

# THE BANNER

December 12, 2005

## Flea Market for Hurricane Relief

**\$1,755 Raised**

**Kevin S.P. Mamakas**

No one can stop natural disasters from occurring. The response from each governmental level may be controllable, but it is slow. Still, the number of people who want to help the victims recover is always overwhelming.

This year CSI formed a committee to help with Hurricane Katrina relief. The com-



Vendors display their goods at the Hurricane Katrina flea market. More pictures can be found on page 7.

mittee organized, and Student Government sponsored, a Flee Market to help with this project. They charged \$65 to rent each table

*Continued on page 3*

## PANEL ASKS: CAN BUSINESS GROW ON SI?

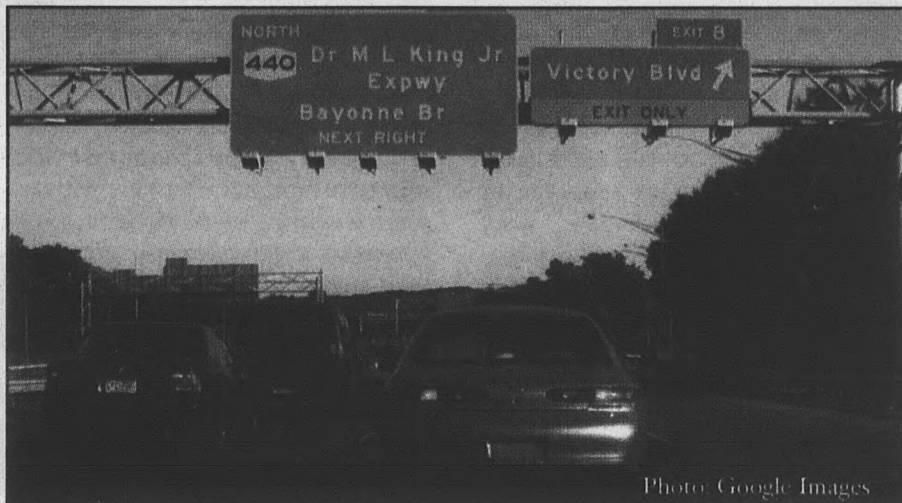


Photo: Google Images

Traffic backs up at the CSI exit on the Staten Islad Expressway. Economic experts cite the traffic problem as a factor that inhibits Staten Island's economic growth.

**Matthew Beck**

December 2, 1P Recital Hall—The recently formed Center for the Study of Staten Island—a local policy think tank housed at CSI—hosted its second annual Staten Island Project conference, entitled "The Staten Island Economy: Past, Present, and Visioning the Future". The conference allows residents and CSI faculty and students to discuss the problems facing Staten Island, and the solutions to them.

"My hope is that this conference will play a positive role in the deliberations of those responsible for planning Staten Island's future," said President Marlene Springer in her welcoming letter. The conference assembled prominent people from the business, government, and not-

for-profit sectors to "address issues vital to the future of Staten Island, and to better prepare the Borough for the challenges ahead." And there are challenges ahead for Staten Island, according to the array of reputable expert speakers lined up.

Many union-friendly residents are opposed to the retail giant Wal-Mart coming in and, in their minds, ousting local mom-and-pop business with more variety and lower prices. Others, such as Jay Anderson, Assistant Director for the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation, say Wal-Mart will boost the local economy by keeping Staten Island money in Staten Island. "The idea of if we say 'no' to Wal-Mart being here doesn't mean they're not going to put up shop

*Continued on page 3*

## President Springer Meets with Secretaries to Discuss Timesheets

**Change Not Welcome**

**Mellissa Secharan**

November 22nd - CSI President Dr. Marlene Springer, along with members of the administration including Carol Jackson, VP of Student Affairs, Angelo Aponte, VP of Finance and Administration, and David Podell, Senior VP for Academic Affairs, held a meeting with CSI's administrative assistants to discuss concerns about the implementation of the Attendance Enterprise system throughout the college.

President Springer thanked those who came and began the meeting with a brief anecdote about her early morning, cross-country travels. Then, in the tense room, Springer made known her stance known on the new timesheets. "I was at the CUNY meeting where the Chancellor said we have to go to the electronic timesheets," she said. "When it brought up I was opposed.

Springer continued to discuss her knowledge of the time keeping change while reminding the staff of her "opposed position", and praising the staff for putting in "hours above and beyond the call of duty."

Reiterating the use of the electronic time sheets as opposed to clocks, groans could be heard.

"We will not be using an electronic lock for you all or [college] assistants. Electronic timesheets will be used," Springer said. "We are so far behind doing this, we can't go to the government with 3x5 cards."

Despite President's Springer's words, many of the secretaries are not happy about the change. "Why are only certain groups doing the timesheets?" said one distraught secretary. "Everyone one is feeling upset because we don't want to tell students 'Sorry it's 5 o'clock, we have to leave.'"

Before explaining how and when the administrative assistants can expect the changes, President Springer made it known that she also fills out a timesheet.

Starting January 15th, all college assistants will be required to use the electronic timesheets. The next group, Gittelsohn members (which includes all college secretaries), will begin electronic timesheets April 3rd, while the last group,

*Continued on page 3*

## A New Christmas Tradition, WSIA Style

**Marissa Gessin**

Every year families across the United States celebrate Christmas. Marked by several days of cramped sleeping arrangements, sharing bathrooms with smelly relatives or having to listen to another one of Grandpa Joe's old stories, the holidays are sometimes bittersweet. As an escape from these relatives one can always secretly retreat to his or her own room and watch some television (quietly of course). It is almost a guarantee one can view March of the Wooden Soldiers, Miracle on 34th Street or A Christmas Story.

This holiday season, an old fashioned device called "the radio" should come out of retirement. WSIA, CSI's own radio station hopes everyone,

whether on the radio or through their computer ([www.wsia.fm](http://www.wsia.fm)), will hear the Christmas program they created. Still untitled, it will air every night of Christmas week at 8PM. An original piece, all aspects of the Christmas program will be thought up by students. From writing the script and acting, to production and editing, WSIA staff is going to do it all. Help from Chief Engineer John Ladley will ensure the piece is made to the best of the student's ability.

"We had like, an extra week to do last year's A Christmas Carol. We took bits from other scripts, and the movie, and stayed true to the story. This year we are working from scratch and can make it as difficult or as easy as we want," said Laura Parnizari, Engineering Director. "Last year we had to build platforms and buy chains

(for authentic sound effects). This time we can minimize how we make the effects and what effects we actually need." Last year A Christmas Carol was worked on up until the last minute, Parnizari also said. She estimates that the final CD burning happened only minutes before the first airing.

The road to a different show for this year has not been a simple one. Headed by Assistant Production Director, Vinnie Medugno and Ladley, the two threw around many different ideas. "The show was going to be political and be a spoof of decisions people in the government make. At the same time, it was going to have jokes, a Christmas feel and various Christmas characters from programs we all watched growing up," said

*Continued on page 3*



### Bush as Successful in Latin America as He's Been at Home

Glenda Marquez

At a time when Bush's approval rating is at an all time low domestically he decided to go to Latin America and give some good old American advice. His five-day trip to Argentina, Brazil, and Panama centered on free trade in the area.

Starting off in Argentina, he was greeted by more than 40,000 protestors who held signs that read "Public Enemy #1." He argued that free trade would help South and Central America and reduce poverty. Bush generated massive protests in Argentina, Brazil, and Panama as well, but clearly wasn't fazed.

Bush warned against those who seek to "roll back the democratic progress of the past two decades by playing to fear, pitting neighbor against neighbor and blaming others for their own failures to provide for their people." Bush was not the only bully however; Brazilian President Lula rebutted saying that the US agricultural subsidies were "unjustified barriers." President Lula firmly

held his ground and was certain Bush heard his opposition to resuming FTAA talks.

FTAA, or the Free Trade Area of the Americas plan—if passed—would eliminate tariffs against American goods and services, which would allow American exports into the region. Many critics, including Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez argue this is an "annexation plan," which ultimately wants to extend American political domination of the region to further its economic power. Bush said the plan for the region would ensure social justice through open markets and called on the Inter-American Development Bank to encourage private investment and support small business. "The private sector is the engine of growth and job creation in the region," he said. Bush then left for Panama City, where he met with President Martin Torrijos.

While in Panama, Bush congratulated the President for Panama's strong economy and acknowledged the 25,000 Americans living in Panama. He strongly argued for the

modernization of the Panama Canal and commented, "Things have changed since the canal was first built and there needs to be a continued appraisal of the canal to make sure that it is—it's used. It's in our nation's interest that this canal be modernized. And so I—we didn't discuss the financing mechanisms, but I'm confident that however the widening is—the modernization is financed, that the government and the—those authorities over the canal recognize that it is to be used by everybody, that the canal is international, that there ought to be equal access."

Although Bush considered his trip to Latin America a success, he couldn't avoid being asked by a reporter about the alleged secret U.S. prisons in Europe and his standing on Cheney's argument over exempting the CIA from legislation to ban torture. Bush replied, "Our country is at war, and our government has the obligation to protect the American people. The executive branch has the obligation to protect the American

people; the legislative branch has the obligation to protect the American people. And we are aggressively doing that. We are finding terrorists and bringing them to justice. We are gathering information about where the terrorists may be hiding. We are trying to disrupt their plots and plans. Anything we do to that effort, to that end, in this effort, any activity we conduct, is within the law. We do not torture."

Bush's visit to Latin America was intended to improve relations with the region which, after 9/11 and the war on terrorism, have been neglected. However, it seems as though Bush came out as the biggest loser. Despite the fact that 24 of the 29 countries represented agreed with Washington to sign an agreement, popular Venezuelan leaders President Chavez and the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay refused to sign, which has put talks to an abrupt end. Since Bush can't even win over his own people over, what more can we expect when he goes abroad?

### Republican Scandal Updates: Trade 'Em

Matt Safford

**Jack Abramoff**

**7** **Investigation Widened, Implicating Other Prominent Republicans**

An investigation into the power of lobbyist Abramoff is important not so much for who he is, but for the staggering amount of scandal in which he is directly involved. Under scrutiny by grand juries in Florida, Washington and New York, he is implicated for allegedly defrauding the federal government of \$23 million while working as a lobbyist for the Indian tribes in the murder of a former business partner in a case involving a former Gambino crime family bookkeeper. He is also implicated in the case of a former Indian tribes attorney who is now a federal prisoner as Carl Rowe may be slandering him now. Tom Delay went on a golf outing with him paid for by his law firm.

For more, Google search: Jack Abramoff

**Bob Taft**

**2** **Still a Convicted Criminal**

The 27th Governor of Ohio, Bob Taft was convicted in 1936 on four counts of grand larceny and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He was released after 18 months to report to the state and pay out of pocket for his legal fees. He was later pardoned by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was later elected to the U.S. Senate and served as the 23rd Vice President of the United States under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

For more, Google search: Bob Taft

**Tom Noe**

**5** **Still Can't Find His Missing Coins, or the Missing \$12 Million**

Once on of the most powerful men in Ohio politics and Bush "pioneer," Noe was indicted in 2001 on charges of racketeering, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. He was accused of taking \$45,000 to President Bush's 2004 re-election campaign. He was later indicted on charges of racketeering, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. He was accused of taking \$45,000 to President Bush's 2004 re-election campaign.

For more, Google search: Tom Noe

**David Safavian**

**9** **Still Fired, Still Under Arrest, Still Under Investigation**

Safavian was fired from his position as a senior advisor to President George W. Bush in 2001. He was later indicted on charges of racketeering, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. He was accused of taking \$45,000 to President Bush's 2004 re-election campaign.

For more, Google search: Safavian, Washington Post

**Duke Cunningham**

**JOKER** **Confessed to Taking 2.4 Million in Bribes, Resigned**

Newspaper and FBI investigations revealed that the congressman had taken \$2.4 million in bribes from defense contractors. He was later indicted on charges of racketeering, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. He was accused of taking \$45,000 to President Bush's 2004 re-election campaign.

For more, Google search: Duke Cunningham, Washington Post

**Bob Ney**

**4** **Along With Delay, Now A Main Focus of Abramoff Investigation**

Another politician with ties to Jack Abramoff, Ney was indicted on charges of racketeering, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. He was accused of taking \$45,000 to President Bush's 2004 re-election campaign.

For more, Google search: Bob Ney, American Prospect

**Bill Frist**

**3** **Analysis: Frist's Voting Pattern Supported His Family's Company**

Justice Department and House Committee have since launched an investigation into whether Frist acted as an insider in his family's company. He was accused of taking \$45,000 to President Bush's 2004 re-election campaign.

For more, Google search: Bill Frist, Insider Trading

**Tom Delay**

**JOKER** **Judge Upheld Money Laundering Charges**

Recently indicted twice on charges of racketeering, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice, Delay was accused of taking \$45,000 to President Bush's 2004 re-election campaign.

For more, Google search: Tom Delay, Indianapolis



# STAFF

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DAVID MALTZ

## MANAGING EDITOR

MELLISSA SEECHARAN

## ART EDITOR

ENRIQUE INOCENTE

## ADP EDITOR

MATTHEW SAFFORD

## STAFF

MATTHEW BECK  
THOMAS BRADLEY  
ANNMARIE COSTELLA  
VANESSA LEIGH DEBELLO  
ANNEMARIE DOOLING  
ANNE DEMARZO  
KEVIN S.P. MAMAKAS  
KHADIJAH RENTAS  
LAUREN TAYLOR

## CONTRIBUTORS

MARISSA GESSIN  
LISA LABRUZZO  
GLENDA MARQUEZ  
JENNIFER MILLER  
ANDREW RAFFERTY  
JOHN RATEL

## FACULTY ADVISOR

FREDERICK KAUFMAN

## CSI-SIP from page 1-

across the river, and it doesn't mean some of our medium disposable income is not going to go over there in on more consistent basis."

According to Anderson, Staten Island would flourish if only a half percent—\$257 million— of what Staten Islanders spend on retail outside of the borough was spent inside. "If \$257 million came back into our economy, obviously that's job growth, and that spurring the economy." He said he'd seen the corporate debate before. "Going back 8 or 10 years ago with Price Club—which is now Costco—we had the same argument," he said. "Yet it's still there today and I think two-thirds of the Island have run into that store."

The transportation problems were another hot topic: Heavily congested roads and bridges, A poor road system, and gaps in bus service. "This is the worst commute in the country," said Jonathan Peters, CSI Assistant Professor of Finance. According to him, 11% of Staten Islanders are what he calls 'super commuters,' having an average commute of 43 minutes by car, 68 by mass transit "That is not a good story," he said.

According to Peters, Staten Islanders generate more than \$400 million in bridge tolls annually. Of these tolls, the MTA and PA rake in \$200 million more than it costs to operate the bridge. A chunk also goes to maintain the entire New York/New Jersey transportation system. Staten Island ends up getting a very small piece of the pie, he says. "To what degree Staten Island has profited from the reasonable reinvestment of revenues

collected on its soil is an interesting question."

Staten Island failed to attract companies displaced by 9/11, most of whom ended up moving to New Jersey and Long Island, according to Anderson. Also, Staten Island has failed to establish its waterfront—a key asset with access to Port Newark—as a major player in attracting overseas importers and exporters, who would flood Staten Island with millions in trade revenue.

Furthermore, many Staten Islanders have not accepted a proposed race track deal with NASCAR whereby a whole retail complex would built, which supporters say would create millions of dollars in jobs. Opponents, like Jonathan Peters, say the traffic caused would only compound the already atrocious transportation dilemma. "NASCAR is the straw that breaks the camel's back," he said.

## Christmas Carol from page 1-

Medugno. "Seeing as the College is diverse, it was going to also have other religions and their traditions mixed in, to show that diversity." Medugno and Ladley had good ideas, but only a bunch of ideas and no real story. After several meeting of failed progress, Parnizari was called in.

On the morning of November 15th, with only about six weeks before Christmas, Medugno, Ladley and Parnizari held their first meeting together. Almost immediately the trio agreed they wanted to do too much in too little time. "We unanimously decided to scrap the old idea," said Ladley. "After looking at the material we generated we all felt the story wasn't going anywhere." Ten minutes after deciding the old idea wouldn't work, a new one that could work was decided. "I brought up the Italian Christmas Witch. I knew about it from school and my mom knew the story," said Parnizari. "Vinnie looked at me wide-eyed, he couldn't believe that I knew the story. John was really the only one who didn't know."

The group contemplated how they could tell the story of the Christmas Witch, or "La Bafana." Although nothing is finalized yet, it seems the group will create an original story around the witch, and sprinkle her history throughout. "It's a holiday tradition that has not been commercialized, that's the biggest thing for us," said Ladley. "It is something that hasn't been dragged through pop culture."

With only a few weeks left before Christmas, many things surrounding WSIA's Christmas program remain up in the air. They still need to write a script, work out sound effects, and record parts; only after that will the editing and then re-recording begin. WSIA has a great task at hand, and expects to produce a piece not only original, but entertaining and memorable as well.

## Time Sheets for Secretaries from page 1-

Higher Education Officials, will begin in June. According to Springer, supervisors will be trained to handle the new timesheets. "I thought we would have to go through drastic change," Springer said trying to ease concerns of possible pay deductions for being a few minutes late and not being able to work after 5 p.m. "This is not a radical change of the system."

Taking questions from the audience, Jackson, Aponte, and Podell joined Springer to answer the secretaries. "Is this the same as what we're doing now?" asked one woman.

Angelo Aponte, explained that with the new, "Attendance Enterprise" system, the paper copies would be taken and automatically entered. "This system began on a minimal basis two to three years ago," he stated. "It is exclusive to you and only you." Springer followed Aponte and voiced the need for CSI technology to move forward. "We have to join the 21st century and paper won't do," she said.

Aponte attempted to reassure the crowd that their union rules would still be used correctly when inputting the information. "The timekeeping system has several rules and regulations," he said. "When you log in, your rules will accordingly calculate the hours worked."

The situation became heated over suspicions that the system could double as a monitoring device. Patrice Barnett, Director of Human Resources and Gittelsohn representative, stepped in to clarify what changes were actually taking place.

"You will do it every two weeks," she explained. "Sometime in the pay period, you'll log on and type in your information. Attendance Enterprise is an electronic system so it'll give you direction as to where to put in the 9-5 info."

Springer added that there will be no clocking in by the minute, but filling out forms on a monthly basis would not be an option. However, it was made clear that supervisors will be responsible for the infor-

mation on the timesheets. "I do that in my own office," Springer stated. "If you do it two weeks, you better make sure it's right."

As questions and angst among the crowd grew, Springer made her opposition to the new timesheet system known again.

"I don't control personnel policy in CUNY," she said. "It would be different if I did."

"Look at the TAP audit," she continued. "We weren't in compliance and we had no idea. We'll try to be as clear as possible but we can't be on paper anymore."

## Flea Market from page 1-

during the event. Staff, faculty, and community members rented 27 tables, bringing in \$1,755.

Student Government Coordinator Ellen Krieger is the main organizer for the event. It took time to "get the reservations from the vendors, advertise for the event, and set everything up, but it is worth the benefit," she said while multi tasking between student government duties and the event.

The vendors' tables include Home Made Jewelry stands, "real" jewelry stands, perfume stands, scented candle stands, sunglasses, stocking stuffers, knick knacks, pocketbooks, knitted items, and Prince Umberto's sauce.

Krieger is also one of the committee members concerned with the Animal Victims of Katrina. The Flea Market was the ideal time to collect money to support these victims. She set up a "50/50 Raffle that will put at least \$500 to relieve the animals." The drawing for the 50/50 will occur before the winter break.

Last semester CSI had a "White Elephant" Flea Market to get money to help the victims of the Tsunami. "There is an incredible out pouring of help," said Krieger. "We may try to do this every year if it's successful." If necessary, the money will be donated to different relief funds. The world is not short of disasters, so events like this

Continued on page 9



# When Fear Knocks: Examining Some New Parent Concerns

Vanessa Leigh DeBello

**A**lthough pregnancy is an exciting time of expectation and new discoveries, it can also be filled with uncertainty and fear of the unknown. Fear can range from the common concerns of new parents to irrational fears that debilitate.

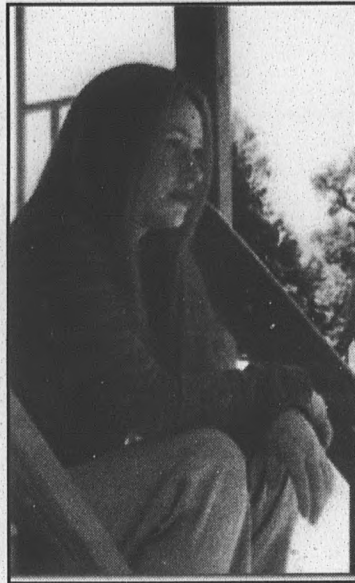
It is not uncommon for expecting moms and dads to have concerns about the health of their unborn child. "Every time I went for a prenatal visit, I had a new fear to discuss with my doctor," said Jenny Parquet, mother of two. "I found myself worrying about diseases that I never even heard of before."

"Every time I read a new article in one of those parenting magazines, I found myself worrying about something I had never considered before," said Eileen Park, another first time mom. "It was getting ridiculous. Every time I had come to terms with one fear, I developed another."

Often it is reassuring to discuss concerns with a health care provider or

understanding friend or relative. "At one visit, my doctor took my face in his hands, and said 'Honey, you got to stop worrying,'" said Parquet. "Well that did it for me. Hearing someone tell me I have nothing to worry about helped me to relax a little bit." Others may also find it helpful not to read too much literature on pregnancy and developmental illnesses, as it may create new sources of worry.

Another common concern of both men and women is whether or not they will be good parents. "It's easy in retrospect to see where your own parents made mistakes," said Elizabeth Wilson. "But you worry that you will end up making those same mistakes anyway." Although this may



Pregnancy can be scary for the new parent.

be true, a sincere conscientious effort and good communication between parents will aid in the change of ingrained habits. New parent discussion groups off and online can be a valuable resource for advice and support for those going through a similar experience. "Since I've never been around babies, I didn't know what to expect," said Albert Doughty, a first time dad. "But I found several websites especially for dads which addressed many of the same concerns I had. It was reassuring to read sites created by fathers. I didn't feel alone."

Especially for women, there may be the fear of not finishing school because of the added responsibility of caring for a young child. However, on campus, there are many examples of

women of all ages who are successfully balancing family life with school and some also with jobs. "The key is knowing yourself and what you can handle," said Sakina O'Uhuru, certified midwife and mother of one. "At the time I was pregnant, I was completing my midwifery courses but it was becoming too much. I knew my health and the baby's had to come first. Although, I lost my tuition money, it didn't matter. I returned to school a few years later when my son was a little older and didn't need me as much."

If completing your current courses is looking questionable, talk to your professors as soon as possible and explain your situation. It may be possible to take an incomplete and arrange a schedule that accommodates your needs. Whatever you decide, make sure it is something you can live with.

Some fears come and go. Others are gone after a certain event or time period has passed. The important thing is how you deal with it. "The best thing you can do is face it," said Doughty. "Then walk right through it."

## CSI Students Speak Out

Andrew Rafferty

**A**s winter approaches again, so will the snow. Of course CSI will be prepared in battling the pesky white elements. The building and grounds staff will pave the streets and shovel the cement. We as students can all appreciate this hard work and dedication to our school.

There is one place where students can only cringe as they pass these elements to get to class. This place is no other than the woods that divide the 1P building and the gravel parking lot. There is no other place where students must walk through mud and thick wet snow to make their way to their car. If you've been there before you'll see asphalt paved grounds but these walkways will lead students through a maze that never even reaches the parking lot. One can only speculate that the walkways were placed for the tenant of this previous campus. Windward strolls might have been what the doctor suggested for his patients many years ago but for students now we would appreciate one little 2 foot walkway that goes directly from the parking lot to the fountains that separates the north of the campus to the south on the campus. The rocks that are in place instead of the asphalt gets the job done during normal conditions but that's as far as it goes.

Students dislike the fact that their expensive hard earned shoes are ruined because of some mud and snow. Then these same students who just walked through this juggernaut of a walkway

then transfer the sloppy, filthy humus to their expensive cars.

I am not saying that this is most important issue but I'm sure more students wouldn't mind parking on the gravel knowing that the walk to the classroom will be a quite and clean one. While on the topic, some better lighting would go a long way, especially since students can't see the ground that they're walking on at night. At least some light would give students confidence to proceed through the woods and enjoy the white wooden parches that highlight the center of the woods. (Maybe not)

I don't know what it takes to get this done but maybe some of the students government could take part of their stipends (annual income for being in office) and use the money to make a nice paved walkway. An easier way would be to take some money from the huge budget they get and use it to make three feet wide walkway that would proceed through the woods. The students of 1P would appreciate the gesture so that they don't once again have to tiptoe across woods only to find that as they lost the hard earned battle of not getting unwanted debris on their shoes and jeans. It's easy to say walk around the woods and the problem will be fixed and I say to all those people: Do you want fifty more cars waiting in line to find that prime parking spot that you have because you'll then be the one complaining about something? How is their not enough parking and how are there just too many cars with parking passes?

*The Loop Bus and The Center For the Arts Continue to be on the Minds of CSI Students. The Articles here and on page 8 continue the discussion. These articles express the opinions of CSI Students, not the Banner*

Marissa Gessin

**O**f all the events happening at The Center For Performing Arts, I can't wait to see Bobby Vinton! When I was younger my mom and dad took me to see him at his own theater in Branson, Missouri. It was the time of my life, and I absolutely cannot wait to see him again! As a white twenty one year old female, the amount of shows at CFA that appeal to me is fantastic! Lame. Totally Lame.

Back in the August 29th issue of The Banner, AnneMarie Costella wrote a controversial article about the Center for the Arts. In her piece she speaks with Lisa Reiley, the Artistic Director at the CFA, and also goes into detail about how acts are picked and why. To quote the article, Costella writes, "Reiley feels that the CFA performances appeal to a general audience that includes both students and the Staten Island Community." This article prompted the powers that be to form a committee that would bring an act to the CFA more fitting to what Costella suggested.

I was personally asked to be on this committee, and had to miss the first meeting. At meeting two some of my questions were answered, however new angles rose. The CFA is more than happy to have a band more appealing to the 18-24 age bracket, however as studies and statistics show, this type of programming is not much of a money maker, so they want the PDC to help, in case there is a total loss. Also, they want the event to be something special for the

campus community. Ideally, the CSI students will sell out the house, making it not so much for the Staten Island community.

At first, this seemed like a logical thing to me, that the CFA didn't want to take a business risk, so they wanted some help to test the waters. However after much thought it occurred to me, why does an event like The Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats, or Lavay Smith and her Red Hot Skillet Lickers seem to the CFA that it wouldn't be a risk, but a show that the students have voiced that they want to have, whether it is a huge turnout or a small percentage, seem like its going to put them to bankruptcy? Even if CSI students are a small percentage to this event, why are others from the community welcomed to events like Bobby Vinton, but not to a concert with a popular (in 2005/2006) act?

Costella closes her story with another quote from Reiley, "When the question is: 'Do you go to the center for the arts?' and they say: 'No I don't.' It doesn't necessarily prove that the Center for the Arts is not serving that population," said Lisa. "It may be that that's a population that does not wish to be served." Because the students that are younger do not wish to see acrobats, "hot lickers", or artists that our parents are fans of, does not mean we do not want to be served, it means that you are trying harder to reach the Staten Island Community, not the community on campus that has voiced its opinion and told you what it wants.



# Letters To The Editor

## Re: SG Meets Loop Bus Services To 'Rattle Trees', 'Fix Problems.'

I take the Loop Bus frequently and it's always a problem. It would make sense for them to schedule the buses so that they comply with the city buses on Victory Boulevard. Also if they could comply with class times, that would be great too. This is a big issue in the Winter and Summer; it could be unbearable waiting for the loop bus, let alone a city bus.

-Andrew Calise

## From the Editor

The end of a long semester is here. Finals are upon us and winter has arrived nearly two weeks early.

On a positive note, The Banner finally received some long promised and desperately needed new computers and upgraded software. We hope that starting next semester we'll be able to create a more visually pleasing Banner for all of you to see.

In the meantime, everyone should be preparing for finals. As a result, this will be the last issue of The Banner for this semester and for 2005.

This past semester and the past year have brought about many changes at The Banner. The ADP Page was totally redesigned, along with the Freshman Diaries and the Sex Column. Thank you Enrique Inocente.

Many of The Banner staffers will be graduating in June, which means we need new people to fill the void. Anyone who is interested should come by the office on Thursdays starting on the first day of classes. We've got free pizza, as many of you already know (and have eaten).

2005 was a rollercoaster. We saw terrorist bombings in London, a record-breaking Hurricane season, including the virtual destruction of New Orleans, Southern Mississippi, and other Gulf Coast towns by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the one year anniversary of the devastating tsunami in the Western Pacific only reminds us to celebrate life to the fullest extent. Now as we say goodbye to 2005, we prepare for whatever challenges and joy 2006 may bring.

So as the year draws to a close, The Banner wishes everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanza, Happy New Year, and any other holiday I may have left out.

As for me, I'll be spending the holidays losing an absurd amount of money in Atlantic City.

We look forward to seeing all of you next year!

-David Maltz

## Re: President Springer Responds To Banner Article

It is refreshing to know that Marlene Springer actually takes time to read The Banner and participate in it by sending a letter to the editor. Although it was defensive, the editor handled the matter in a very professional way. Dr. Springer needs to brush up on her journalistic skills.

-Stephanie Palmieri, Senior

President Springer's response is quite surprising. Until now I did not know the effect The Banner has on the administration here. Clearly, the feelings and comments of writer are taken into big consideration if a simple misrepresentation of Springer's words shakes her up enough to write a three-paragraph response.

-Ryan Dandrea, Junior

## Re: US Using Chemical Weapons in Iraq?

Matt Safford's piece on the effects of white phosphorus and its use as a defense mechanism was very informative. The Italian documentary told about a new type of napalm called Mark 77, which is supposed to be less harmful. But the writer's opinion makes it evident that this improved product is just as bad as the original. He implies that our ideals as Americans are nonsense, and that if we open our eyes, we would see the true America for what it is.

-Mary Foote, Senior

Here in the United States, we usually only learn about the things that the people in power want us to know. I haven't heard anything about white phosphorus or the new napalm from any of the media outlets. They haven't been reporting its effects on the Iraqi people and American soldiers. I'm reminded of Agent Orange, a powerful chemical that the United States used in Vietnam to destroy vegetation. The repercussions were cancer, dead fetuses, deformed newborns, and other horrifying consequences that not only affected the Vietnamese, but also American soldiers. The United States is a wonderful country. It is sad to see how the government is committing the terrifying actions that they are supposedly trying to fight against.

-Ron Aguilera

I found that the article accurately described the current situation of America's relationship to Iraq. America spends a lot of time pointing fingers at others and boasting about itself as "the most powerful country in the world." The article clarifies that power does not indicate America's right to utilize it in an illegal, inhumane fashion. In school, we learn about the Holocaust and what a huge threat to humanity that period posed. Hitler participated in the genocide of countless innocent Jews. It happened again in Bosnia in the early 1990's when countless

Muslims were killed during the Serbian War. We put Saddam Hussein down for doing the same. Yet America in this war has proved to be another perpetrator of such genocide. Why are millions of people in Iraq being killed and tortured for no reason? We know of Hitler and Hussein, but somehow we fail to realize what our own leader is doing. Thank you to the writer of the article for so astutely pointing this out.

-Rabiya Shareef

## Re: An Historic Field Trip

Matthew Beck's article informs students about "the biggest event in US-China relations in 100 years." But most students have not heard or know much about it. The trip impacted students, and half of the CSI community would not have been aware of that before Beck's article. CSI has organized events to get students more involved with Chinese culture because it is becoming a big part of American universities."

-Dianna Vassallo, Junior

Until I learned that my best friend is currently taking CSI's first Mandarin class, I did not even believe that something like it existed. It just goes to show how fast CSI is continuing to grow as a school. As the years go by, CSI is changing for the better. It's evolving into a school that should be recognized for its excellence. Mr. Beck wrote the article very well. He covered every aspect of the trip. It's good to see Banner reporters get some hands-on experience.

-Scott Zeller, Senior

## Re: Outfoxed Director Takes On Wal-Mart In New Film

Innocent people are dying in Iraq. There is no cure for cancer. People all over the world are starving. And yet a huge company like Wal-Mart pays millions of dollars to defend itself against a low budget propaganda film. Don't these arrogant assholes realize that just by doing so they make themselves look even worse? Soon people will not only be speaking about the film, but about how much Wal-Mart spent to prove it's not true. And this, my rich friends at Wal-Mart, will just make people think that it's true.

-Frank Combrow, Senior

It only a matter of time before someone made an independent film about Wal-Mart. I guess it's kind of ironic that the only theater on Staten Island that plays independent films has recently closed down. Perhaps that's where they'll build the new Wal-Mart. I hope I can see the bright blue neon sign from my window, just like you can see the anti Wal-Mart billboards from the Ferry.

-John Ratel, Junior

I am glad Seamus Dolan wrote about Wal-Mart because now I am interested in seeing the film. My girlfriend loves all those stores

like Target and Wal-Mart and I'd love to show her this film so she can what really goes on in those retail stores.

-Chris Bono, Senior

## Re: Letters To The Editor Re: Money For Stipends Increase Approved

Whether or not Anne DeMarzo's fact were wrong or not, the issue is that Student Government gets stipends. No other groups that put in time and effort get them. All groups serve the campus community because they want to. Money is not an incentive for them, nor do they protest for money. SG does not need stipends. There is no excuse. They look like jerks. I feel that Anne did a great job reporting and there is no need to accuse her of otherwise.

-Marissa Gessin, Junior

## Re: CUNYAC 'Curse' Continues For Men's Soccer

The Men's soccer team had a great season. It's nice to see an article showcasing the final game. Although they lost, they played hard and should be recognized. Scoring two and coming from behind to tie the game is not an easy feat, especially after playing much of the second half down a player.

-Jennifer Miller, Junior

## Re: CSI Introduces Winter Session

I was very surprised learn about January classes. After dropping a class this semester, I asked a Counselor at the Registrar if it would be possible to take the class in the winter intersession. She told me that there wouldn't be any classes because CSI doesn't have winter session courses. It's amazing how this woman failed to give me this important upcoming information and I would have still been left in the dark if not for The Banner. Now it might be too late to register for the class I need.

-Carinne Fassari, Junior

Registering during Winter break is a great idea. It gives students the same opportunities that the summer sessions give. Being able to take a class during Winter break could help students pursue their degrees faster. Annemarie Costella does a good job at reporting news about a topic that most students here at CSI don't even know exists.

-Mario Cardaci

## Re: CSI Sneaker Pimps On The Internet

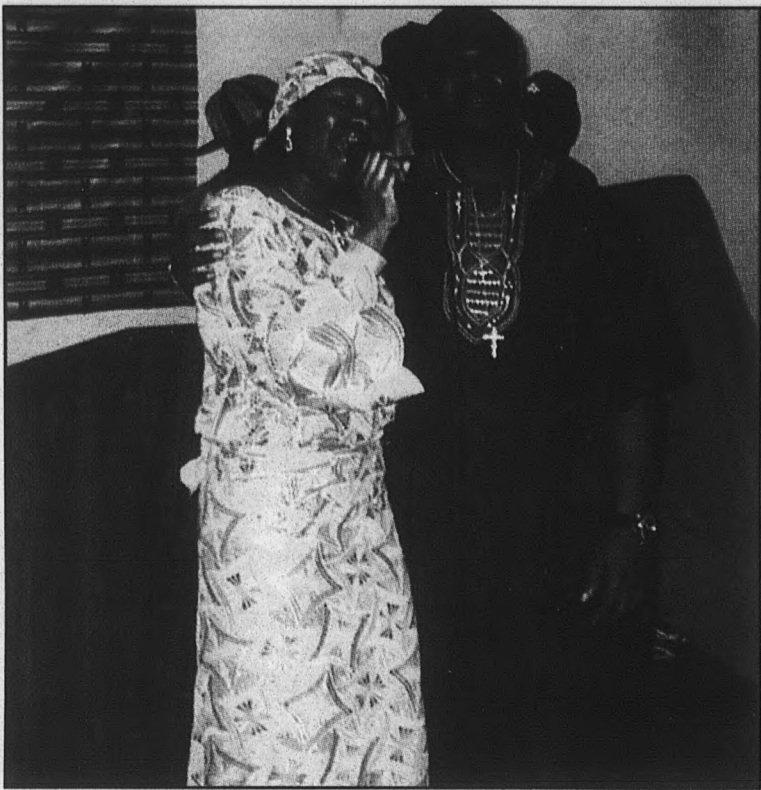
I enjoyed Thomas Bradley's interview with Paul Brudoley and Sash Boriskinare on their website which sells exclusive pimped-out kicks. I wish them luck. There is a lot of competition selling the hard-to-get sneakers. I know I'm definitely getting my pair of Bape's from their website know that the Banner informed about it.

-Levon Martinez, Senior



# Nigerian Village Night

Photos: Anne DeMarzo



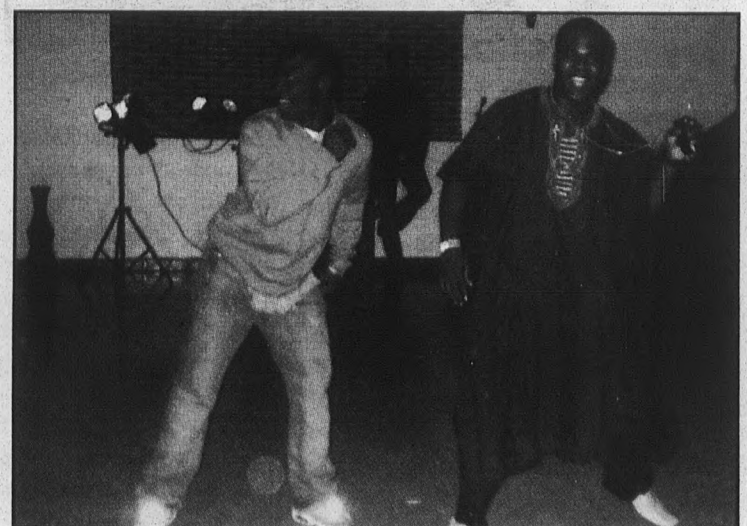
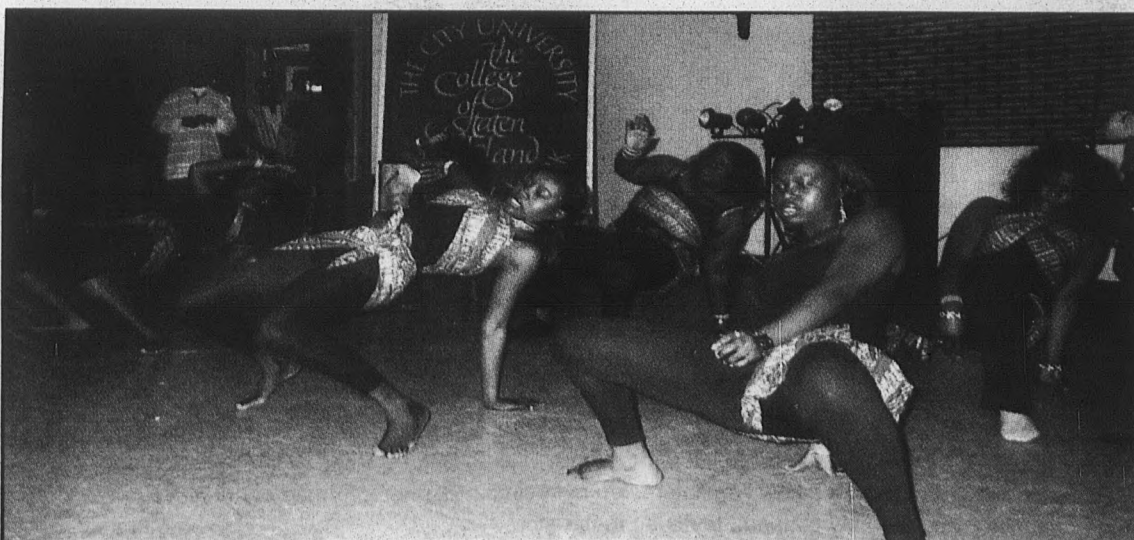
Dance Club member Amilia Molina (right) performed a number for the crowd.



Omolara Obisanya (left) sang the Nigerian national anthem to the delight of many.



Tums Shykht, Onome Edemu, Taiwo Olasupo (SG President), Chukwunonso Gibemudu, Robert Duru (President of Nigerian Club)





# Hurricane Katrina Flea Market

Photos: Kevin S.P. Mamakas



*Students, staff, and the rest of the Staten Island community helped support CSI's mission to provide relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The flea market offered jewelry, knitted items, assorted baskets, purses, perfume, Scented candles, sauce from Prince Umberto's, knick knacks, toys, and sun glasses. There was also a table that supported the Animal Victims of Katrina.*



Assorted holiday baskets were available for the low, low (literally) price of \$95. Other baskets could be bought for a steep \$500.



Former Banner Comics Editor, Chris Sorrentino, and member of the sketch comedy group, A Dan Amonst Dans, promotes their knee slapping DVD. Pick one or...ten up for the holidays!



Jewelry stands were a popular spot for customers, whether handmade or "real".

A 50/50 Raffle will benefit animals displaced and injured during Hurricane Katrina. At least \$500 is expected to be donated.





# CSI Students Speak Out

Lisa LaBruzzo

All in favor of contracting a communicable disease while sitting on a toilet seat please stand. It has come to the attention of many CSI students that the conditions of our bathrooms are, well, not up to par. On any given day, one can travel into one of the hundred or so bathrooms on campus and be taken aback by certain "presents" left in the stalls by our fellow students, as well as over

*With such a huge emphasis on health these days, you would think that there would be someone in there 24/7 keeping the bathrooms clean.*

flowing garbage cans and broken sink faucets. Don't get me wrong, the cleaning staff does a good job at keeping the place spic and span, well, spic at least.

CSI is a huge university, so it's understandable that the cleaning staff might miss a few things every once and a while. But when every once in a while becomes everyday...then we have a problem. "They need to get toilet seat covers," says Lena Alwari, sophomore, "and they need to get better sinks, like automatic ones, because there are mad germs on the knobs. Plus I don't know how many

times I go in there and there isn't any soap, it's gross." With such a huge emphasis on health these days, you would think that there would be someone in there 24/7 keeping the bathrooms clean.

On one day in particular, I found that in a certain bathroom, two of the three soap dispensers did not have soap, there were no towels in the towel dispenser, not to mention the amount of toilet paper on the floor and the complete lack of consideration people have for others (i.e. - not flushing the toilet when your finished doing your business). It was later on in the day, which meant that the bathroom had been sufficiently used by this time. But shouldn't this mean that the people in charge of cleaning should come and freshen it up?

For those of you who think that maybe it's just the ladies room, here's something to consider: "When I first came here, I thought the janitors were on strike," says Vinny Ferrara, sophomore. Of course, we can't put all the blame on the cleaning staff, there are things we can do to make the bathroom environment at CSI better. For example, there are garbage cans in the bathroom for a reason - use them. This also goes for toilet flushers and hand towels, but for those of you who want that extra seal of protection, a little Cucumber Melon scented hand sanitizer from Bath and Body Works never hurt anyone.

Anne Demarzo

I like to think of CSI as the mountain with the old sage seated at the top.

Each day I show up and begin my climb by finding a parking space. There is little doubt I'll have to walk a great distance to reach my classroom, so I continue on, trudging past scores of exposed brimful bellies belonging to incessantly cellphone-chatting girls, cursing into their shiny bivalve, at their mothers, or boyfriends. When I approach the door of my destination building, I give my backpack a little hoist and march past the large bicepted males, uniformly clad, standing in clusters like centurions on coffee break. I charge through the billows of secondhand smoke and I'm nearly there. Entering the classroom, I shuffle through the candy wrappers and half-empty plastic bottles that litter the floor, looking for a place to sit. The desk with the pool of coffee filling the

*But who and why students come here has nothing to do with what a person can take away.*

contoured seat is definitely out. The ventilation system, which I am unsure if it is supposed to be heating or cooling the room, is blowing loudly - I avoid that area. The back wall looks cozy, too cozy, with the desks jammed so tightly I would have to saw off an elbow, not to impose on my colleague's class notes. Having arrived early, I take the opportunity to move a few things and claim just the right space.

More than 12,000 students attend CSI, each with their own reason for choosing it.

For some, it's the 80% less cost than other Island colleges. For others it's a convenient location. Prepared for the college level work or not, many come because the job market demands it. And then there's the significant group that it suits because of family obligations. But who and why students come here has nothing to do with what a person can take away. CSI has 15% more full time professors than either of the other Island colleges. We have an accredited computer science program that has been rated equal to that of West Point's. Our Business and Nursing programs are highly regarded and along with our enriching international population, we have virtual classrooms that can place you in Turkey, China, or Africa. You can compound your experience by participating in any of the worthwhile programs like drama, or WSIA (a state of the art radio station to be envied by small broadcasting companies). You can gain valuable life experience by getting involved in the community through SG or NYPIRG. And if you want all around exposure, join the college newspaper.

No matter what the ascending path up the mountain looks like, I've come to learn that the old sage has been there for me every day. I came without fail, asked questions and went home to ponder. I've come to love the old man and will find it sad to leave. For sure, there will be other mountains, but not as safe. By far, my experience at CSI has been fruitful so I say, the only idiots here are the ones who carp without doing their part to make it better. After all, CSI will be the name in the largest print on your degree.

GENRE

TELL'S

B

R

O



GENRE-TELL



# President Springer Vists Student Government

Anne Demarzo

In response to an invitation, President Marlene Springer attended the November 17th SG meeting for an informal chat with student representatives, including three newly inducted senators. For more than an hour, President Springer reported on the state of CSI, answered questions and encouraged members to offer suggestions.

In an unassuming entrance, President Springer, accompanied by Carol Jackson, VP for Student Affairs, promptly requested the senators be seated. Dr. Springer began the meeting by establishing a point of reference with a few facts: the college has over 12,000 students; it is Staten Island's second largest employer with 1200 employees; there are plans for a new Facilities Master Plan (the last one was twenty years ago), that will look at the college's projected needs for five years ahead, and a Strategic Plan is also expected, which is intended to attract and retain better prepared students, as well as strengthen athletic programs.

"We are moving ahead to get the residence halls a done deal," said Dr. Springer, which would entail getting approval from the State budget, central university and obtaining the land

from the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD). It is envisioned that CSI would become a residential campus for 600 – 900 residents, depending on the sale of bonds,

Dr. Springer made clear the facts of life: As college president for 11 years, "I have always turned in a balanced budget," said Springer. "This is the first year I am concerned." A three percent budget cut from a \$55 – 60 million budget is considerable. We are \$1.2 million in debt, halfway through the year. To avoid layoffs, we must look at every account to fill the gap, including the Research Foundation, Auxiliary Services, Recreation Center and the Center for International Service. "I asked for \$64,000.00 from the Student Association because they have a reserve," Springer said. "The money will be used for students and I know it will be replenished next year." Any benefit from a tuition hike won't be seen until next year and Central Administration takes what they need first. Although students pay \$4,000.00 annually in tuition, it is only a part of the \$10,000.00 cost per student, \$40,000.00 per graduate student. "I say all this to give some sense of how complex and how big CSI is," Springer explained.

Another concern is enrollment,

she told the group. It has leveled for the first time in six years. Our goal is to get enrollment up without cutting standards. The 100 triple remedial students we lost are now able to attend the Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center, at no cost. After getting their grades up, they can come to CSI and better use their financial aid for college credit courses.

"What percentage of the drop in enrollment is international students?" asked Senator Arishna (AJ) Ramphal.

"A visa is difficult, to come to the US, post 9/11," Springer noted. "Australia is making a push to pick up that slack. We are going to Bangalore, India in January to recruit students."

Shawn Fisher, who was elected to fill the senate upper-seat vacancy, just moments before President Springer arrived for the meeting, wasted no time in demonstrating his familiarity with issues concerning his constituency. "Does CSI support the Light Rail?" He asked, suggesting the proposed rail line from Bayonne to Staten Island has the potential to add to enrollment. Dr. Springer responded affirmatively and added that administration has also worked with the MTA for the Brooklyn bus and with Staten Island Borough President, James Molinaro, to begin a study on the Island's traffic, hoping to solve problems in getting students to

the college.

As in the past, Senator Robert Duru asked how CSI is developing strong alumni by placing students in promising employment positions.

"The Development Office is not only seeking donations from firms, but intern positions as well," Springer responded. "That's a program we would like to expand."

Senator (AJ) Ramphal, who stated earlier in the semester that he will donate his entire stipend to create an award to recognize other student volunteers, asked Dr. Springer how she felt about stipends. "I'm not in favor of them," she responded. "SG should be an honor." I could line item them out of the budget, but stipends are in the culture of CUNY, so I haven't done that.

"We have the best faculty and a beautiful campus," Senator Fisher declared. "We don't get the respect we deserve." He suggested that perhaps CSI changing its name, might rid itself of its poor reputation. Springer announced that a marketing director has been hired to transform that image. The college website will be upgraded and our logo may be changed.

"We are respected by other institutions," she assured the group. "...But not Staten Island."

## What to Do Over Winter Break

Andrew Rafferty

As another semester ends at the College of Staten Island students will have a chance to focus on other things than school. In this Month off, students will attend Parties or bars. Students may catch up with old friends or hang out with new ones. That is quite fine but this winter break, go away!

Going away in the winter time is far less trendy than its spring counterpart yet the idea of getting away from blistering cold and countless snow storms sounds pretty good to anybody. So why do people stay home? Maybe it's because as students we spent all of our money for the holidays? Joe Fago a student at the College said, "Money is tight after the holidays, I spent so much money on my family that I could even fathom going away now." Unlike recent graduate Chris Kotula who went away last winter break. "I went to Las Vegas and it was incredible and the nightlife was awesome."

Students should consider getting away now instead of the springtime. Why? A good reason could be the possibility of getting arrested in a foreign country like Mexico. Even better the possibility of hitching up with a god or goddess who happens to also have a S.T.D. Of course there's the mecca of embarrassment getting

caught on some video recorder doing something real stupid for a tee shirt or beads. A.k.a. Mardi Gras or Girls

### *A New Trend for Winter Break is Hitting the Plastic Surgery Table*

gone wild (That goes for males and females alike)

It's always important to go away to spring break at least once with your friends but after that its time to grow up a little. That's why Winter Recess could be the ticket to make a new tradition with your friends or even with that special someone.

Going to a log cabin, snowboarding and skiing are one of the many things you can do on winter break. The prices couldn't be too bad for a weekend get away. If you want to get extreme a road trip across America could also be another option. Don't limit the things to do during the winter break whether they big or small. The prices are also cheaper in hotter places because it's the off-season for many vacation spots in fact you could probably go to expedia.com or price-line.com and find a bargain. For winter spots expect to pay a little more obviously because it's in demand.

Also a new trend for winter recess is hitting the plastic surgery table. In this age of looking sexy there is no better time to spend hard earned money on your appearance than during winter recess. All different types of procedures are being done during this lay off. In a press release from Dr. Stephen T. Greenberg's Premier Center for Plastic Surgery he says "that his office is booked up with high school, college and graduate students for the holidays." This may be the new thing to do for winter break getting ready to look hot for spring break. So when you get on that fifteen minutes of drunken fame on that special video least you can say you earned it. On a serious note winter recess gives these procedures the much needed recovery time to heal the body and without the chance of other students realizing.

As the semester comes to an end here's a couple of endeavors that a college student can achieve. Once college is over the time to do these adventures and exciting activities become a lot harder to obtain. For this upcoming winter recess make it industrious instead of lying in bed till three in the afternoon or watching countless amounts of Family Guy. Whatever you do enjoy your winter break.

### *Flea Market from page 3*

will always be necessary.

Unfortunately, not all the tables did a lot of business. CSI faculty member Carol Perota's family vendor table that had assorted handmade knitted items only sold two items. "It was good. If more people from the community would have come it would have been better," she said. Despite her poor sale numbers Perota's family still found the good in the whole situation. "We had a nice time. We spent time with mom."

Chris Sorrentino, who was advertising his sketch comedy DVD, felt the effects of the weather and event timing. "We have done better at comic book conventions." It should be mentioned that the characters in the DVD are all alumni from CSI.

Sorrentino's vendor neighbor Tom Cerulli, who was selling various items, stated "It is a good event but the timing was off. We had a good rush of people until about 2:30." The event was from 12 – 6 pm. "It should have ended at 4:30 and started earlier," Cerulli stated.

Even though some vendors wanted more community members involved, they were happy to be a part of the event.

"It was pretty cool. There were a lot of selections," graduate student Annie Varghese said while showing off her new necklace. "They had stuff from baby sweaters to fake designer bags."

President Springer and Vice President Jackson even made a trip to the tables before rushing to meetings. The success will more than likely encourage the college to continue its support for the events that benefit relief efforts around the world.



# Lauren Taylor's Freshman Diaries...

On November 24th, my family and I celebrated Thanksgiving at my Aunt Mary's and my Uncle Larry's home in Oakwood. The short ride from South Beach, where I live, gave me that middle-of-December chill. The sky was so clear; you thought the visible, massive clouds were gathering as if they were going to explode with snow. Meanwhile, the day before was warm enough to wear a hoodie and gloves. But here I am, with the warmth of my family removing the chill, at the traditional gathering place, (many years), for turkey and all the trimmings.

At every Holiday gathering, everyone is assigned a dish to prepare, which I realized when everyone walked in with a pot or Pyrex dish of food that had to be re-heated. All family members bring a side dish or a dessert to help out Aunt Mary and Uncle Larry. It is a heavy load to cook for all 36 people in my extended family but on this day, half the family was celebrating with their in-laws to insure their presence with us on Christmas Day. There were "only" 18 at the dining room

table. As Uncle Larry carves the turkey in the kitchen, we satisfy ourselves by picking at it. Believe you me we were not at all satisfied by the time my Uncle Larry finished carving that 20 pound turkey. The taste was a tease, and when Aunt Mary and Uncle Larry said, "let's eat," the family, including myself, could not put the food on platters or in bowls fast enough and place them on the table.

We all sat down at the beautiful table. Each year, Aunt Mary uses her creativity to come up with different ways of putting our names at the respective place setting. This year she used a variety of snowmen ornaments and put our names on little tags that hung from its neck. When we first saw the table, we all knew where my mother was sitting. She loves Halloween and on her chair, Aunt Mary and Uncle Larry placed a life-sized paper skeleton and on her plate was this huge spider with web included. It was funny watching my mothers' reaction to her Halloween surprise. Instead of one person saying Grace, Aunt Mary, again using her ingenuity, came up with the idea to

place votive candles on a plate, one for each person. We passed it around, and as each person lit a candle, they were asked to say what they were thankful for. Our thankfulness could be said to ourselves or out loud. I think it was a very peaceful and heartwarming way to start the wonderful meal. Although, each time someone would light a candle and blow the match out at least one or two of the candles already lit would go out. We all had a big laugh over it which made things less uncomfortable. During this time, I thought of my grandmother who passed away 2 years ago. I wanted to say something about her, but didn't want to let my feelings come out and upset anyone so I lit my candle and said, "I'm thankful for everyone's good health and hope to see it continue". Many of my family members decided to say what they wanted to themselves which I respected.

After dinner, my sister and I went in the kitchen and began to wash and dry all the dishes, glasses, pots, and serving bowls. The rest of the family "eventually" came into to help us. I say that sarcasti-

cally because there is so much for all us to clean. In the past, my cousin Margie and I do this together but, she was with her fiancée John and his family. I noticed though, as I washed the dishes that there weren't many to wash this year and there were only two tables used. When I was younger there were at least four tables set up in the dining room and into Aunt Mary's living room. You need a lot of space to accommodate my large family, but if you don't have it, it doesn't matter. They still have a good time and make their own space.

I loved my Thanksgiving Holiday at Aunt Mary and Uncle Larry's house, though I miss the presence of all of us together.

But things must change because my cousins, sister, brother and I have to grow up and start our own traditions. It just shows that things do get bigger and better in certain ways, when you come from a large extended family. Soon it will be our turn (the cousins) to host the many family holiday traditions. I can wait for that; because I love the way my huge family parties now.

## Anne Marie Dooling

# Sex and the Island



Sometimes I'm amazed at how confusing sexuality can be. Somehow, between balancing class schedules, finding jobs, dealing with families, and various other every day issues, we find time to be sexual creatures. We look for those we like, we date them, we take the time to form partnerships with them. Sex has become a part of who we are. In fact, many times our sexuality precedes us. However, as confusing as I find it to be a single twenty two year old girl on

Staten Island, I can't even begin to imagine how difficult it must be to be a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender college student on this, the isle of Conservatism.

I can't even begin to fathom how it would feel to finally begin to understand your own sexuality, and then try to make it fit in the ideals of the place you live, especially when that place is notorious for being closed minded. Being good friends with many closeted and open homosexuals who live here, though, I can see what it does to someone to live in this type of atmosphere. It is nothing less than total confusion, on the part of the person in question, but more often of the straight Islanders who maybe, have never come in contact with anyone who was different, and possibly doesn't know how to handle them. But, oh that forbidden behavior looks just as sweet as the apple that tempted Eve... So, what happens when

you stick a group of sexually confused people in the middle of CSI? They engage in secretsame-sex behavior.

One student, who wished to remain anonymous and will be called "Bob" for the rest of this article, is guilty of this. He finds himself frequently hooking up with other male students. What's wrong with this? Many of them are either hidden so far back in the closet they can't find their Prada Loafers, or they're straight and confused.

"Bob" found that once he hooked up with one boy, it was easy to spot the others who wanted to experiment. Even though "Bob" calls himself gay, he says many of the boys who contact him claim to be straight, and engage in every activity possible to maintain that stereotype.

Many of the boys "Bob" dates are on sports teams, are openly Catholic, and even have girlfriends. To the outside world they are the picture perfect Staten Island college student, but even still, "Bob" will get a late night drunken phone call asking for a hookup. These boys literally leave the locker room of whatever sporting event they've just finished, they lie to their girlfriends about where they're going, and they go meet "Bob" at a secluded location and, more often than not, engage in sexual activities.

While "Bob" would agree that it's them who initiate the behavior 99% of the time, he also remember that they usually

share no conversation, hug, kiss on the cheek or anything that would imply an actual relationship, and they stick to strictly receiving oral sex. The fact that they seem to completely disconnect emotionally from their homosexual actions shows great confusion, and also great fear. Are they just trying to get some easy head?

If they have girlfriends, what would lead them to this behavior? Why couldn't they call up their girlfriends? Possibly because, these boys are too scared to admit to the world around them, and themselves, that they don't fit the cookie cutter manly suburban mold or the strict conservative lifestyle has finally caused them to crumble by way of perversions.

A very close friend of mine, who we'll call "Jane," should be celebrating her marriage right about now, but she won't be. The engagement between her and her fiancé' was called off when she,

snooping around for music files on his computer, found an account on a popular gay dating web site. His profile contained photos, graphic descriptions of activities he enjoyed, and even messages from men he had contact with. Stunned, "Jane" confronted him, and he collapsed emotionally. Today, he's in counseling, she's not doing so well, either.

His family, who is actively involved in their south shore church knows there is some problem, but isn't sure what. "Jane"

and her fiancé' have chosen to keep this secret between them, at least until they have a secure diagnosis for what his problem should be... or his solution is. One ruined engagement, two broken hearts and \$12,000 later, it's pretty obvious this could have been prevented.

While "Jane" and her man are so busy trying to cover up appearances for the outside world, they've both confided in me that it's pretty much a lost cause. This is a man who is just not attracted to women. Is the route they've chosen to take any better than if he had come out of his closet years before? That's their decision, but I'm sure the outside world played a big part in the route that was chosen.

As water-locked as our little pseudo-suburb is, it's sometimes difficult for other cultures and subcultures to reach us. Because of this, it's often taken longer for situations that may be considered perfectly normal in larger cities to become even acceptable here.

Homosexuality is one of those situations. Even while religion and politics can have a certain sway on how one views same-sex relationships, put those two determining factors together, and you've got one big explosion of fear. Fear which breeds ignorance... ignorance which breeds hate.

Think your college is GLBT friendly? Think again.



# Syriana Puts A Face on Greed

Thomas Bradley

Hollywood has recently thrown its hat into the political realm with films like *Jarhead* and George Clooney's attack on the passive media in *Good Night and Good Luck*. The most surprising aspect of these films is the overall positive reception by audiences who seem to be fed up with the current American situation both at home and overseas. Joining the group this month is *Syriana*, a thriller set in the Middle East, starring Matt Damon, George Clooney, and Jeffrey Wright.

*Syriana* puts a face on the greed driving gas prices up along with the body count of the region. We've all been distraught over the recent spike in prices at the pump, but this film is jaw shattering in its ability to give those seemingly benign numbers some lethal history. George Clooney's character, veteran CIA operative Bob Barnes, was once a no questions asked assassin but recently began to question the validity and overall meaning behind his work. Stating "I used to not need answers," Clooney's character moves from a time

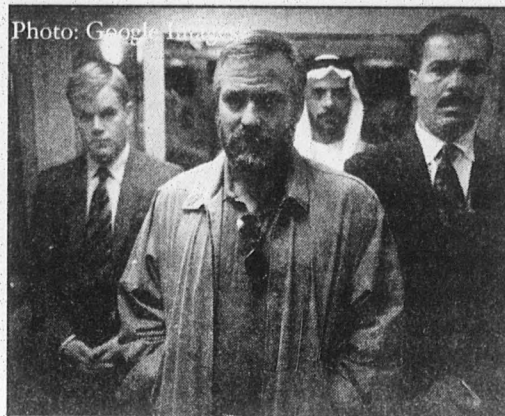
when Americans thought they could defend their values justly, but as our hands get dirtier and the filth gets under our nails people are beginning to ask why.

"We are living in complex, difficult times," said Stephen Gaghan, writer of *Syriana* and *Traffic*. "I wanted *Syriana* to reflect this complexity... to embrace it narratively." Gaghan pens a visceral and intense geopolitical thriller with as many plot twists as there are characters, weaving the various threads into one thick noose.

There is an explosive quality to the film that repeatedly leaves the viewer thinking, "This is too wild. This can't really happen. Does it?" as his eyes dart along with the plot from scene to scene. The confu-

sion felt in the dark theater stays with the audience on the car ride home and at the coffee table the next morning. It becomes

difficult to explain to those who haven't seen, and that's when it becomes clear to you. The fuzziness of your memory and your inability to effectively answer the question, "What's it about?" is precisely what



George Clooney and Matt Damon star in the political thriller *Syriana* which opened on December 9th.

*Syriana* is about. There is an echoing crack heard throughout the theater as Matt Damon, playing analyst Bryan Woodman for an energy trading company, bellows, "This is a fight to the death."

"Everything is connected." The

movie's slogan is a simple, loaded sentence. Everything in *Syriana*, and in effect this world, is connected. The connections, however, become difficult to find and even more difficult to explain. Yet the complexity of the plot is not so much difficult to follow as it is painful upon figuring out. The corruption and overall greed that runs rampant throughout the halls of state, through the minds of our elected officials, is all at the expense of the average man. It is the general public, internationally, that humps the load just scraping to get by while these money hungry John D. Rockefeller wannabe types get thick.

The next time you go to the pump just wonder where those numbers came from. Hear the bullets fired in Iraq, each shell falling to the sandy deck sounding a hell of a lot like a register draw popping open. The blood running from the heads of Iraqis and Americans mixing with the dirt and filth, leaving the bright red fluid slow and thick and dark. It's running out, and as you turn the key you can hear the machine, rumbling on toward the end. Who's going to win?

# Harry Potter: No Longer for Kids

Kevin SP Mamakas

The fourth movie of the Harry Potter series, *Goblet of Fire*, was released for the 2005 Holiday season and is yet another blockbuster.

Even though Dan Radcliffe, Emma Watson, and Rupert Grint remain the main characters - Harry, Hermione, and Ron - a few things have changed in the usual two and half hours. This is the first Potter movie to be rated PG-13. In that respect, the movie remained true to the book. As Harry gets older in the books, his level of maturity increases. Fourteen year olds naturally think differently than eleven, twelve, or thirteen year olds. JK Rowling shows that in her fourth book.

The new Director, Mike Newell, allows more humor to be in this movie to combat the more violent scenes. However, the comedy is also for a slightly more mature audience. For instance, Harry spits out his drink while looking at Cho Chang (played by Katie Leung), or Ron having to be carried away after asking the beautiful Beauxbaton Academy's Fleur Delacour to the first real dance that Hogwarts has seen in a long time. The younger audience who saw the past Potter movies wouldn't understand the humor because of its sexual nature.

Even though there are dark scenes in the first three books and movies, *Goblet of Fire* is the first one where Harry is actually being attacked. The first one he finds clues of a crime and he stops it. The second

one he learns a new talent that leads him to discover his friend's sister is being possessed. The third one he thinks a mad man is trying to kill him but it ends up being his godfather.



Photo: Google Images

The fourth movie installment of Harry Potter grossed \$587 million worldwide since opening on November 18th.

Voldemort most likely would try to kill Harry if he comes back during any of these stories, but he doesn't plan it that way. The scene when Professor Quirrel tried to possess Harry's broom in the first one is his own choice not Voldemort's.

Newell also cut out a lot of the 734 pages. Before the third task, it worked out well. There were no house elves in sight (meaning no Dobby or Winky). This changed a few scenes but in the sake of time it's understandable. The Dragon in the first task got loose to chase Harry, but that was for entertainment.

The Yule Ball scene was made by looking at Ron in his dress and by Hermione fighting with him because he doesn't consider her until she accepts an invitation from the Durmstrang Academy's Viktor Krum.

The Second Task is altered by there being no house elves, but Moaning Myrtle trying to peak at Harry as he is trying to solve the clue for the second task while in a bath.

The Third Task is not as challenging as it needs to be to show that Harry isn't a lucky dimwit. Even though luck is a big reason why there is going to be a book seven, he learns more in the *Goblet of Fire* than any other of the series.

It could be argued that the task was cut short due to time issues, but the lack of knowledge made him look completely lucky after the third task. Harry and Cedric Diggory, his fellow Hogwarts challenger, grabbed the cup at the same time thinking they won the tournament together. Yet they got transported to see the reincarnation of Voldemort, played by Ralph Fiennes. (The most violent scene occurs when Diggory instantly met his death among arrival.)

When Voldemort challenges Harry to a duel, he made a fool of him. Harry should have been immune to the Imperious Curse (Unforgivable Curse that makes the challenger do whatever the spell caster wants). This is

important because he became immune to it through out the year. It shows he learned something and it isn't all luck.

After he managed to get away (have to read the book or watch the movie to see how he did it) Professor Mad Eye Moody took him to his room and the audience found out his real identity and that he plots the whole thing from the beginning, then Professor Dumbledore came in and saved Harry again.

Harry not doing much in the last task and scenes besides getting lucky is where a person who read the book wants to throw popcorn at the screen and where the people that didn't read the book would be completely bored. A character can only get this lucky so many times in a series.

This movie proves the theory that if there is a book that is made into a movie, the book is usually better. The books have more details between the scenes that make the story so much better. So if one hasn't done it already, read the books to do justice to the story.

As a result of the first two-thirds of the movie being extraordinary, and the creepiness of the reincarnation of Voldemort, I give the movie four out of five spells. It could be better, not by taking anything out, but by adding a few short scenes in. As a result of the books popularity and the last three movies, people would sit through three hours of a movie if it was action packed until the end. The Lord of the Rings series proved it.



## SPORTS

December 12, 2005

## All Around Athlete Andrea Kleboe Knows Best

## Kadijah Rentas

**S**teadfast in her white CSI Dolphins uniform, Andrea Kleboe runs up and down, back and forth across the soccer field. As a senior captain, she does what she knows best. She speaks up, steps up and takes aim for the goal.

A woman of many talents, Kleboe, 23, easily masters the concept of time management. A student athlete, she leads the championship women's soccer team and plays full court for the women's basketball team. She attends school full-time, is a representative on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, and holds a job. With some days more tiring than others, only one thing keeps her on foot: dedication.

"Honestly, I'm very good on six hours of sleep," said Kleboe. Most medical reports require people sleep eight to nine hours, but Kleboe does just fine with allocating those extra two to three other hours each day, 365 days a year, to more open-eyed activities.

Kleboe has played soccer since age four. "I'm an only child," said Kleboe. "So my parents wanted to find something to get me in." As one of the team's strong captains, she easily fits the model as a very vocal and talented leader. During the women's championship game she helped organize and rally the team to a tough 3-2 win against the Medgar Evers Cougars last month. The infant Dolphins soccer team is only two years old and in these two years has won the CUNY Championship with this year being the first official title awarded. The Dolphins played the season undefeated in the CUNY conference.

Defensive captain Bukurije Begai, 20, described the starter as "cool." "She's responsible, she's reliable, she plays injured, she always offers a helping hand," said Begai. A good asset to the team, Kleboe also stands as a great physical threat to opponents. "She's got the nastiest shot," said Begai. "She can kick the ball from midfield and hit the net."



3-year veteran Andrea Kleboe plays center plays center for the Womens' Basketball.

Kleboe's basketball teammates had similar comments about her contribution to the team, both physically and for morale. Red shirt freshmen, Nicole Estrada, 19, and Jolyn Silva, 19, complimented Kleboe as "a step-up player." "She's a very strong player," said Estrada. "She keeps the intensity up."

A three-year veteran, Kleboe has played 61 games for the Dolphins, a team ranked ninth in scoring offense in the nation's Division III. In 2003 and 2004 the team played undefeated in the CUNY Conference. Last year Kleboe played with an injury and the team lost only one game. Kleboe recalled her freshman year on the team and the championship game against Hunter. While the team placed first in the regular season, fate had a different plan for the post season. "It was one of those bank shots," Kleboe said. "One of those that aren't supposed to go in." The Dolphins lost by two points.

When asked which sport she likes best, soccer or basketball, it was a toss up. "I like soccer because it's outside," she said. "But I feel basketball is more emotional with the

crowds."

Off the field and off the court, Kleboe carries that emotion to the Student Athletic Advisory Committee where she represents CSI athletes. A local CSI and CUNY-wide program, the committee allows for athletes to voice any problems or concerns and helps get them involved in community service. A representative for two years, Kleboe and other members have organized toy and clothing drives for a battered woman's shelter on the island. They also plan to host an Olympics-type event for student athletes in the spring.

"Andrea is a prototypical student athlete," said Assistant Associate Athletic Director of seven years, Jason Fein. "She's like a poster child for a CUNY student and CUNY athlete. She makes the most of going to a commuter school."

After high school, Kleboe waited two years to attend college. In that time she worked at the same tanning salon she works at now, but felt if she didn't take the time to sort her future she may not have the success she has now. "I went back with the mind set that that was what I wanted to do," she said. "If I would have gone after high school, I wouldn't have done it."

A solid student, Kleboe holds a 3.7 GPA in her major of communications with a concentration in Corporate Communications.

Assistant Coach Jackie Badagliacco, 25, played with Kleboe for two years as a student and joked about Kleboe's job at the tanning salon. "Anybody that plays sports at this school has a good tan because of her," she said. She listed Kleboe as a good player that knows the importance of communication on the court and remarked about Kleboe's skills off the court, as an individual she thinks will have much success after college.

As if soccer, basketball, school, work, the advisory committee, and spending time with friends and family were not enough work for Kleboe, she also bowls. "Now I'm in a bowling league because my boyfriend doesn't think I play enough sports."

## Dolphins Dive Into the '05-'06 Season

## Andrea Kleboe

**T**he CSI Women's Swimming and Diving Team's efforts will culminate at the CUNY Athletic Conference Championship, which will take place on February 3rd and 4th at Lehman College in Bronx, New York.

The Dolphins season runs from the end of October until mid-February. During this time, they will face York, Lehman, Hunter, John Jay and Baruch Colleges in CUNY play. In addition to CUNY teams, SUNY Maritime, Old Westbury, and Queensborough Community College will travel to Staten Island to compete, while the Dolphins will head to Mt. St. Mary and College of St. Elizabeth in search of some wins. The team has already picked up three wins in their first four games of the season, beating NJIT, John Jay and Baruch.

CSI last won the CUNY Championship in the 2000-2001 season. Since then, they have fallen short to Hunter College for the past four seasons. This year looks bright for the Dolphins as they see the return of senior Gina Troise, and add new players to their already strong roster. The CUNYAC named Troise "Athlete of the Week" (week of 11/24/04) last season for her outstanding performance that

pushed the Dolphins past the Baruch Bearcats 100-91. In the match, she took first-place in both the 400 and 800 Freestyle and finished runner-up in the 100 Butterfly.

Head Coach Oleg Soloviev has been with CSI for the past ten years. In total, he has more than 32 years of experience coaching swimmers. Coach Soloviev takes his matches one at a time. "All of them meet evenly," he said, "they are all the same... We will do our best."

The Dolphins practice everyday in order to stay in top shape for their matches. If they cannot make the afternoon practice, they can swim at 7 a.m. If neither of these times fits into their schedule, they may opt to work-out and practice on their own.

The team has close friendships with one another. At the start of the season, the team threw a party that was mandatory for all to attend. The girls got to know each other better and often go out together on days off. After all of the home meets, the team sits down and eats pizza together.

Ahlam Jaoui, a senior, has been on the team for three years. She also competed on her high school team before coming to CSI. "Everybody supports each other, the guys as well as the girls," Jaoui said. "We cheer each other on during races. It's motivating."

"I think we have a chance to win the CUNY

Championship," Jaoui said. "We have a lot of new girls, but Hunter College is always our rivals." One of these freshmen, Kaitlin Barr, received "Rookie of the Week" honors by the CUNYAC during the week of November 7, 2005. Barr won three individual events for her team, including the 50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, and 100 Breaststroke. In their match against the Baruch Bearcats on November 16, Barr earned points for her team by winning both the 50 Freestyle and the 100 Breaststroke.

The Dolphins take pride in their sportsmanship. The team always makes sure to shake hands with their opponents at the end of the race and say "good swim," whether they win or lose.

"I'm really looking forward to this season," said Zaila Herrera, a CSI student. "I have friends on the team, and I hope to watch a few of the meets. The girls work hard to achieve the best possible time they can get to help the team."

The Dolphins will challenge rivals the Hunter College Hawk's on December 2, 2005, with home-field advantage going to the Hawk's. "I don't want to have any predictions in advance," Coach Soloviev said. The match will not affect CSI's chances in the CUNY Championship, but a victory will boost the confidence and morale of the team.