian family who insisted on spending time with me. I walked through the door of my office, and met the people, and worked at something, wrote my articles, took the pictures. At the end of the day I was tired, and cranky, and had the greatest sense of accomplishment I had ever had in my life. I didn't have the time either. I made the time.

I sit in Publication Board meetings on campus and listen to the representatives of my fellow publications argue for their publication's right to have its fair share of monies, and its right to publish its content freely. It is at these meeting that I see the empty chair of the yearbook representative and feel a little sad.

The yearbooks for the past few years are gone, but there is still hope for next year's graduates. If you have a great desire to have your face and name immortalized in print after a long and arduous college career, give the Office of Student Life a call. I can promise you that you will walk away with much more than a book.



## Letters to the Editor

### Re: *Rebellion On the Hudson*

The United States is the land of the free, but like all things, there are laws and rules. Wearing your seat belt is one of them. If you can't follow the law then you don't deserve to drive. Don't you want something that can save your life? If you don't like the laws and freedom that this great country gives us, then leave!

•Michael Gutierrez, Junior

Although the profile on Roman Milesan was well written and interesting, I have issues with the fact that the Banner would publish an article where someone is knocking American freedoms. Isn't it because of such freedoms, such as the First Amendment, that articles get published without having to be censored? To me it seems as if this article is bashing the American way of life. America may not be perfect, but anyone living here shouldn't be putting it down. If you are an American, you should have pride in your country. If you are an immigrant, you should question your reasons for coming here in the first place.

•Jennifer Anello, Senior

I actually have a bit of advice for Roman in regards to wearing his seatbelt. My ex-girlfriend may have still been alive today if she had worn her seatbelt on the night of her fatal crash. Rebellious behavior is something I live by, but not at the expense of my own existence. If you die, then your rebellion against seatbelts will be in vain. You will have proved nothing. Put your seatbelt on and live to rebel against other things that are necessary to rebel against. You are following the path of James Dean and Guess what? He's dead! Don't be another "Rebel Without a Cause."

•Louis E. Lerrese, Junior

### Re: *Voices of Hip Hop*

I agree that rappers have a lot of influence of possible voters and they should back up their claims that "Bush is Bad" with facts to help their audience understand why they feel this way. If rappers showed more interest in politics, it would surprise many people how many young fans of rappers would get into politics.

•Craig Todaro

Sure, the voice of Hip-Hop has been heard a little louder over the last five to ten years with celebrities and hip-hop stars like Russell Simmons and Mr. Shawn "P. Diddy" Combs. But since when do hip-hop artists mix their views on politics with their profession as entertainers? Artists like P. Diddy are able to express their opinions on politics and yes, people will listen to what they have to say, but I'm sure President Bush won't address any comments about the world of hip-hop, so let's just stick to what we know. Let politicians take care of politics and hip-hop entertainers take care of hip-hop.

•David Shakmeyster, Senior

It's about time some Hip Hop artists step up and do something positive! They have such an immense influence on young people. After awhile the "thug" thing gets kind of old. Why not do something positive, like influence people to vote? I guess someone finally informed a few artists that it's

tough to be "ghetto" when you are a millionaire. All I have to say is "keep it real" and when your earnings can feed an entire project complex, your "real" is extremely different than it was when you began your music career. It's about time you all become positive role models.

• Frank Consalvo, Junior

### Re: *Rock Win honors as CUNY Player of Year*

I definitely think there should have been more information included on the CSI women's basketball team's star player and CUNY MVP. Rock's stats for the season and her thoughts about next year's team could have been added. I also agree with Debbie Jones Shaw, who posted a letter to the editor in the last issue: CSI athletics deserves more recognition.

•Danny Leahy, Junior

### Re: *Higher Education*

Students do have a voice. I am happy that NYPIRG, with the help from the students, are standing up for what is right and fighting injustices. I can't believe that the government is trying to freeze student's Pell grants at 40%. For a better education let us join with NYPIRG and fight for our education.

•Debbie Jones-Shaw, Junior

It's good that The Banner is devoting space to NYPIRG's activities. NYPIRG is an essential organization on our campus, and essential to New York state. NYPIRG deserves proper recognition from The Banner—as well as from all CSI students.

•David Maltz, Sophomore

### Re: *\$5.15 is not enough for minimum wage*

I agree with Peter Lang. Everything is being raised except the minimum wage. How are we supposed to pay for school, gas, transportation,

clothes, books and other things with \$5.15 an hour? The cost of everything else has been raised. So should the minimum wage.

•Anthony Gallo, Junior

Being a college student for the past four years, I have had many menial jobs that have helped me pay my way through school. I agree with Peter Lang that our current minimum wage should be increased. After taxes, the five dollars per hour seems miniscule. Students should rally to raise minimum wage because the cost of living has increased dramatically. Students of CSI, speak up!

•Boris Kreynstein, Senior

### Re: *"You Better Network"*

I attended the Job Fair and thought it wasn't as bad as the article made it seem. I think the experiences was varied, and I for one didn't believe the recruiters "didn't care." On the whole, they did have an interest in helping the students. Hard work, persistence, and networking are all important in pursuing a career in journalism.

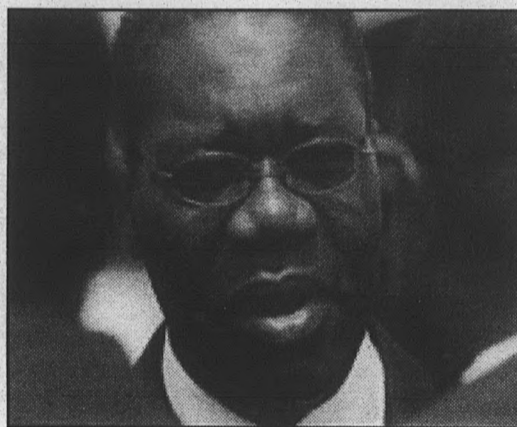
•Khadyah Rentas, Sophomore

### Re: *Aural Sex*

I understand that having a long distance relationship requires sacrifices and phone sex. It's cool that you're so confident about your sexual life but as a woman, I would need more than just a phone conversation to get off. When it comes to a man, physical contact is key.

•Maggie Vargas, Sophomore

### LIBERIA'S HEAD OF STATE PREACHES PEACE AT CSI



I found it interesting that Charles Gyude Bryant of Liberia visited CSI. To think that CSI can be a meeting place for world leaders is mind blowing. Hopefully he'll be able to quiet the storm in his country.

•Andrew Hannibal

It was the biggest event in the past 6 months that has taken place in CSI. I am very happy and proud of my school for getting involved in the international community and helping other countries like Liberia.

•Roman Milesin, Senior

# Musée de la College de Staten Island

Photography by Pamela Zambrano

Artists from around the world have donated their art or have been commissioned by the Art Acquisitions Program of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York to have their art permanently exhibited throughout the campus. CSI students have the opportunity to be exposed to the artists' ideals about the women's movement, aesthetic elements dealing with figurative and animal references through abstract forms, interests in mythology and Mediterranean art forms, and associations with pre-history. *And you thought they were mindless mounds of clay and metal!*



## *Marathon*

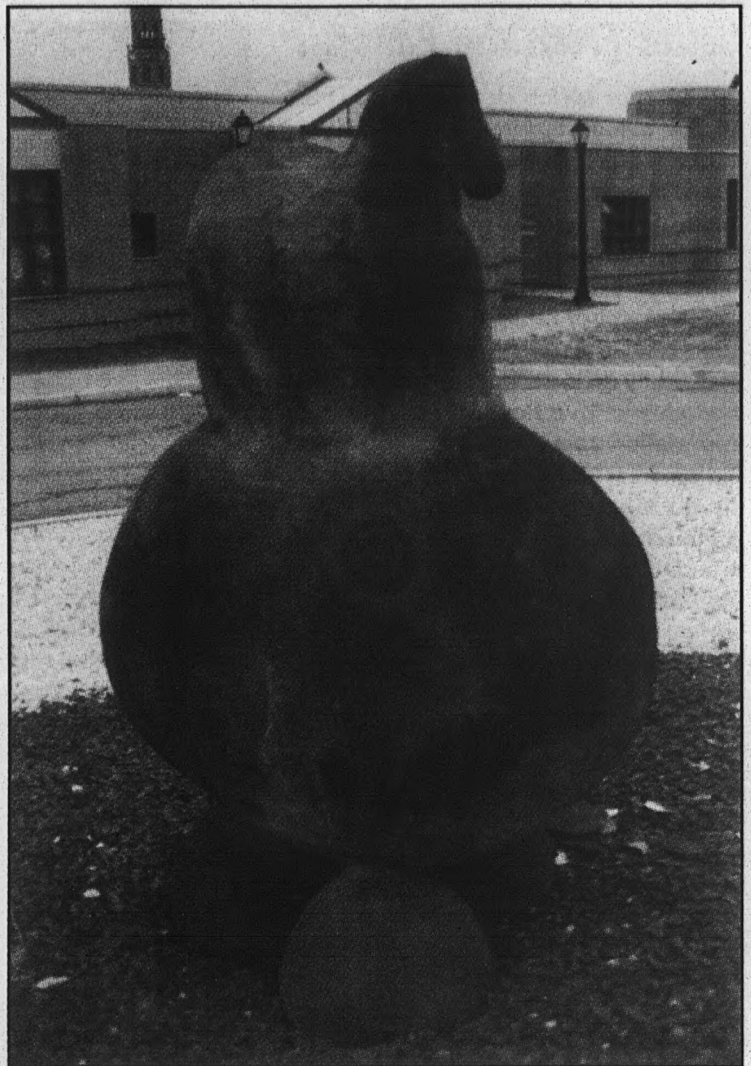
Site: Sports and Recreation Center

Red Grooms first gained critical acclaim as the creator of comic assemblages of wood, cardboard, and other detritus he gathered from the streets of lower Manhattan. His style is easily distinguishable from that of other Pop artists by its incorporation of caricature, exaggerated painterly effects, and manic humor. In *Marathon* (1994) he carved styrofoam blocks, sprayed them with epoxy resin, and set them into a welded aluminum armature.

## *Torak*

Site: Center for the Arts

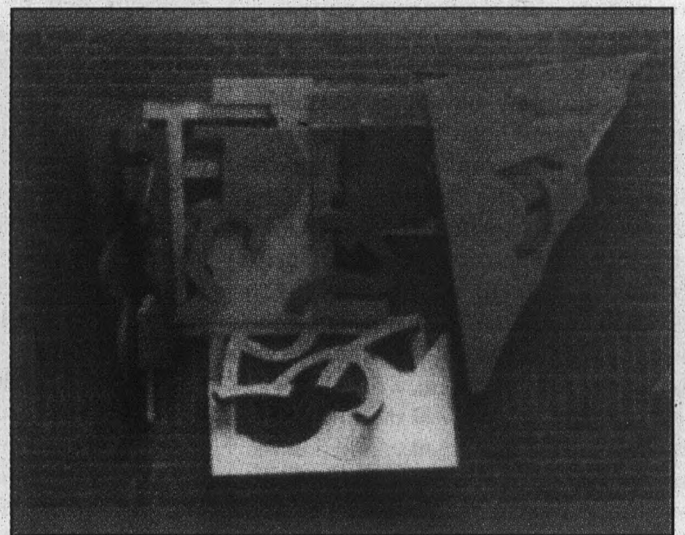
Mark Mennen has had solo exhibitions at the Kouros, Victoria Munroe, Bruno Facchetti, and Marisa del Re galleries in New York, and at Palazzo Paolini in Viareggio, Italy. Trained in Carrara, he has also lived and worked in a studio near the Pere Lanchaise Cemetery in Paris. Works like *Torak* (1992) combine traditional travertine with iron in forms that evoke associations with pre-history, morandi and explosive sea mines.



## *Shooliloo*

Site: Turnaround, Children's Center

Miriam Bloom is a Staten Island-based sculptor who has had solo exhibitions in New York, Baltimore, and Stockholm. She



## *Stele in the Wind*

Site: 3N Business Building

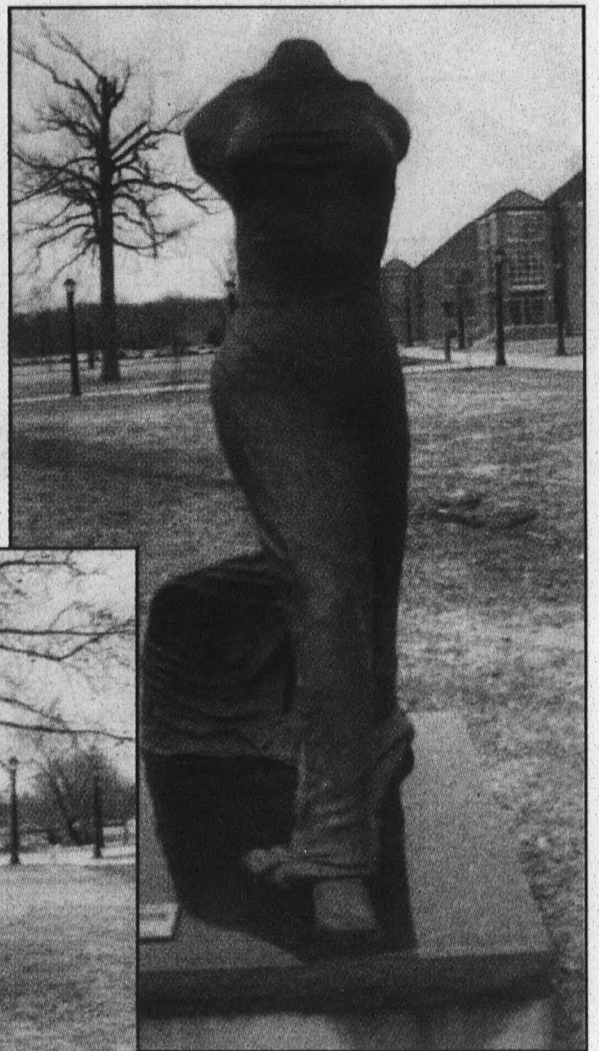
Hans Van De Bovenkamp was born in Holland. Since coming to the United States, he has had twenty-two solo exhibitions and received sculptural commissions from such institutions as the State University of New York at Stonybrook, the Maryland National Bank, Baltimore, the Lowe Museum, Coral Gables, the Jewish Institute, Lake Success, and Texas A & M University. *Stele in the Wind* (1985), a brushed aluminum sculpture, conveys his abiding concern with reflective forms that interact with the environment.



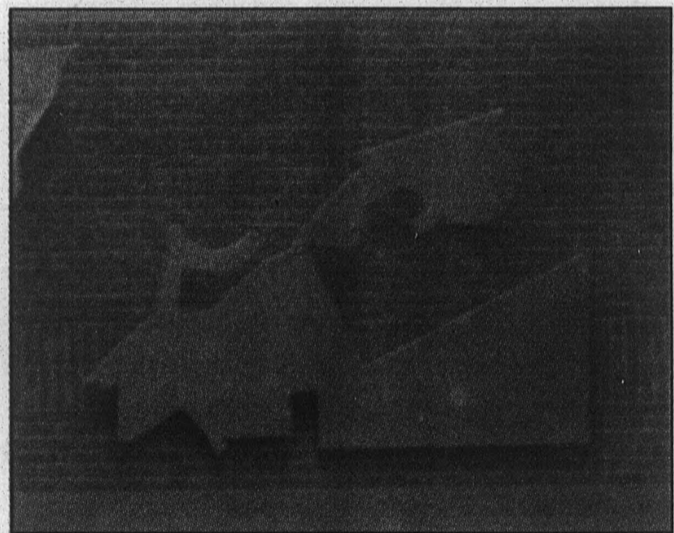


**Big Stride**

Site: 2N History, Political Science and philosophy Building,  
Lucille Friedland a resident of Staten Island for over sixty years, taught fine and commercial art in NYC high schools Her paintings, sculpture and jewelry have been represented in numerous gallery and museum exhibitions nationally. *Big Stride (1984)* can be read as a commentary on the historic advances generated by the women's movement. This is a gift of the artist.

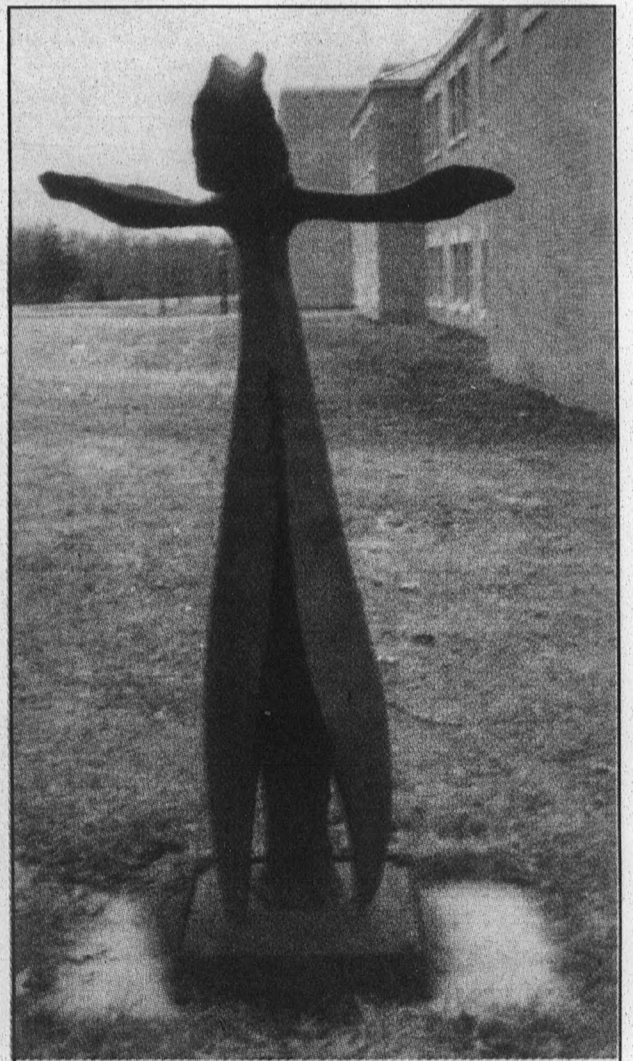


has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the pollock-Krasner Foundation. Her reinforced concrete sculpture *Shooliloo (1990)* conveys her fascination with abstract forms that have figurative or animal references.



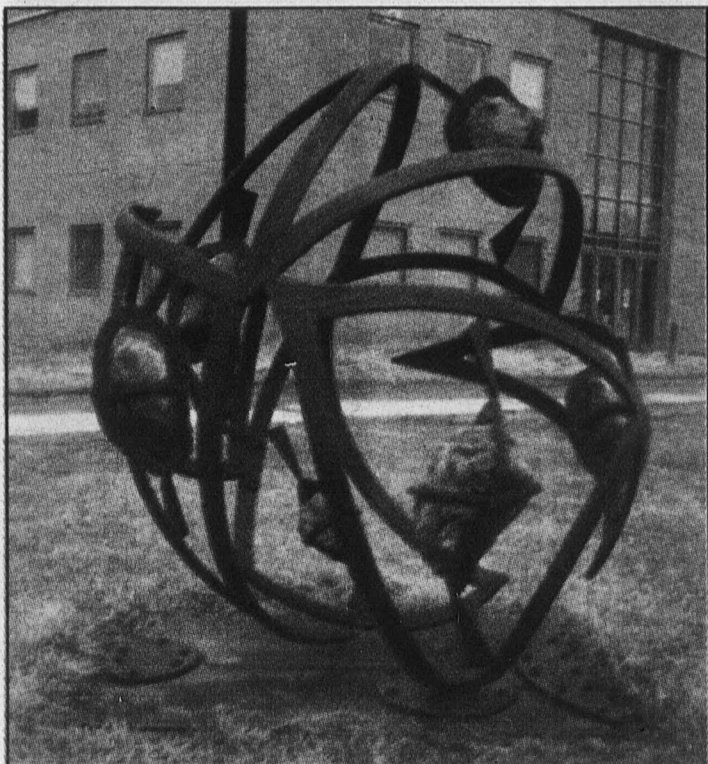
**Body of Hector and Glaucus**

Site: Atrium, Center for the Arts  
Vincenzo Amato was born in Palermo, Italy and now resides in New York. He has been working with iron and steel for the past four years and has exhibited his sculptures at the Leo Tony Gallery and the Clemente-Vega Cultural Center in New York. *Body of Hector and Glaucus (1994)* reflects his ongoing interest in mythology and in early Mediterranean art forms.



**Maquette for a Small universe**

Site: 6S Biological and Chemical Science Building  
Zero Higashida was born in Hiroshima, Japan and studied in Tokyo before coming to the United States in 1988. His work has been shown in New York, Houston, Chicago, and throughout Japan. *Maquette for a Small Universe (1994)* which combines steel with stones from riverbeds around his native city, is the model for a monumental sculpture in its Memorial Park.



# COMICS

"It Won't Heal If You Keep Picking At It"

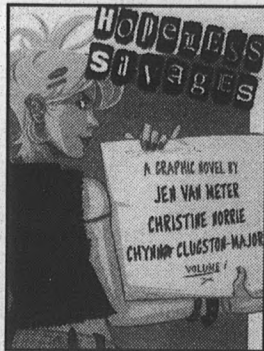
## The Beacon

Written and Drawn by Enrique Inocente



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## COMIC SPOTLIGHT



- Title- Hopeless Savages
- Artists- Jen Van Meter, Christine Norrie, Chynna Clugston-Major
- Publisher-Oni Press, Inc., 2003
- Graphic Novel; \$29.95

Adolescence is a time of confusion and rebellion, but what do you do when your parents are former punk rock superstars, and a rebel was something you were born to be? That is the conundrum presented in *Hopeless Savages*, a graphic novel by Jen Van Meter, Christine Norrie, and Chynna Clugston-Major.

Dirk Hopeless and Nikki Savage were big time rockers in the days of punk. They met on the road, fell in love, settled down and had kids. But tragedy soon strikes the Hopeless-Savage home when Rat, their oldest child, decides to abandon punk, leave home, and make a normal life for himself in the corporate world. Later, things get more complicated when Dirk and Nikki are kidnapped.

*Hopeless Savages* is a cute story with likeable characters, and a mystery that unfolds in expert fashion. It reads a little like an after school special with themes like the importance of family and being true to oneself. It's not as edgy as one might think considering it's about a family of punk rockers, but the humor is cleverly done, with potshots thrown at poseurs, pop music, and corporate phonies. *Hopeless Savages* is a good read for anybody looking for a fine dose of humor, punk, and family values.

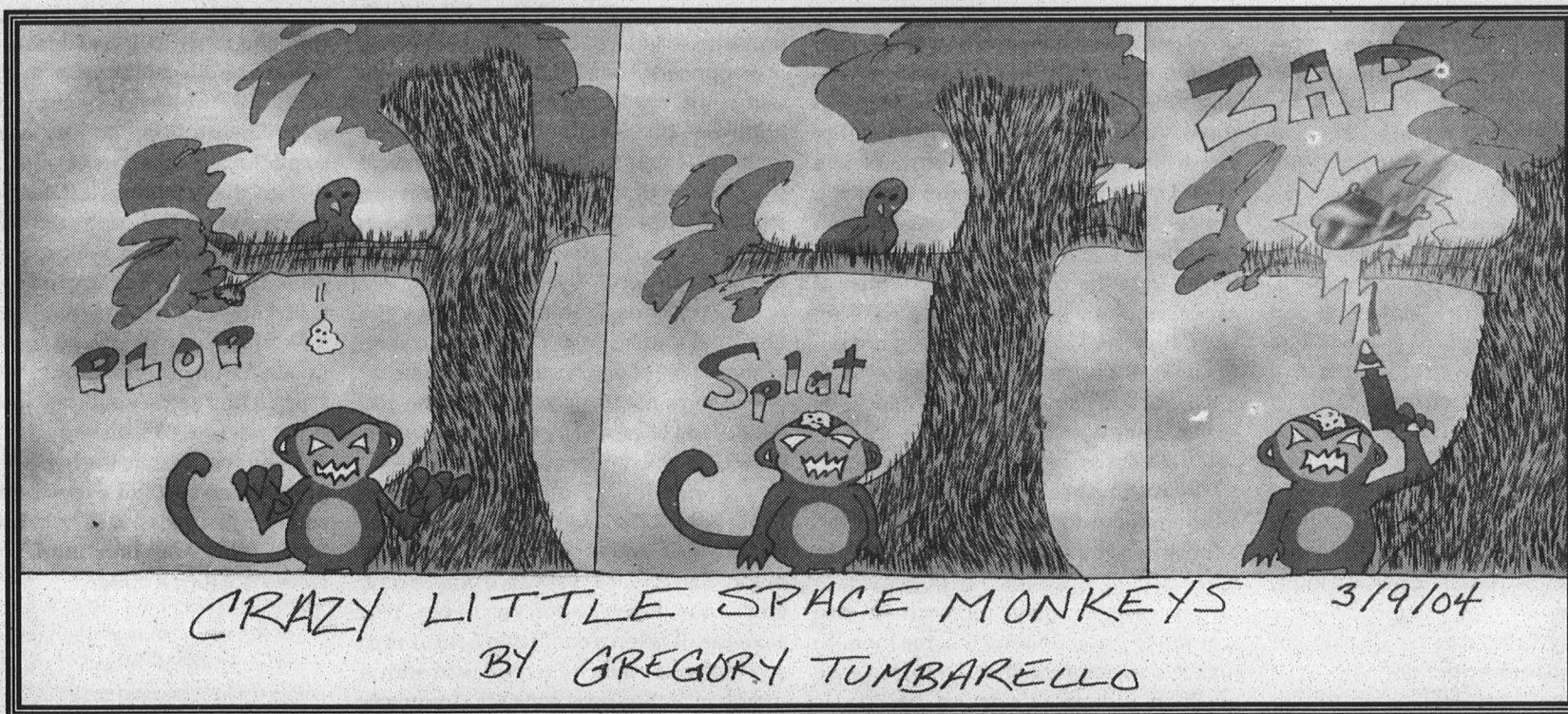
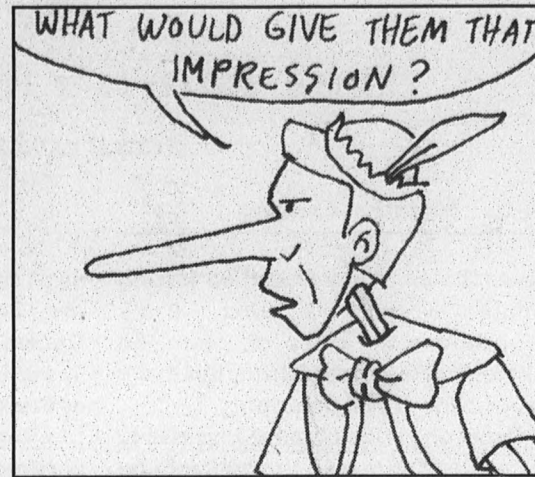
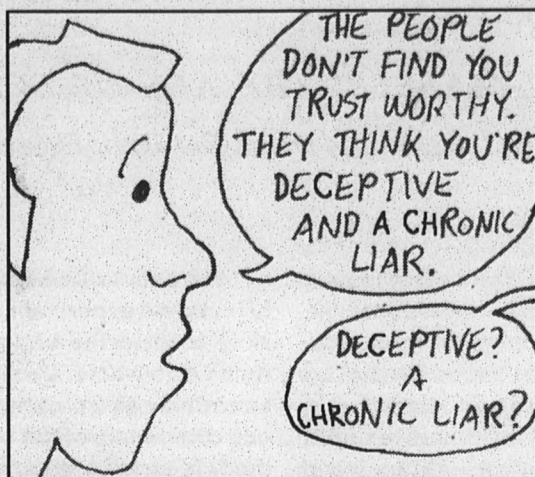
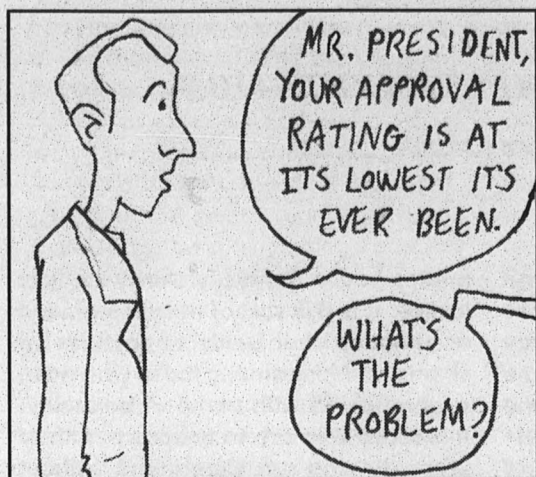
Excerpts from *Hopeless Savages* Courtesy of Oni Press, INC.





# THE PUPPET THAT WANTED TO BE A REAL PRESIDENT

By Enrique Inocente



## NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE SPRING 2004 STUDENT ELECTIONS

NOMINATE YOURSELF FOR A POSITION AS AN ELECTED STUDENT LEADER FOR THE 2004 - 2005 ACADEMIC YEAR

POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, CSI ASSOCIATION, COLLEGE COUNCIL, AUXILIARY SERVICES CORPORATION AND FACULTY STUDENT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

### NOMINATION PERIOD IS

**MARCH 1 - APRIL 1**

MOST OF THESE SEATS HAVE CREDIT AND GPA REQUIREMENTS - CHECK IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICE, ROOM 1C- 207 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

COME TO THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICE TO PICK UP YOUR NOMINATION FORM TODAY!

THE COMPLETED NOMINATION PACKET MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SG OFFICE (1C-207) BY NOON ON APRIL 1

## Student Government Service Awards

Nominations are now available

**Student candidates must have a minimum 2.0 GPA and must have done considerable extracurricular service to benefit the students of CSI**

**Staff/Faculty must have done considerable service for the students of CSI**

Award categories:

Students - 4 Undergraduate and 8 Graduating Student awards available

Faculty/Staff Awards - 3 awards available

**Pick up your nomination form in the Student Government Office, 1C-207**

**Deadline is APRIL 1 at 4 p.m.**

# Life... Love... & SEX

## HOMOEROTICISM FOR THE MASSES: THE AGE OF SEXUAL EXPERIMENTATION

*Sexual exploration is the latest sexual trend. But is the hype merely a scare tactic?*

Jessica Mendez

I never thought I would end up kissing another woman. I was firmly entrenched in the camp of, "Sure, I'd make out with Angelina Jolie, but that's about it." Then I met Deborah.

Deborah is one of those impossibly peppy girls that would undoubtedly be classified as "weird" if she wasn't an actress and therefore branded as "artsy." I never thought of her as anything more than a drama pal until a group of us went to Lynn's house for some post-dinner partying. Several beers later, we all started playing truth or dare, which led to a saucy conversation about same-sex hookups. I briefly, on a dare, had given the curvaceous Maria a peck on the lips. Shyly, Deborah, who was sitting near me, looked up and said, "I would kiss a girl! It looks like fun." Craig, a typical Bensonhurst frat boy, immediately jumped up and said, "I dare you to kiss Jessa." When I asked why me, Craig replied, "you're the sex columnist; you'll do anything!" And I thought, hell, why not? I pride myself on being open-minded, and it's about time I experienced the touch of a woman. Deborah was all giggles and nervous energy as the Craig and his gangly pal Chip salivated in anticipation.

"Here, just kiss her!" Chip finally exclaimed, playfully pushing Deborah's

head towards mine. Just before I kissed her, I wondered what it would feel like. The tension in that moment was crackling as Deborah and I locked lips, unsure as to what such a kiss could signify.

Random acts of homosexuality encompass the latest sexual trend: "going gay," Oh, not permanently, of course. That would actually mean being gay, and that is still a taboo that many people, especially men, are uncomfortable with. I'm talking about the "experiment," that one night you and a same sex friend got drunk and curious and ended up in a situation that crosses the typical "friendship" boundary. With all the queer eyes spreading their fabulousness to the hapless straight men of America, and pop princesses puckering up to their mentors (I'm looking at you, Britney), it seems that being gay, or at least, "acting" gay, is the new black, as fashionistas would say.

Both sexes seems to be opening up to temporary homosexuality, although women seem to be doing most of the experimenting while men tend to do more of the "accepting." In popular culture, it is much more common for two women to hook up than it is for men. In fact, it is so common that the latest issue of Bitch magazine's trend section is devoted to the Sapphic smooch.

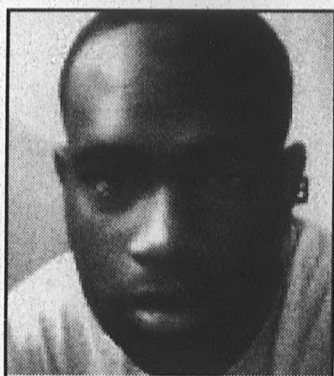
The debate is whether this seemingly harmless experimentation could possibly lead to the undermining of gay rights as a whole. By engaging in same sex activity as a pastime, the fear by the gay community of not being taken seriously is understandable. However, it is usually unfounded. Christian, the sex gay boy I once locked lips with, didn't undermine heterosexuality by engaging in an opposite-sex sexual experience. At one point, my friend Maya had made a habit out of kissing Irina, a sprightly fashion design student, when the mood struck them on their nights out. Both are straight, but both appreciate each other's sexual energy. I even have a male friend who, though straight, will occasionally kiss another guy. Gays like Christian understand that sexual orientation is part of who you are, while sexual experimentation is just something you do. He isn't offended by experimentation; in fact, he actively encourages it.

Some fear that the increase in experimentation will confuse younger people and make them turn towards homosexuality. Newsflash: if you're gay, you're gay. If you're not, you're not. Yes, sexuality is often a confusing issue, but to say that one raunchy experience with a member of the same sex makes you gay is like saying that riding a horse once

makes you a Kentucky Derby-caliber jockey. It is this sort of narrow-minded assumption that leads to feelings of shame and fear among those who have experimented with homo-/bisexuality. It is those who are truly secure in their sexuality who can experiment without shame and fear.

As Deborah and I kissed, I wasn't thinking of who I was kissing or how some people might view this moment. With all the hype surrounding gay experimentation, there can be an expectation of some grand moment, with all these feelings left in its wake. The fact is, when Deborah and I broke the kiss, there was no weirdness. It happened in the spirit of fun and sex, and we both knew it was a one-time deal. To me, it was the same as kissing some random guy in a truth or dare game. Why should I turn it into some epiphany just because the person I kissed is female? Sometimes, despite the hype, the propaganda, and societal expectations, a kiss really is just a kiss. And hey, if it happens to be with Angelina Jolie, I certainly would not turn it down.

## Who Is Representing You?



Name: Dwight Dunkley  
Title: Commissioner of Academic Affairs  
Sex: Wash Your hands First  
Nickname: None  
Favorite Sesame Street Character: Statler and Waldorf

*The Banner profiles student government representatives. Get to know the people who serve as your voice at the college.*

- B • So what exactly do you do at SG?
- DD • I work to change academic policies to ensure that they better serve the students
- B • Are you involved with any other clubs or organizations here at CSI?
- DD • Yes. I am the President of the Marketing Association.
- B • How long have you been involved with SG?
- DD • This is my first year.
- B • If you could pick one way to improve the school, what would it be?
- DD • I am working to ensure that students will have a pass/fail option for certain courses.
- B • Name one thing that SG has done for the student body.
- DD • We have changed the way in which students are notified of their right to appeal grades.
- B • Name your dream job.
- DD • I would love to be the guy who spreads the oil on the supermodels.
- B • Boxers or briefs?
- DD • Why choose?
- B • If you could clear up one misconception about S.G., what would that be?
- DD • I want the students to know that SG actually does something. We may not publicize what we do as much as we should, but we still serve a real purpose.

**CSI CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORTATION**

*continued from page 1*

numerous civic organizations to the "intellectual resources" of CSI with the intention of solving or at least raising relevant inquiries pertaining to some of the challenges facing the City and the Island on a socio-economic level. "(We) put what we know and what we've learned in our methods at the service of those issues that are most crucial to the community. And mass transportation and traffic are very high on that list," said Affron.

The conference, officially titled "Staten Island Mass Transportation and Traffic: Environment and Economy," will make use of a CSI conducted, random telephone poll of 600 Staten Islanders who were asked about traffic and mass transportation. The poll, (also a CSI first) was conducted with a \$14,000 grant from Consolidated Edison (who is also doing the majority of the funding for the conference itself) and bore some troubling yet unsurprising results.

Eighty-four percent of those polled said they have been hindered

by Staten Island's traffic bug and 72 percent believe that the Island's traffic problems have reached "very severe" or "crisis" levels.

Respondents were enthused however when the poll brought certain proposals for improvement to light. Such ideas as twinning the Goethals Bridge, building a new span across the Arthur Kill and adding another lane to the Staten Island Expressway kindled praise from those surveyed, though such proposals are strictly arbitrary and remain for the moment relegated to fantasy. "What would be great would be to develop some basic concepts that could work for Staten Island and get the political establishment behind them," said Jon Orcutt of the Tri-State Transportation campaign. "I think that's something that hasn't happened."

Enter CSI-SIP who plans to do just that at their first annual conference. Numerous government transportation officials and experts are scheduled to appear for the conference at

CSI's Center for the Arts including the MTA, The New York City and State Department of Transportation, The Port Authority, The Regional Plan Association, The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council as well as representatives from both Borough and City Hall. Also scheduled to be on hand are members of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce and the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation.

Judging from the long list of influential and deep-pocketed organizations lending their ears and possibly their services to the CSI-SIP initiative, anyone who has begged that something be done about the Island's traffic woes may soon be getting their wish.

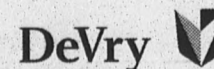
Registration fees for the conference is set at \$30 for the general public but is free for all CSI students, faculty and staff. Any inquiries regarding attendance or registration for this event can be made by contacting Mirella Affron at (718) 982-2727.

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**U MAGAZINE**

U Magazine would like to announce that our e-mail address has changed to:

umagazi@yahoo.com  
umagazi@hotmail.com

We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused. Please continue to send submissions to either one of our e-mail addresses or visit us on Thursdays, during club hours (1:30-3:30 p.m.) in 1C-225.

**Baseball's Newest MVP Battles for the Crown**

Dominic Fiduccia

EA Sports (the same people who have brought us such great sport games as Madden NFL, NBA LIVE, and Tiger Woods PGA Tour) has finally decided to bring us America's Great National Pastime. Since the late '90s, the undisputed king of Baseball video games was All-Star Baseball from Acclaim. But there is a new game in town that has come to battle for that crown, and that is MVP Baseball 2004.

There are tons of unlockables that will open 8 secret stadiums like the Houston Astrodome, the Polo Grounds, and Crosley Field.

next great baseball Dynasty, MVP Baseball includes MVP Inbox, which will give you pointers for playing the game, provide you with analysis for upcoming series, and inform you about hot prospects throughout the minors.

You'll also have the ability to play Spring Training games and try out some younger players to see if they are ready for a shot at the Big Leagues. Once Spring Training is over, you will be able to view the progression or decline for each player in your organization.

*You have the chance to create a true dynasty; not one that will last a few years or a decade, but one that will endure 120 years.*

Your team can field 50 of Baseball's greatest players, from Nolan Ryan to Cy Young, Lou Gehrig to A-Rod (in Yankee uniform). You can even choose Babe Ruth and Mickey Mantle for your squad. There are also 60 retro uniforms, including the 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates and the 1981 Montreal Expos. You can go really old-school with the 1927 New York Yankees or 1903 Boston Red Sox.

Not only can you play as your favorite team from the Major Leagues, but you can also play as one of 60 different Minor League teams, from Triple A's Albuquerque Isotopes or Columbus Clippers, to the Double A teams like the Trenton Thunder or the San Antonio Missions.

The great Dynasty feature that was in NBA LIVE has come to MVP Baseball 2004. To help you build the

The brand new Manager Mode allows you to choose either to play or manage for each at-bat for every team in your organization. There are also a series of team goals required for a job extension. You must complete both 3-year goals and 1-year Stretch Goals, as well as minor league goals, to remain with your current team. Your budget will increase or decrease at the end of each season based on your performance with these goals. Receive the F-rating and you're fired!

You have the chance to create a true dynasty; not one that will last a few years or a decade, but one that will endure 120 years.

It looks like Acclaim will have to move over. MVP Baseball 2004 is available for the Playstation 2, Nintendo GameCube, and Xbox.

**Ben Stiller** **Jack Black**

Success didn't go to his head, it went to his neighbor.

A BARRY LEVINSON FILM

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# SPORTS

March 15, 2004

## After Fine Season, CSI Women Break Down in ECAC Metro Tournament Final

Maria Martinez

The Dolphins fell 76-70 against Drew University's Rangers in the ECAC Metro NY/ NJ Tournament final on Sunday, March 7.

The height advantage of the girls from Drew didn't take long to assert itself and put CSI down 6-4 2:15 seconds into the game. The Rangers went on a 14-2 run over the next three minutes. Jacclyn Rock made two foul shots that helped CSI put points on the board. The tension started to grow when CSI could not execute their fast breaks. Drew left the Dolphins exhausted and behind by 9 at the half.

At the beginning of the second half, CSI wasn't putting enough pressure on defense, letting Drew score too many points on turnovers. The Rangers continued strong, outscoring the Dolphins 47-34 in the final 16 minutes.



CSI neither executed on their fast break nor found success on defense. Too many turnovers also contributed to the final, heartbreaking loss against Drew. "They played a tough game," said Coach Gualtieri.

Even though CSI was fighting back, there were too many bad passes and several turnovers that didn't convert into points.

The Dolphin relied too much on their inside game, which Drew picked apart.

"They played a tough game," said CSI coach Marguerite Gualtieri, and noted that CSI wasn't as confident and aggressive as they might have been. The dominant performance of Jacclyn Rock was what kept CSI in the game, but with 1:06 remaining the Dolphins were still 5 points down.

Since the Dolphins couldn't stop Drew's long shoot, Gualtieri called time out and decided to implement a full-court press.

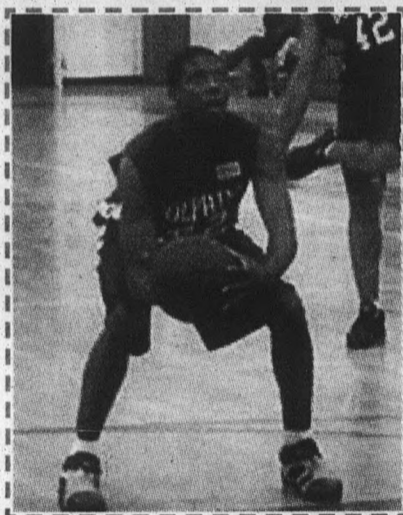
Drew's victory broke CSI's heart. Even though the Dolphins played a great season, featuring triumphs over Manhattanville, and Paterson they couldn't shine into the finals.

## Men's Hoops

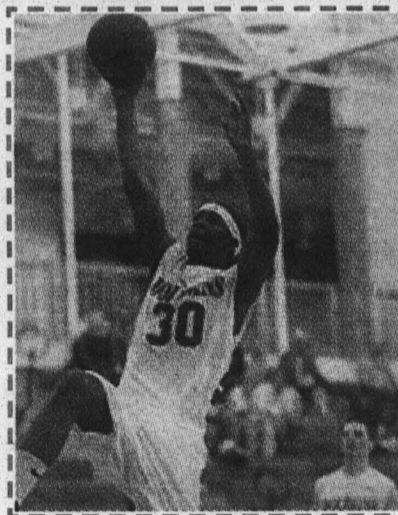
Daniel Leahy

The ECAC Metro NY/NJ Men's Basketball Tournament began on March 3rd with the 4th Seeded Dolphins facing Manhattanville in the 1st round of the tourney. The Dolphin's controlled the game from the very start when Senior Center Neville Lestrade won opening tip-off. The Dolphins were up 13-7 after 4 minutes of play and continued to add to their lead. At half time the score was 45-27 in favor of the Dolphins.

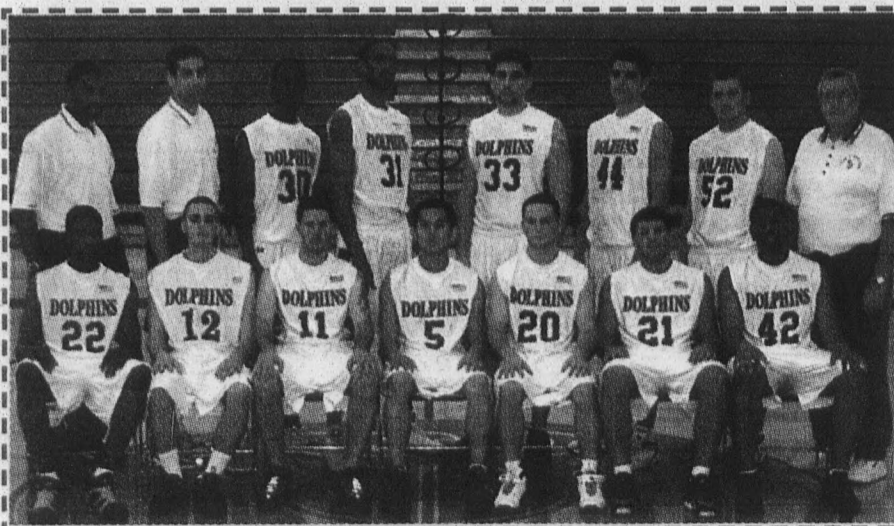
In the 2nd half, the Dolphins dominance continued, with beautiful passes by Junior Guard Michael Stewart to Junior Forward Michael Nebavlakis. The Dolphins were too big and strong for Manhattanville as Lestrade, Nebavlakis and Junior Guard Carlitto Ulett held down the boards. The final score had the Dolphins winning 87-59 Nebavlakis lead all scorers with 30 points. "This win feels really good, it's a great momentum builder for our next game and we want to carry this momentum right into the semi-finals," said Junior Forward Jason Coke who recorded 8 points and a beautiful Slam Dunk during the victory.



Michael Stewart caught fire for CSI, finishing with a game-high 20 points.



Jason Coke looks to dunk on a fast break against Manhattanville.



Top Row (L-R): Assistant Coach Brian Gasper, Head Coach Tony Petosa, Jason Coke, Neville Lestrade, Michael Nebavlakis, Kamal Farraj, Chris Olaskiewicz, Assistant Coach Matty White.  
Bottom Row (L-R): Michael Stewart, Vincent Canesa, Matt Saunders, Antonio Velasco, Eric Zinke, Terry Downing, Carlitto Ulett.

## Tennis

Marcel Sandoungout



CSI's junior Craig Gellerman, front, and graduate student Paul Riccardi get ready to return the ball during a tennis team practice last month, in the dome.

The men's tennis season starts on March 23rd against Rutgers and our boys are training hard, at least two hours a day three times a week, so that they can be ready. Gellerman and his teammates do drills and work on their conditioning. The point is to get acquainted with the ball, especially after a long off-season that started in May 2003, following their triumph at the CUNY tournament.

After practicing, Gellerman looked in good shape. "I feel pretty good," he said while heading to the locker room. This is the kind of spirit that our team needs, and if Gellerman's word speaks for the team, our men are en route for a repeat.