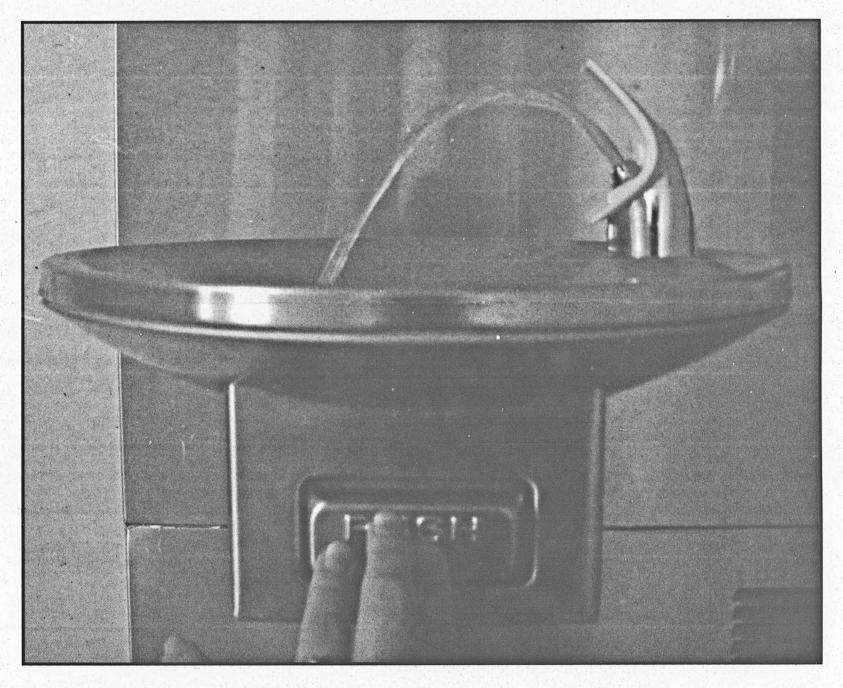


Troubled Waters



Serious Concerns About Campus Water Quality Raised By PSC Tests.

Also inside: Sports, Horoscopes, Profiles, and *Mutant Lobster Boy*. And after the attacks, CSI rallies behind its leaders. See page 3.

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From the Editor

So, where do we go from here? Our lives have gone back to normal while dead bodies are still being pulled out from beneath the rubble of America's most symbolic buildings. Every day I hear another story. Every day there's another funeral. Every day I see the World Trade Center go up in flames on my television set. It's all been so shocking, so sad, so horrifying. I don't want to think about it. I'd like to forget it. I'd like to move on. But I just can't. Not yet.

My sister got married on September 8th. I remember meeting her best friend's fiance, Aaron, at the wedding reception. These two had their wedding day set for May.

Aaron talked of buys sells stocks and and and graduating from some highbrow school in Boston. I remember him being smart, good looking and confident. But something I'll never forget is the way they danced together. Some Sinatra or Louie Prima song was playing, and they danced the swing while smiling at each other and looking into each other's eyes with the gaze that could last a lifetime. Three days later, Aaron's life crumbled with the rest of the concrete and steel. And a girl is left with a broken heart and a stolen promise.

And then there is Mohammed. At the age of 22 Mohammed, an Egyptian-American, is the manager of a local fast food restaurant. Mohammed came to this country for its opportunities, its endless possibilities and most of all for its freedom.

Since the terrorist attacks on September, 11th Mohammed has endured disturbing phone calls, verbal abuse and vicious threats by Staten Island residents. When asked "Why?" Mohammed simply replies, "Because I'm Arab."

The Banner thanks...

Greg Adamo,

for his tireless service and friendship

Correction

On the cover of our last issue we featured the sculpture, Big Stride. The artist is Lucille B. Friedland, not Helen Friedland. Lucille B. Friedland and her husband, Jacob Fridland, donated the sculpture to the Colletge in 1993.

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CSI Unites Behind Their Leader In the days following 9/11, the CSI community came together.

By Scott Axelrod

Marlene Springer was working in her office on the morning of Tuesday September 11, 2001 when she received a telephone call from her daughter in Washington D.C. At which point President Springer turned on the television. By mid-afternoon, all CSI classes had been called to a halt. Growing fears of local strikes on other public facilities began to mount and they spread throughout campus conversations. College administration was asked to remain on campus to ensure that all commuting students from the five boroughs and beyond had people and places that they could turn to.

"The school's first priority is to ensure the safety and welfare of all of its students," said Carol Brower, Director of the Office of Student life.

Volunteers immediately began to help establish a makeshift shelter in the Recreation Center, complete with accommodations consisting of approximately one hundred cots.

By early Wednesday morning, televisions had been set up in both the Green Dolphin and Bijou lounges of the Campus Center. Classes were scheduled to proceed as usual, but were made optional without absence penalties for students unable to travel to campus, and those too saddened to focus on academic activities.

At 2:30 on Wednesday afternoon, students, staff, and faculty came together at the fountain located in the center of campus, as President Springer presided over an impromptu gathering of the CSI community. This was something she hadn't been forced to do since October of 1998 after the death of Matthew Shepherd—a college student murdered for being gay. Soft-spoken, yet clearly distressed, Dr. Springer choked back tears as she delivered a heartfelt statement:

"This is a time of great sorrow and suffering. Everybody knows somebody affected by these events. Staten Island is a very close, small community of caring people. CSI too, is a close group who has shown remarkable stamina in comforting, healing, holding, and working. This is a tragedy of great ramifications with roots in prejudice, and in hatred, and in evil. As a caring and faithful community, we can stand united against such forces. We will use all of the college's resources to help our community in any way that we can."

Looking out onto the large assemblage of sullen faces, she invited the group to find comfort in the arms of those standing closest to them, as she herself slowly made her way through the crowd, sharing hugs, shaking hands, and embracing individuals who she had never even met (including this reporter). With a moment of silence transforming into streams of steady conversation, many in attendance



Wednesday, 9/12: President Springer presided over a gathering of the CSI community.

seemed as if they were not in any hurry to leave the gathering.

"There are really no words to describe these events," said Vice-President for Student Affairs, Dr. Carol Jackson. "I'm glad to see our college being there to offer comfort and support to each other."

Grief counseling services were quickly organized in offices throughout campus, including (but not exclusive to) SEEK, the Department of Psychology, NSO/CLUE, the Peer Drop-In Center, and the Health Center, in addition to a telephone hotline providing school information and a comforting voice for students and faculty in need of someone to talk to. Numerous students made use of such services. Counselors were barely given a moment of personal reflection before another saddened someone was knocking on their door.

College organizations such as WSIA

(CSI's official radio station) immediately set out to offer help in any way that they could. Station members gathered information pertaining to both local and national agencies that Islanders could volunteer for. Phone numbers for blood and supply donations were repeated throughout the station's broadcast day. DJ's have made every effort to intersperse programs with any pertinent information coming through on the inundated fax machine and email accounts.

From Wednesday, September 12th, through the early evening of Friday, September 14th, members of CSI's NYPIRG chapter gathered together to organize a donation collection of much sought after materials needed for rescue workers and victims. Students, staff, and several Staten Island residents sporadically filed into the Campus Center, bearing large bags of clothing, heavy cases of bottled water, and a small supermarket's worth of non-perishable food items, in addition to various toiletries and several monetary donations. NYPIRG members sang patriotic anthems as they organized the contributions.

In the days following, other student groups would assemble to hold several candlelight vigils and seminars. A memorial wall was created in the Green Dolphin lounge . A graffitiesque mosaic quickly replaced the blank white paper, with many choosing to create poetic and spiritual verse, or to commend the brave efforts of those whose lives had been lost during the rescue efforts, and for those who still continue the search.

According to one of its officers, The Office of Public Safety at the college has already begun to conduct more thorough searches of all campus buildings. There have also been more measures taken to monitor the flow of vehicles entering and leaving campus.

At a time of crisis such as this, students should utilize all that their school has to offer. The CSI Counseling Help Line can be reached at (718) 982-3107. Counselors are available 9 a.m. to $\vec{7}$ p.m. Mon. through Thurs., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

"This is a time of great sorrow and suffering. Everybody knows somebody affected by these events. Staten Island is a very close, small community of caring people. CSI too, is a close group who has shown remarkable stamina in comforting, healing, holding, and working. This is a tragedy of great ramifications with roots in prejudice, and in hatred, and in evil. As a caring and faithful community, we can stand united against such forces. We will use all of the college's resources to help our community in any way that we can."

-President Marlene Springer

Troubled Waters

CSI water quality test results raise questions

By Stacey Toomey

A Professional Staff Congress member stated that recent tests show CSI drinking water "is not good, even to wash a car," leading to several administrative meetings, including at least one with President Marlene Springer. Other conferences are scheduled for the near future and will include discussions about the quality of campus water.

Vice President for Finance and Administration, John F. Hudacs, maintains that "We did do testing . . . and it was within the acceptable limits and qualities."

To drink or not to drink? That is the question we are diligently trying to answer.

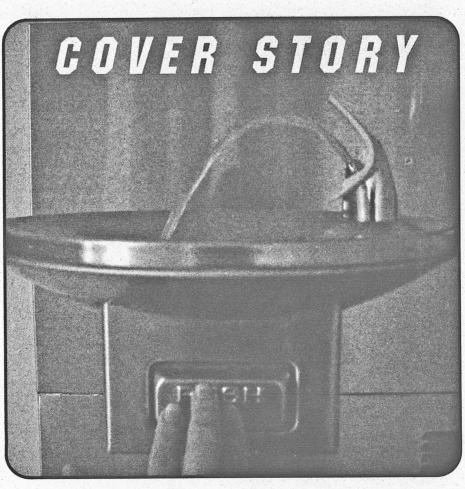
The Professional Staff Congress, which is the teachers union, appointed Professor B. Shah Jayman as Chairperson of their Environmental Protection and Health Committee. Last April at the PSC's request, Professor Jayman began an environmental investigation of the campus, which according to him included an evaluation of campus water, air quality and molds. The PSC's inquiry into the environmental safety of CSI follows the December 2000 closing and mold abatement of building 2S, which plagued by stachybotrys was chartarum.

Jayman performed "a complete check of the entire campus, beginning from 15... to all the N buildings." An anonymous source from the union confirmed that tests were performed by Jayman, accompanied by an environmental engineer.

On September 4th, Jayman was scheduled to disclose and discuss the test results in an interview with *The Banner*. However, he was reluctant to give the details of his findings without permission from either the Executive Committee of the PSC or Professor Vasilios Petratos, Chairperson of the CSI chapter of the PSC. It remains unclear if Professor Jayman made a request for permission to discuss the issue. In a subsequent interview, Petratos stated, "I don't remember."

Although Jayman's reported findings remain unpublished, the former engineer stated that the water was "very, very bad." · He attributed part of the problem to insufficient fountain filtration systems. When a person drinks from a campus drinking fountain, the excess water is not discarded when it goes down the drain. According to Jayman, "the water that's not being used goes back, and you end up drinking that."

VP Hudacs' office was contacted for comment. In a telephone interview, Hudacs asked, "Who is Professor Jayman?" Hudacs also stated that he



All photos, including cover: Stacey Toomey



CSI student gives a thumbs down to the drinking fountain in 1S.

did not know that any testing was being performed on the water quality by the PSC. In a subsequent interview, Hudacs said "I kind of pride myself on knowing what's happening . . . but until you called I had no idea...what's being referenced here." Jayman has not returned phone calls

since the September 4th interview. On Wednesday, October 3rd, VP Hudacs and PSC Chairman Petratos met with *The Banner*. At that meeting Hudacs and Petratos disclosed that on October 2nd, the PSC held a meeting in which Jayman's findings were reviewed. A two-page agenda of items to be discussed with President Springer emerged from that PSC meeting. Petratos would not confirm if the quality of our drinking water was on that agenda or if Jayman's analysis indicated any reasons for concern.

"It is not a question of denying or confirming," said Petratos. "It's a question of following a process of decision making and information ... I am representing the Executive Committee [of the PSC] and will only speak on things they have decided to do and have decided to release ... The Executive position is to allow the President time to react and that we have no conclusions to be drawn at this stage."

As of October 3rd, VP Hudacs had not met with Professor Jayman and stated, "I still don't quite have an understanding of what the particular point is or issue is . . . I don't know what tests there are if there are any."

He also declared that Jayman's findings were, "antithetical to our own information." He added, "... our indication is that there is not a need for this type of activity and concern."

However, the Administration is adamant about addressing all concerns. "We have a policy that if anyone has a problem with anything . . . any type of issue, they bring it to our attention and we'll sit down and take a look at it," said Hudacs. "If it requires action, based on our collective review, we'll take action. We are committed to that."

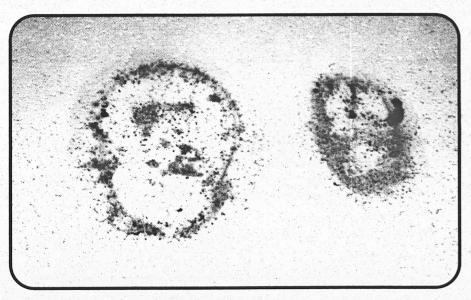
Several days following this meeting all of the water fountains in building 5S were closed off by yellow caution tape. VP Hudacs acknowledged that someone complained about the water and stated, "I think someone drank from it [the water fountain] and had a bad reaction." He also insisted that whatever the problem was, it had been solved.

During the October 3rd interview, Hudacs acknowledged anxieties within the CSI community. "The concern is that this is one of those things that people need to have confidence about, and that's important." He added, "I just don't like people to have a sense of uneasiness and that's got to be addressed."

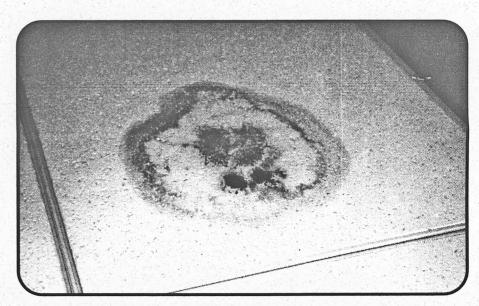
More and more mold...

Last May, *The Banner* reported the occurrence of *stachybotrys chartarum* mold in building 2S. Although CSI's administration has indicated that the mold problem "has been defeated," our environmental reporter, Stacey Toomey, has recently come across visual evidence of new mold spores sprouting in Building 2N.

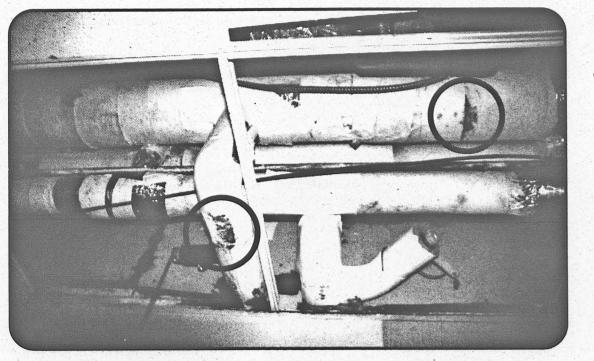
Vice President Hudacs has said, "Mold is everywhere. You're never going to get rid of it." The Centers for Disease Control confirm that mold spores are everywhere. Where will it end?



Unhealthy and disgusting mold rears its ugly spores in basement classroom 2N 003, directly above already over-stressed student brains. Photo credit: Stacey Toomey.



More black mold in the basement hallways of 2N.



Mold seeps through exposed pipes in the basement hallways of 2N.

Spotted any mold? If the answer's yes, you should contact the office of V.P. John Hudacs, campus extension 2240.

Speak Up!

Albany budget cuts threaten CUNY: SEEK program, new faculty hiring, and childcare affected

By Daniel Botting, NYPIRG Representative

On August 2nd our state legislators approved the 2001-2002 budget for New York State. This budget slashed funding from several programs and initiatives important to students here at CSI. SEEK, an opportunity program for economically and educationally disadvantaged students in the CUNY system, had 3 million dollars cut from its budget. Also cut was approximately 13 million dollars from an allocated lump sum of twenty million dollars to hire full-time faculty. Campus childcare budgets lost almost two thirds of their entire allotment (from 3,540,000 dollars to 1,230,000 dollars) towards providing childcare to parents who are students.

As a result of these cuts, more students are going to find that they can no longer afford to go to school. Parents are going to find that waiting lists to enroll in campus childcare are going to lengthen. This will lead many to seek outside help in caring for their children, yet another expense for household budgets already stretched thin. The CUNY system will become less accessible to students, and we will move farther and farther from the days when a quality CUNY education was free to New York City residents.

Currently New York State has the 14th highest priced 4-year public college tuition in the country, and rising. Unfortunately with this we are seeing a reduction in the quality of our education. In the bare bones budget the legislature has passed, CUNY will receive minimum amounts of funding. This will lead to the cancellation of classes, the cutting of library and computer lab hours, and a decrease in the hiring of full-time faculty.

Full-time faculty members are needed to provide a comprehensive range of necessary student services such as course counseling. Since 1990, CUNY has lost nearly 1,000 full-time faculty, and operates at a ratio of 51% full-time to 49% part-time. The ideal ratio is 70% full-time to 30% part-time faculty.

Even with the World Trade Center tragedy, our legislators in Albany are currently making decisions about how to allocate the state's projected multibillion dollar surplus. The next major convening of the Legislature is October 15th. Students at CSI, in coalition with students from all across the state, can make sure that our politicians know that we will not stand for an under funded CUNY system along with major cuts to financial aid programs. By contacting Governor Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Bruno, and Senate Higher Education Committee Chair Lavalle, we can put the pressure on them to restore much-needed funds to the higher education budget. (Insert contact information) In addition, the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) will be organizing here, and on campuses across the state, to make sure that public institutes of higher learning maintain their high quality and become more, not less, accessible to students. As an organization run entirely by students, we cannot let Governor Pataki and the Legislature put higher education on the line. Neither can you. Contact your politicians today.

To get involved with NYPIRG call 718-982-3109, e-mail to: dbotting@nypirg. org, or stop by room 219, in the Campus Center. NYPIRG is also holding a General Interest Meeting on October 4th in the Green Dolphin Lounge at 1:30. There will be free food and those eligible will receive Clue Credit.

Dear Senator Bruno:

Our State needs a strong public higher education system. Investment in the City University of New York (CUNY) is vital for the City and State; the Assembly budget bill provides the needed support. A supplemental budget is needed now. CUNY can't wait. Pass the Assmbly's budget bill.

Signature:_____

Name (Print):_____

Address:____

Clip and send to: The Honorable Joseph L. Bruno, Majority Leader, The State Senate, Capitol, Albany, NY 12247

Dear Speaker Silver:

Thank you for providing the needed support for the City University of New York (CUNY) in the Assembly budget bill. When you negotiate a supplemental budget, I urge you to to press for full funding of the Assembly bill. CUNY needs to rebuild and we can't miss the opportunity.

Signature:_____

Name (Print):______

Address:___

Clip and send to: The Honorable Sheldon Silver, Speaker, The State Assembly, Capitol, Albany, NY 12247

Campaign for CUNY!	Dear Governor Pataki:
 I strongly support a State budget for a well-funded CUNY I would like more information-keep me updated I will sign post cards, petitions, letters and/or make phone calls to support more State funds for CUNY I am willing to attend a rally to support more funding for CUNY 	Our State needs a strong public higher education system. Investment in the City University of New York (CUNY) is vital for the City and State; the Assembly budget bill provides the needed support. A supplemental budget is needed now. CUNY can't wait. Pass the Assembly's budget bill.
 I would like to help build a community/labor coalition to mobilize for increased State funds I would be a contact person for my department on campus 	Signature:
Name(print):	Name (Print):
Campus:Dept	
Phone:Email: Address:	Address:
lip and send to: PSC, 25 West 43rd Street, 5th floor,	Clip and send to: The Honorable George Pataki, The Executive Chamber, Capitol, Albany, NY 12247

Around Campus

Health and Wellness

Get the Stress out by exercising, meditation, yoga, or TV!

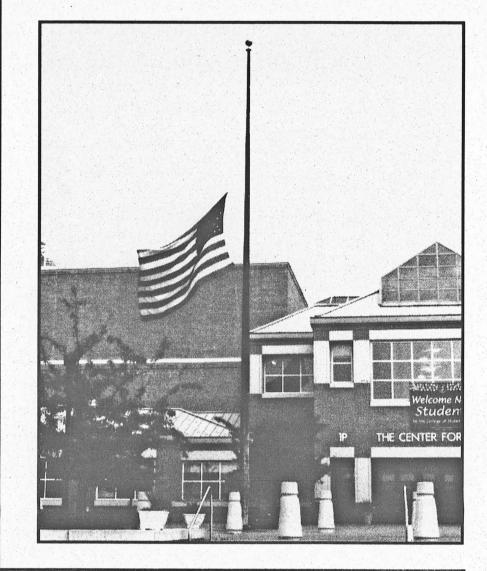
By Sherry Papir

Stress! Ahhhh! What a dreadful word! Everyone hates being under stress, but it's something we all must face. It is absolutely impossible to live a stressfree life, no matter how hard you try. Fortunately, there are many ways to control your stress level. One can exercise, do yoga, meditate, watch T.V. or just chill out by listening to your favorite songs.

If you don't try to deal with your stress and just let it build up inside you, it can lead to many harmful consequences. Stress can cause illness, sleep deprivation, forgetfulness and it can make you feel nervous all the time. Just taking a walk around the block or exercising can really help to relieve the stress built up inside of you. You could even try closing your eyes and imagining your in the Bahamas or a special relaxing place. You'd be surprised at how much this technique can ease your mind. Even talking to your close friends about your issues, will take a huge load off your shoulders.

One of the ways I personally handle stress is by doing yoga. Now your probably thinking to yourself that yoga is way out of the question. Nevertheless, I urge you to just give it a chance, because I too once felt that yoga was not for me.

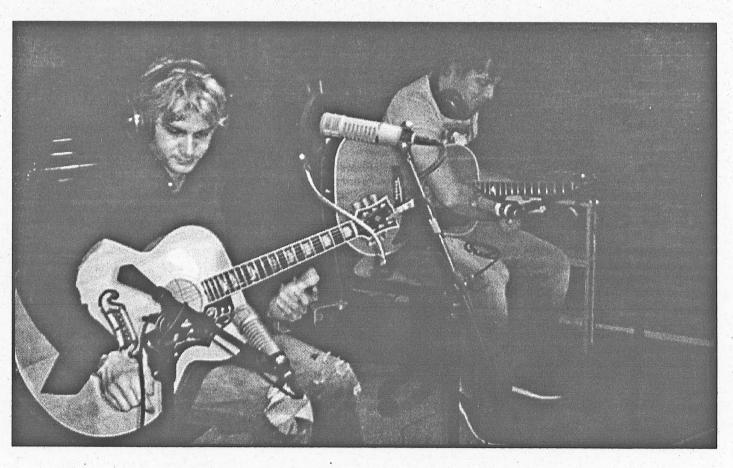
However, after starting yoga a year ago, it has really changed my outlook on life. Yoga didn't just give me a great workout; it relaxed me completely and really cleared my mind. If you are under major stress and you really don't know what to do, just try a yoga class. You'll be surprised at how much it will ease your mind. Our sympathies go out to all the students and faculty who lost loved ones in the tragedy.



American Hi-Fi Stops By WSIA for a Chat and a Jam

By Scott Axelrod

This past October 2, Alternative rock band American Hi-Fi paid homage to their college radio roots by paying a special visit to the studios of WSIA Staten Island 88.9, the Borough's only FM radio station. Lead singer Stacy Jones and guitarist Jamie Arentzen, took time out of a busy schedule (which included an early morning appearance on Commercial station Z100) for a sit-down interview with WSIA Music Director Lacey Axelrod and News Director Elaina Lovascio. They noted that the station's high-tech facilities appear more inviting than many other radio stations they have visited. The conversation was immediately followed by a live acoustic performance of the band's chart-topping hit "Flavor of the Weak" and the tra-"Blue Day" (both songs appear on their self-titled debut CD available on Island/Def Jam Records). A large gathering of College of Staten Island students crowded below the station's overhead speaker in front of the studios to listen in on the event. Photos of the band alongside WSIA staff can be found on the station's web page: www.wsia.fm



Lead singer Stacy Jones and Guitarist Jamie Arentzen of American Hi-Fi.

What The Stars Have In Store For You

Whether you're meteriote-jumping or tiptoing through the dust rings of Saturn, our newest columnist, resident astrology expert Laura Luna, will guide you to the next quasar, or at least next month.

By Laura Luna

Aries: The Ram March 21-April 19

The spotlight for you this month is in the area of marriage and partnerships. The lines of communication between you and your partner are

opening up. A more mature and responsible approach to dealing with problems is likely to occur. You might be feeling more aware of the mental changes you have been going through and this is helping you to resolve conflicts in the home. Try not to worry to much about the differences in opinion of those around you.

Taurus: The Bull April 20-May 20

You could be starting this month with about concerns your work area and personal resources. Tightening up your budget will no doubt bring you

some rewards in the future. Information from outside sources will be coming to you. This is something that has been in the making for a long time. Be sure to keep the lines of communication open.

Gemini: The Twins May 21-June 20

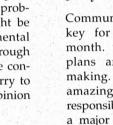
This month you may be recieving news connected to an investment or speculation that has been on your mind. You think this is something



that might affect your future and this is causing you some aggravation. Dealing with the situation responsibly and cautiously is the most beneficial way. Leave room for negotiations but take heed not to rush into anything

Cancer: The Crab June 21-July 22

This month is about reflection. You could be spending alot of time at home meditating and thinking about your personal responsibilities. Be sure to



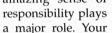
ments

keep a positive outlook. Although worries may be bothering you, harmony will prevail. When disagreearrive,

remember that communicating in a pleasent manner will get you what you want. An unexpected sroke of luck may come to you from an outside source of income.

Leo: The Lion July 23 - August 22

Communication is key for you this Future plans are in the Your amazing sense of



concerns in this matter will prompt you to act slowly. Try not to let your emotions interfere with your reasoning, especially when it comes to balancing your budget. Compromising in most situation proves most beneficial.

Virgo: The Virgin August 23- September 22

The spotlight for you this month shines on your personal values and

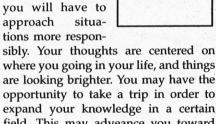
moral resources.

As always, you face the issues con-

cerning your career will vigor. Things at home are changing slowly, so try not to worry too much. Opening up to a friend could be of great help.Celestial Occurrence

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S	e	p	t	e	m	b	er	23	-	0	c	t	0	b

This month your outlook on life is changing. You realize that in order to feel more secure,



opportunity to take a trip in order to expand your knowledge in a certain field. This may adveance you toward your career goals. A certain investment may be involved with this and your talents play a big role in this situation.

Scorpio: The Scorpion October 23-November 21

You could be spending a part of your time this month doing some soul searching. The future

will take care of itself as long as

you remain honest. The picture you have in your mind is very pleasent, but don't let anxiety creep in on you. You may be considering changing your career or major, but be sure to wave all the possibilities involved.

Sagittarius: The Archer November 22-December 21

This month you be will very involved in social activities. Some of these activities cold make you feel obligated to a certain

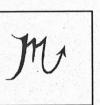
group or organization, but keep in mind that performing these duties might be helpful towards your future. Differences between your mate or partner are on their way to being resolved, although these problems are connected to your home and emotions. Try to be opened minded. You need learn before you judge.

Capricorn: The Goat December 22-January 19

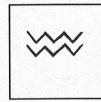
Your mind will be very focused on your future at your workplace. Try not to become agitated. All your communication should be done in a careful way; be informed before you express your opinion. There are certain issues you will have to deal with regarding your past and future. You might be feeling a pull towards a far away place and the initiation of a project there.

Aquarius: The Water Carrier January 20 - February 18

This month your thought will be involved with your life plan for the future. Avoid spending a lot of money or making a risky investment until all the facts are clear to you. The right time



will present itself to you. Restraint and discipline are important now, and using the two may be causing your sore stress. Understand that only you can



make these decisions, but input from those you work with may prove helpful.

Pisces: The Fish February 19 - March 20

You are facing some new responsibilities at home, but have faith. There will be help from an outside source. After overcoming some emotional difficulties the near future



should hold harmonious events. Embrace the opportunity to attend a social gathering.

Celestial Occurences

Mercury Retrograde

From time to time, each celestial body in the sky will effect on us here on earth. Venus is the planet of love and pleasure. Jupiter rules over our luck and success. Mercury represents intelligence and how we communicate with the world. It is the planet of mental activity, such as speaking and writing, perception and reason. Individual expressions of mercurial traits vary, and depend largely on one's sign and planet. Three times a year Mercury goes retrograde. From our place in the universe it appears that the planet is moving backward, but it is only an illusion. Astrologically, we are all affected by this planetary motion. The retrograde cycle lasts approximately three weeks. A Mercurial cycle began on or around October 2nd and should last until the 22nd. Generally, we may experience delays and miscommunications. We may feel that our mental processes are off kilter. In addition, many of us will have a tendency to daydream.On the bright side, this is a time for introspection, as well as a time to get in tune with your own idiosyncratic spirituality. Be patient, and be sure to think before you speak. Try to put off making and major decisions or travel plans.

er 22

Career, promotion, or financial reward is very possible for you now. Your responsibility and work performance could bring all of

the above for you.

Comics

Mutant Lobster Boy "I'm Here and I'm Queer!"



The Michael Packer Blues Band

By Jennifer Mosscrop

During the past couple of weeks it has been difficult to deal with the tragedy that has plagued our city. It has affected everybody, one way or another, including myself. I attended my friend's funeral last week and to top it all off, my other friend's one year anniversary since her passing was five days later. To get to the point of all this, I was feeling pretty lousy and needed to raise my spirit somehow.

Soon enough my friends and I made our way to the Real McCoy, a local bar located at 76 Bay Street (just minutes from the S.I. ferry). We were hungry for live music but did not know who would be playing there, so we were prepared for anything. When we got to our seats, I asked a man setting up equipment what the name of the band was and from the moment I heard the name, The Michael Packer Blues Band, my mind was set at ease. That was exactly the thing I needed to sooth me.

The room was dimly lit and smoke quickly filled the air. The sound of clinking beer bottles and shot glasses being slammed down on the table made the atmosphere just right. The four man band fit snug in the room as if it were built around them. It did not take long for the band to get ready, and when they started playing I was already convinced that this was going to be a good show. Michael Packer was seated on top of a speaker with his guitar in hand, singing and tapping his foot in time with the music. The man behind the drums, usually a heavy metal drummer, jammed away while Mr. Brown wailed on his alto sax (later switching to the flute). Rick Peterson played a mean bass guitar and sang "The Thrill is Gone." This song was first made popular by the legendary B.B. King. They also played a Bob Dylan classic, "All Along The Watchtower as a tribute to the events on September 11 and In California Michael had the pleasure of jamming with George Thorogood, (Most famous for "Bad to the Bone"). When he moved back to New York he formed "The Michael Packer Blues Band" in 1983. He now has a record label called Windmill Music, which promotes his music and represents local



The Real McCoy, on Bay Street

"Walking the Dog" by Rufus Thomas. The energy and passion of these four men reached us and it wasn't long until I noticed my spirits being lifted.

Michael Packer learned to play the guitar when he was just twelve years old and has been playing ever since. His first band, called "Papa Nebo" recorded an album with Atlanta records back in 1971 but soon after the band broke up. musicians; also Michael manages the music program for "The Real McCoy".

By now you must be wondering what's so great about this bar, right? The Real McCoy is a bar owned by a man I only know as Josh; He's also the bartender. It is a great place to unwind, get some drinks in you and listen to some good music. Some say that Thursday night is the best time to go because the place is jumping with the open blues jam. This is when local musicians come, improvise each other and produce some great blues together. They begin after ten o'clock and they finish whenever they damn well please. Anyone who is interested in joining in should contact Michael Packer. Scheduled bands come to perform on Friday and Saturday nights and usually end with Packer adding his two cents with a blues jam. Saturday nights are special because The Real McCoy has a "Movie Night" from eight o'clock to around nine o'clock, before the music, Chris Blair organizes this and what will be on screen is up to him. For the rest of the week, it is a regular bar that opens daily at 6pm.

When "The Michael Packer Blues Band" was wrapping up their set, each of them played a solo to show off their stuff. Each solo I heard was pretty impressive and after all four solos, they fused back together as on band to finish their song in harmony. By this time I felt much better, and as we left, the band graciously accepted our compliments. My troubles disappeared for thenight; if you ever listened to blues, you know what I'm talking about. Due to lack of airplay on the radio, many young people don't get a chance to hear blues. If you have an open-mind, I recommend you check out "the Michael Packer Blues Band" for yourself. They are great musicians who obviously love their music, and are dedicated to their work. You can contact The Real McCoy to find out when their next show will take place by calling (718) 981-8271 or e-mail at McCoy@techteam,net. You won't be disappointed.

Something for Nothing ? Don't let a free semester slip you by at the College of Staten Island

By Krista Arrigo

As I was sitting through my Com 450 Senior Seminar class, my fellow classmates and I began inquiring about several graduation issue, which we have been contemplating for some time. Quite uncertain about exactly who or where to obtain information from, we were thankful when our professor, Edward Miller, sat patiently and was happy to answer and discuss with us our many questions and concerns.

"Is it true the last semester of your senior year is free?" one of the girls behind me shouted out, sounding somewhat delighted yet confused.

Upon hearing such pleasant news, blank faces looked upon Professor Miller in amazement and anticipation. "Yes, it is true that the school does

pay for your last semester here but...." Interrupted by other students and myself, Professor Miller abruptly stopped speaking. He knew he could not be heard over the rambunctious students and their inquisitive voices. We proceeded to interrogate Professor Miller, and were determined to understand why we, as seniors here at CSI, were never informed of such news.

"They don't publicize it, but it is true," Professor Miller stated.

Awe-stricken, many students remained curious as to when we would have been notified of this information. Without knowledge of the procedures, we wondered how we could redeem our free semester.

"I received my bill and it said paid," said one girl in the classroom who is currently undergoing her last semester here, for free.

With various questions in mind, one student asked, "Why don't they tell us about the free semester?"

After speaking with and amongst my classmates, we concluded that if we had decided to attend graduate school and had begun attending classes in order to obtain a Masters degree *before* registering for graduation to receive our BAs, than we would *not* receive the free semester.

Still, I wonder why the college would ever want to keep such a fantastic and generous piece of information from all of us loyal college-tuition-paying people here at CSI. I for one was undoubtedly thankful and extremely excited to share the news with my much devoted-school-paying mother.

And just as the class was about to end, Professor Miller was able to finish the initial sentence he had started earlier...

"This only applies to students who have attended CSI throughout their entire four years, not if you're a transfer student."

"Yes, it is true that the school does pay for your last semester here. But....."

What's All the Quack About?

Protecting and serving a family of local residents. Who happen to be ducks.

By Katrina Lisa Winslow

He was discovered back in May, a kind of bird that didn't look like anything else on campus. Certainly not a goose. He was black and white with a rustcolor breast.

He had planted himself in front of a memorial shrub outside of building 2A, facing the great lawn. A few days later, a smaller duck was seen standing by his side. She was one of the regular geese that you would see around campus. When they went out flying together, Alan Hoffner, CSI's Registrar, looked under the shrub to discover eleven eggs. Buildings and grounds were immediately called. They had set up a fence to protect them. The college rallied around this little family to be.

A couple of weeks later the eggs hatched. Administration, the Computer Tech Center, and even security pitched in by buying duck feed and supplying water.

"The ducks became a big thing. It was an attraction, a nice sight to see for both employees and students," said Laurie Staples of CSI security.

People still wondered about the ori-

President Springer: "People attend this college from all around the world, including the ducks."

gin of the male duck. Calls were made thoughtout campus and our Biology Department helped answer the question of the month.

Our duck was identified as an Australian Shelduck, a species that belongs to the sub family Tadorninae. They are often described as being an intermediate animal, somewhere between geese and ducks. Their nesting areas are usually found in the southwestern and southeastern Austraila.

How did the duck get here? No one knows for sure. A few guesses point to the Staten Island Zoo. But it could have escaped from someone's backyard, or maybe he just took a wrong turn and like a typical male, couldn't ask for directions.

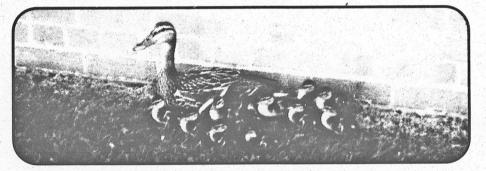
One morning, Hoffner noticed that the ducks were dealing with an emergency of their own. a Peace Officer on a bike and one in a truck. came to help. The ducks were on the path to freedom! Starting in front of the nest, they were slowly progressing down the street to building 3A, over the lawn, across the street and throught the fence to Willowbrook Park.

It took some time for them to get to this destination, because their mother got tired. Every few feet she would flop to the ground and her babies would follow. It truly was a sight to behold.

After this day they were never seen again. Some of you might be asking, "Why would ducks pick such a crowded spot to make a nest?" Simple. It was safe and secure here. This male was smart. He was far from predators.

President Marlene Springer used these animals as a symbol at freshmen orientation. "People attend this college from all around the world, including the ducks."

A goat many quacks, opps, I mean thanks all those who participated in provid a safe haven for a family of ducks. You did a terrific job!



One of the ducks that have made their home at CSI.

Ask Andre

Advice about sex and drugs and rock and roll and what to do about smelly classmates

By Andre Springer

I think I have a crush on one of the cooks in the cafeteria, but I think he will be intimidated by my good looks.

-Pining Communications Major

Dear Pining CM,

It never hurts to try asking this guy out! If you decide to procrastinate, you might be losing a potential partner, maybe even a boyfriend. If you believe that people get intimidated by your looks, chances of you finding someone are very slim. What I would suggest to you is get up off your ass, go to that cafeteria and let him know how you feel. It might come out good, it might come out bad. Just remember that if you do try it you won't ask yourself in the future, "I wonder what would have happened if I asked that guy out in the cafeteria?"

How can I tell if I masturbate too much? —Bryan, English Major

Dear Bryan,

It has taken me quite some time to come up with a decent response to your question. If the days go by and you notice that it is getting harder for you to walk, I think you should slow down your extracurricular activities. Or, if you happen to prove the myth of orities and what you want to do. You can look around the school and put in applications for various jobs/positions available. You will be quite happy to know that the campus jobs let you

"How can I tell if I masturbate too much?" —Bryan, English Major

becoming blind from too much "time to yourself," I think you should stop. But if you seem to be just fine, healthy, and dandy then do what you have to do. It's your body, just make sure you clean up after yourself!

Where can I find a job that best suits my school schedule?

—Natalie, Journalism Major

Dear Natalie,

Believe it or not, but the college has excellent resources for finding jobs and internships. It all depends on your priwork around your school schedule. Or, if you have somewhere else you would like to work, do some independent research, make some calls, and find out if the job will let you work around your schedule. If school is your number one priority and if you are the type of student who loves to study and get excellent grades, I do not recommend that you work more than 25 hours a week. Some people pull it off, but you really don't want to be overwhelmed. Think clearly about what it is you want to do, then shop around for job opportunities. Also, don't forget to look around the school for openings, ask questions, and go to 2A in the office of career placement. Good luck!

The guy next to me in my geology lecture has a terrible odor. The seats are assigned. Should I say something to him? —Student In Distress

Dear Distressed,

This can be a little tricky. Your options are limited, and since the seats are assigned you have little choice but to stay where you are. Depending on your Professor, you can speak to him or her in private to discuss the matter of moving to another seat. Plead your case to him/her, make the Profesor see the sorrow in your eyes, and the nauseated expression on your face. If he/she is indeed a person of compassion he/she will allow you to move. The last thing that you truly want to do is hurt this person's feeling. If all fails, let this person know how you feel, but please say it in a nice way! Don't laugh or seem arrogant about it. The last thing you want to do is make an enemy with some one you have to sit next to for the duration of the semester.

Mini-World Makes A Huge Difference

By Danielle Rea

Most people would be terrified to walk into a classroom after twenty years, but not Debra Ercole. She was a wife, a mother of three boys and a successful businesswoman, but she still was not completely satisfied.

Debra is married to a school bus driver. She started out helping her husband as bus chaperone, while raising their three boys. She always had a strong love for children, and she wanted to incorporate that love into a more prestigious career.

"I wanted to achieve certification, to be head teacher," Debra told me. She is the owner of a preschool on Staten Island, but her lack of a degree is what brings her to college. Debra taught at her school for twelve years but could not be head teacher withou her certification.

In 1989, having her own children in preschool, she thought that opening a school of her own would be a great investment. Along with the help of her best friend, they rented space out of a church in Tottenville. They came up with the name "Mini World". The school started off with six students, and now has seventy. The only advertisement for the school was the parents' word of mouth. Luckily, their reputation has proven to be magnetic. "It was a very big struggle, but it was well worth it. I love children, I love teaching them, and at graduation I cry and I miss each and every student!" She says she never has any regrets. It's the kind of career she loves doing every day, plus she was able to stay at home to raise her children, which was extremely important to her.

Debra teaches the children numbers, shapes, colors, the alphabet, and concepts in social studies and science. She tries her best to make it as fun as possible. "I set up places for them to explore.



CSI student Debra Ercole, co-founder of the Tottenville nursery school, Mini World. Photo credit: Danielle Rea.

I take them on trips. I took the four year olds to CTV to do a Christmas show last year. I taught the girls a ballet dance and the boys the dance of the wooden solider. I made them each a costume out of felt. The kids saw the camera rolling, you had to see the looks on their faces. It was great!"

Debra invited me to visit the school; and it was so much fun! Class was held in a fairly large room. A long conference-type table was in the middle, surrounded by tiny chairs. There was even a stage where the children can put on performances. All around the class were play areas. The students' paintings were proudly displayed all over the walls. It was so bright and cheerful, I was honestly jealous I couldn't attend. The school also has a backyard with a miniature swing set and a seesaw. She told me that she purchased each and every toy in the school. Her generosity and dedication amazed me.

I could tell by the smile on her face and the glow in her eyes that the children truly made her happy. What Debra could not deny was the fact that it had been a struggle. She admitted that still, she sometimes wants to give up. She may question her ability to reach her goals, but her determination prevails. As the conversation ended, I left feel-

ing great admiration for Debra. I learned a lot about her. A person's career says a lot about them.

A Rising Star on S.I.'s Music Heaven Is David Lowe the new James Hetfield?

By Natalie Baginski

21 year-old CSI student David Lowe appears completely enveloped in thought. His long hair conceals his face as he sits bent over his notebook, scribbling. With a curious yet slightly menacing glint in his eye, he looks up and grins good-naturedly.

The Brooklyn-born Staten Island resident is one of many students at CSI pursuing a career in communication studies, with a concentration in radio and music broadcasting. He intends to use his bachelor's degree as a way into the music industry.

Many items are on Dave's wish list. He wants to work behind the scenes, getting involved in promotional work for up-and-coming bands. He's even considering managing public relations and event planning for a major production company. But most of all, he wishes to sing his way into the rock and roll limelight.

Dave discovered his passion for heavy metal in the fifth grade, when he and classmate Joe Pennachio began tinkering with the thought of creating a band. It happened for them in 1996



with the creation of their first band, "Viscosity." "Atmosphere" followed. His current project is called "Warped Reality," which plays local clubs and bars. They hope to get the attention of a prominent talent scout or producer.

Like many true aficionados, Dave appreciates the veterans of rock and roll (Ozzie, Metallica et al.) and feels that much of today's music follows a cookie-cutter process. With a few minor exceptions (e.g. Korn, Slipknot et al.), the music industry churns out band after band, often leaving substance and originality to be desired. "Today's music [is] a fistful of candy-a**ed rock bands and MTV generation wannabe pop stars," says Dave.

His motivation was to be different, edgy. "85 % of the songs I write are reflections upon myself and my life experiences."

A devout fan of horror films and related literature, his songs also reflect his interest in the spirit world, paranormal activity, ghosts and evil.

But don't be fooled by his gruff, rocker-like appearance. Dave does not in the least fit into the stereotype often associated with rock music and its followers. "I'm actually pretty quiet. I don't drink; I don't do any drugs," he said. "I can get really crazy, but I also like to just hang around and read." Yet there's also that tattoo of the grim reaper on his left upper arm, which he proudly displays.

Dave is an advocate of non-violent behavior. In 1997, he was held up and robbed at gunpoint as he was leaving his workplace (Colonial Bowling Lanes, in Clifton) late one night.

"I had a gun to my head," he said. "It was the scariest thing I had ever experienced." This traumatic event was the inspiration for Dave's outlook on life. Thoughts about this experience are also expressed in his music.

He firmly believes in a passive existence, strictly opposing the negativity of violence as expressed in the noble truths of the Buddha. "Expect nothing. Accept everything," he said.

Through hard work and lots of positive thinking, Dave hopes to realize his dream and get to the "big time" of rock stardom.

Good luck Dave, on your way to never-never land.

Hey, I know that Guy!

Chad Goldstein is C.S.I.'s resident extra, who's appeared in HBO's hit shows "Sex in the City" and "The Sopranos."

By Steven J. Hager

Chad Goldstein may not be a student at Columbia University but he played one during the past season of the hit HBO television series, "The Sopranos."

Like many other struggling actors, Goldstein, 25, a graduating senior at the College of Staten Island, is part of an army of 'extras,' chameleon-like characters that blend into the fabric of movie and television projects filmed in the tri-state area. While not featured players in these shows, he and his cohorts form an integral part of the creation of more realistic settings for the camera to capture.

But don't call him an extra, that is West Coast terminology used by directors who feel that these actors are little more than moving furniture. On the East Coast he is referred to as a "Background Performer."

He was present on the Sopranos set twice last year, first in an episode when family matron Carmella (played by Edie De Falco) visits her freshman daughter Meadow at Columbia; then again during a fraternity party where Meadow and her roommate take the drug Ecstasy.

Goldstein starting acting in his late teens. Besides the "Sopranos," he has been most recently seen in the Freddie Prinze Jr. romantic comedy, "Down to You," the Denis Leary sitcom "The Job," and HBO's "Sex and The City." He is currently an un-named resident of the fictional hamlet of Stuckey-Ville on the NBC sophomore series "Ed."

"I think I'm-most recognized from my close-up shot on Sex and the City," Chad explains. In that scene, his character is yelled at by one of Sarah Jessica Parker's "dates from hell." His crime: standing too close behind them on line at the movies. The Wagner high-school graduate will also have some good screen time in the upcoming film "Death to Smoochie," starring Edward Norton and directed by Danny Devito.

"I thought I was going to have a speaking part in that one, Danny Devito called me over, introduced himself and told me I'd be playing Nick the grill guy. Usually when they give your character a name, you have lines," Goldstein said. "I got to be in a scene where I handed Norton a plate of hot dogs and his character talked to me but all I was allowed to do was mug the camera with a reaction. It's still pretty cool when you get to work on a project attached to a big-name celebrity but when you're constantly working you forget what you've worked on...after a while it just becomes your job."

The life of a background performer isn't as glamorous as it sounds. While Goldstein receives more calls for jobs



CSI student Chad Goldstein has appeared in many films and television shows.

"It's still pretty cool when you get to work on a project attached to a big-name celebrity but when you're constantly working you forget what you've worked on. It just becomes your job."

than non-union actors do because he joined the Screen Actors' Guild (SAG) two years ago, he still has no job security. He does receive some health benefits through the union but many actors don't unless they've earned a certain amount per year and the hours are long and grueling. For an average day of shooting on "Ed," Goldstein has to drive to North Vale, New Jersey and be on set at seven am and stay there till eight at night.

"Most of the time we are just standing around waiting for them to repeat a scene with different lighting and camera angles. It can get real boring," Goldstein adds. "And you really don't want to appear as background too often because then you are type cast as an extra. The same shows call you back over and over because they want to ensure continuity. But it's still better than being a waiter."

Chad knows this first hand, having worked as a singing/dancing waiter at the Staten Island Mall's retro eatery Johnny Rockets. As soon as he realized that he could earn more money in a day on the set than he did in the restaurant (where no one saw fit to tip him) for a week, Goldstein decided to pursue acting full time, or as full-time as possible, while trying to get a Bachelor of Science in Communications at CSI.

"Last semester I had to miss fifteen days of work because it conflicted with my class schedule," Goldstein said. "I just lost a day on Ed because I have class on Tuesdays. It is not good to keep turning them down, they always have someone else to fill your spot and you get the reputation of being unreliable, then you lose future work."

It's difficult for a lot of actors to find work now. Last year at this time Goldstein was working almost every day because there was a threat of a SAG strike on the film industry. The major studios, independents and television companies were shooting every thing they could in the New York before the strike deadline. Currently there are only three project filming in the metropolitan area. The year before that a SAG strike almost crippled the advertising industry.

"A lot of people are losing money now, many are having trouble making their rent, especially those living in Manhattan," Goldstein explained. Though Chad lives with his father and brother in the Heartland Villiage area, he still has many expenses. His father Steve 54, a car service driver, pays for rent and utilities but he must pay for everything else himself.

Food, clothing, his car and insurance, a must for getting to jobs in Jersey or one of the outer boroughs, textbooks and much of his tuition are all paid for by Chad's acting.

"Spaghetti-Os can be quite tasty when heated to the right temperature," Goldstein insists.

However, while not completely supportive financially, Steve Goldstein has always backed his son's wish to go into acting. Chad's mother, who died of cancer five years ago, had also encouraged him to follow his dreams. She had similar aspirations herself and had taken several acting classes, but never followed up with it, the Brooklyn-born actor explained.

Chad plans to graduate this January, if the registrar does not claim that he needs more classes or finds some other excuse to keep him another semester despite the amount of credits he has completed.

"Every time I get out... they pull me back in," he added playfully impersonating Soprano's star Steven Van Zandt's now famous imitation of Al Pacino in "The Godfather 3."

Of course, Chad is still waiting for his big break, a speaking role that will showcase his talent. However, what he really wants is to direct.

If you'd like to see someone you know profiled for *The Banner*, please submit your piece to us with picture.

The Lady Dolphins Return to the Court

They went to the NCAA's last year, but Coach Gualtieri still isn't satisfied.

By Suzanne Duve

This semester is back in full swing and CSI's women's basketball team has returned, and in full force. The Lady Dolphins open their season November 16, at the annual Ramapo College tip-off tournament.

Last year, the team took their game all the way to the NCAA's and proved CSI has what it takes to win. Just like the dolphin, our women's basketball team is graceful, small, they stick together, and are great to see in action.

This year will be an interesting one for the Lady Dolphins as the team is made up of six newcomers and six returning players. Among the six returning are JR captain April Nelson, Keisha Cook (who averaged 9.8 rebounds per game last season), and Pamela Barone, who led the team with a 16.3 points per game average.

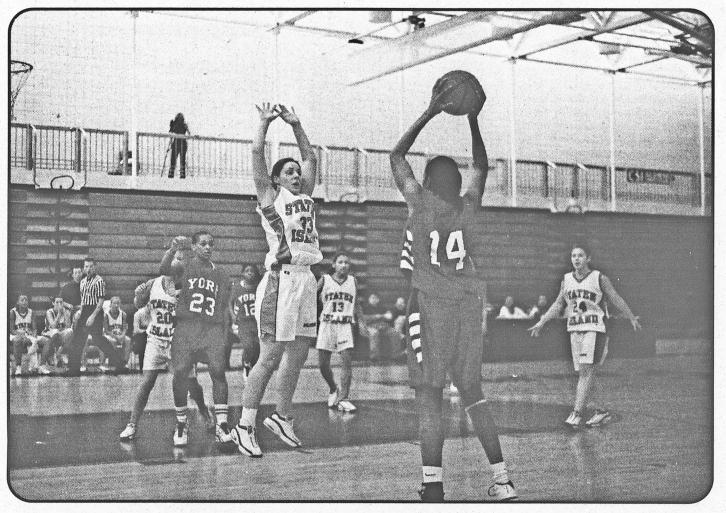
The team is starting this year without two of its key players from last season. Stephanie Valerio, who was last season's freshman point guard, has left the school and the team in order to pursue a career in the Army. The Lady Dolphins will also have to play without their leading rebounder and captain, Courtney Ametti, who has recently graduated from CSI. Some may see losing these girls as a minor setback, just another way to prove that CSI will continue to strive, no matter what the obstacle.

The Lady dolphins are coached by Marguerit Gualtieri. This is coach Gualtieri's 4th season with CSI, and she (with the help of Assistant coach Tom Falthive) has managed to bring this division 3 team to number one in the CUNY Conference and number two in scoring.

"We are a small team we don't have a lot of tall girls, we are more of a guard oriented team," says Coach Gualtieri. "Eans should expect hard work, a strong competitive edge, a tough defense, and the girls ability to push the ball." The team hopes to make it to the NCAA's once again this season, and to go farther then last season. It all depends on how well the girls stick together and make it work.

The Lady Dolphins have a more difficult schedule this year. Coach Gualtieri remarks, "We are playing against some more difficult schools this season but that is a good thing, it gives us a chance to challenge ourselves which will only help us in the championships and in the NCAA's." New York University and Springville are among some of the schools in this year's program.

These women have proven to be an outstanding team, one well worth the watch. Put your books aside and ride along as the school gets ready to go dolphin watching.



Not all dolphins are swimmers. In fact, some dribble, pass and shoot hoops.

Photo courtesy The Yearbook.

"We're playing against some more difficult schools this season but that's a good thing, it gives us a chance to challenge ourselves which will only help us in the championships and in the NCAA's."

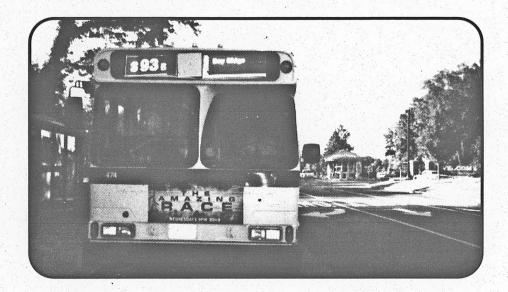
— Coach Gualtieri

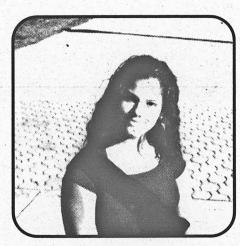
Come watch them practice! Monday through Friday, 12 to 3 pm in the main gym. Tournaments begin in November

The New Express Bus

Thanks to CSI 's Student Government, Administration, NYPIRG and the MTA, we finally have an express bus from Brooklyn.

Banner staff reporter Theresa Constantino took some time to snap photographs and make conversation with some of the student commuters who now ride the S93 express bus, which runs from 86th street and 4th Avenue in Brooklyn directly to CSI. Here's what they have to say.





"I take the bus four times a week , but I felt they should run the buses more often." —Stephanie Samiguel



"They should put more buses on the route." —Samir Kadi



"I travel from Bensonhurst and taking the express bus cuts my trip by half an hour." —Lidiya Pastukah



"I live in Bay Ridge. I take the express bus 5 tmes a week. I think the it's a great idea." —Jessica Yared



"I travel from Sunset Park. With the express bus, I can get an extra hour of sleep." —Nataki Skinner



"I live in Flatbush. I think they need extra buses at night when classes end at 10 pm." —Linda Bissada

Calendar

Upcoming Events . . . October/November

