

THE BANNER



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ELSA NUNEZ-WORMACK, AT YOUR SERVICE

By Jusuf Fuduli and Jessica Reback

While we can only guess as to what steps or measures the new president of CSI, Dr. Marlene Springer, will take in September, it seems abundantly clear that in the mean-time there are a number of things which need to be completed and initiated. To this end, Dr. Elsa Nunez-Wormack has been appointed interim president of the College of Staten Island by the City University of New York's Board of Trustees.

Speaking to *The Banner* on July 6, President Wormack discussed her appointment to CSI and what her two month role here will be. Dr. Springer will be unable to take her post until September 1, 1994. Add to that the reluctance of acting President Felix Cardegna to remain. Due to these circumstances Dr. Wormack said, "they (BOT) needed someone who knew the college, if it was going to be an outsider, to be here for only two months and to learn about the college would be very difficult."

Dr. Wormack's familiarity with CSI stems from her work as the Associate Dean of Faculty for Freshman Programs at the College of Staten Island from 1986 to 1992. For the past two years President Wormack has held the post of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs in CUNY's central administration. When Dr. Wormack was asked what part she is playing in the orientation of Dr. Springer, she replied, "I'm on the phone with Dr. Springer almost every day. We confer, I tell her what I want to do, why I want to do it, she sometimes she agrees or disagrees, but the ultimate decision is hers. Because it's not fair for me to come in for two months, hire and fire, and allocate the budget, then she comes in September and is faced with a situation that is not what she would like."

This being noted, President Wormack was then asked if she will attempt to solve problems, or just convey them to Dr. Springer. Her response was, "If I were at an institution where things were stable, I would probably just be a transitional person; I can't do that this summer, because you've got incredible problems on this campus. I confer with Dr. Springer, but the decisions will be made in the summer, they're not going to wait until she is physically in this office."

President Wormack considers parking and construction the most pressing matters. While she was knowl-



Acting President Elsa Nunez-Wormack

edgeable about the obvious dilemmas on campus, more impressive was Wormack's awareness of some of the minute problems at CSI, which can only be experienced first hand. This comes from President Wormack's frequent spot checks. One of these trouble shooting stints took her to the basement of Building 2N, infamous for its closing last semester due to health hazards. Of building 2 North, Dr. Wormack said, "the smell,...I have a sensitive sense of smell, I could smell the mildew and mold."

Speaking of mold, it was pointed out to the President that some of the window sill heating and ventilation units found throughout every building on campus, are growing white fungus. President Wormack's response was, "these (the heating and cooling units) are the cheapest systems that could have been purchased." Dr. Wormack continued to say that incoming President, Dr. Marlene Springer would have to raise millions of dollars to replace the system.

Saying, "the real issues will be infrastructure issues," Dr. Wormack exhibited a sense of preparedness, and a personality able to cope with what comes her way. Matters needing her attention should be plentiful. As President Wormack said, "there's going to be some activity this summer."

DEP SAYS WATER SAFE TO DRINK

By Jusuf Fuduli

Questions concerning the quality and safety of the campus's water supply have taken center stage again, as the college's administration has opted to discontinue supplying the buildings with bottled water. This move was announced by the now retired acting President, Felix Cardegna. In a June 15, 1994, campus bulletin, Mr. Cardegna stated that the Department of Environmental Protection had found the water to be within safety levels.

The briefing by the DEP Wednesday, July 13, detailed the testing process and presented a number of options to deal with the water's quality. The meeting was attended by heads of departments, representatives from the secretaries union, TDX construction, Buildings and Grounds, and by senior administrators.

The first order of business at the meeting was a discussion of a memo from Guille Mejia of the DC 37 Occupational Safety and Health Unit, to Joan Reed, President of the Local 2054, secretaries union. In the memo, Ms. Mejia wrote the following, "After a careful review of the results, I would say that the school administrators have erred in stating that the water quality is acceptable according to the DEP."

Ms. Mejia, referring to the DEP test results, went on to state that the testing period from March 22 through April 7 continued to show poor water quality, and that the results showed at least one area where lead and copper levels were above normal. The memo ended with the recommendations that testing continue and that bottled water service be restored at least until the start of the Fall semester.

Raymond Pavia, Dean of Administration, who was mentioned in the memo, referred Ms. Mejia's statements to Dr. Lin Lu of the Department of Environmental Protection. Dr. Lu said that the school administrators did not err in their statements that the water was acceptable.

Dr. Lu began discussing the test results by first saying that no bacteria was found in the water. He then proceeded to present the more notable results taken from the campus's water. Out of nine water samples taken on the campus, three had elevated pH levels. The specific problems afflicting the water were, turbidity or high sediment concentration, discoloration, low chlorine, and high pH.

The worst cases of these problems were found in building 6S, where the biology and chemistry departments reside. The causes for these effects are varied, but include old cast iron water mains, and lack of water use. Due to age and all the disturbance caused by heavy construction, the water mains on campus are discharging rust into the campus water supply. Exasperating the problem is the campus's large size, which leaves a good deal of water standing idle for long amounts of time. The longer the water is unused the more its chlorine level dissipates and the pH level rises.

To counter these factors, the college has been opening fire hydrants around campus to flush stagnant water, continued on page three

NYPIRG ELECTIONS DECLARED INVALID

By Jessica Reback

The story continues, and Student Government (SG) has won this round in the fight against New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). Student Government Senators Corinne Lambert, John Fitzpatrick, and Tom Taaffe were the student representatives at the June 1, 1994, Student Election Review Committee (SERC) meeting, where complaints against NYPIRG were heard. The manner in which NYPIRG held the elections for its State Board of Directors was questioned by these Senators for various reasons.

One reason is that the only day a student could

submit a nomination for the Board of Directors was not publicized until six days after the nomination period. John Fitzpatrick and Tom Taaffe both expressed a desire to run in the NYPIRG elections, and since they were both unable to nominate themselves, they felt disenfranchised. Also, the elections were held in the NYPIRG office, room 1C-219, and presided over by NYPIRG Project Coordinators, without supervision from the Student Activities Team and/or the SERC. The students who cast votes in this election were asked to give their names and phone

Elections, continued on page three

LIGHT POST SUFFERS AS STUDENT CRASHES

By Jusuf Fuduli

Automobile accident number 39 of the 1994 scholastic year took place on Friday, July 8, 1994, as an eighteen year old female student at the college lost control of her car and ran over a light post. Jennifer Tartaglione was driving her mother's 1987 Cadillac Coup de Ville, west on the loop road, between the parking entrances to 1A and 2A, when her car veered to the right at about 1:20 pm.

Ms. Tartaglione was alone in the car as she plowed over the light post, snapping it at its base and nearly uprooting the concrete and steel foundation. While she suffered scrapes and bruises and injury to her arm, neck, and back, her wounds are said not to be serious; the driver was wearing her seat belt. There were no witnesses to the accident, but security and one of the Health Center's nurses arrived quickly on the scene.

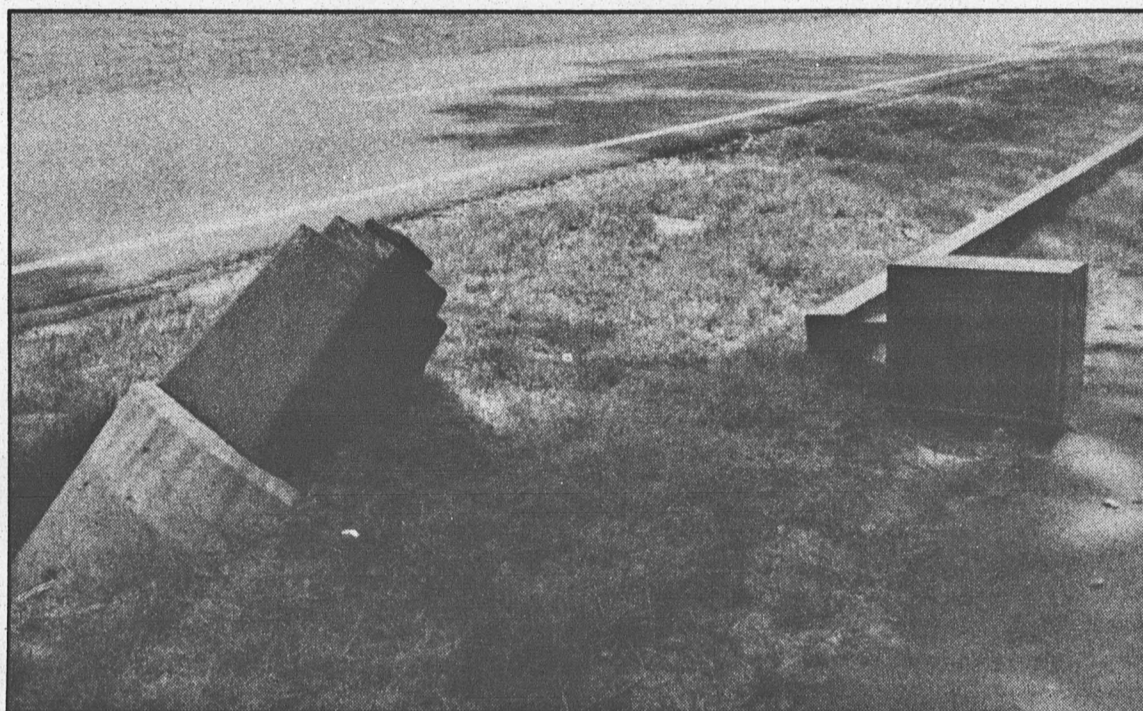
CUNY officer Richard Osborne stated that the driver complained of a bad wheel alignment, and that this most likely caused the automobile to stray. EMS was called, and while the student initially refused hospital attention, she was convinced to enter the ambulance by her boyfriend, who arrived on the scene shortly after the accident occurred. Dean of Students, Carol Jackson, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Barry Bressler were both on the scene as Patrol Officers Griffin and Gray from the 122nd precinct were surveying the damage.

Nearly thirty minutes after the mishap, the student's mother arrived. Her immediate reaction, "I can't believe what she did to the car," was warranted when the condition of the vehicle is taken into account. The

Cadillac sustained damage to the passenger side fender, bumper, and hood. It also had two flat tires, and a shattered windshield. The underbelly of the car, which had scraped the lamppost's base, was leaking water and antifreeze.

The student claims she was doing twenty to twenty five miles per hour, but the vehicle failed to stop for

forty feet after it caused the upheaval of the firmly entrenched, eighteen inch in diameter and two and a half feet in height concrete foundation of the light post. What is certain is that two automobiles, going well over the campus speed limit, passed the wrecked Cadillac, and drove on without the drivers looking back.



The lightpost lies in two parts after being struck by the car.

PHOTO BY MIKE GAROFALO

CAMPUS HIT HARD BY STORM

By Jusuf Fuduli

You figure there's going to be a hell of a claim when you're standing in a building's basement with water around your ankles, and before the guys with mops show up there's a dude with a camera clicking away for the insurance company. That was the scene in building 2N thanks to a storm which began pummeling the campus at about 12:30 pm on Wednesday, June 29th.

Building 2N, which has consistently faced drainage problems, was not the only building flooded, but was

certainly in the worst shape. Its problems, like those of building 5N and the Campus Center loading dock, have essentially the same dilemma; misplaced, unmaintained, or just completely inefficient water drains. For nearly an hour the locking dock of building 1C had an area of approximately fifty by sixty feet covered with six to twenty inches of rain water. This deluged portion of the loading dock could not expect a storm drain to alleviate the problem, since the drain is not located at the lowest point of the lot, but at the midpoint.

While 1C's flood problem originates from poor planning, it did not cause any damage to the building's structure. But renovated buildings like 2 and 5 North do not have the benefit of a new foundation as 1C does. 2N already had its basement turned into a wading pool by an overflow of sewage three weeks ago. Yet Tuesday's flood was caused more by an unmaintained drain, than a faulty one.

A drain at the bottom of 2N's descending staircase, on the building's right exterior was blocked by refuse. This obstruction caused water to climb nearly two feet in the stairwell before it finally seeped through an exit door and damaged two of the classrooms and the walls in the basement's right wing. A similar scenario caused rain water to come through the foundations in building 5 North, buckling drywall, and entering areas which expressively are to remain dry.

While the storm was fierce, knocking out the school's telephone lines in the north quad, its damaging effects were bolstered by the general disarray of the campus's construction. The grounds surrounding many of the campus's buildings are unseeded slopes, and this allows for loose dirt to be dragged downhill along with water into the campus drain system. This concentration of mud in the drainage pipes either slows or totally impedes the passage of water. At this point the campus has surrounded many of the drain grates with bundles of hay to prevent eroded soil from clogging the pipes.

Raymond Pavia, Dean of Administration, has had a number of different reasons given to him for the various floods, and has informed the campus's Buildings and Grounds staff to regularly check drains for obstructions. Dean Pavia points out that many of the campus's problems stem from the ongoing construction. Yet the hiring of contractors, the discharge of their services, and the filing of insurance claims is not within the college's control, but is in the hands of the New York State Dormitory Authority.

This being taken into account, Dean Pavia is quick to add that he believes that the school's contractors are very capable, but have had problems receiving payment for their works due to the city's budget delay which was just recently settled. The problem of cash flow not only affects contract labor, but also the school's own Buildings and Grounds department which has just nine laborers to maintain both the Willowbrook and Sunnyside campuses.

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THE TROUBLE WITH ACCIDENTS WATER (from pg. 1)

By Jusuf Fuduli

As September approaches, the nightmarish view of dozens of automobile accidents occurring on campus looms on the horizon. While this scenario has not yet played itself out, it stands a good chance to be realized when the prior semester is taken into account.

The Spring 1994 semester not only had insurance adjusters pushing pens, it had emergency service workers removing bodies. From February to this point there have been 39 accidents on campus. According to the Director of Campus Security, Gene Martinez, 34 of those accidents were minor fender benders, crunches that took place mostly in the cramped parking lots and their entrances, which did not require EMS. The other five were head-ons on the nameless loop road; all had ambulances rush to the scene, one had two fatalities.

Now that summer has arrived, there are a lot of expectations that measures will be implemented so as not to repeat another incident like the tragic deaths of Joseph Smith and his younger sister Tamanika on the loop road, Tuesday, May 31. While the cause of that accident is still being investigated by police, with toxicology results pending, it is known that mechanical error was not a factor.

Regardless of the exact circumstances that day, the situation was one that has been witnessed on campus before; minus the two deaths, of course. Friday, May 6, at 8:50 pm, a motorcycle driver was struck by a car at the stop sign between building 1A and 2A. The driver was thrown onto the car's windshield, he was

taken to the hospital and later released. Two weeks before that, in the same area, two cars collided, pushing one automobile into a lightpost. Both drivers had to be treated for injuries. Thursday, May 19, at 6:30 pm, Campus Center Director Mike Daniels was driving to the main gate when his car was hit and pushed into rain soaked mud. The student who initiated the collision was speeding on the wrong side of the road because he didn't want to be late for his final.

The supposition that nothing will be done to counter these incidents is widespread, but that is taking into consideration that after a full year at Willowbrook no viable measures have been implemented; traffic and collision problems continue unabated. Possible measures such as having NYPD patrol the loop road or having our own security force issue summonses are still being debated. Plans to utilize the perennially unused parking lot 6 are still being kicked around.

So far this summer traffic signs declaring the speed limit to be 25 miles per hour have been posted. Security will now be trailing drivers who exceed the limit; the first infraction will result in a warning. A second infraction will result in a referral. In the case of students, names will be given to Carol Jackson, Dean of Students. For faculty members, names will be given to the heads of the respective departments. No word yet on what will be done to speeding administrators.

The school has committed to the purchasing of speed humps, colloquially known as speed bumps without the liability. Their installment is expected before the start of the semester.

water, and running water in the janitorial closets of every building for four hours a day. It is the position of the DEP that once CSI reaches full occupancy and the water is utilized to a greater degree, the water's quality will increase.

Yet the term, "full occupancy" left more than a few people puzzled, as the past semester saw CSI host over twelve thousand students. Mirella Affron, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences remarked, "I don't think we can count on things changing that much due to occupancy." Dean Affron inquired if the school's water quality would have to be maintained by letting hydrants and sinks run for hours each day. This concern was shared by some of the other environmentally conscious persons present, who wondered how much water had to be wasted to insure its safety, and what is to be done if the city is in a drought emergency.

Dr. Lu of the DEP responded that if the lines are not flushed, the stagnant water would not be of quality. He added that with a new semester and "full occupancy" the need for flushing should diminish. As for the next summer semester, when the number of people on campus will decline, Dr. Lu suggested the school water the lawns as an alternative to letting water gush uselessly down sewers.

A point of interest during the meeting was when the Department of Environmental Protection was asked about the results from the campus's water fountains. Dr. Lu informed the body that there were no samples taken from drinking fountains; the test results being presented were those taken from the sinks. It is the policy of the DEP not to test on samples from fountains due to the fact that the water therein, while from the same source, has been lying in its own refrigeration system for indeterminate lengths of time.

This makes the water from drinking fountains unreliable for accurate testing. This being noted, Barry Bressler, Vice President for Academic Affairs made the DEP promise that they would return to test the campus's water fountains. All these factors taken into account, it is unquestionable that for the water's quality to be maintained, it must be used. Given that people may still be suffering from insecurity regarding the water, usage may be relaxed for some. Eugene Leung of the New York State Dormitory Authority, the agency responsible for the construction of the Willowbrook campus, suggests that people follow the same procedure when drinking the water here as they do at home; let the water run cool and clear before you drink it.



The vehicles involved in the deadly May 31 car crash.

PHOTO BY MIKE GAROFALO

Elections, continued from page one numbers before voting. (It is standard procedure in the Student Elections to have students identify themselves by giving their names and Social Security numbers.)

Another irregularity occurred during the second day of voting. NYPIRG was asked to move its ballot box to the lobby of the Campus Center by Mike Daniels, Campus Center Director, and it was observed by John Fitzpatrick that the ballot box was left unattended.

SERC listened to the complainants and subsequent responses from the NYPIRG representatives, including Samara Rifkin, Andre Woods, Kat Cummings, Lou Piels, and Michelle Gibbens. They adjourned into a separate room and returned with the following decision: "The SERC finds the NYPIRG election to not meet a reasonable democratic standard and is therefore declared invalid. It directs NYPIRG to complete new elections no later than Friday, October 7, 1994. The SERC is available to assist NYPIRG in the implementation of these elections if so requested. In certifying

new NYPIRG elections the committee will hold NYPIRG to the same democratic standards currently applied to Student Government. Finally, the newly elected NYPIRG may serve in an acting capacity until the results of this election are certified."

Project Coordinator Michelle Gibbens explained NYPIRG's decision to hold the election without outside help. For the past two years, the NYPIRG elections have been held in conjunction with the Student Government (SG) elections. Before that, NYPIRG held their elections separately. Due to the strained relations between SG and NYPIRG, they went back to the old way. NYPIRG has held their elections this way for fifteen years, as opposed to only two years of holding them with SG. Gibbens stated, "As staff people for NYPIRG we ran an aboveboard election. We were strict about having no campaigning in the office. We respect the decision of the SERC, but we feel that our elections were open, aboveboard, and fair." Also, the reason for having voters give their phone numbers when they voted is

that NYPIRG is not allowed access to students' Social Security numbers.

When asked if he thought this defeat would open NYPIRG's eyes as to how to operate at this campus, Tom Taaffe gave a resounding, "No." Taaffe was happy about Student Government's victory, but he expects NYPIRG will retain a lawyer in order to appeal this decision. "There's something very sick going on in NYPIRG. They operate like a cult. The time has come to closely examine everything that NYPIRG is doing, not only at this campus, but also on a state-wide level."

It is unclear what plan of action NYPIRG will follow. Michelle Gibbens stated that the issue is being discussed with the State Board Representatives. NYPIRG could hold a new election and risk affirming the belief that the first election was held in an inappropriate manner. On the other hand, NYPIRG can appeal the decision of the SERC. One thing is certain — in the ongoing war between SG and NYPIRG, SG has won this battle.

¡EL NUEVO PRESIDENTE!

By Diane Paras

If you've heard the buzz, then you know that CSI has a new President, who was elected by the Board of Trustees, acting upon the recommendation of Chancellor Reynolds at their June 27, 1994 meeting. The honorable position has been filled by Dr. Marlene Springer who will take office as of September 1, 1994. If you haven't heard, now you know.

Dr. Springer is an energetic and dedicated administrator, who despite the obstacles and problems at CSI and within CUNY, showed the willingness to do whatever is needed to maintain high standards of education. She was Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs since 1989 at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. East Carolina is a school with 18,000 students and a part of the University of North Carolina system. It is a school that has a diverse multi-cultural population. Dr. Springer has been responsible for setting up many programs at East Carolina University to meet the multi-cultural needs of the institution. She has showed that she possesses the foresight and capability to continue fostering a multi-cultural program at CSI which has a diverse ethnic population whose needs have not been met to the fullest.

Earning undergraduate degrees in Business Administration and English reveals Dr. Springer to be what she considers "a pragmatic realist." She claims her interest in literature keeps her in touch with the best that is thought and known in the world. Dr. Springer believes that a good administrator must be "cognizant of our past so that we can construct the present and be prepared for the future; [She] believes a strong liberal arts education is the core of that future." She also expressed that "if one is going to have excellence in a college then its administrators must provide a humane organization so that an institution can be a place of enthusiasm and intellectual excitement for those who work there and for those who study there."

I had the fortunate experience of chairing the Student Group for the Campus Visit of the Presidential Search Committee. This process allowed all levels at the college such as students, staff, administrators and faculty to form groups to interview each of the five final candidates. The Student Group was very concerned with the implementation of Consolidation, and on this subject, we questioned each candidate in great detail. Dr. Springer, although not intimately familiar



Dr.
Marlene
Springer
will be
taking
office the
week of
Sept. 1,
1994

with the APP Plan, felt that it is too severe to just get rid of integral majors simply because there are a limited number of students enrolled in them for graduation. Philosophy, Physics, and Anthropology are a few of the majors that would be cut. Dr. Springer believes the majors targeted for dismissal should be absorbed in some manner so that they are still available as classes (and majors) which provide an essential element in a Liberal Arts program. When asked if she would challenge 80th Street to protect the interest of the students and their academic needs, Dr. Springer replied that she would "fight the good fight."

The Student Group was also concerned with student participation in school governance aside from the Student Government. She, like all the candidates, felt student representation an essential voice in deciding factors at the college to better maintain their interests at an institution. Dr. Springer expressed that students are often considered incapable of understanding the intricacies in administration at a college. She believed this a falsehood that can only be rectified by making sure that students have a voice and a vote on all the major committees and boards, aside from tenure committees. Their inclusion in the governance of an institution not only insures their voice is heard and counted, but their involvement in administrative processes is a powerful learning experience not available in the classroom. After all, students today will be the administrators of tomorrow.

Dr. Springer possesses a refreshing spirit. One of

her criteria for establishing her new administration is a "don't bore me" policy. She is not into making heads roll, but feels it is important that her administration be an action oriented one rather than an office consumed with red tape and procrastination. She is a mover and a shaker administratively, but still maintains extensive scholarship credentials. Dr. Springer recently published a book in 1993 called *Ethan Fromme: Nightmare of Need*, and is the author of several other books and articles that basically address nineteenth century British and American Literature and women's literature. She earned her Ph.D. in English Literature and her M.A. in American Literature at Indiana University in Bloomington, and received her Bachelors in English and Business Administration at Centre College in Kentucky.

Dr. Springer noted in her vita letter a quote which she felt successfully stated her views towards institutional management. From Robert Birnbaum's article in *The Journal of Higher Education* she notes the following: "Cognitive complexity has many elements. It includes the ability to see the institution from a number of alternative perspectives, balancing a concern for people with a concern for task, integrating opposing ideas and adapting them to the task at hand, and responding to potentially threatening environmental forces in ways that are also seen as reflecting such values as honesty, integrity, and academic principles."

Dr. Springer's task in her new position is not an easy one. There are many obstacles that have emerged since the move to the new campus which demand a President that is willing to dig in and make changes. Dr. Springer showed not only the willingness to take on the task but also the energy, knowledge, and ethics necessary to do so. She is a refreshing new energy to the role of President, which up to now has been bogged down in political power plays and a severe lack of attention to the essential needs of student to secure the highest standards of education. I personally look forward to her Presidency, which is a job that has, in my observation, right wing patriarchal overtones which limit CSI's capability to administrate and benefit a diverse population with multi-cultural ideals. Only time will tell in what direction things will go, but Dr. Springer's presence represents the possibility for CSI to take on a new direction without educational standards being compromised.

ASSEMBLYMAN STRANIERE SLAMS CUNY ADMINISTRATION

By Ryan Monroe and Jusuf Fuduli

A bill introduced into the State Assembly by Staten Island Assemblyman Robert Straniere (R) that would have diverted ten million dollars from CUNY Central Administration's operating budget and reallocated it to CUNY campuses has been dismissed by the Assembly's Committee on Higher Education.

The ten year Republican Assemblyman from the 61st district was motivated to introduce the bill due to his general dissatisfaction with the CUNY Central Administration and its head Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds. Straniere exclaimed, "I don't like the bloated funding on 80th Street (the offices of CUNY Central Administration) that is a replica of Livingston Street (site of the city Board of Education). Plenty of high salaries, lavish expense accounts, fancy cars for the administrative staff, while campuses suffer."

The bill, listed as 9593-A, introduced in February of 1994 has made little progress, and was not included in this year's state budget. Part of an amendment to the state's higher education law, the bill was coupled with a proposal originally introduced by gubernatorial candidate and State Senate member, George Pataki, to sell the state-owned mansion provided for the use of SUNY's Chancellor. The current CUNY Central Administration operating budget stands at \$21,109,500. This is more than half of CUNY's largest campus, the College of Staten Island, which receives a total budget of \$39,603,300.

CUNY Central's response to the proposed legislation reads as follows: "It is our view that the proposed legislation would further reduce services and programs at CUNY and restrict the University's ability to meet the growing numbers of qualified students who need access to a college degree."

The bill would have prevented CUNY Central Administration from making up the ten million dollar deficit by cutting educational programs. Stating,

"Such reduction shall not be applied to any student program or affect the provision of educational services."

Mr. Straniere does not feel that the diversion of funds is a detriment to higher education. "The ten million dollar reduction in administration gets their attention and delivers a message that we're not happy. I want my college to get the recognition it deserves financially so it can continue to provide the first rate product that the community and its students deserve. I want a fair share. We don't get the attention we need, for the kind of student body we have, for the kind of programs they want."

Assemblyman Straniere's frustration is not only personal but also familial. His son, a student of CSI, has encountered many of the obstacles that students of the College of Staten Island face. Mr. Straniere said, "My son has to go an extra year now to school because he could not get the courses he needs."

Assemblyman Straniere was very outspoken against the policies of Chancellor Ann Reynolds, and the way they have affected the development of the new Willowbrook campus. In November, Chancellor Reynolds and the Board of Trustees fired President Volpe for his refusal to be a participant in her plans to consolidate the nineteen CUNY campuses. Many of CSI's students and faculty dissented against this plan which was detailed in a document known as the Goldstein report. These actions, among others, incited the faculty along with the Student Government at CSI, to voice a vote of no confidence in Chancellor Ann Reynolds.

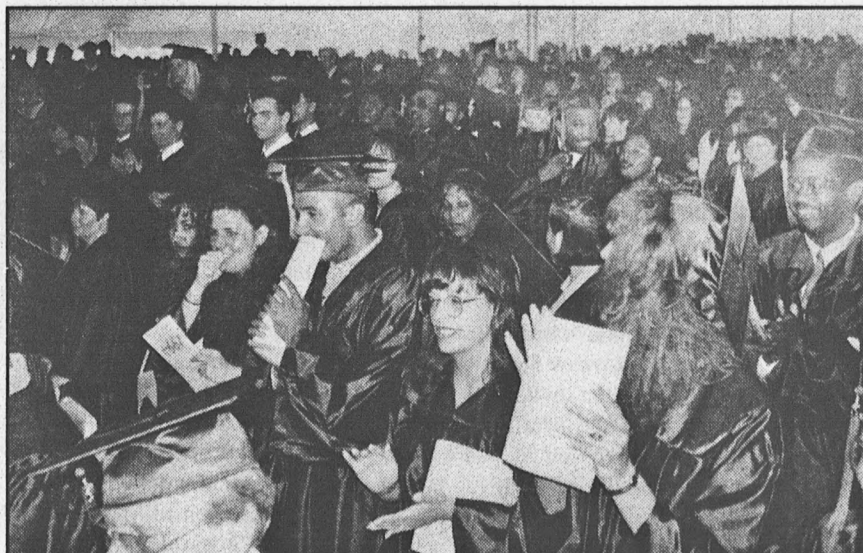
Mr. Straniere stated, "The way Dr. Volpe was treated is an indication that they (CUNY Central Administration) ignore the unanimous opinion of all the elected officials of Staten Island and the students." Assemblyman Straniere rigorously blasted Chancellor Reynolds for firing President Volpe, who in Mr.

Straniere's words, "single-handedly moved this college to an institution of respect and support."

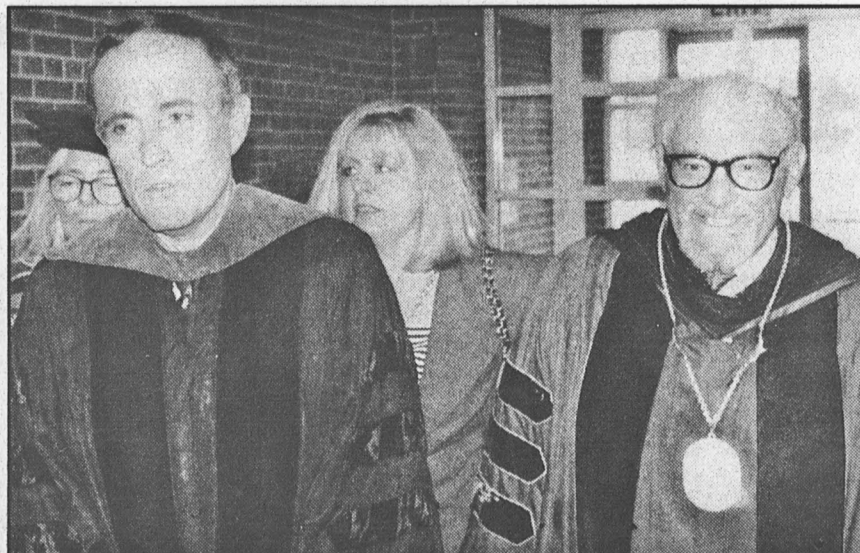
The College of Staten Island's search for a new President was also a point the Assemblyman touched on. Mr. Straniere was angry about the fact that none of CSI's own senior administrators were considered for the Presidential post, and that all of the candidates being interviewed were not citizens of this state. "We don't need another Ann Reynolds coming from California to wreck our college the way I believe she is destroying the CUNY system overall," said Mr. Straniere.

The future of the bill is in serious doubt. According to Lori Hitchcock, legislative assistant to Assemblyman Straniere, "Republican initiatives don't have much say in the Democratically controlled Assembly." The feeling that partisan politics are an obstacle to many of the proposed amendments to higher education was something Mr. Straniere also expounded on. He remarked on the gubernatorial campaign, endorsing Republican nominee, George Pataki.

"George Pataki served 8 years in the Assembly with me. If he is elected Governor, Staten Island is going to have a great friend in the Governor's mansion because George is one of the closest friends I have in the legislature." As to the future of CSI, Assemblyman Straniere feels that a severance with CUNY is needed. "I would like to see CSI become part of the State University system. We would keep the two year component. I don't want the students who come out of our high schools to be denied the opportunity to go to college." This is a goal which might seem unattainable if the decision were left up to the Central Administration, who Mr. Straniere finally referred to as, "absentee landlords trying to run the system."



Graduates celebrating under the tent on the campus' Great Lawn.



The Mayor with retiring CSI President Edmond L. Volpe.

Photos by Mike Garofalo

ADULATION FOR GRADUATION

By Jusuf Fuduli

Over one thousand CSI students said farewell to their school and president during the graduation ceremonies on Sunday, June 5, 1994. A clear and mild day complimented students, relatives, and guests who assembled on the campus's great lawn to realize the culmination of years of hard work and dedication to academia.

The first graduation ever to be held on the new Willowbrook campus featured a multitude of anxious students draped in the scholarly garb of cap and gown; their efforts to gain an education being recognized by the school's faculty, administration, and some of the

city's most influential personages.

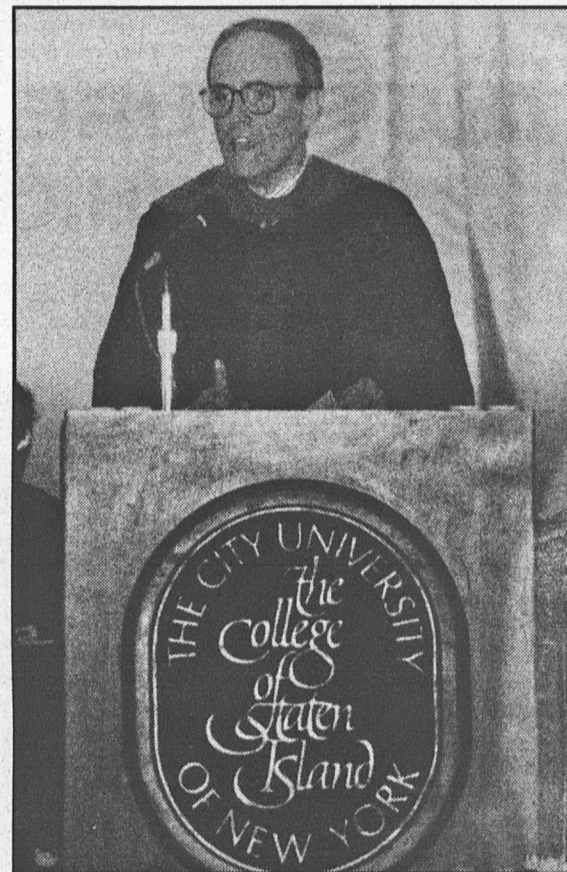
The ceremony's commencement speaker was the Mayor of New York City, Rudolph Giuliani. Greeted by a prolonged applause the Mayor, sharing the podium with Borough President Guy Molinari, Congresswoman Susan Molinari, Assemblyman Robert Stranieri, City Councilman Vito Fossella, and the late Michael J. Petrides, spoke of CSI as a lasting legacy of Edmond L. Volpe. Saying "Look around you, it's Ed Volpe's monument," the Mayor described Willowbrook's transition from a mental institution with a history of "abandonment and abuse" to a site of potential, where "you the graduating students are the flower of what this place will be."

The eighteenth annual commencement ceremony was held underneath a tent which accommodated four thousand persons. The tent, similar to the one utilized at last year's Dedication Ceremony, cost the school fifteen thousand dollars, but still failed to provide shelter for everyone who attended, nearly seven thousand people in all. While the overall mood was festive, especially on the part of the graduates, there was a good deal of frustration running through the cramped crowd.

Beginning at five o'clock, the main ceremony was preceded by smaller departmental affairs, such as the one held in front of 2N, where faculty heads commemorated the graduation of students from the Department of Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy.

The ceremony with its more than ample revelers marked not only the success of roughly 1750 students, but also the final adieu of the only president the College of Staten Island has known, Dr. Edmond L. Volpe. President Volpe stepped before the microphone after being introduced by acting President Felix Cardegna, and told the seated assembly that he had no formal speech, and that he would be brief. Thus in the last minutes of his presidency, Mr. Volpe lied, as he proceeded to speak for a half hour; no one was sorry he fibbed.

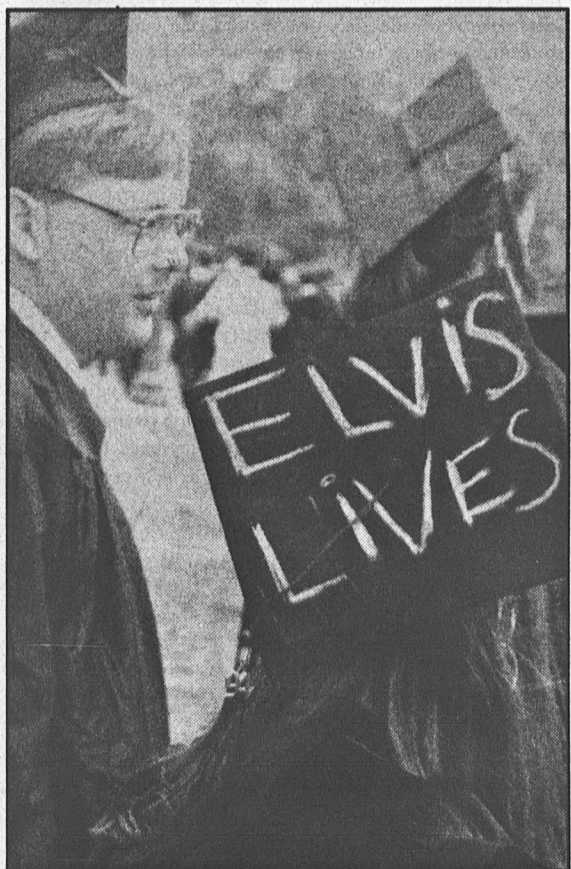
Offering his own personal congratulations to the graduates, President Volpe thanked the administration, faculty, staff, and maintenance for their contributions to CSI. Making note that this would be his final commencement as President of CSI, to which the crowd



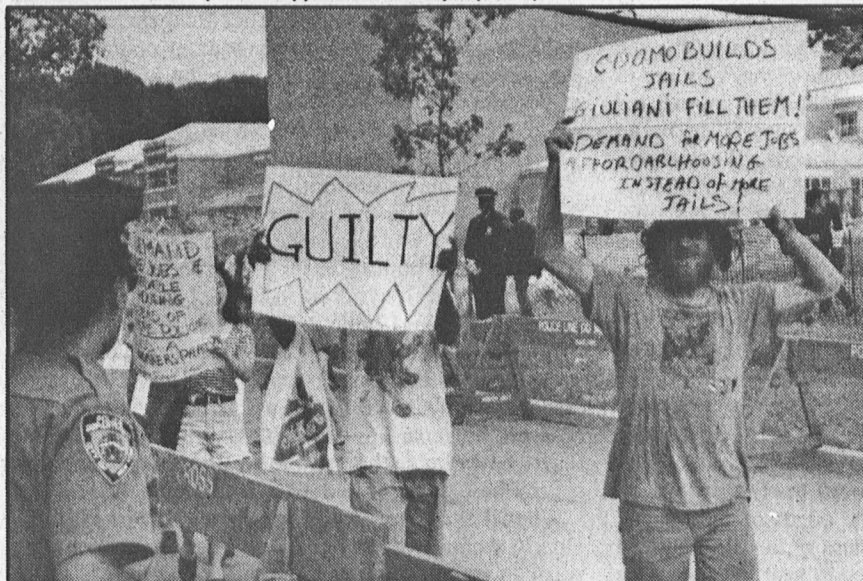
Mayor Giuliani giving his commencement address.

responded with boos, Dr. Volpe enumerated the many rewards his work has granted him. "It has been a great privilege to have been able to help thousands of people to fulfill their dreams of a college degree, and to help them discover the thrill of learning; to understand more and more about themselves, their society, and their world."

As would be expected with an event of this nature, emotions of all sorts were running high. Cramped quarters and the inability of anyone seated outside the tent to view the proceedings caused a good deal of belligerence, and provoked one attendee to spit in the face of a campus security officer. The Mayor's handling of the death of Ernest Sayon was protested by a small group of demonstrators. These things aside, the day was an overwhelmingly joyous occasion, and etched smiles on nearly all who attended.



Graduates Cliff Hagen and Nanci Richards (ex-Student Government President) show support for E.L. Volpe. (ELVIS)



Demonstrators march in protest of the Mayor's presence.



Graduates on their way to the Great Lawn.

COMMENTARY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

While I respect Christine Collins' opinion, I feel the need to respond. Based on the audience's response, along with the review that appeared in the sixth issue of *The Banner*, I think that it is fair to say that the majority of the crowd enjoyed the poetry reading on April 27, 1994. The featured poets judged the Poetry Slam and chose the winners based on their individual reactions. Poetry slams are a common approach used in many venues that allow up-and-coming poets an opportunity to express themselves,

sometimes for the first time, before an audience. While this approach may not be for everyone, the fact remains that the underlying principle behind our series is to provide poets in progress an opportunity to share their work. I appreciate any comments, positive or negative, regarding the programs in our series and look forward to expanding the program so that it becomes a tradition at the college.

Vera Saverino

(The writer is the organizer of the Poets In Progress Series, 1994)

AN OPEN INVITATION TO THE CSI COMMUNITY

By Ryan Monroe

I hereby invite all interested CSI community members to help participate in organizing for a non-partisan debate between Governor Mario Cuomo and Republican gubernatorial candidate George Pataki. Yes, if Howard Stern is on the ballot he, too, will be invited. I encourage all students, faculty, staff, and administration to get involved in this project. The debate will happen in October if there is adequate student, faculty, staff, and administrative support for the project to get off the ground.

Ask not what CSI can do for you, ask what you can do for CSI. The debate

will concern mostly their views and vision concerning CSI/CUNY.

This project is just getting off the ground. This an opportunity to show these candidates that the members of the CSI community feel that we need more financial resources to run this beautiful campus to its full potential. If the debate is unfeasible I still would like to influence the Governors race and increase the resources granted to CSI. If interested, please contact me at 982-3082 as soon as possible, like now! Messages can be received between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

THE FUTURE OF AFRICA'S ECONOMIES: WHICH WAY FORWARD?

By Olusegun Oguntola

In this article, I shall briefly discuss the ongoing debate concerning Africa's economic future. Regional economic integration is advocated as the way forward (that is to say, to achieve development) for Africa. Considering this, I raise some pertinent questions.

The world of today is one in which economics has attained center stage in international relations. A recent development is that contemporary international political economy is increasingly characterized by regionalism (the new international economic order). Regionalism is manifested in the development of regional economic groupings — the European Community (EC), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), to name a few. This portends the future of international economic order to be one in which countries will coalesce into a regional grouping in which they will seek to promote their economic well-being. What will happen in Africa?

To be sure, the emerging international political economy (briefly delineated above) coincides with the assertion of key African leaders who advocate that regionalization (economically, at least) is the solution to Africa's economic hardship. Olusegun Obasanjo, retired army general and a past military ruler of Nigeria asserts that: "No African country on its own unaided efforts can pull itself up by its own bootstraps. The performance of our economies in the past decade and a half would have convinced us if we needed convincing. Our future lies in greater economic cooperation and ultimately integration. And the fact that so many regional organizations have sprung up in Sub-Saharan Africa in the last two decades only shows that we have qui-

etly come to accept that our inherited frontiers are a bar and not a spur to our economic development."

Furthermore, Obasanjo advocates that Africa's economic blocs should be distributed as follows: West Africa (ECOWAS); the Maghreb; the Nile region; Southern Africa; East Africa; and Central Africa.

If regionalization of its economic activities is the way to Africa's future, some pertinent theoretical, political, economic, and social questions are engendered.

There is the theoretical question, should regionalization in Africa be pursued within the framework of, and be underpinned by the philosophy of economic liberalism, economic nationalism (the two contending theories of economic integration in the African context), or is there a need to formulate new theories, in which one would take cognizance of African states in their historical and regional context?

Economically, the question remains: Does the future of Africa lie in the groupings of the ECOWAS and the SADC? Can regionalization succeed in achieving economic prosperity (a higher standard of living) for Africa? What is to be traded within, and between the regional blocs? Peanuts? Coffee? Oil? Since production capacity varies among African countries, would some countries concentrate on industrial/semi-industrial production, while others concentrate on agricultural production? What is the danger that neomercantilism (economic nationalism) poses for Africa's political economy? What arrangement will be made in the fiscal realm? The European nations are having a very difficult time creating a unified currency and trading block. Will unified currency and trading areas be easier or harder to establish in Africa? Or will local currencies and/or barter

serve as the medium of exchange?

Politically, which political approach should Africa embark on? Should it be outright mass democratization? A little dose of authoritarianism, like that of China and the NICs? Is the Army the answer? Or perhaps a philosopher-king is what African countries need? Besides, in Africa, what, if any, is the interconnection between political democratization and a successful economic and political development? Is the former a prerequisite for the success of the latter, or is it less relevant? Ponder this: western democracy, defined at its simplest, is the ideology of one man, one vote. That will ensure that all have input into the decision making of the body politic. How would that culminate in the ability of Africans to, on the one hand, produce goods, and on the other, accumulate (consume) them?

Socially, there is the question: what are the social forces promoting regionalization? Regional industrial classes, states, merchants, and farmers' associations? Who desires what?

These and many other questions are essential. It is not enough to advocate regionalism. It is doubtful that merely establishing economic blocs will be enough to attain development in Africa. The questions raised herein require serious pondering. Western Europe (the European Community) is still working out the intricate details of its integration after all these years (EC's inception dates back to 1958). Africa will not be a unique exception! One's deliberation on African regionalism is constantly reminded of this fact: compared to the EC, African is ill prepared to pursue regionalization. A Herculean task lies ahead. It remains to be seen how Africa will respond to that challenge.

THE GRADUATION OF THE CLASS OF 1994

By Diane Paras

I have always considered the graduation ceremony the most prestigious event in one's academic career. The pomp and circumstance of Bach's melody across the grounds is a tradition centuries old for graduation ceremonies, and the presentation of such a ceremony should equal its reverence with the utmost of respect.

I looked forward to the first graduation at the new campus with excitement and anticipation of an event that would equal the level of education I perceived the College of Staten Island imbued. Unfortunately, the reality on June 5, 1994, was that the first graduation ceremony on the new and expansive campus of CSI was not the sanctimonious and prestigious event I anticipated. It turned out to be what I considered a "nice" affair with an overcrowded, unorganized presentation that was lowered to the political browbeating of a not so eloquent commencement speaker.

To facilitate an intimate environment for the graduates, the main event was preceded by departmental ceremonies that were not well attended either by faculty or students. I went to the combined History, Philosophy, Economics and Political Science ceremony, and was amazed that several of my friends who were graduating were not there. When I asked my friend why she was absent, she claimed she was not informed that it was happening.

The small ceremony was pleasant enough and offered an environment where the professors who were in attendance could meet the family and friends

of their students. Professor Greenberg, the past Chair of the History Department noted wisely that "this is the first presentation where we are in a process of learning from our mistakes." Timing was one of those mistakes that needed to be addressed. Graduates, their family and friends had to wait almost two hours before the main ceremony was to begin. There was no place to refresh oneself other than the limited vending machines in the Campus Center.

Upon entering the grounds of the "great lawn" for the main festivities, there seemed to be plenty of room to accommodate everyone. But as the time approached for the ceremony to begin, there seemed to be an unending exodus of family and friends. What started as peaceful, cooperative and comfortable audience turned into a competitive and hostile mob scene. People pushed, and packed themselves into the limited space provided in an attempt to get the best view, or at best, a view at all of the celebrated graduates. Several audience members periodically stood up and yelled angry and contemptuous remarks to the people blocking their view by standing in front of them some ten feet thick.

The ceremony began, and those outside of the tent were left to try and decipher what was said. The sound system could not overpower the restless crowd, nor could it reach those at the edges of the tent. I stayed at the ceremony regardless of the disorganized circumstances because I wanted to hear with my own ears the commencement address, but more so to

applaud my fellow students who had worked hard and long hours to receive their degree confirmation.

The commencement address by the "distinguished" Mayor of New York, the Honorable Rudolph Giuliani, was a major disappointment. His speech made one wonder if he was addressing the graduates or the Board of Education. Giuliani promoted the accolades of Mike Petrises, who was President Volpe's Advisor, hailed the efforts of the New York Rangers, and gave little foresight into what the graduates could expect after receiving their degrees. Straining to hear words of wisdom and foresight, I only heard a politician trying to get through his speech so he could get to the Knicks game at the Garden.

My views may seem critical and cold, but I should think that despite the newness of the campus, the administration was experienced in understanding the finite details of putting on such an event. Yes, here we are left to learn from our mistakes, only if the mistakes are recognized. I believe CSI is an institution that offers students the forum to debate critical social, political, and economic issues as they relate to all the disciplines offered. It is not just a community minded college, but also a college of vision and academic merit. I believe the graduation ceremony should reflect these qualities in the utmost fashion.

When I made my way to my car, I overheard an elderly woman reflect out loud to her companion, "it wasn't a very prestigious affair, but it was nice."

COMMENTARY

Universal Health Care Reform

By Ryan Monroe

Aside from South Africa the United States is the last industrialized nation not to provide universal health care for all its citizens. President Clinton has vowed to veto any bill sent to him from Congress that does not provide universal health care for all Americans. We are the greatest and most powerful country in the world and to remain so, it is my strong belief that we must take care of our people. There are 39 million Americans without health care insurance. There are 50 million Americans who would be bankrupt if a major illness occurred. There are millions locked into their job merely to keep there health care coverage. Also, there are many who stay on Welfare to receive Medicaid, because minimum wage jobs do not provide health care coverage.

There are many plans being proposed for health care reform. Some call for universal coverage immediately. Others call for minor tinkering with the system to give further time for free-market forces to lower costs and to allow more, but not all Americans, into the system. Currently out of the Senate Finance Committee, a bill requiring that 95 percent of all Americans be covered was approved and is to be sent to the Senate for approval. I requested documentation on how this would be achieved, but was told that the bill was not printed in amended form.

There are a few ways that a health care plan can be financed. The costs could be paid through employer mandates (Clinton's idea), individual mandates (moderate Democrats and Republicans), or through a progressive tax system (Single-Payer advocates). To help us pay for the health care plan we could stop sending our money overseas giving foreign aid when our people need the money. The focus should be to improve the standard of living for Americans and once we have taken care of our citizens then we can help other impoverished nations. Some still like the system as it is. I guess they already have comprehensive health care. I believe that Congress and the Presidential Cabinet have quality health care plans. If HMOs are so good why aren't the President and congress in them? They should not have better plans than the people they represent.

There is a bill which will save money and cover all Americans. Yes, you heard me right — it will cover all Americans. It is called Single-Payer health care. It is in Congress right now, but the insurance lobby is too strong for it to pass. The chief sponsor is Representative Jim McDermott (D-Wa). The bill is called the McDermott/Wellstone (House version HR 1200, Senate version SB 491) and it covers all U.S. citizens and legal residents for all medically necessary services including inpa-

tient and outpatient care, prescription drugs, long-term care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, vision, dental care, and preventive care. All documented residents would be covered in the same pool, regardless of age, health status, or place of residence. There are no co-payments or deductibles to restrict access, and no other out of pocket expenses for comprehensive covered services. Costs are cut because of the emphasis on preventive care.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which did a study of four health reform proposals, concluded that a single payer plan would control costs better than other proposals while providing universal health coverage to all Americans. This is a key health reform goal other proposals do not achieve. The study, Estimates of Health Care Proposals in the 102nd Congress, further noted "that a single payer bill would reduce national health care expenditures by \$445 billion over the next six years." According to CBO, the plan would hold spending to about \$1.5 trillion in the year 2000, compared to \$1.7 trillion if no changes are enacted. This is good for the deficit hawks. In Canada, where they have a Single Payer system, administrative overhead is only three percent. In America administrative costs are 22 percent of the health care costs. If the U.S. adopts a single-payer system the administrative savings would be enough to give all Americans health-care and include long-term care.

According to Jim McDermott's American Health Security News, the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee voted June 30, 1994 to approve the "Chairman's Mark" put forward by Acting Chairman Rep. Sam Gibbons (D-Fl). While the bill does include a universal coverage mandate and deserves credit for that, it misses the mark on most other goals of fundamental health reform. HR 1200 co-author for Single-Payer health care, Rep. McDermott voted against the bill on final passage and now is preparing for the health care reform battle on the U.S. House floor in late July.

The committee bill's benefit package fails both the health security and portability tests. There are no out-of-pocket spending caps whatsoever on what people may have to pay for medical care until 2003. After that, out-of-pocket spending caps do take effect, but at the unreasonably high level of approximately \$15,000 per family per year. That high of a spending cap does not provide health security. It ensures that cost-shifting will still continue to bankrupt many Americans. It also ensures job-lock will continue. Few workers will want to leave a job where health insurance benefits cap out-of-pocket spending at a manageable level to take a job where they have to pay the excessive rates of the federal package.

In one of the most significant

retreats from fundamental reform, the committee decided to allow insurance companies to continue to "experience rate" in determining health insurance premium prices. Allowing this practice to continue means insurance companies can discriminate against, i.e. charge a higher premium price if the workforce is older or if one of the employees has been sick. The bill also mandates that small business and individuals purchase and pay for health insurance, but provides no protection against higher insurance premiums, essentially guaranteeing that costs will rise.

The option for individual states to have the single payer option is included. To successfully try single payer there can be no exemptions. The bill renders that option meaningless by exempting large employers and, for three years, Medicare patients from participating in it. The exemptions wipe out the administrative savings that a true single payer system would generate by assuring that there will continue to be multiple payers (each with its own separate, duplicative administrative overhead), and withhold adequate financing of the system. That's just what the big insurance companies want: if we have to allow

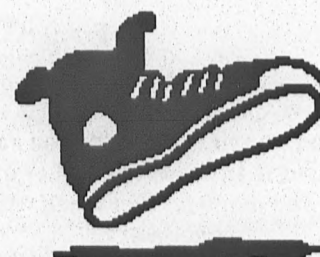
states to try single payer, stack the system so that they can't possibly succeed.

The major problem in the health care debate is that those who support the single-payer style do not support Clinton-care. Single-Payer advocates are the leaders in the fight for universal coverage. They are trying to get as many aspects of the single-payer plan in the Clinton proposal as possible. I can't defend Clinton's plan because it is a foot-in foot-out approach. I am not certain that Clinton's proposal is good enough. Although, I think change for the better is necessary. The numbers that I have seen projected of the nation's health care costs give me reason to support the Single-Payer proposal. The skyrocketing healthcare costs will bankrupt us as a nation. I do give Clinton some credit for starting the national debate, however he must control costs, and provide universal access to achieve the cost savings necessary to bring down the federal deficit. In June 1993, House leaders promised single payer co-sponsors a floor vote on their bill. No other alternative to the Clinton plan has received that pledge. In the next issue I will discuss the need for and aspects of immigration reform.

JUVENILE DIABETES FOUNDATION



WALK FOR



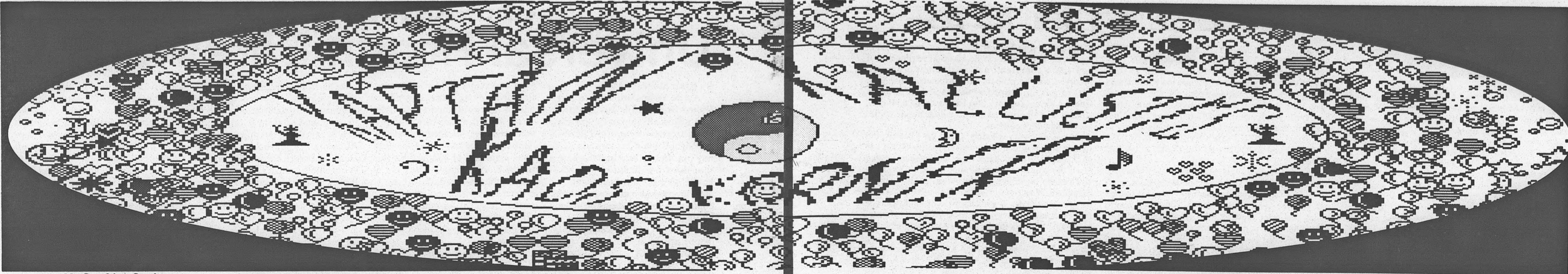
THE CURE

12 KILOMETER WALK-A-THON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1994
COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

Contact Ralph Giordano for information

(718) 982-2800



No Smoking Section

Cigarette smoking will kill you
this I know for sure,
if you start to inhale
problems you'll endure.

If you can not see
the truth and the facts,
you probably are about
as blind as a bat.

Although people do it
they buy box after box,
I believe they are crazy,
crazy like a fox.

Tobacco smoke kills
and causes so much pain,
when you lose a loved one
your eyes flow with rain.

If a picture is worth a thousand words
then please picture this,
lying in bed with lungs on fire
hearing that awful hiss.

One chooses to kill oneself
I often wonder why,
I reminisce about my mother
and why she had to die.

My mother was extremely pretty
not unlike a picture,
her smile and spirit lit up the room
like a bright light fixture.

Now she resides way up high
as high as the sky,
maybe watching over me
like a baby I do cry.

I do not and will not smoke
'cause I'm as sharp as a tack,
if my mom did not smoke
I know I'd have her back!

- Frank Campione

ETERNITY

I always find myself thinking of you and what
we shared in that short period of time.
The way you made me feel when we were
together.

It was a happiness that I had never experienced
with anyone but you.

The way I feel now that we're apart, it's an
emptiness that only you can fulfill.

I never told you that I loved you until it was too
late. I always thought you knew.

I knew how I felt about you but I was too afraid
to say.

You're with someone else now, but the feelings
are still there. I miss what we had.

I always wonder if it could ever be again.

I loved you then and I still do.

I always will love you!

-CL

I have always been an outcast
(for the thoughts that I express)
And I fear I always will.

I have always been a dreamer
(of a better peaceful world)
And I know I always will.

But if you only,

listened,

And threw away your mind,
Your faithful ears will

hear

me.

But you say how can you listen,
to a fool who's lost his mind.

I haven't really lost it,
I'm just giving

it

away.

Your sitting in a rain cloud,
waiting for my words.

And when I speak,
you'll rain on me,

Thinking in your own twisted mind,
That I'll stop thinking,
because I'm afraid of thunder.

I say this to all,

Who give anyone the title

of

freak,

or loser,

or plain old nut

Insanity is periodical

and often goes away,

But my mind is quite sane,

so my opinions will stay.

But

so

will

your

rain.

-Luis Flores

He wanted to take me into his castle
Give me queenly feelings
And make me feel like a peasant girl
After our visit to the kingdom
How could I allow his
Princely charms to fall over me
To tell me, without telling me
Whether I am the queen or
The peasant girl or just a
Stranger passing through his way.

It was like saying, "no"
To say, "Please tell me when
You will take me home."
It caused a stir, and as
He rose to his feet, I felt everything
In my stomach
My head hurt, my eyes filled
With salt water pain
And he trailed off into
His own excuses, thoughts
Ignoring my silence, adding to it with his
own
Never speaking, never looking
At my face
In my eyes
Never looking in my direction

- J.R.R.

NIGGER OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

No one knows this pain
To be poor
and white
in America
You can't escape
the judgement of failure
When you're poor
and white
in America

We hide our shame
and alienation
And take the heat
for other's transgressions

I had one pair of shoes
For that I was beaten
I had one pair of pants
For that I was beaten
I had a black friend
For that I was beaten
Mistaken for a Jew
For that I was beaten
I was white in New Brighton
And for that I was beaten

Forgive me
If I come in too hard my brother
I'm just a nigger
Of a different color

-Thomas Taaffe

poesy

In those days, the war song played a considerable part in military affairs. Snatches of tunes enlivened the bravado and the march. By the close of the 15th century many changes came into the economy of war. Units began to have trumpeters, drummers and pipers attached to them, and it was their notes, which had to suffice, for both disciplined march, and the urge to battle. Indeed, what could have been more heartening to the coming fight, than those songs, which told of the glorious deeds of their forefathers?

Today, national anthems often memorialize those very deeds. But it is my perception, that anthems often glorify death too much. What follows is a medley, which I have arranged, including the anthems of more than sixty nations, from diverse areas of the globe, with a brief phrase taken from each.

ELEGY: A Universal Hymn to Death and Glory By Lou Bromberg

Ireland We'll sing a song, a soldier's
song
Trinidad We pledge our lives to thee
and Tobago
Mexico If the bugle to battle shall call
Guatemala Will call you to conquer or die
Portugal To march against enemy guns
Switzerland Meet death without a wail
Vietnam To give ourselves completely,
this we vow
Monaco Drums are beating, let us all
march forward
Niger Let us march tirelessly forward
Netherlands To chose tyrants infernal
Sierra Leone So may we serve thee ever
alone
Yugoslavia With banners flying forward go
go as heroes to the fray

We'll sing a song, a soldier's song
We pledge our lives to thee

Senegal We will all be ready, weapons
in our hands
Ceylon Marching onward all as one
United Through the fire of your zeal
Arab Republic
Syria Our proud spirits will not be
subdued
Lebanon All of us! For our Country, for
our Flag and Glory!
Philippines Thy banner, dear to all our
hearts
Italy We are ready to die
Mali We are ready to stand and die
Honduras We are ready, my Country, to
perish
Gabon Around this flag which leads us
to honor

We'll sing a song, a soldier's song
We pledge our lives to thee

France Thy defenders, death defying
Hungary When they fight the enemy
Columbia In heroes' blood is bathing
Belgium Our arms, our hearts, our blood
we give
Dominican And of bloodshed and danger
Republic uncaring
Tunisia As heroes in waves let our war
cries respond
Sudan Whether braving death, hardship

or pain
Libya We are forever your soldiers
Ukraine Our soul and body willing
Argentina Or swear with glory to die

We'll sing a song, a soldier's song
We pledge our lives to thee

China For we throw ourselves with
courage on the enemy
Great Britain And make them fall
Iran And take the lives of each
enemy
Bulgaria Into a winning battle let's gloriously
go
Congo Triumph comes through battle
Cuba For your country, to die is to live
Albania Even in dying he will be brave
Haiti 'Tis fine to die 'tis fine to die
Brazil You shall not see a son of yours
from battle flee
Estonia For true to death I'll ever be

We'll sing a song, a soldier's song
We pledge our lives to thee

Ecuador God looked on and accepted
the sacrifice
Johore Long may his hand, protect our
land
El Salvador Freedom in letters of blood
India Victory, Victory, Victory to thee!
Iceland Eternity's flower with its homage of
tears
Paraguay Showed their martial glory and
power
Ghana The destined ending of a job
well done
Poland Paths to victory
Indonesia Consecrated with our spilt blood
Bolivia Those brave warriors eternally
praise

We'll sing a song, a soldier's song
We pledge our lives to thee

Peru We are free; Let us always be so
Upper Volta Vibrating with tumultuous voices
Uruguay Liberty or with glory to die
Liberia A home of glorious liberty, by
God's command!
Wales It warring defenders so gallant and
brave
Turkey I am ready even to die for thee

Greece Let us hail you, Liberty
Romania Raise towards glory the flag of
our Fatherland
U.S.S.R. Sing to our Motherland, glory
undying
U.S.A. O'er the land of the free and the
home of the brave!

We'll sing a song, a soldier's song
We pledge our lives to thee

Imagine Death (About AIDS)
By Jennifer Valle

Imagine
Dancing with death
Whirling and harmonizing in synch on the
outskirts of chaos
Tantalizing him to a hot, honing point, a peak
of sweet lust and desire.
Imagine.
Being with death
The fiery electrical sensations dancing up
and down my spine
The sweet incense of blood and decay
surrounding us, engulfing us.
Death entering me, driving me to the brink of
insanity
Stretching the walls of my uterus
Radiating pain
Pulsating within me
Reflecting anger through my abdomen and
upper torso
Releasing within me the seeds of frustration
and hate
Stealing my youth and innocence
My mind, thoughts of happiness receding
Replaced by morbid loneliness and longing
As I revel in his power and excellence
My head falling back as I scream in ecstasy
Driving deeper and deeper, hitting my inner
being
Forever binding me to my lover
Death
As I fade away in his embrace
Hope and happiness are torn by the glorious
rapture of darkness
To become one with death
Imagine

your rights

By George L. Perry

This column is being rerun do to recent questions of police brutality on Staten Island.

The Police Department (PD) provides a service to us as individuals and society as a whole. When the PD fails to provide acceptable service they are held accountable. There is no reason you should feel intimidated when dealing with the PD. They provide a service just like ANY other civil service organization. In this column I will tell you how to receive acceptable service from the PD and what you should do and whom you should notify in the event you don't feel you have received acceptable service. I will also tell you how to report criminal behavior by a PD member since that would definitely be considered unacceptable service.

Members of the PD are bound not only by the law, but also by the Patrol Guide. The Patrol Guide tells both civilian members of the PD and police personnel everything from how they should conduct themselves to what type of bullets are authorized. If they do not follow the rules and regulations set forth in the Patrol Guide they subject themselves to disciplinary action.

There are several organizations whose sole purpose is to determine if a violation of the law and/or the Patrol Guide occurred and to impose appropriate disciplinary action to all those involved with the violation. The Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) investigates allegations of unnecessary force, abuse, discourtesy, and ethnic slurs. They may be reached at 212-323-8750. The Internal Affairs Division of the New York City Police Dept. (212-741-8401) investigates allegation of criminal conduct by members of the PD. The Mollen Commission, also known as The Commission to Investigate Alleged Police Corruption, may be reached at 212-487-7350. The Dept. of Investigation may be reached at 212-825-5900. The Inspector General may be reached at 212-669-7778. The Mayor's Office Action Center may be reached at 212-788-7585. The District Attorney on Staten Island may be reached at 390-2600. The Attorney General may be reached at 212-416-8000. The Dept. of Justice may be reached at 212-337-3900, and the list goes on!!

Some of these organizations, while not directly involved with the New York Police Dept. (NYPD), may become involved in your claim depending upon: the nature of your allegation, if the allegation is substantiated, or if your allegation is not resolved in a way that is acceptable to you. For example, if you report police brutality to the Internal Affairs division of the NYPD and you never hear anything from them, there is a possibility the allegation was 'misplaced' (covered up?) In that case you will want to notify as many other organizations as possible to insure your allegation receives the attention it deserves.

Now you know who to call, but you don't know when to call. Since you do not know the law or the Patrol Guide you cannot know if a violation occurred. You should report the facts to all appropriate agencies **WHENEVER** you think you 1) have not received appropriate service or 2) criminal behavior has occurred.

Consider this scenario: if you call your local police precinct to report a car theft in another precinct's district, you will be most likely be told to call the precinct of occurrence and file the report with them. You might be told you must come in to file the report. The Patrol Guide clearly states a complaint must be taken over the phone and the complaint referred to the appropriate bureau (or agency.) The complaint is never referred. You now know this is not satisfactory service. Also, if a police officer calls you an ethnic slur or takes his gun out during a car stop and you try to report the incident to the PD, you might find nobody wants to take the complaint. You have just received twice the amount of unsatisfactory service. With these examples you call CCRB and give them the facts of the incident. They will investigate the allegation. If the allegation is substantiated; chances are all members of the P involved in the incident will receive disciplinary action. The current penalty for such violation is loss of five days pay or vacation. If any involved are 'repeat offenders' the penalty is much more severe; in the neighborhood of loss of thirty days pay or vacation. These kind of penalties insure compliance with the Patrol Guide and therefore better service to the public.

It is very difficult for CCRB to substantiate a claim unless they know who they know who they are inves-

tigating. **WHENEVER YOU HAVE ANY INTER-ACTION WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT GET THE NAMES OF ALL POLICE PERSONNEL INVOLVED.** If you call a precinct the Patrol Guide clearly states the person answering the phone courteously identify themselves by stating their title (PAA, Sergeant, etc.), command (where you have just reached), and "How may I help you" or something to that effect. **WRITE DOWN THE NAME IN THE EVENT YOU SHOULD NEED IT AT A LATER TIME.**

You can usually get the results you want if you keep repeating the officer's name in full during the conversation and apply subtle pressure by hinting if you do not get what you want you will file a complaint. Police personnel know CCRB (and IAD) complaints, substantiated or not, become part of their permanent record. CCRB (and IAD) complaints are weighed against an individual when they are seeking special assignment and they may cost loss of vacation or pay. Another tactic you may use is to ask to speak with their supervisor. Everybody has a boss to answer to. A boss that can write them up. The police dept. is no different. Even the Police Commissioner gets fired! If you are not intimidated and don't back down you are much more likely to receive the service you desire (although you may receive some grunts and groans).

It is up to you to file a complaint against a member

of the police dept. You should not feel intimidated in any way. You should not be afraid of retribution. If you file a complaint and retribution occurs all involved will be probably be suspended, lose their jobs, or go to jail depending on how serious their violation(s) were. You may also have a strong civil case. Abuses of authority are not tolerated by all bodies governing police conduct.

If you receive a speeding ticket, get three of your friends to step forward as witnesses, notify CCRB and IAD, and say the police officer stuck a gun to your head; the police officer will almost always receive a stiff penalty regardless of whether or not this actually happened! The 'system' responds to allegations as if they are legitimate. If you choose to be vindictive you may be doing a disservice to society by having someone punished for doing their job (this is assuming you were speeding). The choice is yours.

The PD is paid to perform a service just like the Dept. of Sanitation is paid to perform a service. Each are held accountable to the people they provide the service to. Just as you would report your garbage not being picked up for a week without fear of retribution; so you should report unacceptable service by the PD to the appropriate agencies without fear of retribution. In the next issue I will discuss Miranda warnings and how they protect your rights.

TomKo on Beer: Summer Ramblings!

By Thomas C. Kolakowski

Well it summertime now... when a man's fancy turns to the three B's (Beer, Bars and Babes.) Bay Street has once again turned into Staten Island's version of Bourbon Street and the consumption of my favorite summer beverage is climbing with the temperature. So in this issue of The Banner, I will attempt to make my fellow CSIers (and summer guests) have a more enjoyable summer of drinking and bar-hopping. How will I do this? Simple... in this issue I will discuss some of the more effective ways of curing (or even stopping) the ever dreaded hangover!

Firstly, we need to understand exactly what a hangover is. When you consume large amounts of alcohol (and I know you do!) the alcohol depletes the B-Complex vitamins in your body. The B-Complex vitamins control several important bodily functions. A primary function is the converting of food to sugar. That God-awful headache that accompanies the hangover is mainly caused by a lack of sugar reaching the brain. A nauseous feeling and shakes are similarly caused by the lack of vitamin B in your system. Without the B vitamins your nervous system can not work properly. The B-Complex vitamins are depleted as the body tries to eliminate the alcohol in your body and convert it into something a little less dangerous.

OK... so you now know what causes the hangover; but what can you do to cure it? Or better yet, how can you avoid getting it at all? Many people have stated that you should drink a lot of water and take some aspirin. This will help ease the pain, but do little to cure the underlying problems. Here is TomKo's official step-by-step process to avoid those nasty hangovers:

1. Before going out to the bar take some B-Complex vitamins. (Any health store or pharmacy should have some. Note: always take some orange juice or vitamin C as it will help the body absorb the B Vitamins). Many people suggest eating a heavy meal to "absorb" the alcohol. Don't do this, as the body will try to use the available B vitamins to digest the food. Save it for the Beer!
2. If at all possible drink good beer (not cheap domestic beers). If you no good foreign or micro-brewed beers are available, go for the tap beer. Even cheap beer like Bud is better for you on tap than in the bottle or can.
3. After you are done for the evening (before you go to bed) take some more B-Complex vitamins with at least one pint of water. If you like, you can also take some aspirin.

4. When you wake up take a shower as the skin's pores get clogged by the by-products from the processed alcohol.

5. Eat a light breakfast and take some more vitamin B if you still feel bad.

Now that we've looked at how to handle a hangover I'd like to spend a little time rating various beers available here on Staten Island. I won't bother with the biggies like Bud, MGD, or Coors... most of you are quite aware of how they taste! So let's look at some newer brews and smaller beers.

Budweiser Ice Draft (can) - Probably the worst beer I've ever tried! Well, maybe Rhino beer from Africa was worse. Bud Ice has an awful aftertaste that just won't go away. I still have a can sitting next to my computer. I won't drink it until I'm so wasted I won't be able to taste anything! Avoid this stuff at all costs! My rating: 0 out of 5

New York Harbor Ale - This brew is produced in Wisconsin for a Staten Island brewing company. In my opinion the Ale tastes more like a wheat beer than a traditional American style ale. It has a wheaty flavor and is not overly bitter. My rating: 3 out of 5

New Amsterdam - A fine New York style ale. It is hoppy and just right in the bitterness department! My only complaint is that the bottled version has a slight aftertaste that stays with you. I find the tap version to be superior. My rating: 4 out of 5

Samuel Adams Boston Ale - Has a roasted nut flavor. It's not too bitter and is rather smooth. Their other beers (Cream Stout, Lager, Dark Wheat, Double Bock to name a few) are also good drinking! My rating: 4.5 out of 5

Pete's Wicked Ale and Lager - Here are two good, inexpensive American brewed beers. I like the ale better than the lager, but then again, I am an ale man. Pete's Ale is delightfully bitter, while the lager has a toasty, roasted flavor... with an almost fruity taste to it. My rating: 5 out of 5

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TOMKO IS OUR ACTING BUSINESS MANAGER. WE HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN HIS ABILITY AND HIS PLEDGE TO STAY SOBER WHILE ON DUTY.

JAY'S BASEBALL RANKINGS FOR THE 1994 SEASON

By Jason Castro

NL Teams	Pennant History*			Stadium	Uniform	Logo	Overall	Comments
	wins**	pens	last					
Atlanta Braves	2	6	1957	8	10	10	9	Tomahawk chop...inspiring!!!
Chicago Cubs	2	10	1908	3	15	9	3	So what if they haven't won in 85 years?
Cincinnati Reds	5	9	1990	28	7	18	24	Riverfront Stadium looks like a birthday cake from above.
Colorado Rockies	0	0		14	27	13	11	Thin air=Rabbit ball.
Florida Marlins	0	0		18	13	23	5	Logo looks too much like their NFL counterparts'.
Houston Astros	0	0		16	5	2	13	Black uniforms are almost always cool.
Montreal Expos	0	0		13	12	6	15	Forever underachievers.
New York Mets	2	3	1986	2	6	3	2	Go to a game, puke on someone's lap. Shea kicks ass!!!
L.A. Dodgers	6	18	1988	22	20	26	25	Go to a game, call my agent, leave by the seventh inning.
Phil. Phillies	1	5	1980	26	23	19	16	99—Mitch Williams' uniform number or his E.R.A.?
Pittsburgh Pirates	5	7	1979	27	26	27	22	One good thing about realignment— THEY'RE GONE !!!
San Diego Padres	0	1		9	28	25	28	Yard Sale!!! Everyone must go!!!
S.F. Giants	5	16	1954	12	21	21	23	Candlestick—coolest wind tunnel on earth.
St.L Cardinals	8	14	1982	5	16	14	17	Any stadium named after a beer is cool.
AL Teams								
Baltimore Orioles	3	6	1983	17	18	15	18	Black uniforms are almost always cool. Here's the exception.
Boston Red Sox	5	9	1918	4	9	24	12	Fear the Green Monster, for it will turn your mighty blasts into measly singles.
California Angels	0	0		25	22	22	27	Are they still in the league?
Chicago White Sox	2	4	1917	19	2	4	4	Just bring back the old Comiskey Park.
Cleveland Indians	2	3	1948	15	19	11	8	Laughingstock— NO MORE!!!
Detroit Tigers	4	9	1984	6	11	12	19	They score 20 runs a game. Problem is, the other guys score 21.
Kansas City Royals	1	2	1985	10	17	28	20	Kill the logo and spring training duds.
Milwaukee Brewers	0	1		24	3	1	7	A cool team'in the land of beer and cheese.
Minnesota Twins	2	3	1991	7	24	16	26	Keep the stadium and the outfielders, lose everything else.
New York Yankees	22	33	1978	1	1	5	1	TRADITION RULES!!!
Oakland A's	9	14	1989	23	14	20	21	Desperately seeking starting pitching.
Seattle Mariners	0	0		20	25	17	6	Ken Griffey, Jr, he's the man. If he can't do it, maybe Frank Thomas can.
Texas Rangers	0	0		11	8	8	10	They had a complete overhaul. They needed it.
Toronto Blue Jays	2	2	1993	21	4	7	14	Too corporate for my taste.

* Does not include statistics for the Washington Senators (later Twins) and St. Louis Browns (later Orioles).

** No World Series in 1904

BILL'S WORLD OF BASEBALL

By BILL SPURGE

This is the year that baseball doesn't exist in New York City. The Rangers and the Knicks were in action until about 40% of our national pastime was completed. The Yankees are in first place and the Mets are not nearly as horrible as last year. But we have been oblivious.

Perhaps by now, as we reach the all-star break, we will notice that Ken Griffey, Jr., may challenge the home run record for one season set by Roger Maris in 1961. The way home runs are being hit in this year of the juiced ball/horrible pitching/small strike zone, one wouldn't be surprised if Felix Fermin was challenging Maris as well. The feeling here is that if the home run record is broken, it will be somewhat tainted by the aforementioned reasons. After all Jeff Bagwell has 26 home runs playing half his games in the Astrodome.

Ryne Sandberg's retirement left the question of whether he deserves to be in the Hall of Fame or not. I don't believe he should make it and I have my reasons, but those reasons will be presented in the fall, when other names will be submitted in a debate over their possibilities of making it.

I used to open the newspaper to the boxscores and automatically I would go to certain names first, like Pete Rose or Henry Aaron. These days the names are Paul Molitor, Tony Gwynn, Joe Carter, and Cal Ripken. I look to Ripken's to make sure he is playing — he has the equivalent of one full season to go to break Lou Gehrig's consecutive games played record. He hasn't missed a game since 1982! Gwynn has batted .400 in the equivalent of a full season since last July 1.

I'll leave Dwight Gooden's off-the-field problems to

others. On the field, however, I must wonder when Doc will come up with another pitch. You get a little tired of seeing the former fireballer get spanked around more and more each year. You can actually see in his eyes he's ready for a spanking every time he toes the slab.

Anthony Young is 3—6. Major improvement. Speaking of losers, now that the Rangers have won the Cup, everyone mentions the Cubs (1908) and the Red Sox (1918) as the teams who are the most futile when it comes to world championships. Don't forget the White Sox in that group (1917). Isn't it amazing that the city of Chicago has two baseball teams and neither one has a World Series winner in 77 years! Someone in their 80's in Chicago has never celebrated a champ!

The three-division setup is just another mistake baseball has made on their way to losing its lofty status. The AL West (or the AL Messed) may produce a division winner that will not win half of its games. The NL Messed has the Dodgers in front, barely over .500. To put it all in perspective, if you put the Mets in either of these divisions you'd have a pennant contender. And there may be another strike in August. Baseball will not be satisfied until it loses everyone.

As far as the All-Star game is concerned, the American League has by far and away the better squad — again. I remember all the years the National League dominated when they had most of the better players. That trend lasted for a quarter of a century. The AL has dominated for the last six or seven years. It's not about to change soon.

By the time our first fall issue comes out, the season will be winding down. I expect Cal Ripken will still have his games played streak going. Tony Gwynn will

not challenge .400, settling at .360 or so. Ken Griffey will hit over 50 home runs, but fall short of Maris' dinger record. Frank Thomas will pass Griffey and may wind up with as many as 56. And maybe the Triple Crown. But watch Paul Molitor for the batting title in the AL. The Yankees will win their division. The Braves will still rule the NL. But it all won't matter if the strike takes place. If baseball does go on vacation again one thing is for certain: we - the fans - all lose, again. And so does baseball. Have a nice summer.

No Match

By Jason Castro

When we last left the "Mighty Dolphins of CSI," our tennis team was in the midst of what was to be a 10 game winning streak. They have now completed the season with a 10 - 1 record, (6 - 0 CUNY Conference) and are now post season tournament champions for the second straight year.

Here are some of the winners:

SEED

- Doubles: 1- Chris Kim & Karim Talha
3- John Fucci & Robert Klein
Singles: 2- Faycel Lalami
4- Raymond Chin
5- Robert Klein
6- John Scirrin

The Dolphins ran away with victory holding their second place opponents to just 15 points while they snatched up 23 for themselves. Another year, another championship. Go Dolphins!!

CSI • LOCAL • NATIONAL • WORLD

SPORTS

VOLUME I, ISSUE 7

AUGUST, 1994

A Tribute to Summer

BY JASON CASTRO

Lock up your daughters!!! Just when you thought it was safe to come back to school, Castro is on the rampage once more. Yes, mornings at the beach, afternoons in the pool, evenings with what's-her-name-again...

Wait. This is the sports section, not the XXX one. I have to write about games, and most sane people do not consider "slappin' skins" a spectator event. So let's get on with it.

Topic #1- WE WON THE CUP! Ranger fever has hit the nation! Bensonhurst is probably still in flames two weeks later (I didn't do it, I swear). Most importantly, the Ranger cynic in me has finally departed. I can now wear my blue shirt proudly, without having to answer to some jerk from Long Island.

Can this team get any better? No. But the word through the grapevine is that Scott Stevens might make Ranger blue his favorite color. Imagine the defensive lines—Leetch & Beukeboom, Stevens & Kocur, Zubov & Lowe. Not to mention guys like Jay Wells and Doug Lidster in reserve. Dynasty? We just may be able to make up for lost time.

By the way—if Mike Keenan goes to Detroit, screw the bastard. Al Arbour is available.

Topic #2- The Knicks. So they lost. So what. Look on the bright side—they kept the Rockets at bay for seven games. The Rockets didn't even score over 100 points. Problem was—neither did the Knicks.

Okay, so John Starks was terrible (2—18, 0—11 from downtown) from the floor in game seven. No one seems to notice that any of these games could have been won if the Knicks were actually able to sink a free throw. And no one seems to care that Patrick Ewing suddenly lost his mind and thought he was a guard; taking three-pointers that he would normally not be taking. Hubert Davis and Charles Smith were completely invisible throughout the series. Only Derek Harper played up to par. So don't put the load on Starks' shoulders.

Topic #3- The NFL. What the HELL is going on here? Warren Moon in Minnesota? Besides Anthony Carter, will he have anybody to throw to? The only run-and-shoot going on up there will be Moon blowing his brains out.

Mark my words—the Oilers will regret that decision. Cody Carlson? Jeez, I would've thought they had Phil Simms or Mark Rypien waiting. (Then again, the summer ain't over yet).

Speaking of Simms, just who do the Giants have to replace him? Dave Brown? Wow. Only 17 career pass attempts. He's greener than Kermit. Kent Graham? Another seasoned NFL veteran. This ain't the World League, dude; one false move and you might lose your Helmetcam. Ask Stan Gelbaugh.

All in all, I guess the only thing to do is get some good receivers and pray that the offensive line holds.

Topic #4- Baseball. Is the ball juiced? Naah. Think about it...

1. **The parks.** (Mile High Stadium is a perfect example). Good wood on a meaty fastball, and you've got Air Canada without a plane.

2. **Pitching quality.** Doug Linton and Mike

RANGERS WIN THE CUP- THE PAIN IS GONE

BY BILL SPURGE

I still can't believe it happened. The Rangers won the Stanley Cup. As the senior member of *The Banner's* staff (not something I'm proud of) I find it harder to believe than most that this Cup belongs to New York for at least a year. After all, I've suffered for twenty-eight of those 54 painful years. I became a fan when there were only six teams in the league, which is almost like saying that when I was born there was no history.

I didn't really enjoy these playoffs until Mark Messier picked up the large piece of silverware about 10 minutes after Game 7 of the Finals ended. I didn't really believe it was over. Something was supposed to go wrong and didn't. Hey, the first playoff game I ever saw in 1967, the Rangers blew a 4-1 lead in the third period to the Montreal Canadiens and lost 6-4. They promptly got swept in that series. I should have known what I was in for then. When they were down 3-2 in the series with the Devils, I knew that they had never overcome such a deficit. It looked like the Devils would go on to win the Cup. Oh well, that would be nothing new. I had figured out that since 1969 the Rangers had lost to the eventual Stanley Cup champions eleven times in the playoffs. There had always been that one obstacle, that one better team.

When the Devils tied Game 7 of the semifinals with 7.7 seconds left to play, flashbacks occurred. A blown 2-0 series lead to the Black Hawks in '68. Losing game 7 to the Hawks in '71. The Finals loss to Bobby Orr and the Bruins in '72. A huge playoff loss to the Hawks in '73, the year I really thought they would win it after they had vanquished the Bruins, the defending champs. The seventh game loss to the hated Broad Street Bullies - the Flyers - in '74. The almost-miracle of '79, but running into the legendary Canadiens in the finals. All those playoff losses to the

Maddux? Oh boy.

3. **Zane Smith.** If I were a baseball, I'd want to get as far away from that dude as possible.

In other baseball news—the Yankees. 18 straight wins at home, setting a new club record. Impressive, considering their history. Now, if they only were able to find a stopper. Bob Wickman is an excellent choice. Xavier Hernandez should be the stopper, but his obsession with the long ball has yet to subside.

Topic #5- World Cup action. The U.S.A. is 1-1-1. Not bad, considering the fact that the U.S. has not won a game since 1950.

By the way, where is Great Britain? Not for nothing, but I would love to see their fans over here. Instant brawls. Go to a soccer match in England, and watch a Knick game break out.

Early prediction—Brazil over Argentina 3-2, giving them their record setting fourth World Cup.

Peace, love, and prayers for the Juice.

Sports Notes

1. Ken Griffey, Jr. to break Roger Maris' record this year. He'd do it sooner if he was in the National

Islanders in the early 80's when the Isles ruled. Painful memories. Like in 1984, when I was a loyal blue-seat season ticket holder. The Rangers, who were about to dethrone the 4-time champ Islanders when they had a 2-1 series lead in a best-of-five, had a 1-0 lead in game 4 going into the last period. They blew the game and lost the series in Game 5 in overtime. The Oilers wound up dethroning the Isles, but it should have been the Rangers.

When the Blueshirts blew a 3-1 series lead to the Canucks and were holding on in Game 7, I thought of losing out on the playoffs on the last night of season to the Devils in '88. Phil Esposito firing Michel Bergeron in '89 with two games to go in the regular season. They were soon to be spanked in four straight by the Penguins. And of course we all remember '92. Regular season champs. Then a strike by the players at the end of the season. A seven game struggle against the Devils. A 2-1 series lead against Pittsburgh and a 3-1 lead in game 4. Richter lets in a bad goal and the Rangers fall apart. End of dream. No playoffs in '93.

Back to Game 7 this year. There's 1.6 seconds to go. Let's see, what could go wrong now. MacTavish fans on the face-off. The Canucks' center takes a quick swipe at the puck. It's to Mike Richter's left and goes in top shelf. Tie game. Bure scores on a breakaway in overtime. Kill me.

No, it didn't happen. I'm still here. The Cup is in New York. Every Rangers fan is ecstatic. It's July - and it's finally sinking in. The curse is purged. Henri Richard, Bobby Orr, Bobby Hull, Bernie Parent, Stan Mikita, Guy Lefleur, Mike Bossy, Patrick Roy, Mario Lemieux - now in the past. Now maybe I can enjoy the playoffs for a change.

League, facing Zane Smith.

2. The Jets have just picked up Nick Lowery and Art Monk via free agency. I hope their pension plan covers this.

3. Did the Phoenix Cardinals actually think that changing their name to Arizona would help? How about getting some defense?

4. Dallas Green sucks. He should change his name to Cleveland.

5. A word of advice for Spike Lee—try yelling from the cheap seats, like everybody else.

6. SAY IT AIN'T SO, JUICE!!! SAY IT AIN'T SO!!!

Sick Simpson Jokes

1. What did Michael Jackson say to O.J. Simpson?

2. What do Michael Jackson and O.J. Simpson have in common?

3. What did Mike Tyson have for breakfast this morning?

Answers

1. "I'll watch your kids for you."

2. One glove.

3. O.J.