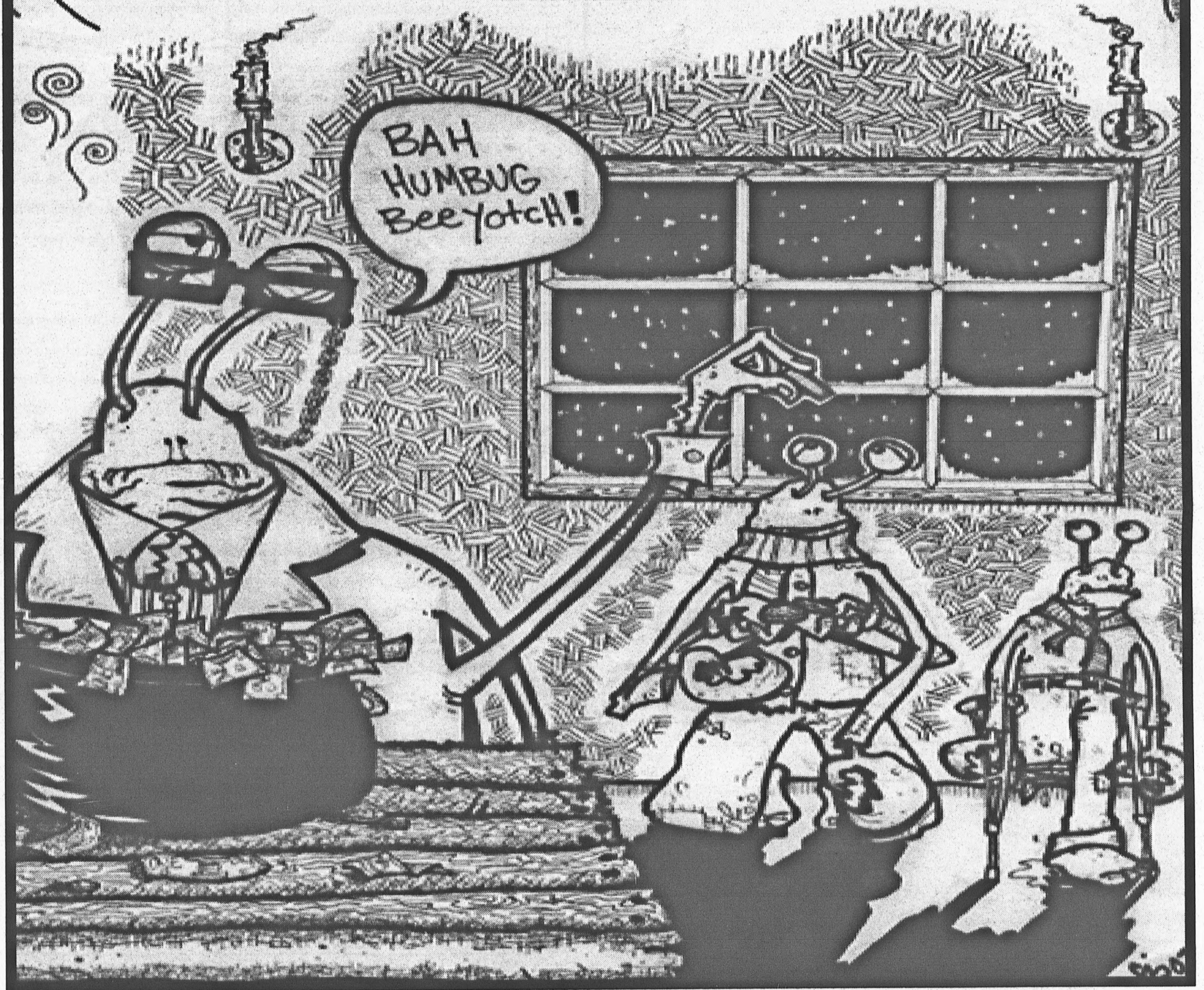


DECEMBER '01
A MUTANT
CHRISTMAS CAROL



Season's Greetings from all of us here at

THE BANNER

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FRANCIS K. DUFFY & JOE TACOPINO

Contributing Editors
SCOTT AXELROD KRIS LO PRESTO STACEY TOOMEY
JOHN PERAZZO SHMUEL GERBER

Graphics Editors
LOU PROFERA & ALLYSON DERRINGER

ILLUSTRATIONS
KATY TROIANO

Staff and Contributors

THERESA CONSTANTINO JENNIFER MOSSCROP ANN-MARIA SCIULARA

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YANIV AMAR

Faculty Advisor: Frederick Kaufman

From the Editor

This month's cover was illustrated by Christopher Sorrentino. We feel it invokes all the nostalgia and good cheer that comes with the holiday season—with a little *Banner* twist. Chris also has a new Mutant Lobster Boy comic as an extra present this issue. A new feature in this issue is new line art from our resident artist Katy Troiano

We're very excited about the involvement and motivation we've seen this term at *The Banner*. A lot of thanks are due, especially in this season of thanksgiving. I'm thankful for many things this year. One being that Joe Tacopino, Scott Axelrod, and Frank Duffy are guiding our staff and making it fun and interesting to be a member of this great publication.

What a magical time of year this is, a time when pixie dust makes us fly and dreams really do come true. Speaking of dreams coming true, Jessica Mendez already received a few packages of the masculine kind. Her article on page 7 tells us how male strippers eye their prey.

No holiday season is complete without a little miracle. Our little miracle comes in the form of Alison Schlackman. Her crossword puzzles have filled a huge gap in our paper. Unfortunately for Lou, one of our graphics editors, they don't make a Microsoft Crosswords program. At least you'll have something to ask Santa for this year.

I've been a part of this paper for only two months, but I've worked long and hard hours. I've sat with Allyson another of our graphics editors, and debated mere inches (or shall we say picas?) in the Horoscopes section. As you glaze over these 16 pages, know that weeks of effort and arguments and changes have gone into them. I know that more thought has gone into this one-half page than I gave my Psychology class. This means more than any grade I could ever get. This is what I want from life, these fresh feelings. I am thankful for *The Banner*.

Happy Holidays,

Kris Lo Presto, Contributing Editor

The *Banner* thanks...

John Ladley,

for his tireless service and friendship

Correction

Last month's crossword puzzle was edited by
Alison Schlackman

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Deck the Bowls: The Toilet Tour

The Banner's environmental campus coverage continues. From stalls to sinks, an overview of our laboratory underworld.

Kris Lo Presto

8:45 a.m.—I'm driving into CSI, taking the back entrance. The traffic back-up is ridiculous, especially when I have to get something out. I clench my gluteus and gyrate my legs to prevent what my body is trying to export. The hot cocoa in my hand is a little too warm and soothing. The bran muffin I ate a short hour ago is now on its way. My stomach begins to cramp and my breath gets shorter and shorter.

I have options:

1) I could park in the gravel of Lot 3 and stroll into 5S to release. This is not optimal because I know that the facilities are not sanitary. However, it does come to mind first because it is the fastest.

2) I could gamble and drive down to Lot 4 and run into 1N. This is better than Option 1 (see above) because I know several professors use these restrooms. They are in mint condition. However, Lot 4 is at least thirty seconds distant. And then there are

those precious moments spent unbuckling seatbelts, opening doors, and so forth.

3) I could just sit in my car, do my business, and throw my feces at unexpected passing cars.

The situation has gone from bad to worse. The dam is breaking, the worm is turning, the turtles are peeking. I have to go and I have to go NOW. I must beeline.

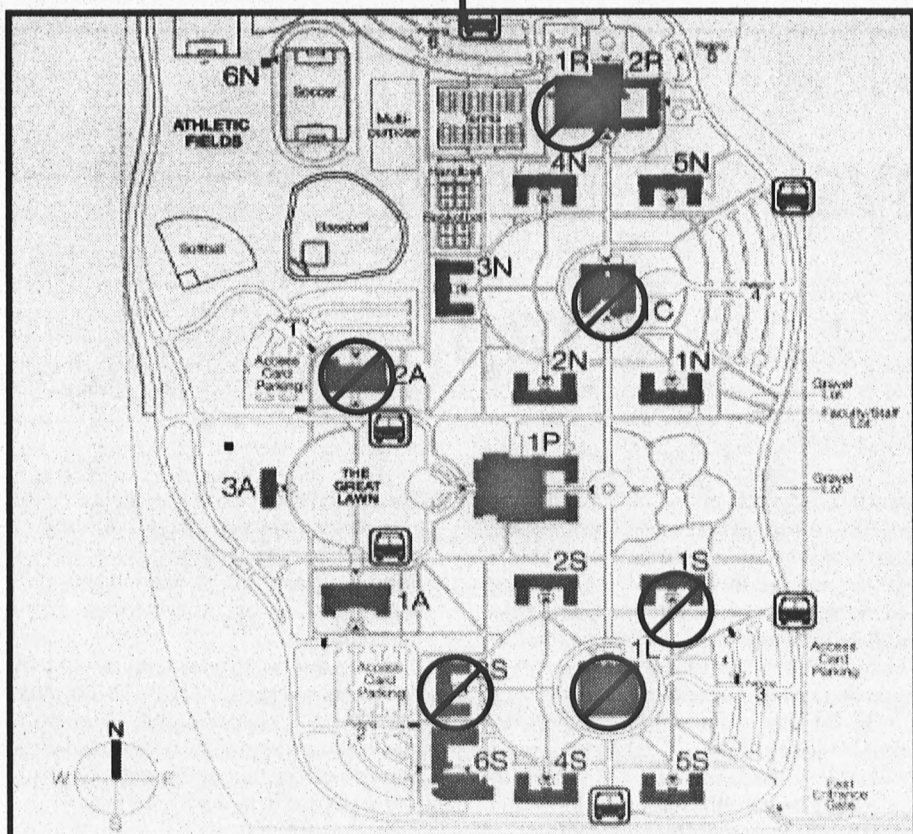
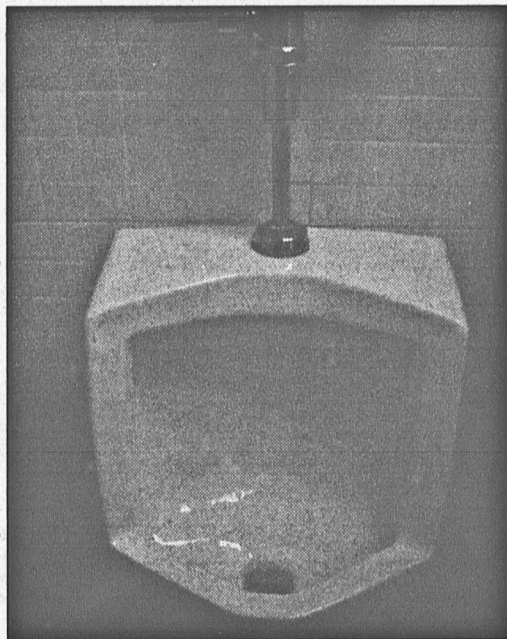
I invoke Option 1 and power step to the 5S first floor bathroom. Big mistake. Don't get me wrong, the mission was accomplished—but at what a cost!

The student body treats this bathroom like I treated my ex-girlfriend: with no respect. The smell also reminds me of my ex. There is human feces on the walls. I have just hit bottom.

I have just been violated.

And I had to wonder: Is there no better way?

That morning, in the middle of Geology class, I vowed to make it my mission to find the best men's rooms on campus. I would expose the most pungent—and most fragrant—toilets of CSI.



Note: Buildings that have been crossed out are not condemned. But some of the bathrooms in them should be...

Top 5 Cleanest Ladies Rooms

5. 1P—Second Floor (near dance halls)
4. 1A—First Floor
3. 3A—Second Floor
2. 2A—Fourth Floor
1. 3A—First Floor. It should be very proud.

The Top 5 Cleanest Mens Rooms

5. 1C—Second Floor (next to the quiet games room).
4. 1N—It's the nursing building. It's probably sterilized.
3. 1A—Third Floor. President Springer's office is here, duh!
2. WSIA—Exclusive to staff only. Sorry!
1. 1P—Second Floor. Perfection!

Top 5 Dirtiest Ladies Rooms

5. 1R—If you can't make it to another building chance it.
4. 1L—Second Floor. Emergencies only.
3. 2A—First Floor. Think twice before entering.
2. 1C—First Floor. Enter at your own risk.
1. 1L—First Floor. Do not, I repeat, do not go in there.

The Top 5 Worst Mens Rooms in CSI

5. 1S—First Floor. I wouldn't let my dog go in there.
4. 2A—First Floor
3. 1C—First Floor. There's a bunch of animals in this town.
2. 3S—First Floor.
1. 1C—First Floor. Bad enough to earn two spots!

Ann-Marie Sciulara

12:22 p.m.—A women walks out of a campus bathroom and spots a guy she likes from English class.

She smiles and says, "Hello!"

He says "Hello" back, giving her an odd look.

She takes out her mirror to see if there is a poppy seed in her tooth from that bagel she had for breakfast. Her teeth are fine. Just as she is putting her mirror back, she realizes that she has a length of toilet paper clinging to the bottom of her shoe.

Does this sound familiar?

"I try not to use the bathrooms here," says LeeAnn Palmieri, a senior at the college. "They're gross. Public bathrooms are never clean."

Cleanliness in bathrooms is important, but when you have to go, you have to go. Did you ever wonder which bathroom is the cleanest—and who has access to these bathrooms?

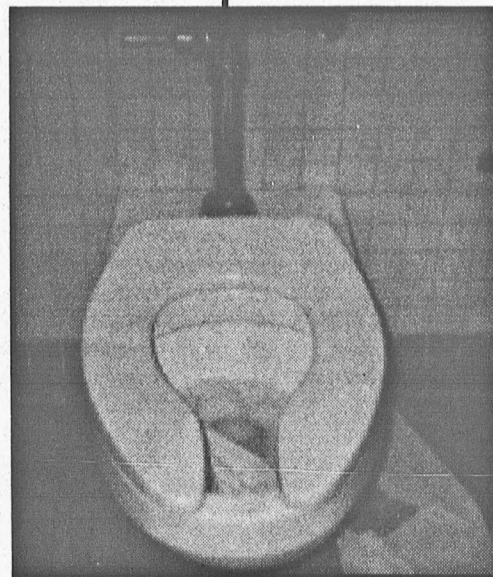
If some of you don't know, the bathrooms where most faculty are located are the cleanest, such as the president's building, (3A) and administration, (1A). Whereas the library and cafeteria, where most students can be found, have dirty bathrooms.

"Every time you go to the bathroom, you are playing Russian Rou-lette," says

Dr. Charles Gerba, a professor of soil and water science. "Women's bathrooms actually contain more fecal bacteria than men's," says Gerba. Dirty public bathrooms also have traces of E.coli or salmonella.

Although some bathrooms at the college are dirty, the

majority of them appear clean. Most of the North and South buildings were decent. Unfortunately, you may not always have time to get there.



Do You Believe In Santa?

Theresa Constantino

Christmas is just around the corner, and even though we are all adults, there is something about the season that brings back the memories of childhood. To find out who still has that "good old Christmas spirit," *The Banner* asked students and teachers if they still believed in Santa Claus. Here is what they had to say:



I believe in Santa because without the "Magical Spirit" of old St. Nick, we would not be able to give with our hearts.
— Christine Hansen



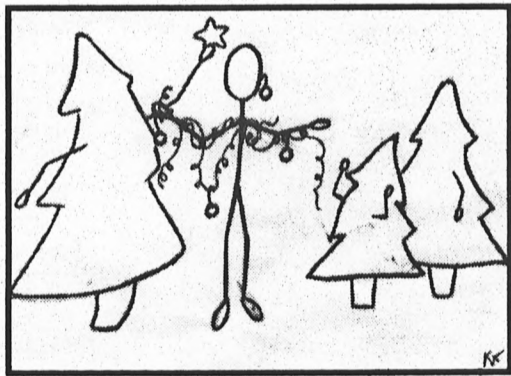
No! I don't believe in Santa. However, I wish I still did
— Dina Weiss



Yes, I do. Because you need to keep some of the beliefs for kids.
— Vinny Garcia



I Don't believe in the Santa who flies around in a sleigh with eight reindeer, but I know that there was a man who went from town to town giving out wooden carvings to children. He came to be known as Santa Claus.
— Katrina Wilson



Bah Holidays! I'm Sick of This Wrap.

A Holiday Message from Dan Fuller

Here we are again, the time of year where the vast population of the earth is calling for people to exchange tokens of love and charity. They say, "It's the holiday season!"

I hate this season. Where do people get off telling me I have to give other people things they don't deserve?

Christmas is the holiday where the Christian people celebrate the supposed birth of their lord and savior: Jesus. Well, then Jesus is the only one who should receive anything for Christmas. If anyone's heard the story of how he was born in a barn then they'd agree. It's *his* birthday, and

birthdays are one of the times presents are traditionally expected.

But why does everyone else get presents on *his* birthday?

Chanukah is the celebration of something else altogether. The Maccabees (that was a Jewish name way back) defeated the Greeks and ran them out of their city. The city, in turn, was in a shambles; temples were destroyed, and order was lost. One menorah (a several-armed oil lamp) was found with only enough oil to burn for one night. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight nights; giving the Jews more time to find more oil and

reconstruct their city.

The only tradition in that story is the use of a lot of oil. Remnants of that tradition can be found today in cooking extremely greasy foods such as *latkes* and jelly doughnuts. No presents. I'm afraid I'll have to refuse the Jews their privilege of giving gifts.

On to Kwanzaa. Here's a holiday that, just like Christmas and Chanukah, isn't real. It was made up one year by people who felt the way I do about other religious holidays.

This time of year must be corrected, and fast. I enjoy the time off and I suggest that's all that should be celebrated.

The next time someone gets me an alarm clock shaped like Pokemon, or a piggy bank that looks like Homer Simpson I'm going to have to show my appreciation by committing mass-homicide.

If you ask me, this season is just a little too convenient. All these holidays lined up one after the other... Seems to me that the media is using sentimental manipulation tactics to get people to endorse products with hiked-up prices.

In the off-chance that I am wrong, have your *Happy Holidays*. Merry Chanukah, Happy Christmas and have a wonderful Kwanzaa.

Nerds Spotted in Campus Center

Fully equipped with geeky glasses, pocket protectors, electric guitars and crash cymbals, they came to CSI ready to rock

Jennifer Mosscrop

Thursday, October 18th—"The Who" swung microphones and bashed in their drum kits. Britney Spears shows her navel. CSI got a group of geeks who set up their equipment in the Campus Center, turned on the mikes and told everyone that they were The Nerds.

The name of the event was "Rocktober Fest." The Program Development Committee did their part by making sure that this groovy AV club gone electric cover band was accompanied by food, drinks, and candy apples.

The band hit their first power chords at 1:30 pm. If this had been televised, it would have run opposite Barney. They wore the essential nerd gear: plaid colored shirts, different colored sneakers and glasses. They had perfected the Weezer look.

The Nerds are influenced by many different types of music. They absorb everything and wring it out by playing it their own way. The songs had no order to them, which made it an interesting show. It wasn't a surprise when I heard House of Pain's "Jump" followed by Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline" then "Billy Jean" and "You Shook Me All Night Long." It was a diversified set which pleased the whole crowd. I must add that "Spaz" (the singer/bassist) did a great Michael Jackson impression, but got carried away trying to do James

Hetfield on "Enter Sandman" by Metallica.

The part of the show I enjoyed most was when the band played "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen. "Spaz" pulled off a good Freddy Mercury! He said it took them only three rehearsals to learn the song, which is not easy to do, and twelve years of practicing it on stage (so that explains it). "Mongo" did all of the sound effects using his keyboard for background vocal harmonies and it almost sounded like the real thing.

Other songs that The Nerds played were Weezer's "Hashpipe", Beastie Boys "Fight For Your Right," Shaggy's "It Wasn't Me," and American Hi-Fi's "Flavor of the Weak" They also delved into the catalogs of Bon Jovi, Dave Mathews Band, and the Violent Femmes.

The Nerds have been playing together for sixteen years. They are a unique cover band because instead of writing their own songs they use their talent and creativity, which is evident, to reproduce a song and adjust it to their kooky personalities.

Jim Garcia is the man known as "Spaz." He sings lead vocals, plays bass and the occasional bongos. Mike Spiro goes by the name of "Mongo." He plays keyboards and creates sound effects. "Biff" is the drummer and his real name is Jack Yocum. Last but not least is Peter Oltmanns, AKA "Stretch," on lead and rhythm guitar. And if you're wonder-



Don't give him a wedgie, he's with the band. Photo credit: Yaniv Amar

ing if they were nerds in school, I couldn't resist asking them that.

They said yes.

These guys are always on the road. This fall, from October to December they will cover the New York/New Jersey area, with three stops in Connecticut along the way. If you missed The Nerds at CSI, or just have to see them again, they are scheduled to be at Horizons on Friday, December 7th and 21st. You can call Horizons for details at 815-4000.

Not only do they play in the tri-state area, they play around the country. They have appeared on MTV's "Ultimate Cover Band" contest and spaz jammed the west coast from British Columbia to L.A.. If you would like more information about their schedule, call the Nerd hotline at 877-The-Nerds or check the Nerd web-site: www.TheNerds.com.

Sometimes the band has special guests perform with them like, C-Section Horns, Dr. Ricky the Cuban Percussionist, and Spicy Brown on solo sax. You never know what to expect at a Nerd show.

Even though The Nerds have a busy schedule, they managed to put together three CD's! "Poultry in Motion", "Get It?" and "Live Action Figures". You can purchase these CD's at any Nerd show for ten dollars or order them by sending a check for \$13.95 (per CD) to: Nerdstuff P.O. Box 6956 Freehold, N.J. 07728.

A Manic Musician for All Seasons

Scott Axelrod

Say Billy Joel was forced to take a severe pay cut, erase all records of record breaking record sales, deny that he once slept with a supermodel, and amnesiate years of worldwide fame, what would be left? His cleverly crafted singing and songwriting skills. You might as well call him JOHN MARS. John Mars?

Unfortunately for Billy, the name already belongs to someone special—a maniacal Mozart who's been tinkering around the N.Y.C. music scene for years. I invited him to appear on my show: "The Psychiatric Radio Extravaganza." 88.9 on your FM dial. WSIA of course.

To the chagrin of station members and General Managers, I've been playing Mars' music because I love hearing my college-radio comrades go on tirades, offended by his blend of "Deviant and Demented Piano Punk." After I receive an earful of complaints, I am granted a lecture about their oh-so-ardent stands on being liberal democrats.

"I think he is the epitome of all that's wrong with the world," said Elaina Lovascio, News Director of WSIA. "He's going to lead our youth into selfdestruction."

"John Mars is a raging pervert on piano," wrote *Time Out New York*. "Sometimes we're embarrassed to be laughing along with his twisted songs of (illegal) love and drugs and (self) abuse."

With a catalogue including an anthem about extra-curricular activities in his pants, a ballad to senior citizens who won't be living long enough to encourage an encore, and a torch song questioning whether grown men and the Sesame Street crowd could have meaningful sexual relations, it's unlikely that Mars will be hired to perform at weddings, let alone Bar Mitzvahs.

I myself was more than honored to be able to simply shake this man's hand.

So I'm behind the microphone, but as John breaks into "Aliens Are Coming," I hear a buzz in my headphones. It's diagnosed as a ground loop with a sixty-

cycle hum coming from a mixing board and going to a distribution amplifier because a misplaced power chord is being inducted into a twisted pair.

Whatever that means.

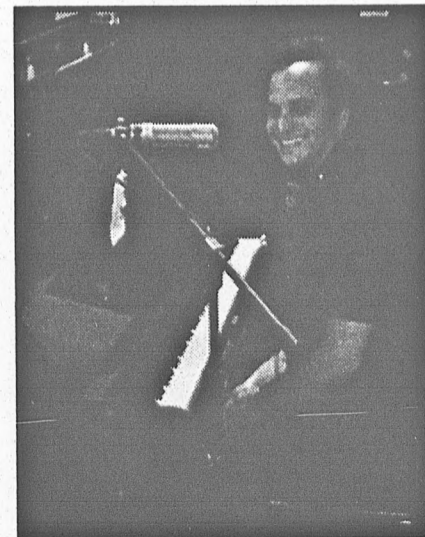
Someone yells, "WE'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO MOVE THE PIANO!"

Pushing the hernia-inducing shiny black beauty past the L-shaped reception desk and through another narrow doorway is more difficult than I had envisioned, but our plan to use the roomier interview room is foiled. We can't negotiate the door.

We ultimately agree to transform a narrow hallway between studios into a scaled-down version of *not* Carnegie Hall, but a venue more likely to be used nowadays by Hall and Oates.

As John artfully performs an assemblage of songs from his *John Mars and Excerpts From the Future* albums, I can't help but think that these hallways have amazing acoustics.

Memo to Greg Adamo: Stadium seating and a stage in it's hallways would make WSIA so much better.



John Mars: Tickling the ivories and funny bones with his blend of deviant and demented piano punk. Even in the halls of WSIA, he can inspire and offend. For more information about this music man, click www.Octaphonic.com

Photo credit: Scott Axelrod

Get Ready, Get Set, Get Slippery When Wet

**Katrina L. Winslow &
Alison Schlackman**

*Wet bodies, glistening abs,
and muscles you can
bounce a penny off.
Now that we've received
your full attention, we'll
tell you who these hot
water babies are. They're
the Men's Swim and
Dive team.*

Led by coach Oleg Soloviev, Chris, Mike, Leo, Andrew, Eugene, and other members keep their bodies perfectly fit by eating right, exercising daily, and spending two hours a day (from three pm to five pm) emerged in the water. How lucky for the water!

It isn't all fun and games. They take their sport seriously. "Drills build up endurance and help to achieve a specif-

ic level of skill," noted Soloviev.

Not only are these men beautiful, they're intelligent. Swimming will mold and shape you into a lean, mean, aquatic machine. One swim team member (Chris), is affiliated with the National Reserves. All the more reason to attend a meet and cheer our boys on. Think of it as your patriotic duty!

If you're interested in becoming one with the water, you must be a full-time student here at the college, have a GPA of more than 2.0 and a determination to endure physical and mental stress.

By Soloviev's side are two willing and motivated assistant coaches—AnnMarie Lund and William Holmann. They have been at CSI since the pool was opened six years ago. Would you believe that AnnMarie was one of the first lifeguards hired at CSI? It is rewarding to see the progress the team has made due to the strength of its leaders. Go team go! They won their last meet seventy-four to forty-one. Impressive isn't it?

Now ladies, lets take an inside look at who these men really are. Ready for

a spiritual awakening?

Leo, like most of the swimmers, started out on his high school team. He enjoys swimming because of the endurance and competitiveness of the



sport. He wants to be the best. His stroke is the butterfly.

Next comes Eugene. He is quiet and shy but a monster in the water. (ROAR) Honestly, he is respectful and kind, and has a passion for the pool. He's one with the butterfly as well.

Let's give it up for Mike, who was forced into the sport by a friend during his freshman year of high school, only to find that he loved it. His area of expertise is freestyle sprinting.

Andrew is a transfer student. Swimming is what keeps him in perfect health and shaped just right. Freestyle sprinting is right up his alley, or should I say down his lane?

Finally, we have our senior, Chris. This will be his third year on the squad. He started swimming because it was "something different and new," and fortunately for co-eds, he "found out that the breast stroke was for him."

There are other guys on the team who would have had their names in the paper if they came to practice like they were supposed to.

Dribbling Dolphins Start Off Season With a Slam Dunk

John Palermo

*If you were one of the
thoroughbred porpoises
helping to propel the
Men's B-Ball squad
to another division title,
what would you ask Santa
for? You've already got
speed, strength,
and stamina in spades.*

Christmas came early for Champ Albano, David Paul, and Kassim Nesbitt. These Dolphins are already 6 and 1.

They started the year at the Alvernia Tip off Tournament. The Dolphins played N. J. City University in the first game and Paul Scored 30 points to lead C.S.I. to the first win of the year, 69 -

50. In the finals of the tournament, the Dolphins outscored Alvernia by one point in each half, and came away with a 63-61 nailbiter. Nesbitt, Mike Nebevlakis, and tourney MVP Paul scored 45 of the Dolphins 63 points.

Asst. Coach Brian Gasper said, "the defense played good, they held their opponents scoring down to a total of 113 points in the whole tournament. The team played well as a whole."

The freshmen stepped up when they had to. Nebevlakis scored 20 points in the 2-game tournament, and Michael Stewart (who started in the place of the injured Eric Andres) had an outstanding run. The team leaders had big a Tournament also, MVP Paul scored 45 in the Tournament, and Nesbitt scored a team-leading 17 in the final game. After the tourney the Dolphins played SUNY Farmingdale. CSI took the early lead, went flat, and trailed at the half by 6. The team exploded in the second, tallying 52 points. Paul had a game high 27, while Albano scored 19, had 3 assists, and 1 steal. Nesbitt went 6 for 6 from the line, and totalled 18.

After starting the season with three wins and no losses, the Dolphins returned home to the friendly confines of the Sports and Recreation Center here at The College of Staten Island. The Dolphins finally played the host

against Manhattanville College. Unfortunately for the Dolphins, Manhattanville was not part of the welcome home party.

In front of a modest crowd of 350, the game was close. The Dolphins were only down 6 at the half. But they committed 24 turnovers, Paul fouled out of the game, and late in the second half Manhattanville went on a 7-1 run which closed the deal.

Following the Dolphin's first loss of the year, they caught fire and defeated

their last three opponents: Ramapo, Kean, and NY Tech. They have also knocked out all three Jersey Conference opponents for the first time in their history.

Expectations are high for this team. "It's still early" said Gasper.

The Dolphins have four returning starters from last year's team. The freshmen are stepping up and playing well. Gasper said the team will need leadership from their seniors. But he feels confident.

Upcoming Men's Basketball Schedule 2001-2002

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Fri	Nov.30	Ramapo College	Away	7:00 PM
Mon	Dec.3	Kean College	Home	7:30 PM
Sat	Dec.8	St. Joseph's College	Away	6:00 PM
Mon	Dec.10	Brooklyn College *	Home	7:30 PM
Wed	Dec.12	FDU - Madison	Away	7:30 PM
Sat	Dec.29	Randolph Macon Tourney	Away	TBA
Sun	Dec.30	Randolph Macon Tourney	Away	TBA
Sat	Jan.5	Montclair State University	Away	7:00 PM
Sat	Jan.12	Medgar Evers College*	Away	4:30 PM
Tue	Jan.15	York College *	Home	5:30 PM
Thu	Jan.17	John Jay College *	Home	8:00 PM
Sat	Jan.19	Hunter College *	Away	3:00 PM
Wed	Jan.23	CCNY Tech *	Home	5:00 PM
Sat	Jan.26	Baruch College *	Home	8:30 PM
Tue	Jan.29	Lehman College	Away	8:00 PM
Thu	Jan.31	NYC Tech *	Home	7:30 PM
Mon	Feb.4	Brooklyn College *	Away	7:30 PM
Wed	Feb.6	Medgar Evers College *	Home	7:30 PM
Fri	Feb.8	York College *	Away	8:00 PM
Wed	Feb.13	SUNY - Purchase	Home	7:30 PM

Toni-Ann Fischetti

Scorpio: The Scorpion October 23 - November 2

Scorp, you are the epitome of intensity! You're mysterious, enigmatic, and alluring, which is what attracts others to you. They can't seem to figure you out even with their Spiderman Secret Decoder Ring. So your mission this year, if you choose to accept it, is open up a lil' more! If you're honest and direct, the world will be your oyster!



Sagittarius: The Archer November 22 - December 21

To quote Jim Morrison, you Sag babies are "the most philosophical of all the signs" and it's true! You need action and change constantly because stagnation breeds boredom. This year learn something new! Try out a foreign language or add a good elective to your schedule... So what you're already taking 16 credits?! Will 20 really kill you?



Capricorn: The Goat December 22 - January 19

Happy New Year Goats, or should I say busy lil' worker bees? You're going to be pretty busy trying to get ahead this year - which is in true Capricorn spirit. All that work may pay off one of these semesters when you graduate... but don't get your hopes too far up, because that *one class* you need to graduate on time just isn't offered! So I'll be seeing you in September!



Aquarius: The Water Carrier January 21 - February 18

Slow down you rebel! Always a fast paced thinker with a progressive mind, you're verging on humanities over-load. Pick one worthy cause and devote yourself to it 100%. No use in saving the world if you're too tired to enjoy Utopia.



Pisces: The Fish February 19 - March 20

You lil' fishies are the most uber-sensitive sign of the Zodiac! You tend to be day dreamy and unfocused, and involve yourself subjectively in everything you experience and do. Resolution for 2002: *stop neglecting yourself!* Have a donut... it'll make you feel better!



Aries: The Ram March 21 - April 19

Aries babies have tons of initiative, and it's your get-up-and-go quality that's essential to kick start any new situation... It's no wonder you're the first sign of the Zodiac! But don't let that go-getter spirit get the best of you! Remember to look before you leap this year, especially when contemplating using public restrooms.



Taurus: The Bull April 20 - May 18

Stubborn! Stubborn! Is the old Taurus mantra. Try not to sharpen those horns too much this year, Bulls. Once you learn to be more flexible, nothing is out of your reach. Try a Yoga class and get CLUE credit to boot!



Gemini: The Twins May 21 - June 20

You are considered the intellectuals of the Zodiac, taking pleasure in an intense discussion or witty argument. So why not get involved in a school activity this semester? Not sure which club to join? It's only natural! Besides being brainiacs, the twins are also indecisive!



Cancer: The Crab June 21 - July 22

You Cancer kids are chock full o' ideas, unfortunately, it's hiding underneath your hard, crabby exoskeleton! You use that shell to protect you way too often and this year you need to learn to be less sensitive and more open to new situations. Start small... try the pizza in the cafeteria.



Leo: The Lion July 23 - August 22

GRR!! You are full of fire and bravado Leo, and love to be the center of attention. Why not use your astrological gifts to improve your college experience? Audition for a play! Leo's make great actors, but just be careful! As much as you love acceptance, you loathe heart-break just as much.



Virgo: The Virgin August 23 - September 22

Virgins, you possess a practical, analytical, grounded nature and can be labeled as perfectionists. It's not all that bad, because you shine the most when doing behind-the-scenes work, so put that philanthropic spirit into motion and try volunteering! Of course, don't forget to leave your facts and figures home at least *one Saturday* night this year to let loose and have fun!



Libra: The Scales September 23 - October 22

You're first concern is balance and harmony, so of course you're represented by scales! The ideas of balance and harmony are transcended into your personal life and your need for love and romance. As a true romantic, you need to enhance your life with beauty. Definitely check out the Alberto Giacometti exhibit at MoMA running this month or go further uptown to the Cloisters for a peak at the tapestries. Don't want to travel so much? Pop in the Center for the Arts!



Peter Lang

Students face different problems all the time.

Whether it is registration or writing the big term paper, the one issue that binds us is getting to campus.

Whether you drive or take the bus, getting to CSI every day is a problem that every student needs to address.

One group of students has recognized this problem and has decided to take a stand. The CSI Straphangers Campaign is a student group on campus that advocates for those of us who have to, or choose to, take mass transportation to CSI daily.

The Straphangers Campaign was started in 1979 by The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) as a way for mass transit riders to express their opinions at a time when the mass transit system was in a state of disarray.

NYPIRG GOIN' YOUR WAY

Through our work, we have been able to work with (and sometimes against) the MTA to ensure that riders can get around safely, efficiently, and comfortably.

We have had many victories, both citywide and locally. As a part of a broad-based coalition that included the College of Staten Island and help from CSI students, NYPIRG at CSI convinced the MTA to run an express bus from Brooklyn to CSI and back. The S93 allows about 300 students a day to get to and from school on time, without the stress of having to take two or sometimes three buses. The citywide campaign does many things that we may take for granted. We publish reports that lead to cleaner buses and trains, better announcements, and better all around service. We have also fought back fare hikes on many different occasions, advocated for the creation of the unlimited ride Metro Card, helped bring about cleaner buses, and fought against the closing of the token booths, all to assure a safer, cleaner, and more efficient ride.

Our most recent expansion has taken us onto the internet. At www.straphangers.org we offer everything a New York commuter could ask for. We have maps, schedules, addresses of the heads of the MTA so you can lodge a complaint. We even have a bulletin board, "rider diaries," where you can go to meet people who, amazingly enough, have the same complaint, or perhaps they can help you solve a transit problem you might have had.

Even with all the successes that the Straphangers Campaign here at CSI has had, there is still much more to be done. As many of you may know the service on the s93 is pitiful, and Staten Island transit is just as bad. Recently released census data has verified what many of us here on Staten Island have thought for years. Staten Islanders have the longest commute on average in the nation. In response to this, we are working on a variety of things to help the mass transit woes of CSI students as well as all Staten Islanders. For S93 riders, we are working to try and ensure

that the MTA increases service and on time efficiency. In order to do that, we need your help. We are asking those students that ride the S93 to fill out a survey pertaining to your commute. For Staten Island as a whole, we are instituting a new program called BusWatch. Unlike subway riders, bus riders often know what is happening on their streets to delay their bus. The idea behind BusWatch is to devise effective survey methods for different groups: for instance, polling riders on recurring problems such as bus bunching or overcrowding. We are actively trying to recruit "Bus Monitors" to observe and report on route problems and ways to improve service. At this time the bus route we are implementing the BusWatch on is the s44.

NYPIRG's Straphanger's Campaign here at CSI is working hard to improve the commute to the college. If you ride the S93, the S44, or have any ideas, complaints, or concerns, please contact me at 982-3109, or by stopping our office at 1C-219.

My Kristmas Story

Kris Lo Presto

Ghosts of Christmas past conjure memories of how simple life used to be

The year is 1986. I'm seven years old and my mother still lives in our house with no thought of *divorce*. I wake and run to my big brother's room and shake him until he opens his eyes. I wait for him to get up, then we run to my parents' room to nag and make noise until they are finally conscious. For some reason they are always very tired on Christmas mornings.

The next few minutes take several endless hours for me. The agony of waiting for everyone to go to the bathroom and brush their teeth is unbearable. Finally, everyone is ready to march downstairs to the lit Christmas tree.

Surrounding the nine-foot plastic tree (top bended to fit the eight-foot ceilings) are mountains of wrapped gifts adorned with bows, stuffed stockings and feverish anticipation. My eyes



grow as big as my smile.

"Opening" presents is not the right word. It's more like ravaging these boxes to discover what's inside. My brother claims the pile of presents to the right of the tree, which I am convinced has more than my side. My parents share the middle.

As every kid knows, there are three types of presents:

1) Rectangular shaped boxes. These are a

dead giveaway for clothes. These are opened last, always.

2) Odd shaped wrapped objects. A good example of these is a football. These are opened first.

3) Large, oversized boxes. These are variable. They could be anything from a stereo to a winter jacket. Wait until the end. Could be a bike.

There are also the gifts that arrive with

a bow around them—like a drum set or a gigantic power wheels car.

This one perfect morning I receive a new stereo system that includes something called a CD player. Even better than the present is the gift of seeing my parents embrace and smile at one another. I take these moments for granted. I never thought that it could all change and become a distant memory.

Who Am I? Am I All I Ought To Be?

Rebecca Jean-Francois

The celebration of Kwanzaa starts on December 26 and continues through January 1, and it has been held at CSI for several decades. Rather than traditional gift-giving, celebrants search their souls.

Charles Thomas, an African American Studies and Drama professor at the College of Staten Island for the past 25 years, and a prior chair of the department, has made Kwanzaa a part of life at CSI. He started celebrating Kwanzaa here in the early 1970's.

Kwanzaa, a non-religious event, is a cultural holiday of African American and Pan-African roots, which celebrates family, community and culture. Widely practiced by Africans of all religious faiths on the common ground of African heritage, Kwanzaa originated from the phrase "*matunda ya kwanza*" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, the most

widely spoken African language.

Historically, the time after Christmas has been a time of sober assessment of things done and things to do. At this time African people take the final days of the year to ask the three Kawaia questions: Who am I? Am I really who I say I am? Am I all I ought to be?

The celebration, which starts on December 26 and continues through January 1, has been held at CSI for sev-

eral decades. It provides an opportunity for students in the Performing Arts to perform for the CSI community. "The event has been very successful throughout the years, since it represents one of the main events, if not the main event at CSI," said Professor Thomas. "My graduate students of African American Studies have come back each year to celebrate. Those who have become teachers have brought their classes

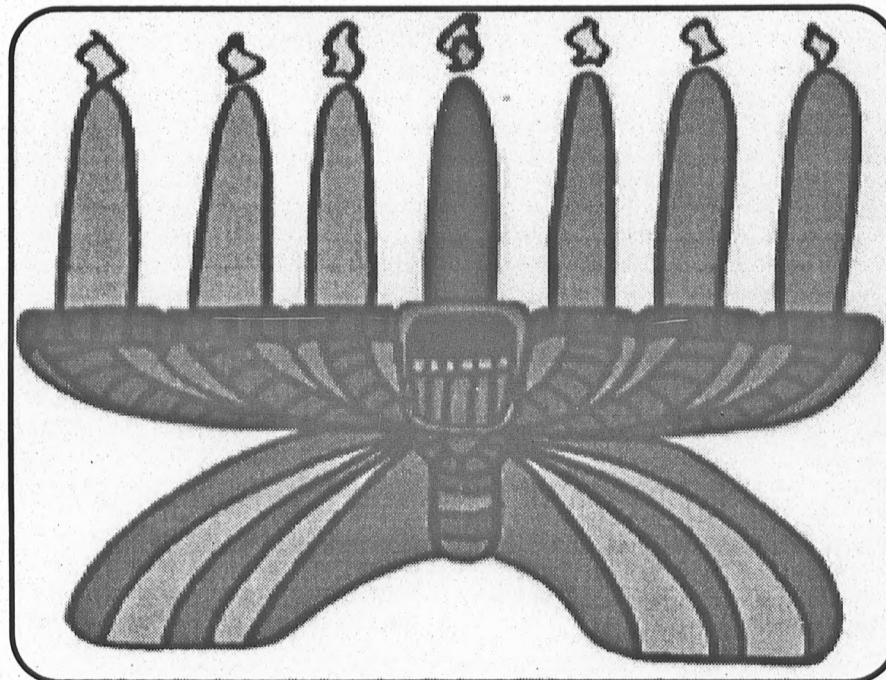
along with them from Elementary School students to High School."

Some well known individuals among the African American community will be in attendance, including Janet Robinson, musicians Jaqueline Carter (Universal Drum), Saliem Suso, and Jacques Reginaid, poets Wes Thomas, and Gregory Taylor, and various other actors, actresses, and designers.

According to Professor Thomas, the event is widely publicized by PDC and SG on campus and throughout the other City University of New York (CUNY) departments and campuses. Advertising space will be purchased in *The Staten Island Advance* and some professors will give extra credit to students who attend the performance, which is also CLUE certified.

Kwanzaa has been well received at CSI by the students, faculty and staff. With a growing population of African Americans in Staten Island, Professor Thomas has set some realistic goals for Kwanzaa. His expectation for the holiday at CSI is "to have the full participation of both the African American community and other culture... and the full support of P.D.C and S.G."

Michele Payton-Garrett, a student at CSI says, "Kwanzaa is such a great event, I wish more students would attend." Since Kwanzaa was not created as a substitute for Christmas, a person may celebrate both holidays.



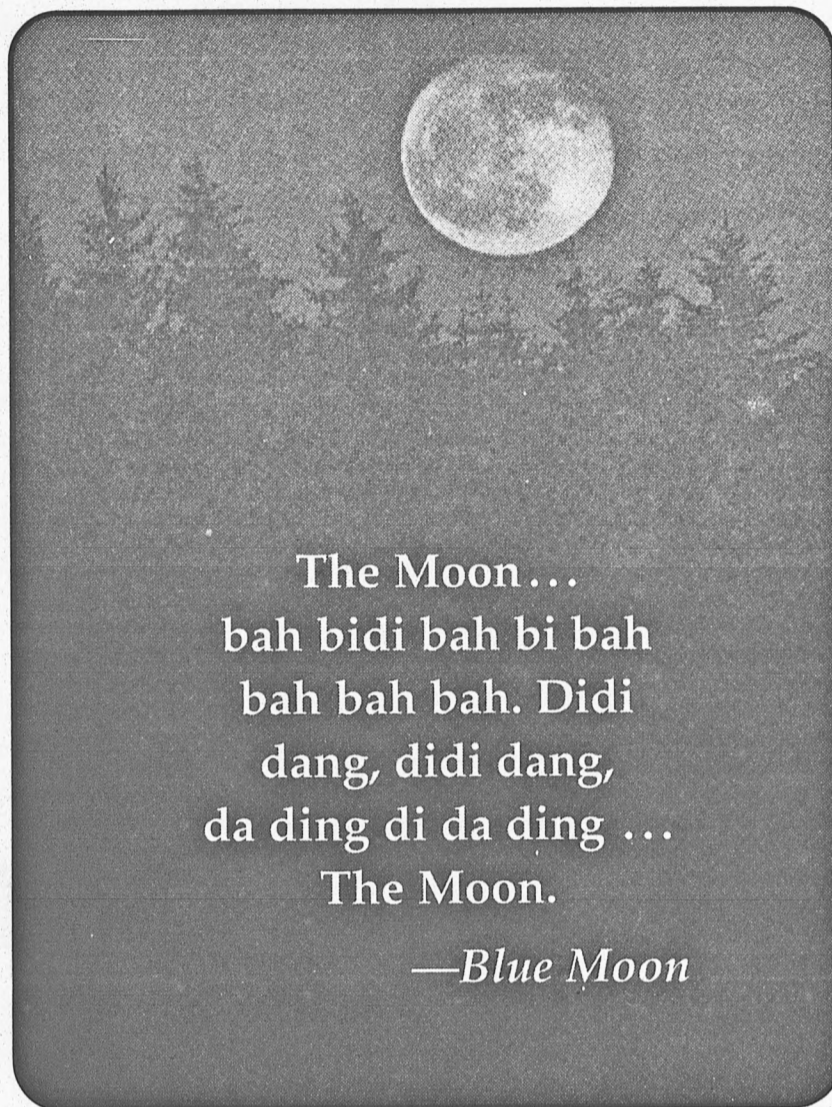
This Holiday Season, Let's Celebrate Solstice

By Jennifer Anello

People celebrate different holidays. There's Christmas, Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Ramadan. But few bring in the season by partying like pagans.

From ancient times, Winter Solstice has been celebrated by cultures all over the world. This start of the solar year is a celebration of light and the rebirth of the sun. In pagan Scandinavian, it was called *Yule*. The ancient Romans called it *Dies Natalis Invicti Solis*, the Birthday of the Unconquered Sun.

The Romans also celebrated the mid-winter holiday, which they called *Saturnalia*. Houses were decked with boughs of laurel and evergreen trees. Lamps were kept burning to ward off the spirits of darkness. Friends visited each other, bringing gifts of good luck such as fruit, cakes, candles dolls and jewels. Places of worship were adorned with evergreens to symbolize life's continuity. Mistletoe was hung over a doorway to offer goodwill to visitors and a kiss beneath it was a pledge of friendship. Many of these customs are still alive today, only they are celebrated at Christmas or Chanukah, the Festival of Lights.



Here are some ways you too can celebrate the Winter Solstice:

- Solstice celebrations often lasted days or weeks, so start celebrating on December 21 and make the fun last longer.
- When celebrating New Year's Eve, don't just welcome the new calendar year. Welcome the new solar year.
- Leave your mistletoe up all year round as a good luck charm.
- Adorn the home with the holiday colors: Red, green and white.
- Place holly, ivy, evergreen boughs and pinecones around the home, but especially in areas where socializing takes place.
- Decorate your evergreen tree with pagan symbols and call it a Solstice tree.
- Light candles as a way of honoring the new solar year.
- Burn a yule log in your fireplace.
- Decorate the outside of your home with colored lights to symbolize the rebirth of the Sun.
- As one of your New Year's resolutions, make a pledge to do some form of good works in the new solar year.

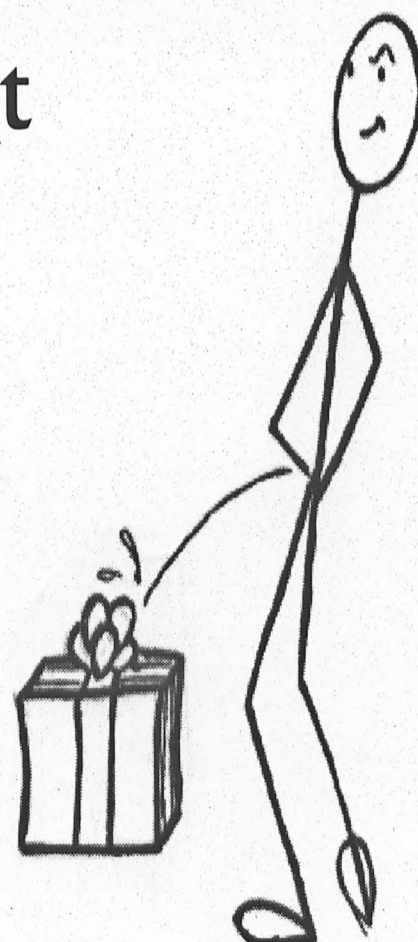
Winter Solstice is a time for reflection upon the quiet times of darkness. It's a time for making choices to leave negative life patterns with the darkness of night and to celebrate the joyous return of light. It's a time for giving birth to new projects, dreams, and aspirations.

I hope everyone enjoys their celebrating. Merry Winter Solstice and a Happy New Solar Year!

As a Stocking Stuffer, Scott Axelrod and Kris LoPresto Present:

The Top Ten Gifts You Don't Want To Receive This Holiday Season

10. Fruitcake from the aunt who has never heard of hand soap
9. 50,000 shares of stock in Enron
8. A Subscription to "Mary Kate and Ashley" Magazine
7. A Homemade adult feature from your cousin Cletus & your other cousin, his wife
6. Nintendo Games. Not Game Cube, not Super Nintendo...Crappy 8-Bit Nintendo
5. Three Words: Chia Osama Pet. Water it, the beard grows
4. Britney Spears' "Virginal Teachings For Dummies" Textbook
3. A lifetime supply of water, exclusively provided by CSI drinking fountains
2. A two-week all-inclusive vacation in sunny Kandahar, walking tour included
1. A full scholarship to The College of Staten Island...Just Kidding! Happy Holidays



Lobster Boy in Space:

Claw Wars

By Chris Sorrentino



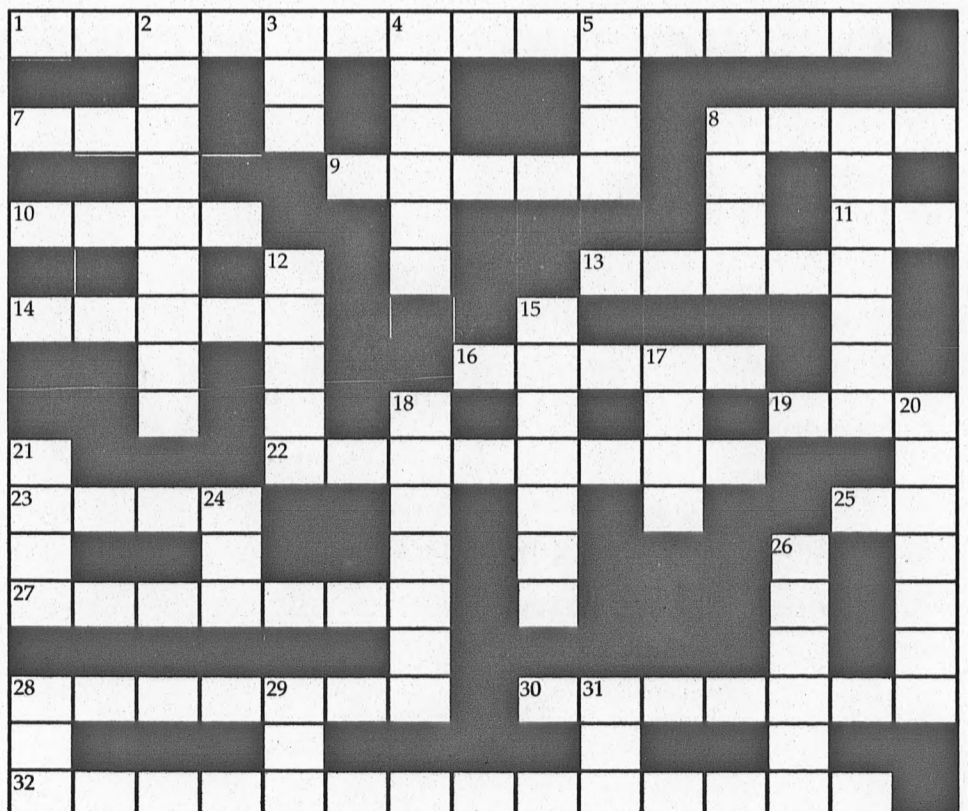
THE CROSSWORD Edited by Alison Schlackman

Across

- 1. "March of the _____"
- 7. Celestial Body
- 8. Ice Crystals
- 9. Sparkling Juice
- 10. Citrus Fruit
- 11. Opposite of Stop
- 13. Represents Goodness
- 14. Man of Myth
- 16. North ____
- 19. Jewel
- 22. Something you hang on the mantle
- 23. Indicates entry
- 25. Opposite of out
- 27. Wreath
- 28. Vertical Structure
- 30. Jewish Holiday
- 32. Latkes

Down

- 2. Decorations
- 3. Keebler Cookie Maker
- 4. Mode of Transportation
- 5. Rein ____
- 6. Water Dome
- 8. Musical piece
- 12. Fun Sport
- 15. Tasty Treat
- 17. ____ Tim
- 18. Vacation
- 20. Represents Judaism
- 21. Circular Band
- 24. ____ Owl
- 26. Fasten
- 28. Head Covering
- 29. Fabric Barricade
- 31. Something Curved



Muslim Student Association Steps Up To Meet Challenges Facing Students

Kathryn Troiano

Leaders meet to dispel common misconceptions, and discuss ways to table hatred during Ramadan

Thursday, November 15—In his native Arabic, Ali Rehman recited a passage from the Qur'an in a hymn-like fashion, to signal the start of a meeting. Most in attendance didn't speak Arabic, but all were transfixed.

"Muslim Students Speak Out" was the title of the MSA organized event. Six club members formed a symposium to discuss important Islamic issues in an Islamic-wary world. Seated in a row at the front of the room, the members, Mohammed Karim, Ali Rehman, Ghanim Khalil, Rakia Bello Garba, Safiyya Abdul-Ghani, and Azizah Amatus Sabbur, faced the audience.

Abdul-Ghani provided a translation of the invocation, then informed the full classroom that it is Muslim tradition to open a speech or forum with excerpts from the Qur'an. He then bid us thanks for attending and extended an Islamic greeting: "Peace be on all of you."

Rehman condemned the attacks on the WTC for himself and in the name of other Muslim organizations around the world. "In no way should this attack be attributed to the religion or any other religion." Although the attackers had Muslim names, Ali explained that they were, in essence, "bad Muslims."

"God Almighty says, 'if anyone took the life of one human being it is as if he has killed the whole of humanity.'"

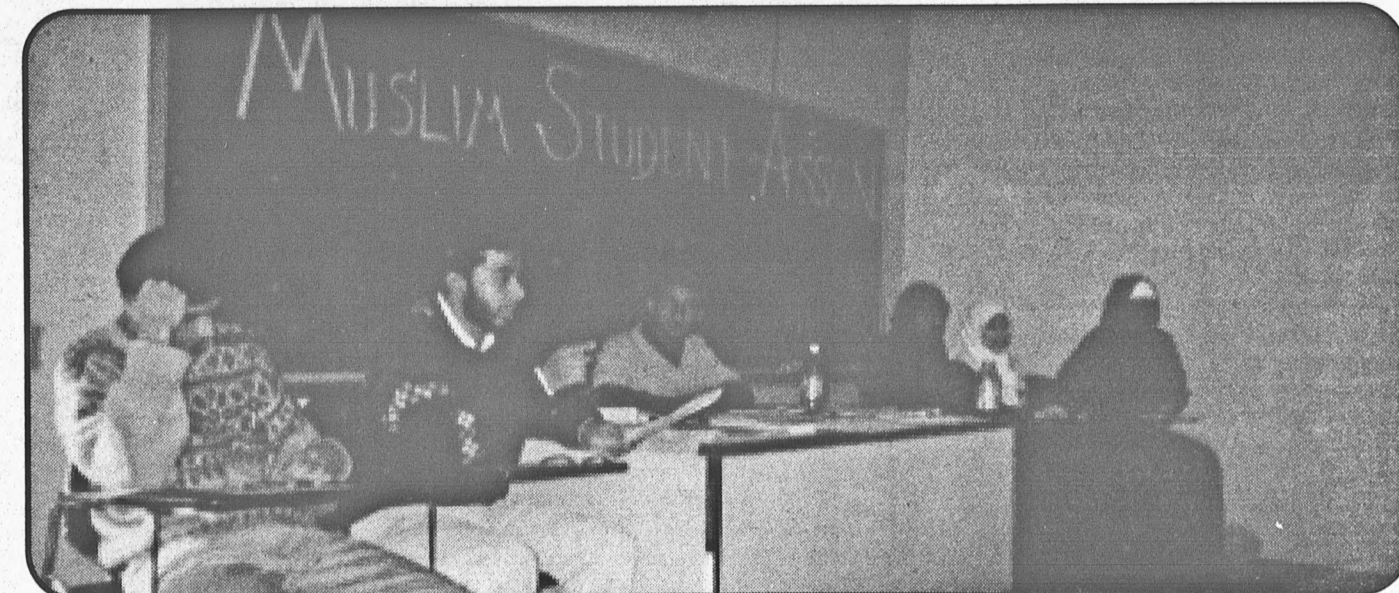
Rehman handed the floor to Khalil, a former U.S. Marine Responsible for covering the topic of "jihad," Khalil first warned us that the issue is complex and that he would not overcomplicate or oversimplify it.

"The main idea of [jihad] is to strive,

"Terrorist organizations say, if you blow yourself up, then you're going to heaven. I'm sorry, I don't know where they're getting that from."

to struggle towards a specific goal," he said. "There's a spiritual jihad and there's a physical, material jihad; the spiritual has always been in Islam the more important one."

Khalil talked about media agendas and the relationship between the government and the press, picking through



Seated in a row at the front of the room, from left to right the members were Mohammed Karim, Ali Rehman, Ghanim Khalil, Rakia Bello Garba, Safiyya Abdul-Ghani, and Azizah Amatus Sabbur. Photo credit: Kathryn Troiano.

his clippings to illustrate his points.

Bello Garba discussed the topic of jihad from a Muslim woman's point of view. One example of a woman's jihad is to make sure she is doing right by her family. An important jihad for women is to make the pilgrimage to Makkah, the holy city. Rakia revealed that the hardest jihad for Muslim women in America was wearing the *hijab* (head covering), because western society dictates a certain way women should look. Wearing the *hijab* could mean the difference between getting a job or not.

Abdul-Ghani took over the discussion to reflect on women's rights in Islam. It may come as a shock but for more than a thousand years Muslim women have enjoyed rights that empower. The household is the woman's domain, so her husband must always ask permission to enter. A Muslim woman has the right to deny a man seeking marriage. Inheritance is

divided into thirds—the male heir receives one-third while the female receives the other two. If a woman is working and collects an income, that money is solely hers and her husband must ask permission to receive some of it. She has the right to an education if she wishes to seek it.

"These women, they're not oppressed," said Abdul-Ghani. "They have all these rights and freedoms and they could do whatever they want with them." Islam does not warrant oppression.

At the end of the row sat a tall African-American woman. Azizah Amatus Sabbur wore black traditional garments. I immediately noticed a warm face, then heard her gentle voice.

Her speech was interesting because six months ago she had converted, or as she put it, "reverted" to Islam. Brought up as a Catholic, she "felt that it was not her calling." She talked about break-

ing free from society's demands of beauty and behavior. Her enthusiasm seemed logical and parallel to the women's rights movement underway around the globe.

The last member to speak was Karim, a lanky young man. His voice was soft but audible as he discussed Allah as God—not merely an Arabic God. He asserted that Islam is tolerant and peaceful, respectful of other religions.

When the floor was opened for questions, the room came alive. One question on peoples' minds was voiced by a young West African-American man. "Is it true that when jihad is declared and a man goes to war and dies, he gets virgins in afterlife?"

Recognizing the importance of this question, Khalil corrected the young man's terminology by replacing "virgins" with the proper translation of "purified companions."

"Self-defensive jihad, if it's for the right purpose, if it's to defend yourself—and someone does die fighting—yes, he is a martyr," answered Rehman. "And this concept comes from various

"This attack should not be attributed to Islam or to any other religion."

religions as well. Forget about the rewards he's going to get and the virgins, and whatever, and the delights; we can't even think about how paradise is and what hell is. How am I supposed to know? But if some of these terrorist organizations say if you blow yourself up, you're going to go to heaven, I'm sorry, I don't know where they are getting that from."

People thanked the MSA for coming forward to eradicate misconceptions and stereotypes on campus. Others took time to express their feelings about U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. The response proved to be gratifying for the MSA and they pledged to host another, similar event.

INFORMATION

Contact

www.ummah.com/msa-csi,
MSA mailbox in Student
Government Office (1C)

Meetings:

club hours on Wednesdays
and Thursdays in 1S-102

Upcoming Event:

Ramadan

Sexual and Domestic Violence, Homicidal Rage

By Willam A. Kane

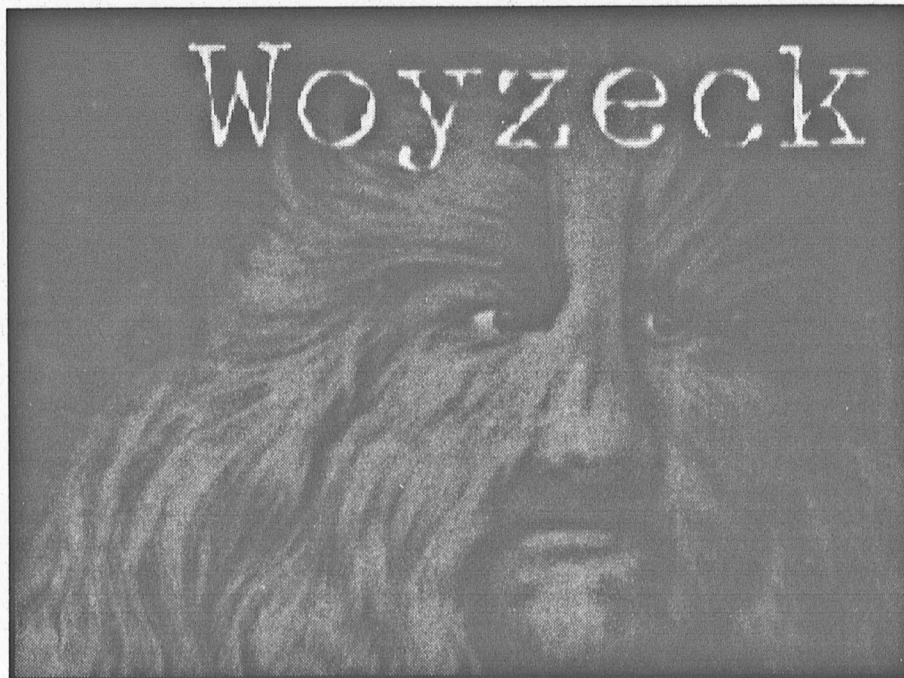
Tuesday, November 27—Students, faculty, and parents were brought to their feet at the Lab Theater for the opening night of *Woyzeck*. Pronounced *Voyt-seck*, this German play first began as a draw-erful of pages left by the 22-year old playwright Georg Buchner.

The themes of the play are no stranger to the twenty-first century: Sex, lies, and murder. Based on a true incident, *Woyzeck* addresses the problems of the underprivileged class. The structure of the play separates itself from others, for instead of the traditional three to five acts, *Woyzeck* consists of twenty-four scenes. Georg Buchner's fragmentary style, with its uncertain order of scenes, poses a challenge for every directorial approach.

Maurya Wickstrom, head of the Drama Department at the College of Staten Island, directed this year's production. She describes the play as "...sexually charged, made up of an assembling of emotions. At times it is comedic and tragic, bizarre, and earth shattering, with the complexity only a child can understand." Wickstrom's father, who at one time worked in theater, also directed *Woyzeck*.

The production manager and set designer for *Woyzeck*, C. Elizabeth Lee, described the play as "an intriguing jealousy-murder case about a man and his hallucinations...programmed by science and trapped in his own prison."

Woyzeck takes place in Leipzig,



Germany in 1824. It tells the story of a Slavic soldier named Fran Woyzeck (played by former CSI student Michael Harnett). Woyzeck, a man filled with dreams, is bullied by his captain (Earl Gatchalian). Buchner portrays Woyzeck as a man "only made of sand, dust, dirt, and filth."

Harnett shows us a man stricken by poverty, transformed into and treated like an animal. He is victimized by military discipline and the economic need that forces him to take part in the army doctor's experiments and evaluations. Upon instructions from the doctor (Mark Kolb) Woyzeck has been living

on nothing but peas for three months. Woyzeck, who later suspects his girlfriend Marie is having an affair, begins to hear voices and becomes tortured in his oppressive state. Feeling betrayed and overcome with jealousy and rage, Woyzeck destroys Marie, the only person he has ever loved. After stabbing her to death he presumably drowns himself in a nearby lake.

The superb cast and crew, led by the talented and promising Michael Arnett, made this year's play at the CSI one to contend with. Carol Jackson, Vice President of Human Affairs, attended opening night. "Great," exclaimed

Jackson. "The performances were so engaging and the music was perfect. It gave me chills!"

The precise direction of Maurya Wickstrom allowed the audience to feel as if it were experiencing the events first hand. By an unconventional means of standing and moving along, scene by scene, this method undoubtedly worked in the play's favor, creating a refreshing and much-needed means of interaction.

Carolyn Lee (the mother of set- and costume-designer Elizabeth Lee) flew in from Oregon. "Everything was absolutely wonderful," she said. "I am very proud of everyone and my daughter."

CSI student Kevin Rakhmanov raved about the play, saying "From the stages, to the costumes, to the props and decorations, it was a huge step up from previous plays. The production was the best I've ever seen, and I'm sure it'll keep getting better every year."

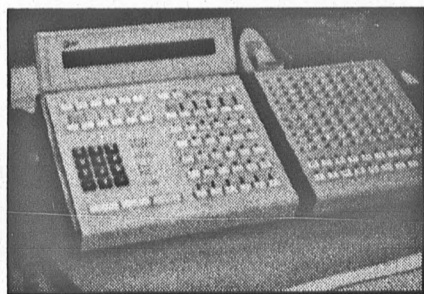
Kizzie Whyte, who played the unfaithful girlfriend, prides herself on being nothing like her character. To prepare for this challenging role (her first), she devoted a special time for prayer and meditation with God. "When the lights came on, I became a whole new person." From her powerful diction to her enticing mannerisms, she was by far the highlight of the play.

Woyzeck has yet to be outdated, for it continues to serve as a reflection of the world we live in. Ironically and amazingly, a piece of literature written almost 175 years ago remain relevant to our society's present misdoings: sexual betrayal, domestic violence, homicidal rage.

One Ringy Dingy...Two Ringy Dingy!

CSI's Switchboard Operators Link our College and the World Outside its Walls

By Lori Vega



"Hello...CSI...Can I Help You? Yes...CSI does stand for The College of Staten Island...No...I can't tell you what I'm wearing...Hello?"

Clumsy interoffice envelopes, old hat! E-mail, fat chance! Post-its, memos, whatever. The switchboard is

which building to go to, what office to speak to, and on and on and on.

"It's funny...students call as soon

Clumsy interoffice envelopes, old hat! E-mail, fat chance! Post-its, memos, whatever...

the core of communication here at the College of Staten Island. Colleen, Rosa, Dina, and Elizabeth are there to take your call.

"The phone never stops," says Elizabeth Sapatino. These operators deal with all variety of problems, brought to them from students, professors and everybody else.

The busiest time of each semester is registration. Students call for different reasons: Confusion in schedules,

as school starts and ask when Christmas or Spring break begins," says Diana Prendergast.

As for professors, these operators sometimes serve as personal secretaries, making long distance and inter-office calls. "We do all the dirty work for them," says Rosa Brenner.

Some of the calls received are simpler—asking for directions or general information about the college. All this and more is part of the daily from

8 a.m to 7 p.m, Monday thru Friday.

In emergencies, the operators have a lot to deal with. On September 11th, the college cancelled all classes for the remainder of the day and students went home wondering what would happen next. The operators were the first to know what was up. "That day and the few days after were a big mess," says Colleen Mugavero. The operators tried to deal with the situation and answer everyone's questions as best as they could.

Busy they are.

The women that work the switchboard at the College of Staten Island are always hard working. Whether for general info or national affairs, the phone never stops. These women should be greatly appreciated for the work they do. They help us get where we need to go and answer our questions, no matter how stupid they may seem.

Some Things Are Better Left Unwrapped

"Hunkmania" offers satisfying backrubs but dashes desires for empowerment. Even without clothes, the men are still in charge.

Jessica Mendez

I am an orgasm girl. Well, at least that's what the emcee at Hunkmania told me. Hunkmania, for those of you who don't know, is an intimate male revue in Downtown Manhattan, and, according to my friend who dragged me there one chilly October evening, the perfect place to celebrate my twenty-first birthday.

The air inside was thick with sweat and sex, creating humidity that not even the air conditioning can tame. The men were more than willing to please, offering everything from chaste pecks on the cheek to full-on bump-and-grind sessions in dark corners. It is a woman's paradise, with a parade of well-oiled, buffed Adonises gyrating and baring all that could not be concealed by the tantalizing piece of decorative cloth known as a g-string. I slowly began to get into the hedonistic groove. The emcee taught all us Hunkmania "virgins" how to fold our dollar bills correctly ("long and erect") so as to stick straight out of our cleavage and other areas of interest, and I even succumbed to sitting on a massage hunk's lap to receive my back rub in style. As the night wore on and the eroticism grew deeper, I became less of a participant and more of an observer, awed by the sense of faux intimacy that surrounded me. I suddenly realized that though the women thought that this was their arena to control the sexual climate, it was apparent that Hunkmania was more indicative than ever of men exercising their sexual control over women. We females may have held the money, but it was the men that captivated our attention.

I would never have thought that I would enjoy a male revue. I had the notion that I would be miserable, hav-

There were gimmicky skits reenacting a scene from *The Matrix*, and a friendly fireman sprayed Silly String from his prop hose, located in his pants. Jay Diamond, a Latin heartthrob wannabe shimmed his way through the oh-so-cliché "Livin' la Vida Loca," and Byron, a dancer bearing an eerie resemblance to the Backstreet Boys' Brian Littrell on steroids, performed a lyric dance to Phil Collins' "In The Air." Byron also performed a stupid human trick, doing a handstand, then backbending, firmly planting his feet against the wall on either side of my face, leaving me with a urologist's view of his baby-making apparatus, covered only in a silk g-string. Ah, but I was wrong about one thing: I was anything but miserable, for these men were at my beck and call, all willing to do what I commanded. I was in complete control. Or so I thought.

Joey, a tall, sinewy sculpture of a man, was one of four bare-chested massage hunks clad in dress pants and smothered in sensuality (or was that baby oil?). The air of mystery he exuded with his semi-covered flesh and underwear peeking out teasingly from the top of his waistband made more of an impression on me than the booty-floss exhibit on the main floor. Somehow, he seemed to know that I didn't enjoy the shove-my-face-between-his-legs approach that Jay Diamond used when he placed my glasses on his crotch and beckoned me to get them with my face.

tioned back rub, I noticed two other massage hunks huddled, pointing. Slowly, one headed straight over to a girl who had been continuously eyeing him. The other observed the crowd until he found a girl waving a slew of dollar bills. She was half hidden, but he managed to find her. They were actual-

the crowd. One Fabio look-alike in chaps pulled away from a long, intense kiss with a bridesmaid and turned his face ever so slightly. That is, until the inebriated customer flashed some green and slyly dangled it in front of him. He grinned before facing her again, pocketed the money, and reconvened the



Hunkmania in Downtown Manhattan might tickle your fancy or outrage your Republican friends. It will definitely spark debates about the politics of sex.

ly studying the crowd and choosing their conquests accordingly. The realization that Joey's knowledge was based on businesslike calculations showed me that my sense of power was false, and he had been in complete control of the

tongue conference. What she didn't know was that he had been scanning her crowd all evening and saw that she had been aiming to kiss a very similar looking dancer, who had declined. These men are no less than nouveau behaviorists, studying their surroundings and using their newfound knowledge to subtly manipulate their carnivorous conquests. Certainly, money was power, but these men seemed to gain even more pleasure in having the upper hand. They were even exchanging sly smiles whenever they would make eye contact. I needed no further proof than when a friend of mine leaned over and whispered, "Hey, Joey's been checking you out all night," raising a suggestive eyebrow. I shook my head and chuckled, knowing better than to take that as a compliment.

Hunkmania was no more than a pantomimed version of the mating dance, with results quite similar to past relationships: boy meets girl, boy and girl succumb to momentary pleasure, moment over. The false sense of control is a hollow victory, especially when you realize that you were never in control to begin with. I would go back, though, if for nothing more than to see my friends whenever an appendage of some sort made contact with them. Well, for that and a really great back massage.

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ing to be subjected to cheesy skits followed by trite choreographed dance routines, culminating in some sweaty, waxed, perfectly groomed specimen of man-meat grinding his sock-enhanced package in my face, hoping that I would securely plant a dollar bill in the crack of his ass. I was right in many ways.

(I got them with my hands and sent him on his merry way.) Joey didn't try anything that crass. It was almost uncanny how he could read me as if he knew me. He became my flavor of the evening, extracting dollar after dollar from the lowest point of my halter and teeth. Then, in the midst of my foremen-

situation. From then on, I noticed other examples of this. Todd, a beefcake waiter, was partial to one throng of women. He was being double-tipped: once for the drink, and once for the slow grind that served as a chaser. The massage hunks were partial to standing on the top bench of the seating area, scanning

Hello Mother...Hello Father...Here I am Without Harry Potter!

Scott Axelrod

Once upon a time, when I was much younger and much less cynical, my contemporaries and I would often spend our money on comics and collectible cards. In later years, we spent many hours searching through secretly stashed sex magazines. What did we know from Hogwarts, Quidditch, Gryffindor, Sorcerer's stones, and girls named Hermione? Short kids with thick black-framed glasses and P-O-T as part of their surnames were definitely not candidates for literary heroes, more like likely targets for beatdowns.

If they weren't pieces of a popular phenomenon, we would know little (if nothing) about them, but I'm sure that I'm not alone in feeling a little left out of the Harry Potter fan club. I have to admit that I'm also a little jealous, not only of Potter's creator's success, but of the hypnotized readers materializing into bookstores and the spellbound moviegoers casting longstanding box office records into oblivion.

If I had a lighter class load, was less lazy, and didn't appreciate extracurricular expeditions at CSI, I would have already read the four books that thus far constitute J.K. Rowling's published Potter portfolio. Forget about Shakespeare and all those other "Essential" writers who require excessive overanalyzation and Sominex, I can perfect-

ly picture myself soaring alongside the bespectacled and lightning-shaped scarred pre-pubescent Harry seated aboard his Nimbus 2000 flying broomstick. Imagine it, no more having to stand for fifty frustrating hours at the financial aid peepshow window or ransacking your room for forgotten about graduation applications. With Harry as your collegiate cohort, getting closed out of classes is cliché, and he doesn't give a damn about whether you have that dastardly telephone registration block taken off or not.

While some religious organizations claim that wizardry and witchcraft are weapons wielded by the wicked, I've yet to see any horns on the head, or a pitchfork in the hand of Ms. Rowling during any of the interviews she's given. I think the fact that two-thirds of all American children have already read the books and are able to casually recollect scenes at the wave of a wand, makes this ex-welfare recipient a possible candidate for sainthood rather than condemnation.

Writing is a magical form of art in and of itself. To be able to conjure up a colorful piece of poetic prose from a barren wasteland of empty space seems almost unfathomable, and at times, heartbreakingly hopeless. To create a cleverly crafted story that generates excitement in young people about reading and using their imaginations for something other than perverse practices and video game victories, is a magnificently mystical miracle requiring not only a bow of courtesy, but a simultaneous standing ovation.

The Beers of Belgium

Joe Tacopino

When I heard that the Center for International Services was presenting a lecture on "The Beers of Belgium" I immediately headed to the Library Theatre, hoping for free samples. Desired for its luxurious taste, Belgium beer has become increasingly popular among New York City pub-goers. The Peculiar Pub, located on Bleeker Street in lower Manhattan, is just one of the bars that showcase Belgium Beer on its long menu of imports.

"The Beers of Belgium" was part of a series of lectures entitled The World on Wednesday. These lectures discuss international issues every Wednesday in order to broaden student's horizons and to promote CSI's study abroad program. Orated by David Wrisley from Modern Language Dept., the "Beers" lecture did not include free samples but did provide insight to the culture and social habits of this small beer-obsessed country.

With a population of 10 million, almost as much as New York City, Belgium contains over 35,000 beer-serving establishments. This gives Belgium the honor of having the highest bar per-capita ratio in the world, something to be proud of. With over 350 varieties of

Beer there's a lot to choose from; Beers ranging from your ordinary *table* beers, which contains anywhere from 2 to 3.5% alcohol, to your stronger *specialty* beers that can go up to 7 or 8% (be careful with those). Then you've got different flavors to choose from: Sour Ale, Brown Ale, Amber Ale, Golden Ale, White Beer and Saison. There's even a type of beer called Trapist Ale that's brewed in a monastery, by monks.

Unlike the southern European countries Belgium does not have an accommodating climate for wine production. This is why Belgium relies on their Barley, which they grow all year long. The secret of their brewing process is the absence of yeast. Yeast is usually added to the grain in order to speed up the fermentation process, but not in Belgium. Belgium brewers let their beer ferment naturally; this takes a lot longer but obviously improves the quality. Then a flavoring agent called hops is added for that fine taste that beer drinkers across the world have all come to love.

Killmeyer's on Arthur Kill Road is the one of the only bars on Staten Island where you can experience fine Belgium Beers such as Corsendonk, Hoegaarden and Chimay. So, if you're looking to do some cultural exploration over the winter break head down to Killmeyer's and order a Stella Artois, and don't be afraid to mispronounce it.

Smoke is Clearing, But are the people hearing?

Small Showing at Smokeout Doesn't Weaken Spirit of Presentation Director

Smoke me!



Dave Morgan

If you smoke, listen up! If you don't, then pass this information on to someone who does. The Great American Smokeout has had its annual meeting and support is at a premium.

The Great American Smokeout celebrated its 25th anniversary on Thursday, November 15th during club hours in the Campus Center, Room 211.

Although the turnout was weak, it did not affect the strength of the message. "How many of you smoke?" asked the host of the presentation, Louisa Odenos,

before she presented a video documentary. The answers were astonishing: Out of twelve people attending the Smokeout, only one person was a smoker. As a matter of fact, three were writing papers for classes and seven were filling their CLUE requirements.

Although the video was informative, it was also quite boring.

Along with Mark Giannulla (CASAC, AOS), a counselor and recovering addict, Louisa explained the many benefits of quitting. The presenters were compelling and discussed different strategies to quit smoking, including the newest ideas about battling addiction.

Cessation classes are currently offered at the Peer Drop-in Center and include acupuncture and acupressure therapy as well as psychological and therapeutic counseling. Meetings are held every Wednesday in Building 1C, Room 211 at 1:30. Counselors can be reached at (718) 982-3131. The Great American Smokeout is supported by the City University's Wellness Program, and specifically hosted by the Peer Drop-In Center.

INFORMATION
ABOUT QUITTING:

www.Cancer.Org

www.Lungusa.Org

www.Americanheart.Org

www.Journeyworks.com

Or call the Hazelden Foundation

1(800) 328-9000

Building Positive Self Image

Anupama Mathai
Peer Educator, Wellness Program

Ever look in the mirror and feel like smashing it?

Don't.

Besides seven years bad luck and bloody knuckles, you may be shattering your mental and physical health.

It is a natural human emotion to feel good when others say something nice about us. However, it is more important to have a positive self-image than to be concerned with what others think.

Maybe you have heard: a positive self-image comes from within. I would like to suggest a few ways you can develop and maintain a good self-image.

One of the first things you can do is volunteer. Taking just one hour a week out of your life to help others can boost your self-image. There are many national and local organizations that need your help. Big Brother Big Sister of New York is one. You get to spend time with a child who needs a positive role model. Pick up information about this program in the Peer Drop-in Center, 1C-111.

You can get involved with organizations that aid the homeless or disabled people. You can check with the Career

Placement office in 1A-105 for other ways to get involved. Or search the internet under keyword, "volunteer."

Another quick way to boost your self image is to have a hobby. Hobbies give you a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment, and are great ways to relieve stress. Take a personal enrichment class to expand your horizons and discover something new about yourself. Socializing with people you like makes you feel great. You do not need relationships that drain you, but ones that energize and encourage. Reach out to someone today and feel good about yourself.

Another important thing to remember: Don't dwell on your disappointments and failures. We all have them. Instead, see them as stepping stones to build a better life. Do not think you're a failure; rather, think of how you can learn from experience to improve yourself.

Finally, try to see the humor in life. Laughing releases serotonin to our brains, a hormone that makes us feel good. Laugh whenever and with whomever you can.

Last, exercise your stress off. It has been proven through numerous studies that exercising three to four times a week can significantly improve your self image. So, go out and volunteer for an hour, take a painting class, seek out good friends and share a laugh together or go jogging around the block. Then look at yourself in a whole new light.

The Facts Of Anthrax

Stacey Wainwright

November 2nd—The Health and Wellness Program presented an hour-long seminar entitled, "The Anthrax Scare." Hosted by Georgia Schuller-Levis, Ph.D, and Valerie Jenkins, M.S., the seminar entertained all questions, fears and concerns about the disease.

The message put forth from the seminar was clear and distinct: It is not a good idea to self-medicate or take antibiotics as a preventative measure. As far as what we can do to protect ourselves, the administrators of the event warned us that we should wear gloves when we open letters, that we should not open any mail that is suspicious or not properly identified.

"What if I accidentally open infected mail?" one voice sounded from the audience. "Don't panic," Jenkins answered quickly. "Close the envelope or package, do not clean up any powders, and keep others away. Close off all rooms (doors and windows), remove all contaminated clothing and contact the police."

Another strong message of the seminar was that the chances of contracting anthrax are not high. The sponsors warned, "There is no need to live your life in blind fear. Awareness and treatment as well as safety precautions can ensure your chances of survival in the off-chance event you become a victim of Anthrax."

Anthrax can be transmitted three ways, inhalation, cutaneous, and gas-

trointestinal. Inhalation occurs when a person comes into direct contact with or more 8000 spores. Its symptoms are similar to those of the common cold, but after a day or two will develop into severe breathing problems and eventually shock. It is believed that a victim of inhaled anthrax will die a few days after the severe symptoms develop, so immediate treatment is necessary.

The second type of anthrax—and until recently the more common kind—is cutaneous or skin anthrax. Cutaneous anthrax is transmitted through contact with broken skin. It yields symptoms similar to an itchy scab or bump, as well as those symptoms associated with swollen lymph glands.

The third type of anthrax is gastrointestinal. Resulting from eating tainted undercooked meat, the symptoms of gastrointestinal anthrax include nausea, vomiting of blood, fever, loss of appetite, inflamed intestinal tract and severe diarrhea.

All forms are treatable by antibiotics. Such treatment includes Penicillin, Tetracycline, Doxycycline, Fluoroquinolones, Lecaquin, and the most popular, the now famous and highly coveted Ciprofloxacin (Cipro).

How does Anthrax attack the body? Anthrax is composed of three components. One is the protective antigen or the main component. The antigen is responsible for breaking down the cell it infiltrates. The two others are the Edema factor and the Lethal factor. Together these two form an alliance to attack and destroy each cell. New evidence of the disease is discovered almost daily, and there are several forms of experimental treatment being tested.

I'm Not Depressed... Well Maybe.

Meg Schneck
Peer Educator, Wellness Program

October 11 was National Depression Screening Day. You may ask, why is there a day dedicated to depression? Well, depression is considered the common cold of all psychological disorders. This year alone it will affect 17 million Americans. (That's 1 in 10.)

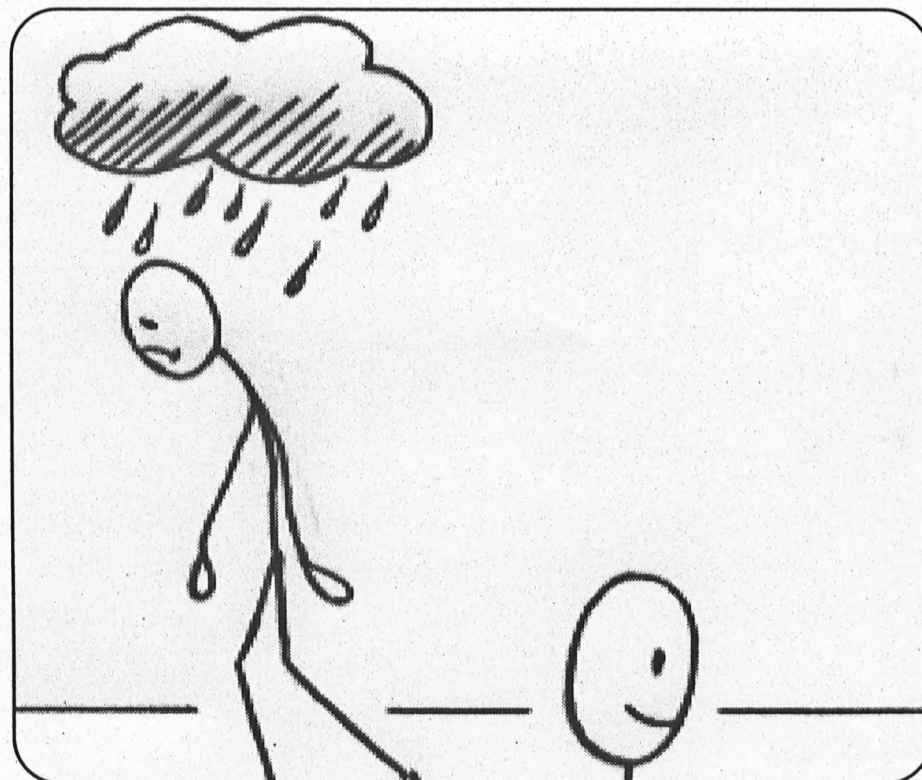
Perhaps you know what depression feels like. If so, you are not alone. If you are like most college students, at some point during the year (more likely the dark months of winter than the bright days of summer) you will probably experience a few symptoms of depression. You may feel dissatisfied with life or isolated from others. Perhaps academic success came easily to you in high school and now you find that disappointing grades are jeopardizing your goals. Maybe conflicting parenting and peer pressures seem intolerable. Remember, depression does not dis-

criminate; it touches all races, cultures, ages and genders.

Depression is the main reason why people seek the help of mental health care practitioners. Once diagnosed, depression is highly treatable. Unfortunately, most cases go undiagnosed and sufferers believe they will "snap out of it."

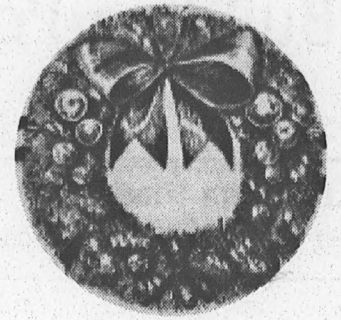
If, for a period of two weeks or longer, a person experiences persistent feelings of sadness and a loss of pleasure in things once enjoyed along with five of the symptoms listed below, they're depressed.

- Changes in Appetite
- Insomnia, or too much sleep
- Loss of energy
- Irritability or Restlessness
- Feeling worthless, and/or guilt
- Difficulty thinking
- Thoughts of death or suicide





Upcoming Events In December



SAT&SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>1/2 Start a fight and lose.</p>	<p>3 Start studying for your finals, Yeah right!</p>	<p>4 Photo Gallery in 1C-GDL through 12/7/01</p>	<p>5 Leadership and the Work Environment 1C-211 @ 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Kwanzaa 1P-GDL @ p.m.</p>	<p>7 Last Friday before Finals</p>
<p>8/9 Happy Hanukkah! (Begins Sunday at sundown)</p>	<p>10 Festival of Lights 6:30p.m. - 11p.m. 1C -Plaza and GDL</p>	<p>11 Go somewhere else other than 1C</p>	<p>12 Holiday Party: Wild Video Dance 1C-Rounda7p.m. - 11p.m.</p>	<p>13 Last Day of Classes for Weekday Classes Last Day to remove Incomplete Grades from Spring 1999 Semester</p>	<p>14 Start of Final Examinations</p>
<p>15/16 Last Day of Classes for Weekend Classes</p>	<p>17 Continuation of Final Examinations to the 23</p>	<p>18 Have a Slurpee and take a break from studying.</p>	<p>19 Watch ED on NBC @8p.m.</p>	<p>20 Send out those last minute Christmas cards!</p>	<p>21 Thank <u>goodness</u> it's friday!</p>
<p>22/23 Last Day of Final Examinations</p>	<p>24 College Closed. Winter Recess Begins</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Merry Christmas</p>	<p>26 Happy Kwanzaa</p>	<p>27 Go see Joe Taco's band "Jetsetdomino" @ Acme Underground</p>	<p>28 Recover from seeing "Jetsetdomino" @ Acme Underground</p>
<p>29/30 Start preparing your New years resolutions</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve Happy New Years!</p>				