

THE BANNER

Vol V. Issue VIII

CSI's Official Student Newspaper

February 2, 1998

GPA Below 2.0? Your Ass May Have To Go!

LIEN RENIDLUHCS
BANNER STAFF WRITER

Welcome back to another semester at the College of Staten Island; for some 1,500 students, it may prove to be their last. In a recent emergency meeting of the General Faculty, the committee passed a motion that potentially could lead to the dismissal of more than 1,500 of the poorest performing students at CSI. The motion which was discussed and subsequently approved without any input or feedback from the CSI student body, must still be approved by three more bureaucratic bodies, but seems destined to be affirmed due to its overwhelming support amongst Faculty and Administration.

The Motion

During the October 25th General Faculty emergency meeting, Professor Michael Greenberg, Chairperson of the History Department, moved to "adopt the official CUNY Academic Dismissal policy and adopt proper standards for probation and that the new standards be phased in." The motion passed by a staggering majority of Faculty, 45-4-0. The stinging CUNY Academic Dismissal policy calls for students to be dismissed from school if their Grade Point Average falls below a 1.50 for students with 12 credits or less, below a 1.75 for students with 13 to 24 credits, and below a 2.0 for students with 25 credits or higher. Under the CUNY Academic Dismissal policy, approximately 1,500 CSI students could be in danger of being dismissed from school. This new policy would replace the existing, less stringent CSI policy which calls for students to be dismissed if their GPA falls below a 1.15 for students with 30 to 40 credits, below a 1.25 for students with 40 to 50 credits, below a 1.40 for students with 50 to 60 credits, below a 1.60 for students with 60 to 70 credits, below a 1.80 for students with 70 to 80 credits, and below a 1.99 for students with more than 80 credits. CSI's current policy does not provide for academic dismissal for anyone with less than 28 credits.

No Student Feedback Sought

The emergency meeting was not advertised to the CSI student body and during the meeting no attempt was made to ascertain the opinions of those to whom the policy alteration would affect the most - CSI students. "This is just another example of how the Administration limits student participation in the academic affairs of the college," commented Mark Grey, Academic & Curricular Affairs Commissioner of Student Government. "They didn't even inform



Students line up to pay their dues to the C.S.I. Bursar. Will this be their last time on these lines?
*photo by Hank Eisenstein

Student Government about the meeting because they didn't want anyone representing student interests at the meeting!"

The emergency meeting coincided with mid-terms, which student activists argue was not coincidental but calculated on the part of Administration in an effort to minimize student outrage and protest. "Not only did Administration not inform students about the meeting, but it also purposefully had the emergency meeting during mid-terms, because they knew students would be too concerned with their grades and classes to care about a policy they have little understanding of," stated one Economics major who preferred to remain nameless due to fear of retribution from Administration. Despite the fact that so many students are at risk for dismissal, William Wharton, president of Student Government had "no comment" on the situation.

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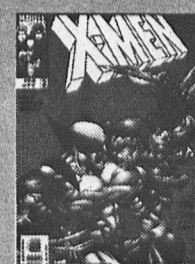
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The End of Open Admissions?

80% of Incoming Freshman Would Be Barred, Would You?

AMY VENEZIANO
BANNER WRITER

During Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's recent State of the City Address, the mayor called for the abolition of open admissions at The City University of New York (CUNY). Under Giuliani's proposal, some 80 percent of incoming CSI freshman would be barred from entrance into a four year degree program at CSI because they failed one or more of the CUNY Basic Skills tests.



Mayor Giuliani laughing at the prospect of barring thousands of students from college.

CUNY was originally founded to provide the working class citizens of New York with a college education fully supported by the City and State. In the 1960's Harlem community members argued that CUNY could not fully execute it's mission if it barred students who wanted an education but weren't academically "qualified" to be accepted into CUNY. Fighting for what they believed in, student activists and Harlem residents joined in protesting the University's exclusionary practices. This eventually led to the introduction of the open admissions policy which allowed for all New York City high school graduates guaranteed admission into one of CUNY's seventeen colleges. In 1976 due to the City's financial crisis, tuition was imposed onto CUNY students for the first time, resulting in the first serious blow to the implementation of open admissions. By requiring students to pay for their college education, CUNY became a financial *privilege*, thus ending its historical mission of providing an education as a *right*. The open admissions policy was further eroded when certain CUNY senior colleges began requiring minimum SAT scores or high school grade point averages as prerequisites for admission. Only the CUNY community colleges have somewhat retained the policy of open admissions. Should the CUNY colleges terminate their open admissions policy, New York City would be the only city in the country whose community colleges reject high school graduate applicants.

If open admissions were to be terminated, some 80% of the current CSI freshman body, would have been rejected from admission to CSI. Thomas Meyer, a CSI freshman whose major is undecided, stated, "I failed the CUNY Math Assessment test and probably would be rejected by CSI if open admissions were eliminated. I would have nowhere to go and nothing to do since my

high school diploma can't get me a job that pays a living wage. I would probably be on welfare collecting money from the taxpayers. Open admissions would allow me to go to college, get a degree and earn a living wage in the job market. Instead of collecting welfare, I would be paying my fair share of taxes and contributing to society. The end of open admissions would be the end of opportunity to many New Yorkers."

According to Giuliani, the standards of the CUNY system are not high enough and CUNY "must first have an entrance examination which requires applicants to show that they have the basic skill and aptitude to earn a publicly subsidized higher education." Giuliani feels that the standards of the CUNY system are not high enough because, according to statistics, "only 32% of incoming freshman at CUNY senior colleges pass the basic skills tests". Giuliani also said that "only 14% of community college students pass these three tests".

If this policy goes through, what happens to those people who are returning to college years after they graduated from high school? Are they denied a public education because they cannot pass an entrance examination which is geared towards those students who have just graduated from high school?

The feelings of the CSI Administration are slightly mixed. Dr. Carol Jackson, Vice President of Student Affairs, stated, at the New Student Orientation, "Every student that has a High School Diploma or GED is guaranteed a seat at one of our community schools. Open admissions means we give every one an opportunity to prove themselves."

Conversely, Dr. Marlene Springer commented, "The admission of High School Graduates with an introduction into Associate Degree programs is a time honored tradition and a standard across the country. Any change in that policy is extraneous to the College of Staten Island. The College of Staten Island's focus will necessarily be on the quality of education their students receive and the success of their graduates."

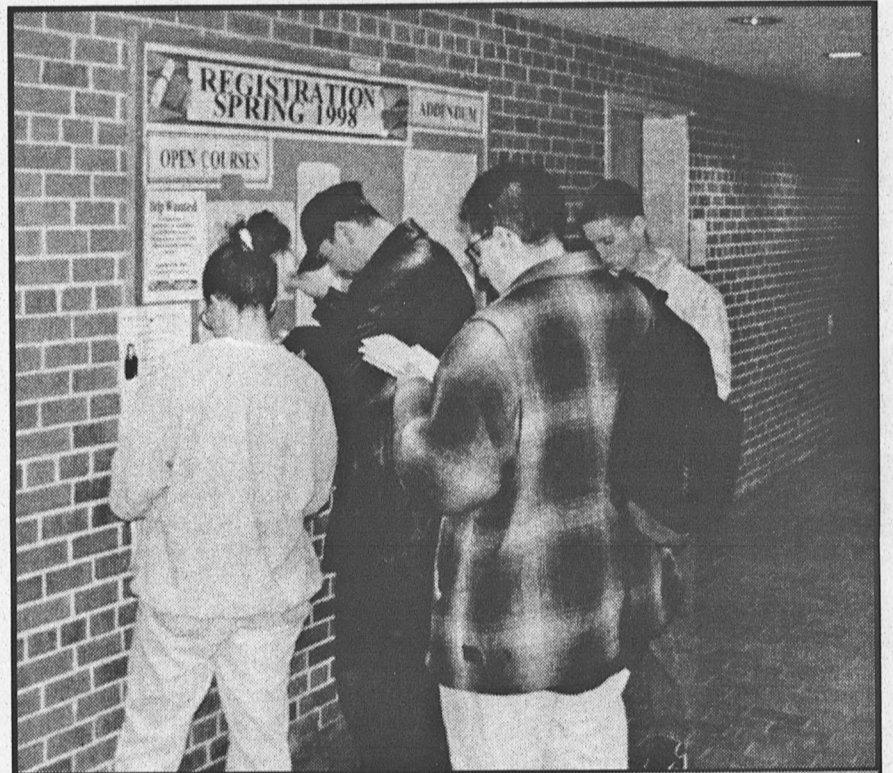
Interim Chancellor Christoph Kimmich in his

response to Mayor Giuliani's proposal stated, "I welcome the review and consideration of proposals to strengthen and enhance The City University of New York." Chancellor Kimmich believes that the colleges in the CUNY system "are the key stitches in the City's social fabric." Evidently, Kimmich seems more interested in improving the standards of the CUNY system, rather than helping the students improve their academic standing in the colleges themselves.

Anne A. Paolucci, chairwoman for the CUNY Board of Trustees, has been quoted as saying, "If students need more help, it is not a reason to get rid of open admissions." (New York Times, Jan. 16)

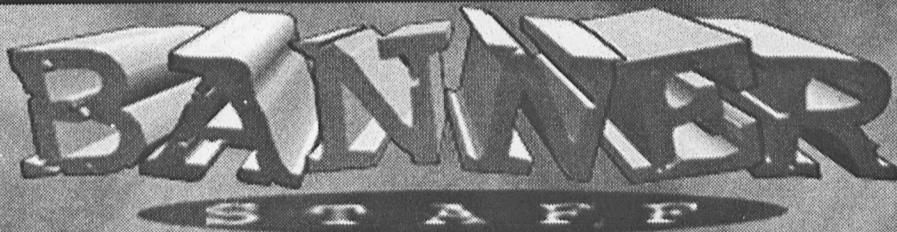
"We have to take these students and see what we can do with them," said Paolucci. Apparently, Paolucci is more interested in helping the students improve themselves rather than improving the system, unlike Chancellor Kimmich.

CSI student reaction was overwhelmingly for open admissions. Omari Francais, a CSI student stated,



Would these students be registering at CSI if Open Admissions were terminated?

•photo by Hank Eisenstein



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CSI COLLEGE BOOKSTORE




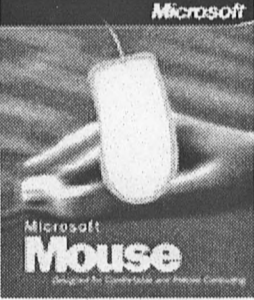


Rip Offs

by Neil Schuldiner

Welcome to the newest regular Banner column, **CSI College Bookstore Rip-Offs**. The CSI College Bookstore which is owned and operated by Barnes and Noble Inc., has a history of selling outdated, obsolete computer products at greatly inflated prices. In the past, *The Banner* reported that the CSI Bookstore was offering for sale a 14.4 USR Sportster modem for \$179. This obsolete product was being sold in the bargain bins of local Staten Island stores for \$39. After publication of the controversial *Banner* issue, the discontinued modem was pulled from the shelves of the Bookstore. This issues' column explores the varied ways in which Barnes & Noble offers other computer products at rip-off prices to unsuspecting students.

In response to the controversial *Banner* issue regarding the College bookstore, *The Banner* was flooded with complaints about the bookstore, one of which was the return policy concerning software. "Only unopened software can be returned," is what one employee responded when asked of the College Bookstores' return policy. This policy seems to be at odds with the policies of other Staten Island merchants like Babbages, K-mart and Costco which allow for opened returns. Since most students are computer novices, making a mistake when purchasing computer products at the Bookstore can be a costly error, especially when their software is priced tens of dollars above other Staten Island stores. When one enters the Bookstore and inquires about computer products from

Barnes & Noble employees, one is greeted with the line, "Barnes and Noble offers hundreds of academically priced computer products up to 70% off suggested retail list price." While this may be true on some products, the majority of computer products are sold to students at incredibly jacked up prices. The differences in prices are not just dollars apart, but in some cases the difference is tens of dollars worth. *The Banner* will continue to monitor the CSI Bookstore computer prices and return policies and report to the students of this college whether there have been any changes in policy and prices. Below you will find just a sampling of the many computer products sold at the CSI College Bookstore, which can also be found at local Staten Island merchants at significantly cheaper prices.

These are just some of the many computer products which the Barnes and Noble college bookstore sells at ripoff prices.						
	Logitech Trackman for Mac	Microsoft Home Mouse	GlareGuard Standard 500	Microsoft Mouse with Intellipoint	Wing Commander IV	Iomega Zip Disks 6 pack
Barnes & Noble CSI College Bookstore	\$89.95	\$32.95	\$79.90	\$64.95	\$57.95	\$99.95
Local S.I. Competitors*	\$77.81	\$29.99	\$49.98	\$49.95	\$44.95	\$85.47
You get Ripped Off by	\$12.14	\$ 2.96	\$29.92	\$15	\$13	\$14.48

* Staples, OfficeMax, the Wiz and Circuit City

The BANNER would like to congratulate Auxiliary Services for awarding the CSI Bookstore contract to **Barnes & Noble**. Thanks for giving B&N the opportunity to **rip students off** for ANOTHER FOUR MORE YEARS.

Special Thanks goes out to the -

John Hudacs!!!

(more information in the next issue of THE BANNER)

New Student Orientation, A Worthwhile Requirement

AMY VENEZIANO
BANNER WRITER

The College of Staten Island's "New Student Orientation Day" went off without a hitch, as incoming freshman were introduced to the various school facilities during a tour of the campus.

The acting director, for the new student orientation, Jean Como said, "If you get the orientation you will probably be more successful."

She added that you, "will meet people before starting school," and will, "learn academic procedures and grading."

The orientation program involves the New Student Orientation itself and going to four College Life Unit Experience (CLUE) events. The CLUE program is a program designed to get you involved in different college activities. These activities instruct students in two ways, personal growth to college life or co-curricular growth to college life. In order to fulfill your orientation requirement all students must attend two personal growth CLUE's and two co-curricular CLUE's.



Incoming freshman grab information at one of the tables during the New Student Orientation Day at the cafeteria in Bld. 1C

•photo by Hank Eisenstein

is geared towards instructing students in study skills, career development, and self-development.

"I thought that the "SPD" course was great. It was very fun. The teacher went over different ways to handle stress, study habits and how to handle your first term at college. I was glad I took the class," said

orientation also provides an express program for weekend and evening students who may not be able to attend the longer program offered to day students.

The student orientation is also a way in which incoming freshman may be introduced to the various clubs on campus. During the lunch hour, provided for the incoming students, tables are set up for the clubs to sell themselves to the new students. The clubs range from the Apostolic Christian Club to the Fashion Club, and yours truly, *the Banner*. In addition to the clubs present at the lunch hour, there were also representatives from each department on hand to answer student questions. There is also a majors week in the middle of the semester for students who do not know what field of study they would like to be involved with.

The student orientation requirement is very useful for students in the future. Jean Como stated, "What you did outside classes can be used as a reference."

Many programs that are offered to students through the CLUE program are informative and enlightening. Topics may include self-defense, stress relief, substance abuse, and pluralism.

In addition to the orientation requirement, students may participate in a program called CLUE Challenge. CLUE Challenge is a program in which a student must complete ten personal growth CLUE's and ten co-curricular CLUE's. When the twentieth CLUE goes into the computer the student who completed the program will receive a letter from Vice President of Student Affairs Carol Jackson and a certificate from President Marlene Springer.

If you have not completed your student orientation requirement, it is best to do so now. Without this requirement you cannot graduate. If you do not know what your current record is you may go to 2A-208 to find out.



Members of the Banner prepare to meet the freshman and try to persuade them into joining the Banner, the official student newspaper. •photo by Hank Eisenstein

If a student does not have time to go through this procedure to attain their orientation requirement, they may take a course which the college provides called SPD 101 - "Issues in College Life". This course

C.S.I.'s Sophomore Michael Besio.

The student orientation is a graduation requirement which must be fulfilled if a student is entering the college with fewer than six credits. The

City Council Speaker Vallone Proposes College Scholarships for High School Students

LOUIS BARDEL
BANNER STAFF WRITER

"Keep your grades up.....bring your tuition down." This is the challenge made by City Council Speaker Peter Vallone to NYC high school students during his "State of the City" address on January 7. Speaking from the Council Chambers of City Hall, Vallone outlined his proposal to have CUNY tuition cut in half for high school students who graduate in good academic standing.

According to the proposal, city students who graduate with a B average will only have to pay \$800 dollars per semester instead of \$1600. To maintain this rebate, students will have to maintain a B average while in college. This deduction will only count for the first two years of a student's college career.

Vallone's proposal is part of his plan to "rebuild the middle-class." According to the Speaker, New York City has lost approximately 115,000 middle-class households, either because they became richer, poorer, or left the city. Vallone believes education is the way to create more middle-class citizens. He says his agenda for NYC includes "tax relief...and the rescue of a first-rate public higher education."

"Even in the depths of the Great Depression,

City College took the sons and daughters of thousands of immigrants," said Vallone. "It educated them — producing more Nobel Prize-winners than any other college in the country. And it charged them not one cent for tuition — probably the wisest investment ever made by any government, anywhere."

Potentially 13,000 high school students will be eligible for a tuition rebate if they enter CUNY in the fall of 1998. The following year that figure might jump up to 25,000. The approximate cost for the program is \$38 million per year. Despite Vallone's praise of CUNY, some critics have charged that lax standards at CUNY make it difficult to assess proper rewards.

"There is no way to know what a particular grade even means in that system," says deputy mayor Randy Mastro, as quoted in the *New York Times*, "so rather than focus on give backs, the focus should be on developing higher standards."

Even if the scholarship proposal passes City Council budget negotiations in June, the offices of the Mayor and Governor Pataki have the authority to block the proposal. If either the Mayor or the Governor vetoed the bill, they would force a battle against the City Council and would test Vallone's commitment to CUNY students. Neither the Governor's office nor the Mayor's office has been an advocate of CUNY; in fact,

Giuliani recently called for the end of open admissions to the University system.

As quoted in the *New York Times*, Herman Badillo, vice chairman of the Board of Trustees, has come out with tepid support of Vallone's scholarship proposal. "I support the idea, provided that the grades earned are not given away through grade inflation."

William Wharton, CSI Student Government President, in an interview with the *S.I. Advance*, reminded everyone that tuition has been on the rise for a long time: "After a decade of tuition increases a reduction is really needed," said Wharton. In a follow up interview done by *The Banner*, Wharton described Vallone's informal scholarship proposal as political posturing.

Tuition hikes in 1995, despite numerous rallies against them, went into effect to the tune of \$750. This was the highest tuition hike in CUNY history. Until 1976 there was no tuition and attendance was free. If Vallone's proposal passes, the B student's cost for attending a four-year college, like the College of Staten Island, would be reduced to late-1980's rates.

According to a press release from Vallone's office, the scholarship proposal has been modeled after the State of Georgia's Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) Scholarship program.

GPA Below 2.0? *continued from front page*

The Attack On Open Admissions

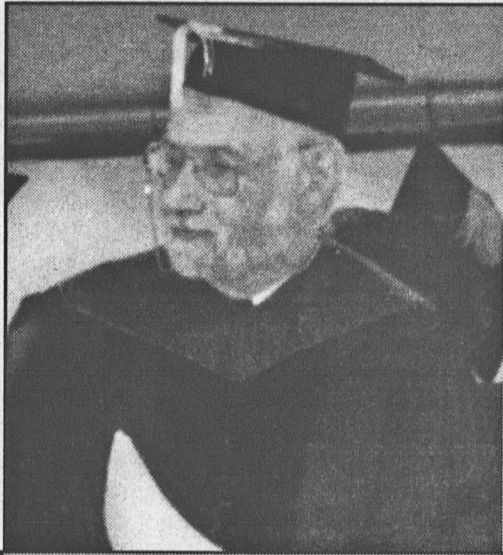
The move on the part of CSI Faculty in concert with the Administration appeared to be in anticipation of expected draconian measures to be taken by the CUNY Board of Trustees (BOT). On October 27th, just days after the emergency General Faculty meeting, the BOT passed a resolution to link budgetary appropriations to campus performance indicators. The proclamation stated that the amount of funding that each CUNY campus would receive for teaching positions would be determined by each campus' graduation rate in addition to other criteria such as retention and retirement rates. Under the new plan, CSI would receive 5 new slots with 23 new positions. Student activists argue that by eliminating 1500 of the poorest performing CSI students, the college would exponentially increase its graduation rate and receive more teaching slots. While many students applauded the resulting increase in CSI Faculty, most believed that placing 1500 CSI students on the chopping block was wrong. Lisa Tenuruchi, a freshman stated, "While I applaud the efforts of the college to bring more professors, its not worth it if students are used as sacrificial lambs." Apparently being aware of the impending utilization of graduation rates by the BOT, Dean of Academic Affairs, Mirella Affron, stated at the emergency meeting that the move to realign CSI's dismissal policy was an effort "to position the college as strongly as possible."

Additionally, student activists argue that the utilization by the BOT of financial rewards to enforce academic performance is a direct attack on the principle of Open Admissions. Indeed, Sandi Cooper, Chairwoman of the Faculty Senate stated at the General Faculty meeting that the BOT was looking for "a real alteration of Open Admissions" and that this was "the beginning of a real attack [on Open Admissions]." Cooper further stated that the BOT in conjunction with the news media were "coordinating a campaign to reconfigure the public higher education system."



Could this be the last time these students pay their tuition?
•photo by Hank Eisenstein

The Open Admissions policy enables any New York City high school graduate a guaranteed position at one of CUNY's community colleges. By tying graduation rates to teacher positions, student activists say the BOT is placing too much emphasis on statistics and not enough on the plight of the average CUNY student. The BOT currently uses a graduation rate based on a time span of six years. However, some professors and students point out that the graduation rate statistic is flawed because it fails to consider students dropping out of school due to financial woes, students transferring to other schools, and the fact that most students work either part or full time which results in college careers lasting far longer than the typical four year or statistical six year figure. Additionally, many students drop out, not for academic reasons but for personal reasons such as marriage, the lack of child care and increased tuition. Critics argue that by basing monetary rewards on the graduation rate, colleges would abandon the traditional policy of accepting most applicants in favor of accepting only those students who would increase their graduation rate and thereby increase Faculty employment lines. They argue that CUNY would abandon its traditional role of serving the needs of disadvantaged students, to eliminating those students in favor of academically accomplished students.



Michael Greenberg, Chairman of the History Department and College Council made the fateful motion to adopt the CUNY Academic Dismissal Policy, which may prevent 1500 CSI students from graduating.

Already, CSI president, Marlene Springer, has set up a two-tiered system within CSI with The Honors College. At a time when she herself admits that college resources are slim, she has diverted college resources from the general student body of CSI towards the exclusionary Honors College, which only accepts the finest students. Exactly how much funding has been set aside from CSI's operating budget for the Honors College is not known due to the fact that she has refused to disclose such figures to either the CSI Student Government or CSI publications.

Other reasons regarding the adoption of a new Academic Dismissal policy concerns the recent imposition on Hostos Community College seniors of an English writing assessment test as a graduation exit requirement. Hostos CC had legally deviated from the standard CUNY policy of requiring students to take the CUNY Writing Assessment Test and replaced the flawed examination with their own Hostos Writing Assessment Test. When the BOT discovered Hostos' departure from standard CUNY policy, the Board openly criticized Hostos CC president, Isaura Santiago Santiago and assailed Hostos students, faculty and administration. Eventually, Hostos president Santiago resigned under the threat of being removed from her presidency by the BOT. Student activists argue that CSI president, Dr. Marlene Springer, is attempting to align all CSI policies with CUNY's in an effort to align herself with the conservative controlled BOT, which views policy divergence as heretical. Confirming this policy at the meeting was Sandi Cooper, who stated that, "any official who disagrees with these officials [the BOT] will have a short career at his job."

Many Faculty members rationalized their decision to eliminate 1,500 CSI students by remarking on how the media such as the *Daily News* has been attacking "standards" at CUNY and that the only way to address the media was by adopting the harsher standards such as the lethal CUNY Academic Dismissal Policy. But CSI students disagree, with one anonymous sociology/history double major remarking, "Instead of being so afraid of papers like the *Times* or *News*, they should join with students in defending the University and Open Admissions, not bend over backwards to appease the media. You don't answer the media by giving in to their criticisms. Apparently, the Faculty don't really believe in Open Admissions, otherwise they would attack the news media."

The motion to adopt and replace the existing CSI Academic Dismissal policy with that of the stricter CUNY policy, has been approved by the Course and Standings Committee and now moves to the College Council on February 5th. The College Council is the body whose function is to approve all curricula changes in addition to handling academic affairs and educational matters. The College Council is comprised of primarily Faculty and Administration, but also

CSI Academic Standards		CUNY Academic Standards	
Credit	GPA	Credit	GPA
0-28	no min	1-12	1.50
30-40	1.15		
40-50	1.25	13-24	1.75
50-60	1.40		
60-70	1.60	25 +	2.00
70-80	1.80		

allows for eight student representatives. All eight student representatives have vowed to vote against any change in the Academic Dismissal policy. But with only eight students representing the interest of 12,000 students, critics argue that the College Council disproportionately represents the college community which is majority student. Conversely, with over 55 Administrators and Faculty members on the council (which represent a minority in the college community) vowing to approve the policy change, and with Professor Michael Greenberg, the person that introduced the motion at the General Faculty meeting, being the College Council Chairman, the motion seems destined to be certified.

The College Council meeting which will determine the future of over 1500 CSI students will take place on Thursday, February 5th at the Center for the Arts, Room 1P-119, at 1:25 pm. The student representatives on the College Council urge all students to attend the meeting and express their distaste for the policy change and convey to their professors to vote against any policy change. For more information on how to attend and speak your mind at the next pivotal College Council meeting, students are urged to go to the Student Government office in the Campus Center, room 207 on the second floor.

<<< **IMPORTANT** >>>
PARKING DECAL INFORMATION

If you park on campus.

Vehicles without valid parking decals are subject to enforcement action.
 - CSI Parking Policy

1998 Parking Decals may be purchased in The Campus Center, (Building 1C • Box Office • 1st Floor) until February 14. Please see the calendar below for exact dates and times. After this date, vehicles parked on campus without a decal are subject to ticketing and possible fines. Please don't delay... **PURCHASE YOUR DECAL TODAY!** Your cooperation is very much appreciated. Call us with any questions.

February 1998

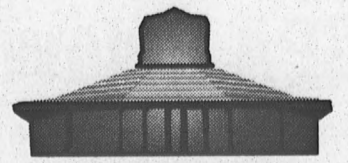
BOX OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR PARKING DECALS:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
JAN 31, 1998 SATURDAY CLASSES BEGIN !!!	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	10 AM - 7 PM						10 AM TO 3 PM
BACK TO <i>College</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	10 AM - 7 PM			COLLEGE CLOSED	10 AM TO 4 PM	10 AM TO 2 PM	

AFTER FEB. 14, DECALS MAY BE PURCHASED ONLY IN 1A-102.

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BANNER Editorials



The Banner: Our Students, Our College, Our Community

Yeah, we'll print that - Sound familiar? That was the *old Banner* motto. So whatever it was, newsworthy or not - it was printed. Vulgar, disgusting, anti-student or incorrect - so what? *Print It!* The only way material wasn't printed was if it was libelous. Otherwise, *print it!*

The other horrible leftover from the *old Banner* was its little ode to objectivity - We are the *Banner*, we're committed to *nothing!* So what if the mayor wants to raise our tuition - were committed to nothing! So what if its anti-student. So what if we suck up to Administration? So what if we betray the confidence of students. It's worth it as long as we get a recommendation from an Administrator.

Personally, I didn't feel these were good policies or attitudes to have for a college student newspaper. If we kept these attitudes and mottos, we would be selling the student body down the river.



This is why the new paper and staff thought it would be a good idea to change *The Banner's* motto. But to what? So I thought about what I want *The Banner* to be about. What should be printed in the paper? What issues are most important to students? One word kept coming up - **STUDENTS.**

The paper is paid for by students, is run by students, the student are the people who read it, and student issues are what's most important to our readers. So our new motto needs to be about the students and what's important to them. Now we need to figure out what is important to them. Well, as a student, my school and my community are important to me.

OK, we have some important concerns; students and student lives - now we need a catchy line- this is the hard part. It took me quite a while (I'm not sure why, since its so simple) but what I came up with is, **The Banner: OUR STUDENTS, OUR COLLEGE, OUR COMMUNITY!** Simple and to the point.

The *new Banner* will cover campus issues

and events as well as student problems from the students' perspective. We will be advocates for student rights and concerns. We will also cover local and professional sports as well as community events.

If there is anything else you would like to see in the paper or if you have any suggestions or comments, please let us know - and please let me know what you think of our new motto.

Sincerely

Meredith C. Fogelman
Editor-In-Chief

P.S. - Please send all comments, suggestions, positive & negative to CSI - The Banner
At: Meredith
Room 1C-228
2800 Victory Blvd.
SI, NY 10314
or
E-mail us at Neilsc@Hotmail.com
or
you may drop us a line in Room 1C-228 (Campus Center) upstairs behind the College Voice office.

BANNER Letters

A Response To Our *Controversial* Bookstore Article

Dear Lien Renidluhcs,

Your article in the current issue of the *Banner* is very good. May I suggest some additional ideas which you might wish to pursue in a second article.

Barnes & Noble is not only using its exclusive position on college campuses to charge premium prices. These prices have been set and maintained by the college textbook divisions of publishers. How does this work?

On the one hand, students are a captive market faced by the necessity of buying "required" texts. This gives them the impression that they have no choice but to buy what the instructor assigns irrespective of the price. On the other hand, marketing literature sent by publishers to faculty members *never* contains prices. The publishers do not want price comparisons to be possible on what in all too many cases are essentially similar textbooks. They hope through descriptions of book contents and the use of sales representatives, to make faculty members feel they are involved in a purely academic decision involving which is the best textbook. In addition, publishers have a liberal policy of sending faculty members free copies of texts and then turning a blind eye when these copies are sold for pocket money into the secondary market.

If publishers were required to combine price with sales literature, this might open the door to price competition or at the very least make instructors aware of the cost of the books they are assigning.

The new strategy publishers use to maintain high prices are the gimmicks of revi-

sions and new editions. These changes are almost always minimal, and their intent is to destroy the market for used, and thus lower-priced textbooks. The used book market is one of the greatest threats to publishers. Consequently, they resort to the same marketing tactics used by hamburger chains to create an appearance of product differentiation and superiority based on superficial aspects of the products.

There are now so many competitive versions of textbooks on the market in every field that one would expect price competition to be the result. This is certainly true in regard to PCs. But Barnes and Nobles and publishers have a joint interest in maintaining a system which brings in unacceptably large profits.

While it may be possible to get the manager of the CSI book store to offer an 8% as against a 6% price discount, a real attack on the problem must be undertaken from a different direction.

CUNY has over 150,000 students, a huge and prominent market for textbook publishers. The issues you raise should be raised in the following places: student government, the CUNY faculty senate, the Chancellor's Office, and any place else that can make overpriced textbooks a public issue and exert pressure on publishers and faculty members.

Signed,
Anonymous

[Editors Note:

We received a huge response from both students and faculty on our infamous Bookstore cover

news story. The response was so positive that we decided to begin a new column, starting in this issue, entitled, *CSI College Bookstore Rip-offs* (see page 3).

Not everyone was pleased with our story. At a recent College Council meeting, CSI President Marlene Springer seemed quite upset that we revealed to the college community the exact amount which the Barnes and Noble College Bookstore grosses at CSI. Apparently, she only wishes a select few to know how much our bookstore takes from CSI students. The reason for her dismay may be due to the fact that she receives some funding from the CSI Bookstore through the so called "Community Relations" fund and any criticism of the Bookstore might threaten her funding.

In future issues of *The Banner*, we will be keeping the college community updated on the Bookstore situation including the recent rewarding of the Bookstore contract to Barnes & Noble for another four years.]

**DAN AYKROYD
JOHN GOODMAN**

BLUES BROTHERS 2000

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The Ink Spot

SHAWN FISHER
BANNER BUSINESS EDITOR

For thirty-four years, the X-men have been the most put-down and abused underdog team of the Marvel universe. They have also grown to become the most popular characters in comicdom.

What sets the X-men apart from all other superhero books is how they obtained their powers. Born children of the atom, the X-men are mutants—humans born with extra genes that grant them extraordinary powers. Before the X-men, superheros received their powers by accident, through exposure to radiation, also by being an alien, a god, a member of the occult or a brilliant scientist. Mutants were something different; they represented a change in human evolution. What makes one group different from others, sometimes causes them to be feared. That is what sets the X-men apart from all other books.

While other superheros are beloved and celebrated, the X-men are feared and hated. Yet they continue to save the lives of those who would take their own. The X-

men were founded by Professor Charles Xavier (Professor X) — the most powerful telepath in the world. Xavier dreams of a world where Homo-superior and Homo-Sapien can coexist peacefully. Professor X's plan was to create a school where mutants would learn how to use their powers to help themselves, as well as others. He also wanted to create a team capable of policing their own kind without killing them. Professor X's

dream was always that of a world where mutants and humans live in harmony.

Xavier's original students include:

***Cyclops** (Scott Summers) who is able to produce an optic blast controlled only by the ruby-lensed glasses he must wear at all times. Summers is the leader of the X-men, current husband to Jean Grey, and father to the time-lost Cable. He is a stubborn, thick-headed, by-the-book, Boy Scout, who always puts the needs of the team ahead of his own.

***Ice Man** (Robert Drake), as his name states, has the ability to transform his body, and the air molecules around him to ice. The joker of the team, Bobby Drake has only recently realized the full potential of his powers.

***The Beast**

(Henry P. McCoy) The man-of-a-thousand-words, Hank McCoy has enhanced strength and agility. The scientist of the group, McCoy accidentally gave himself blue fur in a botched experiment.

***Angel** (Warren K. Worthington III), with natural born wings, and a millionaire's ego, soars high above the rest of the team. That is, until the maniacal Apocalypse transformed him into Archangel, a member of his Four Horsemen.

***Marvel Girl** (Jean Grey) a master of telepathy and telekinesis, Grey is wife to Scott Summers and mother to the time-lost Rachel Summers. She has always been the mother-figure to this band of mutants.

Unfortunately, Professor X's former friend and chief rival, Eric Magnus, has different ideas about how to handle the differences between humanity and mutants. Known to the world as Magneto, the master of magnetism, he believes the only way for mutants to live in peace is to destroy mankind. Magneto is an ancient soul who watched helplessly as his people were slaughtered by the thousands during the Holocaust. When Magneto matured and his powers came to be, he swore he would not allow mutants to suffer the fate of the Jews of Nazi Germany.

The end result is a rivalry similar to that of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcom X; both men wanting to better his people's civil rights by his own means. Unlike Malcolm X and Dr. King though, the professor and Magneto would constantly have direct confrontations with one another, and their respective teams.

Until the X-men, comic books treated good and evil as black and white. It was always a simple task to tell who the bad guy was. Magneto, and the other X characters to follow, would introduce gray matter into the comic book universe. Magneto's plant to destroy or enslave humanity is definitely a bad thing, but so is mankind's desire to destroy mutants. Since Magneto is simply trying to save his own people, can he really be considered

evil? It is arguments such as this that have allowed the X-men to become one of the most popular comic franchises today.

The X-men, though, was once a canceled series. During the early seventies, sales of the book dramatically dropped. At this point, X-men went into reprints, rather than pay an artist to create new stories. Then by the mid-seventies Marvel began its Giant Size comic series. With this, Marvel decided to try and revamp the series. Giant Size X-men number one came out in nineteen-seventy-five introducing a new multinational team. The issue was an instant success, and revitalized the X-men's popularity. Since that time, the X-men franchise has

grown to include seven different monthly titles and one quarterly as well as scores of miniseries.

The Uncanny X-men is the keystone of the franchise. Originally called the X-men, it became Uncanny after the success of the Giant Size issue. It follows the adventures of the X-men Gold Team forged from Charles Xavier's school for gifted youngsters. This book has endured for almost three decades.

X-men showcases the X-men's Blue team. Over the past thirty-five years, Professor X has picked up quite a following; so much that a second team had to be formed. **X-Force**, was originally a series called the **New Mutants**; a junior group of mutants who would become the next X-men. They left Professor X for the mysterious Cable, a mutant from a possible future of Earth who needs to form an army to fight Apocalypse, a villainous mutant who is destined to rule the Earth. Only the Cable and his X-Force may prevent this fate.

X-Factor is a group of government sanctioned mutants whose job is to deter mutant terrorism in the United States. The team has recently gone rogue after discovering the government's plot to turn X-Factor into a mutant hunting force.

Generation X is the next generation of X-men, formed shortly after the departure of the New Mutants. One of the hippest comic books today, **Generation X** is quickly gaining on the **Uncanny X-men** in popularity.

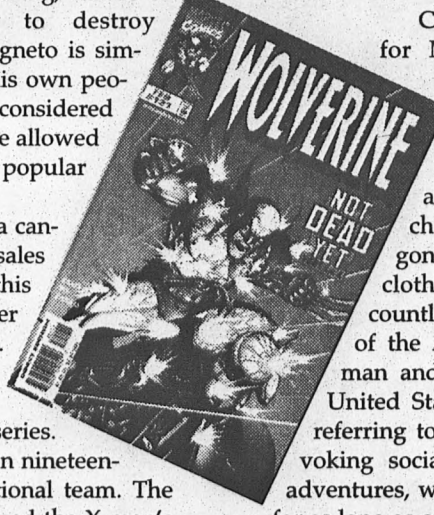
Excalibur, founded by several former X-men and Captain Britain, is Europe's version of the X-men. The book deals a lot more in the mystical arts than its sister publications. This gives it a fresh perspective on the mutant genre.

Cable goes hand in hand with X-Force focusing in more detail on the man destined to save humanity.

Wolverine follows the exploits of Marvel's favorite mutant. Once a member of Alpha Flight, the Canadian Super Team, Wolverine accepted an invitation to join the X-men. Since that time he has been a pivotal character of the series.

Unlimited is the quarterly publication that focuses in more detail on the life of particular characters, allowing the reader a better understanding of what connects someone to the team.

Comic books were only the beginning for Marvel's mutant Empire. In the nineties, the franchise has grown to include an animated series. This series itself proved so popular that it has helped to launch several other animated shows based on Marvel characters. Merchandising has also gone on to include action figures, toys, clothing, stationary, video games and countless other items. With the exception of the Amish, mention the X-men to any man and most women under thirty in the United States and they'll know what you're referring to. The X-men, with its thought provoking social commentary and action packed adventures, will be a staple in the comic industry for as long as comics continue to be published.



Sci-Fi Buzz



January saw the premiere of **Babylon 5** on the TNT cable network. New episodes can be seen on Wednesday nights, at ten PM. **Babylon 5** also runs daily, week nights at seven PM—beginning with its first season. The telefilm **Babylon 5: In the Beginning** was a ratings success for TNT, and a second telefilm is scheduled to be aired at the end of season five. A third film, and a spin-off series are also in the works for TNT.

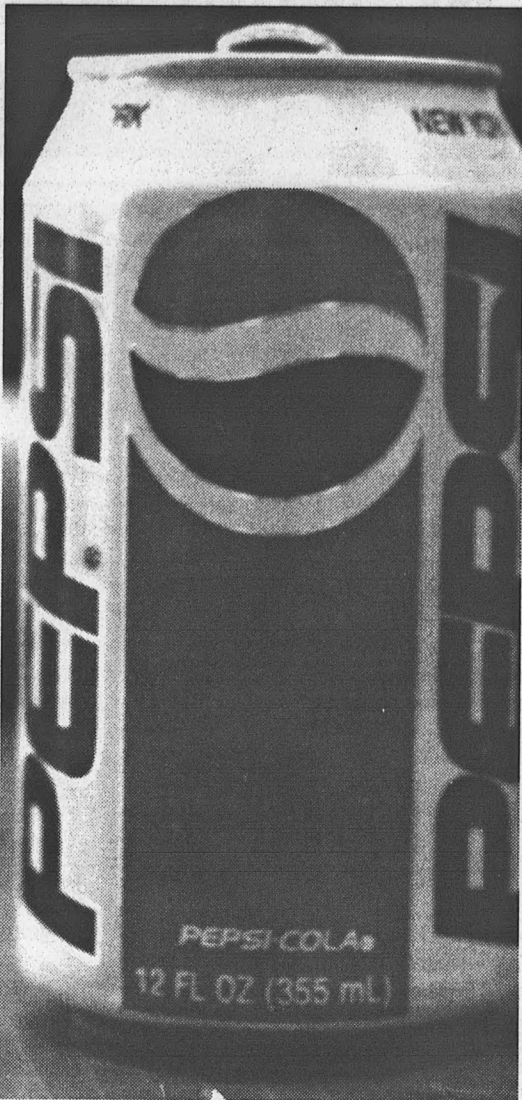


Super Commercials At Super Bowl

MICHAEL BESIO
BANNER LAYOUT EDITOR

This year's Super Bowl wasn't a disappointment, with the Denver Broncos edging the Green Bay Packers 31-24. What also wasn't a let down was the commercial entertainment which many of us watch almost as avidly as the game.

The first commercial to go off during Super Bowl XXXII was by Pepsi. It featured a man sky surfing with a goose. He and the goose go move-for-move in the air trying to top each other, then the man pulls out a Pepsi can and drinks it. This is one move that puzzles the goose because he can't do it. The man then empties the can into the air and the goose drinks the Pepsi. The goose flies away with the other geese and they form the Pepsi logo. This commercial gets an 8 (out of 10).



The ever so funny Budweiser Beer commercials held their own. They featured the return

of the Bud Lizards. The jealous Budweiser Lizard "Lenny" sets up a trap that will electrocute the Budweiser Frogs. He pulls the switch and the frogs disappear. The crowd at the Play-By-Play club in Madison Square Garden, broke out in laughter after this happened. That was the first in a series of Bud commercials. The frogs actually survive. This series of commercials gets a 9.

Another funny commercial was the Holiday Inn spot about jury duty. It featured a case that had overwhelming evidence to convict, but the jury refuses to come to a verdict so that they can stay at Holiday Inn a little longer. This commercial got a 7.

One commercial that was a bomb was the Pepsi commercial with an insect dancing to the Rolling Stones' "Brown Sugar." I didn't see the humor in squashing a bug. The sad thing was that they ran this ad twice. This commercial got a 3.

The Mike Besio Award for best commercial, goes to Pepsi-Frito Lay for their spot on the new 3D Doritos. Two men try to impress a hot lady by throwing 3D Doritos up in the air and catching them in their mouths. What she does is unbelievable. I won't give it away, it's a must see.

This commercial gets a 10.
The Mike Besio

Award for the worst commercial goes to Tri-Star Pictures for *Zorro*. Any movie that features Antonio Banderas as its main star is going to suck. The women in the office disagree with me, stating that any commercial with Antonio Banderas is a good commercial. I gave it a 2. The women give it a 10.

Other commercials that were good were the Budweiser Beer commercial that had men hiding from their wives in a clothing rack at a department store. Michelin tires had a good spot on tires that take abuse, but still hold their own. One spot that was brilliant was a commercial by Federal Express. It was a spot of a dead transmission, the rainbow screen, with text that ran across it. The text told a story about how their advertising department used a different mail service, causing NBC not to get the tape on time. M&M's and AT&T had two funny spots-M&M's featuring Dick Clark, and AT&T's an elephant.

The Mike Besio Creative Commercial Award, goes to Tobasco. It is a very funny commercial that featured a mosquito that sucked a man's blood after he had eaten food drenched in Tobasco. Then the bug flies away and explodes in mid-air.

This year displayed some of the best commercials I have ever seen during a Super Bowl. The one thing that I didn't like was that there weren't any Bud Bowl commercials. Till next year, when the Giants make it.

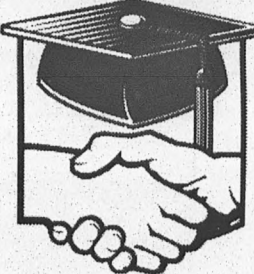
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MUSIC REVIEWS

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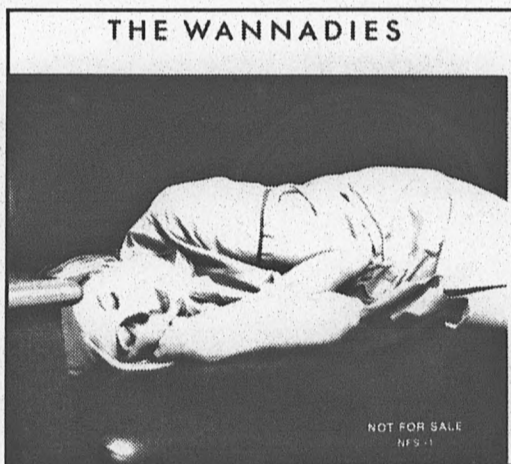
ASIF AHMED
BANNER MUSIC CRITIC

The Wannadies (RCA/Indolent Records)

The late 90's have been quite kind to Sweden's pop music scene. Three years ago, Americans got their first glimpse of the Cardigans through college radio and music fanzines. Since their huge and much-hyped retro major-label impact two years back, the floodgates have been opened and more Swedish music is exported to state-side record labels and radio stations thereafter. One major export that has the music media running frantic is the nine-year old quintet, the Wannadies (as in "wanna die"). Where the Cardigans make use of the lead vocalist as an instrument to the music, the Wannadies blatantly tell their audience the voice is distinct and should be supported by the music.

The group is comprised of lead singer Par Wiksten, keyboardist/background singer Christina Bergmark, bassist Fredrik Schonfeldt, (his brother) guitarist Stefan Schonfeldt and drummer Eric Dahlgren. Their first taste of US fame was when revered Bjork producer, Nelee Hooper asked to use their single, "You and Me Song" on the popular William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet soundtrack. Gaining considerable attention, they released their self-titled release, which was released months before in their native UK. Testing their material on the American public is a tricky thing, but hey, if it worked for Oasis, it can work for anyone. Let us see where the Wannadies take us on this magical music ride...the word alternative is so tiring. For the most part, they explore and exhaust power pop; music that is akin to Melony (fellow Swedes) and the Rentals (Matt Sharp's Weezer side project). Elements of lounge and folk linger as well.

You can tell that this band is influenced by American music. Influences from Stone Temple Pilots to the Carpenters are evident in songs like "Damn It I said" and "Oh Yes (It's A Mess)." The angry "What You Want" depicts a man doubting his significant other's love. The album's final track "That's All" climactically closes this chapter of the Wannadies' saga, incorporating subtle techno beats and distorted synth melodies. Overall, a strong album indeed, but it lacks the originality that music connoisseurs strive for these days. However if you are one for fun pop without the need for labels and titles, then you'll have no trouble swallowing these Swedish meatballs whole.



Victoria Williams: "Musings of a Creek Dipper" (Atlantic)

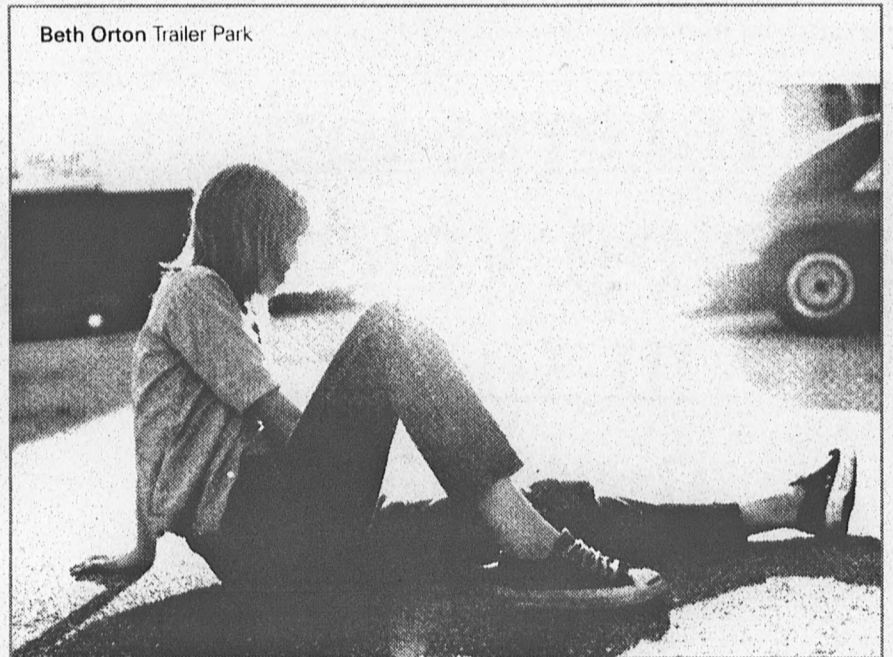
Folk Sweetheart, Victoria Williams has returned to offer us her second major label full length album. The ailing Williams, who suffers from the dreaded Multiple Sclerosis received great accolades from her musician peers after she founded the Sweet Relief Musicians Fund. As an off-shoot, her music also gained critical mass appreciation and Victoria found herself touring and recording with artists/groups like Soul Asylum, Juliana Hatfield, and Soundgarden. "Musings Of A Creek Dipper" seems to be a scrapbook of Williams' childhood memories and unforgettable dreams. Teaming up with producer, Trina Shoemaker (whose work with the The Moon Seven Times' "Sunburnt" earned her much praise), Williams completes the per-



fect country-folk album. Songs are at times full-blown orchestra arrangements and at others minimal vocal/piano pieces. Upon your first listen to "Musings.." you might think Williams cannot sing for her life. True, she is no Whitney Houston but that is the beauty of it. Her ability to single-handedly craft these heartfelt songs outshines her vocal talent by a glimmer of light. Williams manages to focus on the aspects of daily life and views life from the perspective of various personalities. In some songs, she is a six-year old girl sniffing wildflowers and in others, she becomes an eighty-year old man lamenting the loss of his job at the town mill. If you are in need of a cathartic cry and a joyous laugh, this album is definitely up your...um... dirt path. Close your eyes and imagine her haunting rural images through songs like "Last Word," "Humming Bird," "Grandpa in the Cornpatch," and the introductory "Periwinkle Sky." My personal favorite is "Train Song" which supplies a toe-tapping banjo groove that will stay in your mind for weeks. The album also sports guest performers from different music backgrounds including Mark Olson (Williams's husband) of Americana-style favorite, the Jayhawks. In addition, John Convertino and Joey Burns of the band Spoke, pitch in a helping hand completing the string work. This album is a great way to ease into a Sunday night in your backyard while you lay on your back and look at the stars. It is not recommended for those who derive immense pleasure blasting the latest 311 single. Enjoy this and return to nature...eat grapenuts.

Beth Orton "Trailer Park" (Dedicated/Heavenly)

For someone her age, Beth Orton has managed to accomplish quite a lot in her life. Abandoning her initial life dream as an actress, landing only toothpaste commercials, the Norwich, England native picked up her six string and started playing small coffee bars and clubs around London. It wasn't until 1995 when William Orbit (Torch Song) discovered Beth on stage and demanded that she lay down some vocal tracks for a few songs for an upcoming compilation. During this time, Lemonheads frontman Evan Dando saw her play and immediately added her to his last string of European performance dates. Since then, the 26 year old Orton is relishing in her newfound success



and fame. She has been interviewed by just about every European and Domestic music magazine from Vox to Rolling Stone. "Trailer Park" (once tentatively titled "Winnebago" due to her fascination with white trash America) is Orton's debut release and was initially released in 1996 in the UK on the Heavenly label. Last Spring, Dedicated Records US won the bid to add Beth to their roster. Her first single, "She Cries Your Name" is currently gaining massive airplay all over the country and has a video shown on MTV. With that information out of the way, let us talk about her music. "Trailer Park" is an album that should be as hyped as much as Fiona Apple's "Tidal" ...if not more. Just about every song is accessible and memorable as any mainstream favorite. Orton sings about loneliness, desperation, friendship, and hope: terms and ideas that all of us can identify with all of the time. "Someone's Daughter" is a playful song which places Orton in a daydream in which she woos a man whose qualities meet her standards. Phrases like "I wanna know how it feels to be the sunlight in your hair and dancing everywhere..." and "...calling angels down to earth because we really need them" are beautifully interwoven with acoustic guitar plucks, violins and soft drums. To describe her music, I would say it is folk mixed with electronic, making her a breakthrough artist. It is pretty difficult to cross over music styles, but Orton and her producer Orbit found a marvelous way to marry the elements of trip-hop and folk. I would dare to coin the terms "trip-folk" or "folk-hop", but they sound like back country jigs that even the Waltons would dare not attempt. You must listen to "Trailer Park" to know what I am talking about. I strongly recommend listening to the trippy "She Cries Your Name," the upbeat "Live as You Dream," the insightful yet melancholic "Don't Need a Reason," the foreboding "Tangent," and her galvanizing ode to Ronnie Spector's classic "I Wish I Never Saw the Sunshine." All around, it is an amazing album which everyone should use as a companion to life for it can find a place in anyone's home. Loved it...better than CATS!

A CITYHAWK SUPERBOWL PARTY

MIKE BESIO & FRANCIS STUCHBURY
BANNER LAYOUT EDITOR/ BANNER SPORTS EDITOR

It was Super Bowl Sunday and for the first time in a long time, members of *The Banner* were invited to a Super Bowl Party at the Play-By-Play club in Madison Square Garden thrown by the New York CityHawks, an arena football team in its second season. Mike, Shawn Hank and Francis were invited to the party.

The day didn't start off as well as we would have liked it to. First, we had to wait two hours at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal for Mike. So we left without him.

To prove it's a passing league, quarterbacks pass for up to 4,000 yards in a season. The first quarterback in arena football history to throw for 4,000 yards in a season was the CityHawks own, Mike Perez.

Perez has other things on his mind besides throwing for 4,000 yards though. "The one thing I want to do is win a championship, and I also always like to beat Albany, it feels so good to beat my old team," said Perez.

Perez beat Albany last season, and he has high hopes to beat them this year. When he isn't passing for touchdowns, he's giving the thumbs up sign on mortgages as a mortgage banker. Perez is a part owner of mortgage company.

One of the most interesting players of the CityHawks organization is Eugene Napoleon. Napoleon, before being acquired by

the CityHawks was working as a school teacher in Jersey City, New Jersey.

When asked if it is difficult to catch the balls off the nets, Napoleon said, "It's pretty much second nature to me, except when the ball hits off the goal post because the direction of the ball is unpredictable."

"It's sort of like playing school-yard-football," said Wayne Morris when asked the same question. Morris played college ball at Hofstra University. He is still to this day the all-time leading receiver at Hofstra. In arena football he plays both sides of the field, as do most of the players.

"In one minute of the game a player can burn me for a touchdown, and when we get the ball I can repay him the favor," said Morris.

One position that is important in arena football is the kicker. Punting in arena football is illegal and on 4th down you either go for the first down or kick the field goal. The problem with arena football is that the goal posts are only nine feet wide which makes field goals hard to make. "Every time you kick the ball you have to be happy



Fran interviewing CityHawk coach, Chuck Shelton at the CityHawk's Super Bowl party. •photo by Hank Eisenstein

Mike was somewhere in upstate New York, and failed to let anyone know his whereabouts.

During the lovely Staten Island ferry ride, we sat, pissed-off at Mike. He was the one who had organized the event and should have told someone that he would be late and would meet us there.

When we got to the Garden, impressed isn't the word to describe the service we got. Mike's name wasn't on the guest list, but since there was enough space they let us in anyway.

Once we got to our table we were approached by a man wearing a CityHawks' Polo shirt. "Hi, my name is Eugene Napoleon. I play for the CityHawks, thanks for coming," said the kick returner of the CityHawks, introducing himself.

What is arena football? It's played in an arena where most of the players play offensive and defensive, with the exception of the quarterback and the kicker. The field is 50 yards long and only 28 1/3 yards wide, which means there is not that much space to run the ball. There are also three-man offensive lines compared to the five-man offensive lines of the NFL. This leads to less blockers when it comes to running the football. This is primarily a passing league.

What we were surprised about at the event was how fan-friendly the CityHawk players were, so different from most professional athletes.

The MC of the event was Dr. Dre of Hot 97 who took the place of CityHawks' commentator, ex-Giant/Jet punter Dave Jennings. Dr. Dre was very outspoken getting all the people who attended talking to the players who were there, which is something we all took advantage of.

Who was Dr. Dre pulling for?

"I'm not pulling for anyone one, I'm just a football fan. I'm just glad that I get a chance to get close with Chuck Shelton. I would like to come to the CityHawk games and give the coach some advice every once in a while. Yeah, I give those players a good pep talk. Boys you got to hit them hard and low and then fight, fight fight," said Dr. Dre while talking to Mike and City Hawk Coach Chuck Shelton.

When asked about the differences between NFL and arena football, Shelton said, "There are a lot of restrictions in this game, this game is a lot faster than the NFL."

Shelton's last position in 1997 was as defensive coordinator of the Amsterdam Admirals of the World League. Assuming that defensive coaches like to run the football, we asked him if it is good to run the ball a lot in this game.

"The running game happens once in a while, you have to treat every down like it is a third and eight."



Mike Besio gets in a word with CityHawks QB Mike Perez after dinner. •photo by Hank Eisenstein

with the kick or else you will get frustrated and have a hard time making them," said Michael Geary, kicker of the CityHawks. When asked that he had a disappointing season Geary said that he "wants to improve a lot for the upcoming season." When you make a statement like that to other athletes some of them might get mad and curse you out, but the CityHawks players are in a class of their own.

The CityHawks are having a home opener May 4 against arch rival, the New Jersey Red Dogs. Ticket prices start at only 10 dollars a game—affordable even for college students. For season ticket information call (212) 465-6073. Don't miss the action of Arena Football!!!




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BANNER SPORTS

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CSI MEN'S BASKETBALL SCOOPS

MIKE FITZMAURICE
BANNER CONTRIBUTOR

Since the start of the new year, the CSI men's basketball team has not been playing up to their usual standards. Beginning the season at 5-5, some blame it on their depleted lineup. Like the New York Knicks, the Dolphins lost their star player, Point Guard John Cali. Cali averaged 14 points a game and four assists before ending his season with a back injury.

With Cali out, Dolphin fans are concerned with their team's playoff chances. Beside the CUNY tournament, a Division III playoff berth is highly unlikely. Also out is Forward Ken Thomassen. With their star out of the lineup, here is a list of players that stepped up their game.

Bill Felci

Clearly the guy to go, now that Cali is out. Scored 24 points during a critical game against Medgar-Evers College (MEC) giving the dolphins a 75 to 65 win. Felci, in a losing effort, scored 18 points and added on 13 rebounds in a loss to Hunter College. He played the entire game against Rutgers-Newark despite picking up his 4th personal foul with 15 minutes left in the second half. He finished that game with

28 points.

Brian Gasper

Gasper has been the "Quiet leader" of the Dolphins. He has been moved around playing both the small for-

ward and shooting guard spot due to Cali's absence. Gasper has proven to be a sound passer and has developed one hell of a jump shot. He totaled 29 points when the Dolphins lost to FDU- Madison. He poured in 22 points and compiled 10 rebounds in the team win over MEC. Gasper's highlight game was the teams double over time win against Rutgers-Newark, where he

not only scored 33 points (26 in the second half) but at the same time became the 18th player on the Dolphins 1000-point list. After the game Gasper said, "We had to play with a lot of heart to pull this one out."

Another player that might need more playing time during the season to improve is Unique Heyward, who returned to the team with a bang by scoring 18pts and 12 rebounds in our loss to Villa Julie College (74-70). Since that game, Heyward has proven himself in every game. In only his second year, fans see good things to come for Unique.

Another player to look out for is Forward Matt Franzreb. Center Bill Felci said of Franzreb, "Matt inherited a trial-by-fire situation. He plays with a lot of heart and his play will improve as the season goes on. Once he finds his shot he will improve as the season goes on. Once he finds his shot he will become a good player."

The men's team will have to prove themselves with the remaining games in the season. Hopefully they can get it together and make a strong playoff run.

CSI MEN'S Last 5
CSI 75 Medgar Evers 65
Kean 67 CSI 58
Montclair State 71 CSI 60
Hunter 82 Csi 74
CSI 89 Rutgers-Newark 86 (2 OT's)

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FINALLY HAS A PLACE ON THE RADIO

FRANCIS STUCHBURY
BANNER SPORTS EDITOR

Every Sunday night from 9-10, the show "Wrestle Talk" is on 88.9 FM (WSIA, The College of Staten Island's own radio station), giving wrestling fans the latest up to date information, which includes wrestling scoops, pay per view predictions and recaps. When WSIA started the show in September there were many skeptics and critics of it. People thought the show was a joke, and that it was entertainment rather than sports. I never said that wrestling was a sport. It is entertainment. You can call it the male soap opera. I didn't take the complaints seriously because they were coming from people who were not wrestling fans. The day a wrestling fan says the show is bad is the day the show gets canceled.

The stereotype is that most wrestling fans are idiots. I certainly feel that is not the case. I have a 3.0 grade point average, I am the Sports Editor of "The Banner", and Sports Director of WSIA. That certainly breaks that stereotype. The problem is most wrestling fans are in the closet. They only talk about wrestling to people that they are sure are wrestling fans. One time, I wore an NWO (New World Order) T-shirt and two guys I never met before started talking to me about wrestling. They kept going on and on, and told me that they wish there was a wrestling talk show on the radio. Well, WSIA granted their wish.

People don't realize how many wrestling fans there are. After Monday Night Football, wrestling is the most watched "sport" show on Monday nights. I have been a wrestling fan since I was 5 years old. I go way back starting with the Bob Backlund days, before the birth of Hulkamania.

In the beginning, the WSIA show was co-hosted by Mike Fitzmaurice and myself. The show started to become popular thanks to my inside sources. For example, instead of people calling in and having their questions written down, we put them on the air. It makes the show more professional. My radio show also reported the death of Brian Pillman only one hour after it was announced through the wires. We were definitely the first place anywhere to get that information, and

the following week we started the show with a moment of silence for Pillman and did a recap of his career which included sound bites of him speaking.

Later, Erik Swanson joined the show, and it got even better. He is the most underappreciated member of WSIA. Erik engineers the show and throws in his wrestling insights. The only reason I found out he was a wrestling fan was when he told me he listened to my show.

Another knowledgeable wrestling fan, by the name of Mercer joined the show. He was a great addition to the show as he continuously brings us lots of insight and comes up with interesting topics. One of these topics was how to improve the WWF light heavy-weight division. When we do predictions, he seems to have a good idea on how the bookers of the various wrestling federations think. He was right on every Starcade prediction. Don't be shocked if he is a future booker for a wrestling promotion. Mercer can put a good angle on every wrestler, which makes them interesting to the public.

Mike Fitzmaurice, another member, is ten years older than the three of us, which is good because he is more familiar with the older wrestlers and has some interesting stories.

The show's 9 p.m. time slot is great. About every two weeks there are pay-per-views. By 9 o'clock most of the matches are over except for the main events. We get the results from the internet which is good because most people, unless they have illegal hot boxes, will not spend 30 dollars on a pay per view event. We go into detail about what happens in these matches. By 10 o'clock, the main events are over and people usually call in with results and comments. It's great because you can immediately respond to the matches instead of waiting until the next day to see what the commentators think. Throughout the show there is wrestling music played in the background. The majority of the phone calls come from people that ask questions, comment on the pay-per-view events and talk about past wrestling matches. The WSIA show reaches Brooklyn, Staten

Island, lower Manhattan and the middle of New Jersey.

I personally feel it would be a tragedy if the show was taken off the air. I am graduating next semester and as long as there are people at the station that want to do the show, it should remain on the air. The show is different and interesting because it is one of the few professional wrestling talk shows out there. I'm glad that so far things have been good. We expect in the future to have ticket give aways to the wrestling events and to have interviews with wrestlers

Here is some wrestling news. In the WWF (World Wrestling Federation) it seems obvious now that Mike Tyson will fight Stone Cold Steve Austin at Wrestle Mania. I hope that biting is legal in this match. If that happens look for Shawn Michaels to wrestle Owen Hart for the title. Expect the Undertaker to look deformed and wrestle Kane featuring "HELL in a Cell 2". Mark Henry has joined the NOD (Nation of Domination). His wrestling skills are pathetic. Big deal he can lift people. That bear hug is a stupid way to beats his opponents. Expect Farooq and Rocky Maiavia to fight for the Intercontinental Championship in WrestleMania. Jacquelyn is headed to the WWF where she might be a protégé for NOD or be a Goldust groupie.

In WCW (World Championship Wrestling) news, Hulk Hogan and Sting will fight again in February's SuperBrawl for the championship. Look for Macho Man Randy Savage to interfere, helping Sting win the championship back. Look for Savage to fight Kevin Nash too. That will be a great match. It looks as though Savage will be turning face. Dusty Rhodes is now part of the NWO. This is hard to believe because he has been a face (a good guy) most of his career. It does not seem to make sense. Debra McMichael is out of WCW because she refused to be a protégé for Raven's flock. It appears that the Pit Bulls of ECW (Extreme Championship Wrestling) are WCW bound. That will help their tag team division a lot.

I would like to receive feedback, because if I get some, I'll do a wrestling article every issue.