

THE

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CSI College Bookstore Grabs \$6.74 Million From Students' Wallets

By LIEN RENIDLUHCS
Banner Investigative Reporter

Paramount among the innumerable concerns of CSI students this semester, has been the issue of the College Bookstore. High prices, low buy back rates, poor customer service, questionable hiring practices, as well as rude management have all been complaints recently voiced by CSI students, faculty and staff. The CSI College Bookstore is owned and operated by Barnes and Noble College Bookstores, Inc. and has grossed \$6.74 million since it opened its doors on campus in 1994; last year alone it grossed more than \$2.3 million. Barnes & Noble College Bookstores, Inc. is the leading operator of college bookstores in America, and is a subsidiary of Barnes & Noble, Inc. (B&N), the worlds largest book-seller which is estimated to earn \$199 million this year. The B&N College Bookstore's contract with CSI is set to expire on March 31, 1998 and students, in an effort to deter the college from renewing the contract have recently begun to voice their comments on the College Bookstore.

Back in September, a town hall style meeting was held in the Center for the Arts to give the CSI community the opportunity to express their opinions, comments, criticisms and recommendations on the bookstore. The accusation that textbooks are expensively priced was a recurrent theme in most students' criticisms. Students argued that the Barnes & Noble (B&N) bookstore should logically offer students deeply discounted prices. "They should be much cheaper than mom and pop bookstores off-campus who either meet or beat the prices

Photo by: Hank Eisenstien



Another CSI student fills the coffers of the Barnes & Noble College Bookstore

offered on campus by B&N," exclaimed one distressed student. Another member of the student body asked why the B&N campus bookstore couldn't afford to charge cheaper prices, when the New York Book Exchange (located off campus) charges cheaper prices on some textbooks while at the same time providing shuttle service from campus to their store at no extra charge. The most eye opening remark came from Mark Gray, the Academic & Curricular Affairs

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CSI President Springer Ignores Student and Faculty Votes

By JONAS GRUMBY
BANNER STAFF WRITER

In a controversial move, CSI President Marlene Springer unilaterally and undemocratically decided to ignore a decision reached by the Student Election Review Committee (SERC). The SERC committee is a body designed to evaluate and deal with complaints related to Student Government (SG) elections. Its membership is composed primarily of students,

but also contains faculty. The recent SG elections which took place in the last week of October has been questioned by many students due to the unfair treatment which the Student Union candidates experienced during the elections.

were forced to suspend usage of their campaign literature at approximately 5 pm on October 29th, the second and most important day of the elections. This left the opposing nameless party with the exclusive, monopolistic opportunity to distribute their campaign literature, thereby winning most of the votes of the students who were present for the elections. No candidates or parties are allowed to utilize any school equipment for campaign use. As a

Photo's by: Hank Eisenstein



The SERC committee looks on helplessly as CSI President Marlene Springer ignores their decision regarding the 1997 Fall SG Elections.

This is not the first time President Springer has ignored students' votes. During the Spring '97 SG elections, President Springer decided to throw out the almost 700 votes of the student body when controversy arose. The disrespect for student rights and their votes has once again been duplicated, this time in the Fall SG elections.

SG Elections Commissioner, Kathi McHugh called for Fall elections to fill three vacant seats; two At Large Lower seats and one At Large Upper seat. Two parties developed during the elections. The Student Union (SU), which was victorious in the Spring '97 election, were represented by nominees Devon Blinth, Sara Husain and George Springer. The opposing nameless party was represented by nominees Charlo Almeda, Timothy Jenkins and Alexandra Velez. The sole independent candidate was Luis F. Cruzatte.

The controversy began when former Student Union members, Joanne Gallo and Morgan Healey, filed a complaint with the Office of Student Life claiming that they had exclusive rights to the name "Student Union". As a result, Marla Brinson, the Director of Student Life dispatched a memo to the original, Student Union asking them to "refrain from distributing any additional flyer which read 'Vote Student Union'." The Student Union candidates and their election volunteers

result, the Student Union could not alter their campaign literature at school, nor could they design, edit, or reproduce new materials in the duration of the time remaining in the election. In addition, the Student Union had spent over \$50 to design and reproduce their campaign literature. They could not spend another \$50 to produce, design and reproduce new election materials. With the most crucial election time remaining, the Student Union candidates were forced to destroy five sixths of their campaign flyer and crudely cross out the term "Vote Student Union". In essence, the nominees representing the Student Union had been forced to strip themselves from their identifiable identities and campaign with a puny 3' X 8' strip of paper. The name and identity recognition of the Student Union is what led the previous Student Union members to victory in the Spring '97 elections. The Student Union nominees have always been associated with the name Student Union and were some of the founding members of the Student Union.

The Student Union candidates took their complaint to the SG Elections Commissioner, Kathi McHugh who was shocked at the Brinson memo. When can-

**PLEASE SEE
SPRINGER, PAGE 6**

Viva La Libertad, Carajo!!! A Woman's Cry For Social Justice

By LUIS F. CRUZATTE
BANNER STAFF WRITER

Elvia Alvarado has endured jail, torture, and starvation in her native Honduras but it hasn't stopped her from trying to organize other peasants to struggle for their rights. Alvarado, a leader of "La Union de Trabajadores del Campo" (The Farmer Workers Union) spoke about her experiences as a social and political revolutionary in her country to about 100 CSI students on November 12, 1997. The event was sponsored by the CSI Student Government and A.C.C.E.S.S..

"I am here to represent the people from Honduras, especially the countrymen and women," said Alvarado, a small woman with an open expression and a large soul. Her experiences were well-etched in her face. "I am bringing a message from the people from Honduras to the American nation." Women started her organization, creating family disputes and deep fights with their husbands, said Alvarado. Honduras, like many other Latin America countries, has a traditional sexist society where wives are expected to follow their husband's wishes. The husbands thought that their wives were disrupting family unity. In response, said Alvarado, "we organized the men as well, since we realized that our society was equally composed of men and women, and we both have problems."

Alvarado became very intense and energetic talking about the issue of land ownership in Honduras.

"The land have been taken away from our people, by the large American companies and the army, leaving the poorest places [the infertile land] for our farmers," she said. She described how the country had been divided between the American Army and the wealthy Honduran land owners, with the confiscated land used as marine bases or cultivated fields. According to Alvarado, this increased the capital of the few in control, disregarding the poor living conditions of the large working class and peasant population.

"The land has been taken away from our people by the large American companies..."

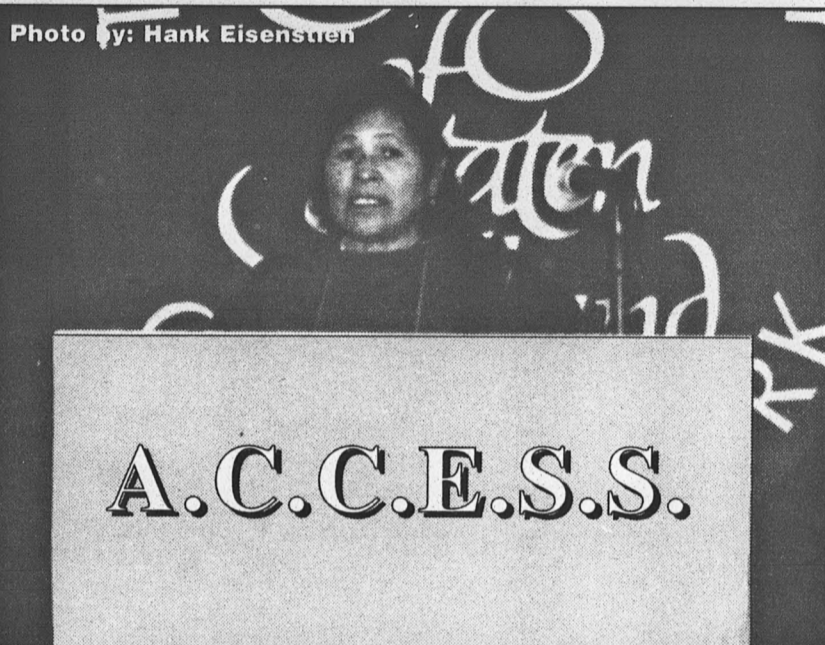
- Elvia Alvarado

Like other children of peasants, Alvarado sacrificed her education for the welfare of her family. "The young kids are sent to work with their parents in the farm for the harvest when they reach their seven years of age," she said. "My goal is to organize the entire Honduran nation, men and women, all together. To let the people know which ones are the real reasons why we are so poor, and the reality of what is going on in our government"

When asked what Americans can do to help her cause, she responded, "Since you have the opportunity to work and study, I would like you to study the social and economic policies and the neo-liberalism of your country so you will realize in what kind of world you are living in." It is through neo-liberalism, she said, where the American government helps wealthy landowners to the detriment of the poor people. "The American nation must speak out and tell their own government how many terrible things are happening in the underdeveloped countries of Latin America, things they are accountable for," she said.

Without emotion, Alvarado detailed her own persecution by the Honduran government and the police. "I was sent to jail so many times, but it was the last time when I was tortured, beaten and left in jail for 25 days without any food or water," she said. She narrated without emotion as

Photo by: Hank Eisenstein



Elvia Alvarado speaks in front of a packed house at the Green Dolphin Lounge about the atrocities imposed by the US corporations upon the working class of Honduras.

asked questions while being beaten up just because the work we were doing was for a social cause. This was the time of my isolation. My family did not know where I was. My children were looking for me in every police station. However they couldn't find me anywhere because my name was on a the blacklist, meaning that I was supposed to be kidnapped, sent to jail and then killed." She pointed to the partnership between the military, Honduras government, and the wealthy American corporations, as the reasons why the Honduras

"I was sent to jail many times, but it was the last time when I was tortured, beaten and left in jail for 25 days without any food or water."

-Elvia Alvarado

nation have suffered so much for so long.

Alvarado was later set free, thanks to the organization Speak Out, a California human rights organization. Reunited with her family, she decided to give testimony of her experiences in her struggle for social justice in Honduras, to the population in and out of the country. The College of Staten Island was one of her last stops, of a long tour through the United States, before returning to her beloved country, Honduras.

Alvarado appeared as a part of ACCESS, a Student Government-sponsored program. "ACCESS was created in response to some of the issues that have been raised in newspapers about the standards of the City University (CUNY)," said Student Government president William Wharton. "Our response to that is not to cut access to education but give to students the opportunity to hear from intellectuals outside the classrooms. We have a commitment to multi-culturalism. It is very important to bring a diverse group of voices from all over the world to allow the college and students build that kind of connection from whatever race or nationality they are from."

For more information about ACCESS, Speak Out or the issues concerning Latin America, contact the Student Government, 1C - 207 or call Student Government at (718) 982-3085 or fax them at (718) 982-3086.

Photo by: Hank Eisenstein



Elvia Alvarado answers questions from the audience utilizing her interpreter, Professor Abad.



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Chinese Language

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CSI College Bookstore from page 1

Commissioner of Student Government, who said that the B&N bookstore located on 18th Street in Manhattan is actually cheaper on many textbooks than the B&N bookstore on campus. Students began asking why a college branch of B&N would be more expensive than a B&N branch open to the general public? According to the contract which B&N signed with CSI, the bookstore is only required to discount their books 6%, leaving them with a profit of 27.33%.

Another major concern of students was the bookstore's buy-back policy and the availability of used textbooks. One student said they purchased a textbook for \$78 but was only offered \$19 when they attempted to sell it back to the bookstore. The buy-back policy of B&N states that they are only required to reimburse students 50% of their purchase price or less if the book is in bad condition.

However, B&N's contract with CSI leaves the determination of the book's condition to the discretion of B&N, often times leaving students' pockets with less than 50% of their purchase price. Another complaint regarded the availability of used textbooks. Once again, Mark Gray raised eyebrows when he stated that the B&N bookstore on 18th street in Manhattan had a larger supply of used textbooks than the CSI B&N College Bookstore. Students at the meeting once again seemed upset and disgruntled by this shocking news. One student commented, "I just don't understand this. Why is it that the CSI B&N College Bookstore charges more on new textbooks and has less of a selection of used textbooks than a B&N store open to the general public, located in Manhattan. If anything, B&N should subsidize the textbooks which students purchase at CSI instead of charging higher prices. And why don't they ship used textbooks from their Manhattan store to their CSI store? It's completely absurd!"

Responding to these complaints by students was the CSI B&N College Bookstore manager, Joe Cassano. When asked why textbook prices are so high he responded, "Book prices are set contractually with the college." To the accusation that many textbooks are cheaper in Manhattan branches of B&N he exclaimed, "The B&N branches in Manhattan are under a different division of B&N than we [College Bookstores] are." In response to why the CSI College Bookstore doesn't underprice the New York Book Exchange, he responded, "We have done our own price comparison and have found out that our competitor charges either the same or pennies less than we do and our prices on used textbooks are substantially cheaper."

Taking Mr. Cassano's advice, *The Banner* conducted an informal poll to see if the CSI B&N College Bookstore is competitive with its competitors. According to our results, many textbooks required for classes at CSI are substantially cheaper at the B&N Manhattan branch on 18th in Manhattan. But the even more shocking surprise came when we compared CSI's bookstore prices with that of other CUNY schools. According to our survey, the bookstores' at Hunter College and Lehman College are substantially cheaper. At CSI, B&N gives students a discount of 6% off new textbooks. But at Hunter College students receive a discount of 7% and at Lehman College, students are given a discount of 10%! The same textbooks that CSI students purchase at the CSI B&N College

Bookstore with a 6% discount, can be found at Lehman College with a 10% discount. Theoretically, CSI should have a larger discount than Lehman College because CSI has approximately 2,000 more students than Lehman College.

If Lehman College's bookstore can afford to give its students a 10% discount, then the CSI College Bookstore (which has 2,000 more patrons than Lehman College) should afford its students substantially more than a 10% discount. With the increased volume, B&N should be able to make up for any decreases in revenue and net income. When informed of this information, one frustrated CSI Economics major student stated, "How can a bookstore (CSI) with more

customers charge higher prices for textbooks than a bookstore (Lehman) with less customers. It makes no economic sense. The greater the volume, the lower the prices should be. CSI students should get more than a 10% discount off new textbooks because the bookstore could make up in volume what it loses in revenue."

Theoretically, B&N should also be able to substantially underprice the New York Book Exchange. Both bookstores charge similar prices for their textbooks, but the New York Book Exchange earns less money on their books than B&N. This is due to the fact that the New York Book Exchange provides free round-trip bus service to and from the CSI campus during "rush" weeks (the first couple of weeks of each semester). But even with this added expense, it still pays for the New York Book Exchange to operate profitably. Therefore, it can be logically concluded that B&N can substantially underprice the New York Book Exchange since it doesn't incur a charge to shuttle students to and from their bookstore. In addition, by underpricing the New York book exchange, its volume should theoretically increase thus offsetting any loss in revenue and net income. When asked why B&N doesn't underprice its competitors, Mr. Cassano asserted, "Students have legitimate concerns

about textbooks, they aren't cheap. In fact, they usually increase in price by about 5% every year. At B&N, we offer a price guarantee that if a student finds a book cheaper at a competitor, we will match the price." When asked, why B&N doesn't take the initiative and lower their textbook prices on their own, Mr. Cassano replied, "Like I said before, prices of textbooks are contractually determined."

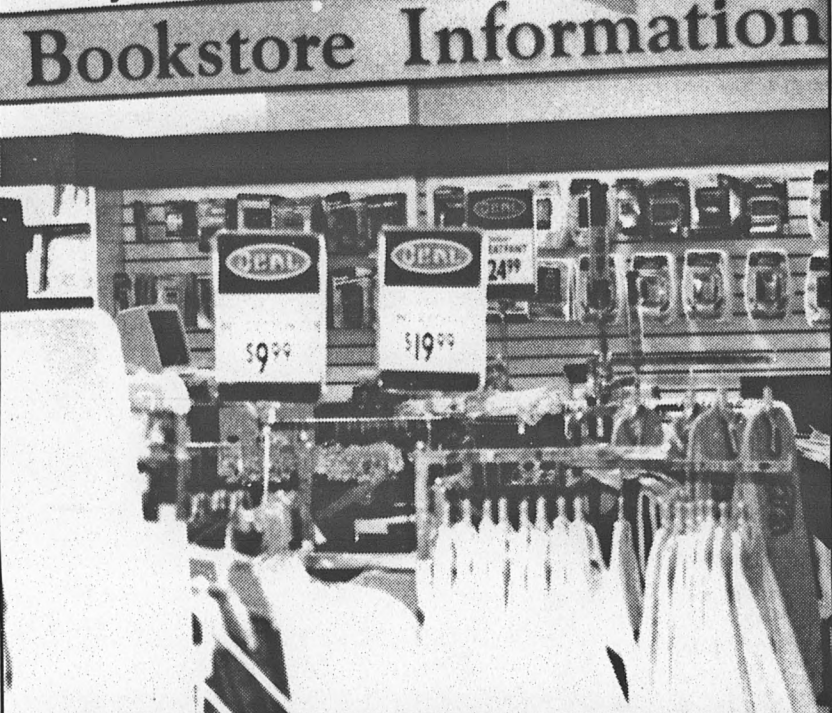
A complaint often heard by numerous students is that of arriving at the bookstore to purchase a required text and finding out that the textbook has not arrived at the bookstore. According to Mr. Cassano, "We have problems getting books on time because professors are very late in getting their book orders to us. However, I can tell you that we now [October] have almost all the required textbooks in." Just as he was answering the question a student came up to the bookstore manager and complained about the bookstore not having her required textbook. He then conceded that this semester B&N had additional problems getting in books on time due to the UPS strike. When informed that according to the bookstore contract, B&N is required to have all required texts by the first day of class, Mr. Cassano once again blamed professors for B&N's inability to comply with B&N's contract with CSI.

Another complaint expressed by one student was the College Bookstores' computer hardware prices. Specifically, the CSI B&N College Bookstore is currently selling a USR 14.4k modem for \$139.95 which many students assert is ludicrous. After an informal investigation, *The Banner* found out that the same exact modem is selling for \$40 in the bargain bins at CompUSA and Egghead software. The reason that the modem was in the bargain bin is because the modem is outdated and has been discontinued by USR. When asked why the B&N College Bookstore was selling an obsolete modem at a rip-off price to unsuspecting students, Mr. Cassano responded, "That must be a mistake. It is probably something that has been sitting on the shelves for a year. By the end of the day it will be removed from the shelves and re-priced." However, a month and a half after speaking with Mr. Cassano, not only was the modem still on store shelves priced at \$139.95, but a second USR 14.4k modem had been added to store shelves with the same \$139.95 rip-off price. When *The Banner* attempted to contact the CSI B&N College Bookstore manager, we were told by the Associate Manager, that Mr. Cassano had been given a promotion and is now the regional B&N manager of New York.

According to the CSI governance plan, the CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC), is delegated the duty of directly or indirectly operating a college bookstore for the college community. After years of the ASC operating the College Bookstore on the

Sunnyside and St. George campus', the ASC decided to

Photo by: Hank Eisenstien



Aside from pricey textbooks, the Barnes & Noble College Bookstore rips students off by selling obsolete computer modems at yesterday's prices.

Photo by: Hank Eisenstien



The Associate Book Store Manager informs *The Banner* that Joe Cassano has been promoted to Regional Manager of New York based on his performance as Manager of the CSI College Bookstore

PLEASE SEE BOOKSTORE, PAGE 5

Bookstore from page 4

contract a private corporation for the operation of the College Bookstore. After a request for proposals, the ASC entered into a four year contract with B&N on April 1, 1993 for the operation of the new CSI Bookstore at the new Willowbrook campus to be opened on August 1, 1993. The terms of the contract included the following provisions:

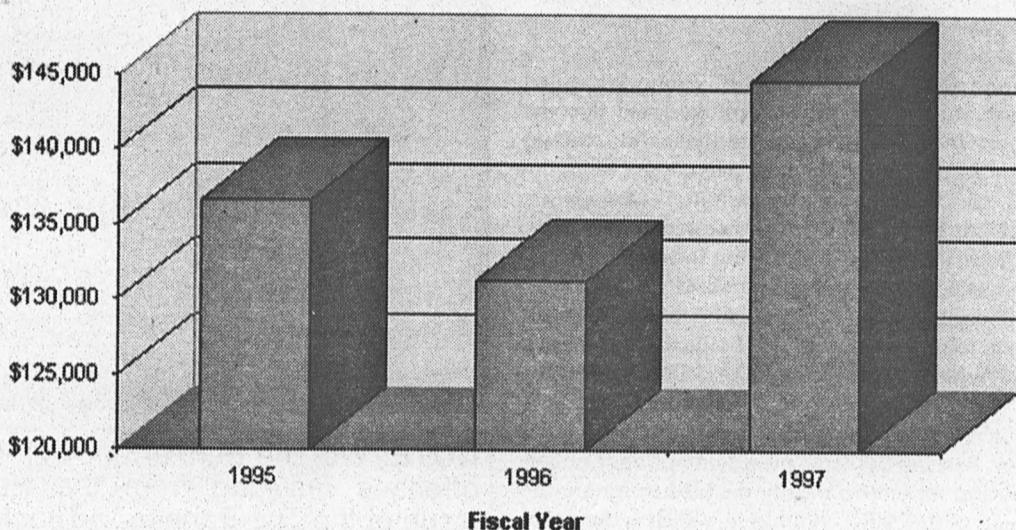
- New textbooks are to be sold at a **6% discount** from the industry standard **33.33% markup**.
- Used books will be purchased from students, faculty and staff by B&N at **50%** of the purchase price provided the book is in good condition. The book will be purchased at 50% of the purchase price only if B&N is notified that the book will be used at CSI the following semester and they will re-buy books only until their quota for used books is met.
- Used books can then be resold to students at **75%** of

College Bookstore of up to \$150,000. The ASC agreed to make a capital investment of **\$75,000** into the College Bookstore. At the conclusion of the contract all equipment and furniture installed as the capital investment would become the property of the ASC which includes the computers that B&N utilizes in the College Bookstore.

One of the primary problems associated between the ASC's authority over the CSI College Bookstore is the inherent contradiction of its governance. The ASC is a non-for-profit body that is by nature designed to afford the CSI community with the greatest quality and value for its services. In this respect, the ASC's cardinal objective (as it relates to the bookstore) is to provide CSI students with the most inexpensive prices for new textbooks, the most

men and woman represented tens of potential private bookstore companies which responded to the RFP. In December the ASC will be reviewing prospective bids from several private bookstore companies and will determine which company will own and operate the CSI College Bookstore over the next four years. Probably the two most important attributes of these bids will be the percentage discount the bookstore will give students off the suggested retail price of textbooks, and the percentage of revenue, the private bookstore company will be willing to hand over to the ASC. If the amount of money you pay for textbooks is important to you, please attend the next ASC bookstore meeting and inform the committee about your concerns and grievances. The next meeting is on December 11, 1997 in the St. George room (in the Campus Center) at 1:25 pm. The fate of yourselves and your fellow

Barnes & Noble Commission Payments to the CSI Auxiliary Services



their current list price.

The B&N College Bookstore agrees to pay the ASC a guaranteed minimum commission or a percentage of net sales, whichever is greater.

The guaranteed minimum payment is as follows:

Agreement Year

Guaranteed Payment

April 1, 1993 - March 31, 1994 - \$100,000

April 1, 1994 - March 31, 1995 - \$100,000

April 1, 1995 - March 31, 1996 - \$100,000

April 1, 1996 - March 31, 1997 - \$110,000

April 1, 1997 - March 31, 1998 - \$120,000

or a percentage of net sales as follows:

6% of net sales up to \$2,000,000

and

8% of net sales over \$2,000,000

...whichever is greater

(The B&N College Bookstore usually grosses more than \$2,000,000 therefore, the percentage of net sales are the only relevant figures.)

The B&N College Bookstore is required to make available for sale all textbooks and required course materials by the first day of classes each semester and summer session.

B&N shall be required to give preference to currently enrolled CSI students in filling part-time staffing requirements.

The B&N College Bookstore would be required to annually contribute **\$1500** to the ASC for the purchase of books for the CSI Library.

The B&N College Bookstore would be required to contribute **\$1000** annually for an academic scholarship to a CSI student.

B&N agreed to make a capital investment in the

generous buyback policy for textbooks and a large supply of used textbooks at the cheapest prices. However, the manner in which the ASC derives much of its income is from the operation of the CSI College Bookstore. In fact, after the sale of parking decal's, the single largest source of income for the ASC is the College Bookstore commission. The ASC is paid a percentage of the B&N College Bookstore's revenue (6% for sales up to \$2 million and 8% above \$2 million). In fiscal 1995, the B&N College Bookstore had revenues of \$2,208,645.08 which translated into a \$136,691.61 commission for the ASC. In fiscal 1996, the B&N College Bookstore had revenues of \$2,120,598.37 (a decrease attributed to reduced enrollment at CSI due to tuition hikes) which translated into a \$129,647.87 commission for the ASC. In fiscal 1997, the B&N College Bookstore had revenues of \$2,309,375 which translated into a commission of \$144,750 for the ASC. Since the ASC derives a substantial portion of its income through a percentage of the College Bookstores' revenue, it would be in the ASC's interest to have textbook prices as high and expensive as they can be. When informed of this information, one student activist asked, "How can an organization that is charged with finding students the lowest prices in textbooks expect to accomplish this when its own interests call for a bookstore that sells textbooks at the highest prices? It is completely nonsensical!"

Since the B&N College Bookstore contract expires in March, the ASC has distributed to numerous private bookstore companies, a Request for Proposals (RFP), designed to announce to the market that the CSI College Bookstore is up for grabs to the best bidder. On November 21, 1997, scores of black suited men and woman were given a tour of the CSI College Bookstore facilities currently occupied by B&N. These

CUNY Bookstores' Discount on Textbooks

CUNY School

Lehman

Hunter

CSI

Discount

10%

7%

6%

numerous private bookstore companies, a Request for Proposals (RFP), designed to announce to the market that the CSI College Bookstore is up for grabs to the best bidder. On November 21, 1997, scores of black suited men and woman were given a tour of the CSI College Bookstore facilities currently occupied by B&N. These

Barnes & Noble CSI College Bookstore Demands

• High Prices- B&N should give more than 10% off textbook prices since Lehman College does with less students.

• B&N should have all required textbooks by the first day of classes as written in their contract.

• B&N should have a large selection of used textbooks.

• B&N should give more than 10% when it re-purchases books from students

• The ASC should bargain with prospective bookstore bidders to receive the biggest discount.

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SPRINGER from page 2

didates have a complaint about election practices, proper practice requires a complaint to be sent to the SERC committee. In this instance a complaint was made by students who were not candidates, and the complaint was sent to the Office of Student Life instead of the SERC committee. With the endorsement of the Election Commissioner, the Student Union candidates properly filed a complaint with the SERC committee seeking indemnification.

On Tuesday, November 4th, the SERC Committee engaged in a meeting to determine a resolution regarding the complaints logged by the Student Union, properly filed with SERC, and the complaint filed by the non-candidates (Gallo and Healey) which was improperly logged with the Office of Student Life.



clearly affiliated with the Student Union and that if there was any problems associated with the Student Union using their own coalition affiliation, it should have been made vocal prior to the initiation of the

elections. As a result, the SERC committee ruled that the Student Union was wronged and that the election results had been tainted and stained beyond recuperation. To even the playing field, the SERC committee voted to resume elections on November 12, from 5-9 pm and on November 13th, from 9 am - 9 pm. It was during these exact hours that the elections were compromised.

Following these events, Joanne Gallo, Morgan Healey, John Pae and Kevin Spillane, authored a memo which circumvented the SERC committee and was addressed to CSI president, Marlene Springer. Addressing the complaint by Gallo, Healey, Pae and Spillane, president Springer unilaterally, and undemocratically decided to ignore the decision of the SERC committee, which is the proper authority in SG elections. In a memo dated November 11th, Springer stated that the election shall be extended for only one single day despite the

fact that the Student Union lost more than one day's worth of votes. This unilateral decision caught SG Election Commissioner, Kathi McHugh off guard. Ms. McHugh then dispatched a

memo to president Springer inquiring why she ignored the decision of the SERC committee. To her surprise, president Springer responded that in her judgment the SERC committee (comprised of students and faculty) was wrong.

During the Spring 1997 SG elections, the Student Union candidates won by a margin of

3-1 in all respective positions. Curiously, in the recent Fall 1997 elections, the Student Union lost two seats. The one seat which they were victorious with was won by only one vote. Many students have logically concluded that the handicap placed upon the

Student Union seriously affected the outcome of the recent elections. Since the results of the election were released, SG Election Commissioner, Kathi McHugh has requested from president Springer the complaint filed by Gallo, Healey, Pae and Spillane, which as Elections Commissioner, she has the right to view. Mimicking her actions with the SERC committee, President Springer has once again ignored a student, one which was democratically elected by the student body in deference to her own decisions.

SG Fall Election Results

At Large Lower (two winners)

	Votes
Sara Husain	216
Alexandra Velez	217
Luis Cruzatte	101
Timothy Jenkins	135
George Springer	214

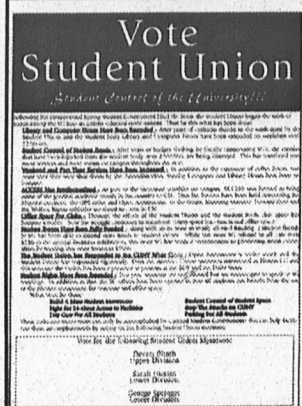
At Large Upper (one winner)

Charlo Almeda	272
Devon Blinth	195

NOTE: We The Banner apologize for any offenses resulting from the Halloween Issue of the The Banner. -Thank You

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President Springer smug in her decision to overrule the SERC committee.



The Student Union Flyer at 5:00 on Wed, October 29th.

The Student Union Flyer at 6:00 pm Wed, October 29th.

out, all election complaints fall under the authority of the SERC committee and her ruling was illegal and improper and a glaring abuse of power. The members of the SERC committee ruled that Marla Brinson's decision to inhibit the Student Union's use of their election materials was unbinding and put the election results in question. Joanne Gallo and Morgan Healey were absent from the meeting and failed to argue their case. The Student Union candidates argued that on their nomination forms they were

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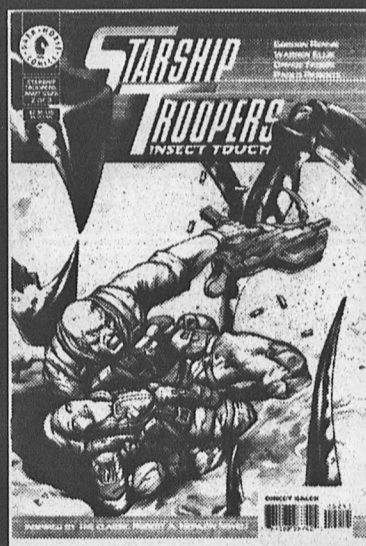
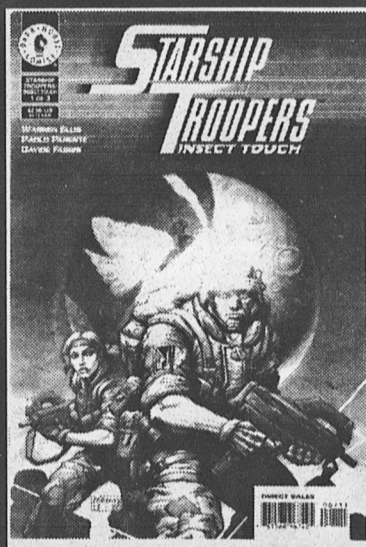
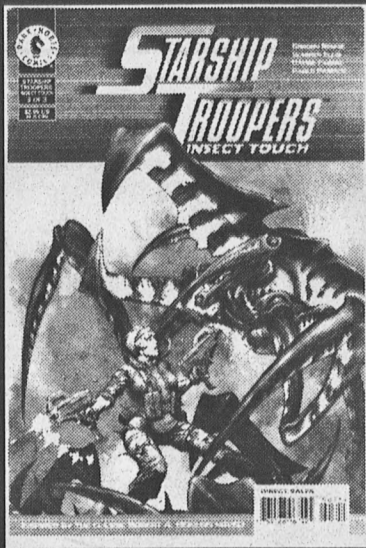
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By SHAWN FISHER
BANNER BUSINESS EDITOR



As your jump ship lands you hit the ground running. You ask yourself why you didn't take daddy's offer to go to Harvard. Instead you volunteered to be a grunt, fighting for humanity on some God-forsaken planet. Screams abound as the men and women around you, are torn to shreds. These bugs are unforgiving, relentless, and pure evil. You stand in awe as one of your teammates is sucked beneath the earth, slowly being eaten alive. His cry for mercy snaps you out of your daze. A quick tap of your trigger sends a round through his head. You hate yourself for doing it but realize it was a lot less painful than what he endured. Before you finish your thought you realize your entire unit is gone, ripped apart by the merciless bugs. The order comes through your radio "It's a trap. Fall back to your jumpships." Now they figure it out. Military Intelligence is such an oxymoron you say to yourself as you make the mad dash for the ship. You think about the ship, about leave, about going home and all the things you're going to do with your life. Then you realize all your thoughts are futile as you gaze at the bug mandible piercing through your chest. You look at this thing sticking out of you and you laugh because you know you're dead!

What you just read is an example of a typical day in the life of a marine, well a space marine anyway. *Starship Troopers* (1959) by Robert Heinlein is one of the best science fiction novels written in this century. The novel has been the inspiration for many film makers including James Cameron who admits using *Starship Troopers* as the basis for his 1986 film *Aliens*. He even went so far to say, "Why anyone want to do that—I already made that picture," when told of TriStar's intent to make a film based on the novel. It's not only the film industry that is fascinated by Mr. Heinlein's work. *Starship Troopers* is considered required reading by many areas of the military, because of its detailed depiction of military basic training.

Starship Troopers is set in a future where the military has taken control of Earth's governance and peace has lasted for generations—until our first

encounter with extraterrestrial life. A space-faring race of oversized carnivorous insects are colonizing systems close to our solar system and they don't like us. War ensues between the two species and the novel follows the story of one young grunt (Johnny Rico) and his friends. Private Rico has joined the military for all the wrong reasons. Wanting to impress his girlfriend he winds up angering his family, losing his girlfriend, and costing the life of one of the men under his command. Then just as he's about to resign, his home town is wiped out. Enraged, Private Rico reassumes his position and fights with a vengeance. Throughout the story, the author intricately weaves the question of whether democracy is a valid form of government or whether there is something better. This social commentary may not raise as many eyebrows now as in the fifties, but it still leaves the reader wondering, what if?

Of course the coming of any sci-fi film is followed by the comic book. Tristar was smart enough to give the responsibility of comic adoption to Dark Horse comics. Dark Horse is by far the best publisher to handle this genre. They never treat a film as a one time deal, their mind is always on what else happened. Before the film hit theatre or the adoption was printed Dark Horse began by putting out two prequels. *Insect Touch* and *Brute Creations* each deal with events before the war and before we're introduced to Private Rico. The books show us Earth's first encounter with the insects from Klendathu. The readers and marines quickly realize what they're in for. As they discover, the aliens are determined to destroy the human race. We also get a preview of the fantastic imagery that will be seen in the film through the phenomenal artwork of Dark Horse's team. The art is excellently done with sharp images and superb coloring. The writing is so well done you would never know it was a movie adaptation. Dark Horse manages to create an entire universe on just one film. With luck they will continue to add to the *Starship Troopers* universe long after the film departs theatres, as they already have done with *Star Wars*, *Terminator* and *Aliens*. The *Starship Troopers* comic books are a must read for fans of the novel or film.

If you have enjoyed any version of Heinlein's *Starship Troopers* then you may want to try some of his other novelized works. I recommend *Stranger in a*

Strange Land (1961) which was another of his works that helped to set standards for the sci-fi genre. The novel follows the life of a young man who is raised by Martians and then returns to Earth. Although he is human, Earth is completely alien to him. The interest is in watching how he reacts to a world so common to us and so remote to him.

When it comes to bugs Dark Horse has a monopoly. This November sees the return of L.T. Ripley to the screen with *Alien Resurrection*. Dark Horse has been handling the property since the late eighties. They were able to build and maintain a universe that readers took quite seriously. Dark Horse even went so far as to include one of Fox's other properties—*Predator*—into the *Alien* universe. This crossover was done so well that fans of the franchise have long speculated about an *Aliens* versus *Predator* feature film. It was widely hoped that the fourth *Alien* film would include the *Predator* characters. Fox did consider the crossover script for a while but felt the franchise needed to be repaired (because of *Alien 3*) before being expanded. The failure of *Alien 3* had almost ended the film franchise as well as Dark Horse's series of books. In the Dark Horse universe, L.T. Ripley never died. With *Alien Resurrection* Dark Horse continues its tradition of fine art and well-written narration. My favorite line from the book was that of L.T. Ripley being informed of the fate of the sinister Company she worked for. "Your former employers were bought out decades ago, Wal-Mart," said Dr. Wren. Mind you that this takes place at least five hundred years in the future. I guess Fox is going to have to change the franchise motto to "In Wal-Mart no one can hear you scream ...no one!"



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SCI-FI BUZZ

Babylon Five:

With the end of season four *Babylon Five* will take a two month hiatus from US television. The show will return in January and move from syndication to cable TV. The TNT network will air two original B5 movies as bookends to the entire series. When season five ends a spin off series about the Rangers is set to replace it.

Stargate SG1:

The new Showtime series based on the hit movie has been a ratings success. Showtime has ordered an additional twenty two episodes to the series which will begin running after the holiday break. Although the creators of the film aren't completely satisfied with the series, fans can't seem to get enough of it.

Star Trek:

Both *Voyager* and *DS9* have improved in the quality of their episodes this season. Changes in casting have occurred on both series. On *Voyager* the character Kess has left the ship. Being replaced by a human gone Borg named Seven of Nine. On *DS9* Gul Ducot's daughter was killed in a recent episode causing him to have a nervous breakdown.

Recommended viewing:

- 1: *Babylon Five* (TNT)
- 2: *Sliders* (Sci-Fi)
- 3: *Stargate SG1* (Showtime)
- 4: *X-Files* (FOX)
- 5: *Lost in Space* (Sci-Fi)
- 6: *Xena: Warrior Princess* (WB)
- 7: *Buffy: The Vampire Slayer* (FOX)
- 8: *Superman the animated series* (WB)
- 9: *Millennium* (FOX)

Overseas Study

Hello from Greece

By Mary Jane Bensick
BANNER WRITER

Greece has captivated me—I became entangled in its web of rich history and culture. My experience of studying abroad has been both academically stimulating and personally rewarding. Thessaloniki, where I was studying, is the cultural capital of Europe, and I have been able to witness many of its many exhibits and performing arts appearances. I have found Thessaloniki to be a small yet remarkably cosmopolitan city, and as a foreigner, it's been easy to become an active participant in its rich lifestyle. Greece has surpassed any romantic notions or preconceived ideas with which I came. On my quest to study another culture and the founding figures in Philosophy, I have discovered my potential in understanding and accepting world views, which may differ from my ideology.

Along with the required classes I had to take, the program organized, excellent excursions from the surrounding area of Thessaloniki to a trip to Athens. The Athens trip was, by far, one of the highlights of the entire program. Our program coordinator, Julie Kyriakakis of Anatolia College, puts one hundred percent into structuring a highly educational tour of the Acropolis and the other historical sites. She gave us the space to traipse through, and soak up the astounding enchantment of Plaka, one of the older sections of Athens with winding streets and restructured buildings.

Our excursions were a good way to touch base with the other study abroad students, familiarizing ourselves with the many different aspects of Greece, and it gave us an idea of what we would like to visit again, independently. In addition to the planned excursions, which Julie Kyriakakis helped co-organize, she also answered questions and listened to the dilemmas of the students.

I have a new perspective on life after beholding the intriguing ruins of Mycenae. After standing at the sites where scholars have studied for centuries and compiled numerous theories on ancient life, I myself have been inspired to study the world history of humankind in depth. The fascination that was sparked in me here, could not have been created through any book or lecture.



Mary Jane Bensick enjoys her stay in Greece

I am a strong believer in and advocate of studying abroad since I have benefited and grown immensely from this soulful endeavor.

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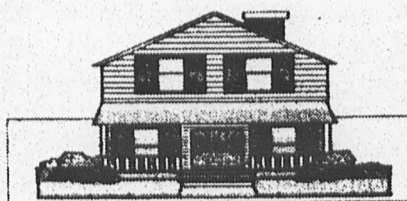
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Whats up CSI?

By **LUIS F. CRUZATTE**
BANNER STAFF WRITER

Since my last column, it seemed that different people had different opinions about this particular new Banner section. Well, what can we say? ...We never expected such a huge turnout of readers! Hopefully we will keep things up. As we said before, here you will find interesting stories about CSI, the students and issues that concerns them. Therefore I wish you to enjoy this section and find it useful. So here it goes again:

The answer to the trivia question from last week was, the president of the College of Staten Island is Dr. Marlene Springer... • Happy Birthday to Kellyanne Biesty! The good president of Sigma Delta Tau-Delta Delta chapter and Peer Drop-In educator, celebrated her birthday last Sunday, Nov. 16. We wish you well Kelly... • Student Government has initiated a program called A.C.C.E.S.S., which has so far brought excellent speakers... • ...And they rocked at the rhythm of the choir. The Apostolic Christian Life Center celebrated its fourth annual Gospel Festival on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Williamson Theater. More than 200 enthusiastic students and people from our community joined together singing songs and prayers, Hallelujah!... • Way to go CSI! More than 400

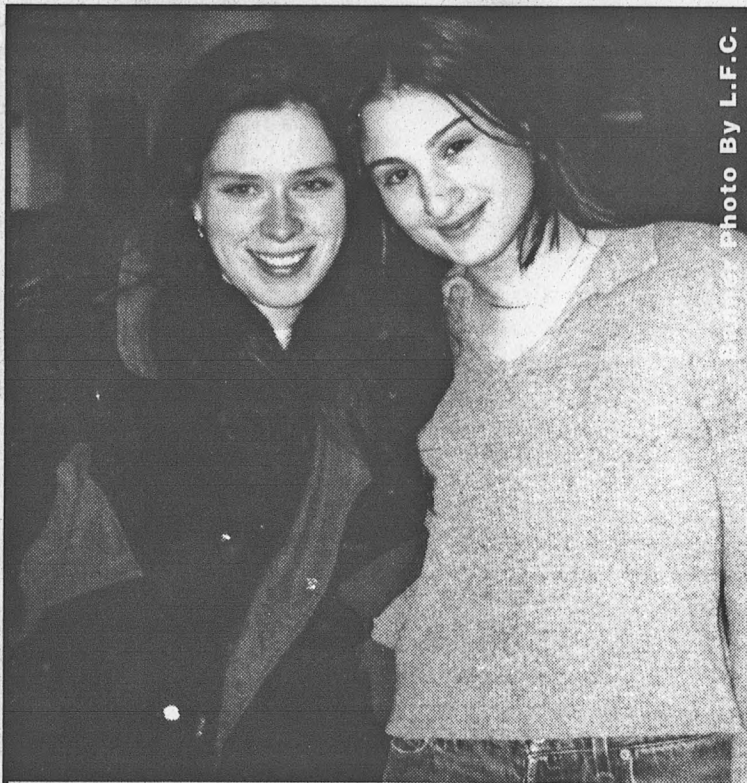
students voted in the last Student Government elections... • Congratulations to the winners: Charlo Almeda, Sarah Hussain, and Alexandra Velez. We hope you do a good job in your new positions... • However, we had the unfortunate opportunity to experience a very disappointed female Student Government member. This Senator is a club president, who is unhappy with the outcome of the elec-

tions. She seemed to dislike the idea of having to deal with a newly elected Senator... • Good news for CSI chartered clubs. Student Government is now accepting special proposals, so do not let this opportunity pass by... • The High Society Club went away to a conference in Binghamton. Hope you had a good one guys... • Rumors abound that some mal-

club hours... • CSI now has Ambassadors! Yeah those guys and gals wearing purple vests. The Ambassador program enables students to explain the pride of our college. How can you become an Ambassador? Ask Carol Brower (1C-112) [Editor's Note- Please be advised that the Ambassadors program has a GPA requirement] • Did you know that

PDC was taking student proposals during the last couple of months? Did you know that any student could make a proposal?... Neither did I... • Why is it so dark on campus? Several students have asked why the campus is so dark at night when they leave the campus, and their concerns may be right. At some locations you can hardly see anything... • After some scary events on campus, hopefully you will not find anyone asking you for money with a knife in their hands... • The Registrar department has designed a new way to tell students to be patient while waiting on line. They have put chairs outside the department. Just don't fall asleep!... • Do not forget to support our champion Dolphins Women's Basketball team. They will be playing on Thursday, Dec. 4th in the Sports & Recreational building (1R) at 7:00 PM... Go Dolphins!!! • Trivia question of the

Photo By L.F.C.



Kellyanne Biesty and her sorority sister, Kim from ΣΔΤ

adjusted people vandalized the properties of the Project Poverty Outreach Club. We hope something is done about this terrible issue... • Talking about clubs, the Student Government has elected its new Club Commissioner, his name? Morgan Healy, good luck!... • The Spanish/Hispanic club is celebrating their Hispanic Festival on Thursday, December 4th in the West Dining room in the Campus Center at

week: Do you know what the PDC (Program Development Committee) is?... • We wish you all a *Happy Thanksgiving* holiday, and a *Happy Hanukkah*... • See you next week! ...

* If you would like to publish any comments, concerns, pictures related to our college or student body, please do not hesitate in sending us your information to: The Banner, Building 1C - 228, attn. LFC. or call: 982 - 3616. All information will be kept strictly confidential!

SOAP OPERA UPDATES

ALL MY CHILDREN: Dimitri threw a party in Gloria's honor that prompted a few surprises before it was over. Following an emotional plea from Edmund, Gloria took Maddie to the pediatrician. Brooke foiled Jim's attempt to invite himself to a family gathering. Tim took off in Janet's car after a particularly heated exchange. Trevor considered boarding school as a way to deal with Tim's unacceptable behavior, prompting Tim to devise his own plan. Gillian and Kelsey accepted hostessing jobs with unexpected results. Jack and Erika made plans for the future. Coming: Gillian runs into trouble.

ANOTHER WORLD: Lila convinced Shane to visit his sister, Patrice. Shane overheard as Vicky appealed to Patty for her help with Shane's illness. When Shane mistook Marley for Vicky and kissed her, Grant photographed

the embrace to use against Vicky. Josie learned that Rain may have a relative in Iowa. Grant used Alexa's desperation as an opportunity to blackmail him. Toni was unsure of her romantic feelings about Tyrone, and decided to focus on Chris. Nick discovered a letter Sofia was writing to Matt, and misinterpreted her intentions. Coming: Jake waits at the altar for Vicky.

AS THE WORLD TURNS: Despite his drugged state, Holden realized that Molly, not Lily, was kissing him, and managed to get out of the hotel room. Molly doctored the tape to look incriminating, but Lily knew that it had been faked. Following a fierce argument with Holden at the church, Molly was beaten by Teague, who left her there unconscious as the church caught on fire from a broken gas pipe. Thing heated up between Hal and Carly after his car broke down. Pamela learned of Lew's

affair, demanded a divorce, and threatened to make it ugly. Coming: Lew tries to defuse the situation.

BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL: Thorne, learning about Eric's plane crash and the uncertainty of his fate, urged Taylor not to waste any more time, and marry him now. Taylor refused to be pressured. Eric questioned Rush about the radio after which, Rush showed Eric where the batteries were stored as a way of reassuring him. Lauren found Ruth's typewriter and a manuscript. With James being forced to marry Sheila, Connor plotted a trap—Amber would pretend to have car trouble, causing Sheila to leave the baby alone in order to get to her wedding. With the plan in play, Maggie and a child welfare worker looked on as Sheila left her house. Coming: Maggie hopes they've outsmarted Sheila, at last.

BANNER

One-on-One With A.C. Green

By MICHAEL BESIO
BANNER LAYOUT EDITOR

What does the word iron man mean?

Since the Webster Illustrated Contemporary Dictionary doesn't have a definition of the word, we will have to break it down to the word's roots.

Iron, which is defined as a tough and abundant element. A tool, weapon made of iron.

Man, which is defined as a human being, specifically the most highly developed of the primates.

The word's real meaning, is someone who will give it their all and won't let anything hold them back from obtaining their goals and dreams.

The National Basketball Association defines iron man as Dallas Mavericks Forward A.C. Green. That takes us to another question, what does A.C. mean?

"A.C. doesn't actually stand for anything. My dad is A.C. senior. There are no names behind it. If anyone want to know they probably have to go to Missouri City, Texas and ask my cousin Marjory. She's probably the only one who knows," said Green.

Green played in his 907th consecutive NBA game on Nov. 20 against the Golden State Warriors, breaking Randy Smith's all-time record of 906 straight games. How does someone not get tired?

"My teammates keep it fun. They are the ones that keep me enthused about coming to practice or coming to games. Then it's the game situations, whether it's continuing a winning streak, or this current situation, trying to break a losing streak," said Green.

He is known as a hard rebounder and an unselfish forward who has brought valuable leadership and experience to every team he's played for.

Green was presented a baseball jersey on Nov. 20 with his last name inscribed on it from Baltimore Orioles Short stop/Third Basemen Cal Ripken Jr. Playing in over 2,000 games himself Cal Ripken Jr. is considered baseballs iron man.

In a live chat room on NBA.com, fans of Green got to talk to the iron man one-on-one and find out everything they needed to know.

Dan Lewis from palmnet.net, asked Green what did Cal Ripken say to you on the night that you broke the record.

"Cal said he knew it was a day that I couldn't wait to see, but also that I couldn't wait to watch it pass. At the same time, he said, you feel a lot older after you've completed this particular goal, which for me was No. 907," said Green.

Green was also given: a rocking chair, a proclamation from Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, declaring Nov. 13-20 "A.C. Green Week," a \$10,000 donation to Green's youth foundation and a leather jacket with the word "Ironman" on the sleeve.

Green played college ball for Oregon State, where he finished second in school history for rebounding, and fourth in scoring. He was drafted 23rd by the L.A. Lakers in the first round of the 1985 NBA draft. Till this day, that is still considered a gem of a pick.

Green led the Lakers in rebounding six of the eight years he played for them, providing them with constant work on the glass. He helped to win two "back-to-back" titles with the Lakers in '87 and '88. He was named starter on the 1990 NBA Western conference All-Star team and was also named to the NBA's All Defensive Second Team. Green left the Lakers in '93 to sign with the Phoenix Suns as a free agent. The Suns lost to the Chicago Bulls in the NBA finals and figured Green would be the missing piece to a championship. That never happened, and Green was traded to the Mavericks, bring Guard Jason Kidd to the Suns.

Aaron Schmeling of netscape.com asked Green what his fondness memories of Phoenix and L.A. were?

"The town itself (Phoenix), it's a really great family oriented town, very clean, and has great weather. The entertainment side of L.A. made everything more enjoyable," said Green.

A.C. had only missed three games his whole career. He sat those games out because of coach Pat Riley's decision and not injury. He has had some painful injuries in his playing career though.

"The most painful were back spasms that I've had for the last three years. You get these spasms in your back, and they keep you hunched over. It's hard to move and it's hard to sit," said Green.

What will Green do when he's done playing ball?

Well he isn't going to coach. He would rather go back to Portland and watch his nephews play around. He'll continue to spread the word of God through the Champions Through Christ ministry, and run the A.C. Green Youth Foundation.

A.C. Green is a good man, and has lived a great life. Ross Perot Jr., Mavericks owner summed it up the best in saying, "A.C., you're a great example for all of us. We wish we could live up to the standards you've set."

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CAMPUS SALESMEN WANTED

HALL from back cover

The Houston Rockets have a 3-5 record. That has spelled doom for the aging Rockets since Barkley is now out for a week with a groin injury. Players bickering about their choices especially amongst the big three after a loss to the Portland Trail Blazers in which Hakeem made comments about not getting the ball in crunch time, and Barkley was hogging the ball. I don't believe the Rockets will fall apart but they will have problems with the younger teams once they hit the playoffs.



Spur's Center David Robinson scores a basket

The Spurs are riding high on the backs of the twin towers, Center David Robinson and Center Tim Duncan who have become one of the leagues best one-two combos. With a 6-3 record and a solid hold on the division lead, this team has got to be feeling pretty good about themselves in comparison to the dismal year they suffered last year.

While the Utah Jazz are trying to get into the season after sluggish start, Karl "The Mailman" Malone is delivering, he must've been on a vacation. Climbing back into contention in the Midwest Division, with strong play by Utah Forward Bryon Russell, Guard

Jeff Hornacek, and Guard Shandon Anderson. The Minnesota Timber Wolves must be careful of their shorts falling to the floor while they play especially since the starting five were fined a total of \$37,000 for having their shorts too long. What has this league come to? They have NBA spies going into locker rooms checking the length of the players shorts.

The Phoenix Suns are doing extremely well and are right behind the L.A. Lakers with their new team running and gunning. Phoenix Sun's Guard Kevin Johnson is glad he reconsidered his decision to retire now that the team is winning especially after last seasons first 13 games in which the Suns went 0-13 compared to this season which they are 6-1. Hats off to team owner, Jerry Colangelo for putting together a solid team with a solid bench. The Seattle Supersonics are surging as well without Forward Shawn Kemp and just as well with their new star Forward Vin Baker who has been incredible. Seattle hasn't missed a beat.

The Eastern conference is tight with the exception of the Hawks, who are 10-0. The Knicks have showed some signs of life by thrashing their past two teams by a margin of 20+. The Knicks will be playing at Houston tonight and this will be a true test for the Knicks since they were 1-2 on their last western trip. They will then try to dethrone the unblemished record of Atlanta. The team must come together and this must be now. Recent trade reports surfaced before the Knicks-Kings game on Saturday for Kings All-Star Forward Mitch Richmond. Richmond stated the he wouldn't mind playing night-in and night-out at the Garden, but he thinks the Garden crowd would've booed him with the type

of performance he put in at the game.

The New Jersey Nets are gearing up for Forward Keith Van Horns return but are doing just fine now that Guard Kerry Kittles has returned to the lineup. Kittles torched the Cavs the other night single-handedly. The Nets remain in the running with a 5-3 record. Chicago must snap out of their funk that they're in but who doesn't know that, maybe Bulls Forward Rodman will remove all of his tattoos and hair dye which may motivate him.



Nets Forward Keith Van Horn

In NHL news, the New York Rangers beat a skilled team on Sunday night, the Colorado Avalanche fell prey to the Rangers for only their sixth win this season. The New Jersey Devils and Philadelphia Flyers are in a power struggle for the division lead. The Montreal Canadiens have a solid hold on the top spot in the Northeast division with the Boston Bruins on their heels. The St. Louis Blues have been surging behind Brett Hulls scoring. Their is news of a trade from the Philadelphia Flyers who are interested in Buffalo goal tender Dominik Hasek. That deal would make the Flyers an unstoppable team but that is if the trade goes through.

For more sports info, if you'd like to talk sports tune into the WSIA sports action show from 6-10 with Fran Stuchbury, Mike Fitzmaurice, Mike "the Z-man", and Steve Hall, the NBA know it all.

New Season in CSI Mens Basketball

By JOSEPH BARRACATO
BANNER WRITER

It's about that time again for college basketball fans to paint their faces and start their chants for their favorite team in the land. The CSI Men's basketball team has been able to string together several consecutive winning seasons and playoff runs. Head coach Tony Petosa led the CSI Dolphins to a 22-7 mark last year. Unfortunately they lost to Baruch in the first round of the CUNY tournament. Petosa is a great coach and is able to utilize all his player's strengths. He is assisted by Matty White and former CSI player Chris Kelly. Much of the early season chatter is about senior standout John Cali, who has been the floor leader for the Dolphins over the past several seasons. How much chatter? How about being picked as the conference pre-season M.V.P.. He has already been chosen as a two-time All-CUNY player. Cali has been a great leader and his teammates have been able to benefit from his play. Brian Gasper is another Dolphin to watch out for. The senior swingman has already been predicted to be apart of the CUNY All-Star team. He can shoot the ball from the outside, rebound well, and run the floor. Billy Felci should start in the middle this year after the departure of Kelly. He can

rebound well and has a solid post game. Kenny Thomassen, who red-shirted last year, should play the power forward spot. Thomassen possesses an impressive low-post game and should be able to tally alot of points on the blocks and help Felci on the boards. He is also very good at running the floor, which can only help.

Craig Sleaf is the team's shooting guard with good range and he can drain the three-ball with consistency.

The Dolphin's starters have great chemistry and have tons of talent to carry them very far.

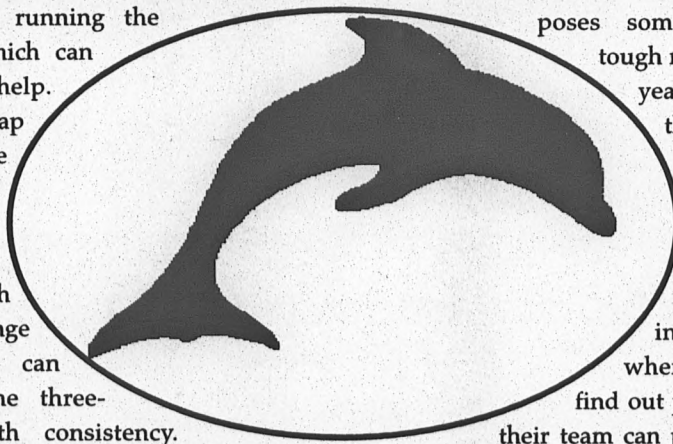
Coming off the bench to contribute are Paul Testaverde, Matt Franzreb, and Jeff Houseman. Testaverde, a senior, can shoot the ball very well and can spell Sleaf at times and Houseman will also give the team positive minutes. Franzreb, a 6'5" freshman can give Thomassen a rest while giving the team a real threat down in the low-post. Joining the team this year is

Chakra Karalasingham, a center who is from Sri-Lanka. He will be playing his first year of organized basketball. The team has depth and a quality starting five and will be very competitive this season.

The schedule for the Dolphins poses some extremely tough matchups this year. They start the season on Friday, November 21st for a two-day tournament in Rochester, where they will find out just how well their team can play together.

An early season showdown with Division I, Wagner College, should bring out all of the Island's basketball fans to CSI's gym. Although Wagner will be a heavy favorite, don't count out CSI, for the sheer fact that they do happen to match up pretty well. It will be a tough test for the Dolphins, but it is a great opportunity for them to play against a Division I school. Two days after they play Wagner, the schedule doesn't get any easier for the team as they have to play at York College. Pre-season predic-

tions have York in a dead tie for second place with the Dolphins in the South division. The team heads back to York on Sunday, December 28th for another two-day tournament. Home games in January test the Dolphin's strength when they host Hunter College, who was predicted to finish first in the South division above the Dolphins. Then John-Jay comes to visit. A road game on the twenty-eighth of January at Hunter can really help the team in their standings in CUNY. A February 16th showdown at CSI against York could possibly decide a second or first place finish for the Dolphins. This concludes the regular season for the Dolphins and then they begin the CUNY Tournament. The tournament will be hosted by York College this year where the Dolphins won't really feel out of place since they would have already played there two or more times earlier in their season. They will probably have to go through Hunter, Baruch, or even host York to win the tournament. Don't be surprised if they get far into the tournament or even win the whole thing. Whatever happens this season, the Dolphins will be very competitive and should surprise many of the teams. They have the coaching and the talent to go very far and are deserving of our school's support.



**WHAT'S UP
CSI?**

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**ONE ON
ONE**

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Steve Halls' Sports Corner

By STEVE HALL
BANNER STAFF WRITER

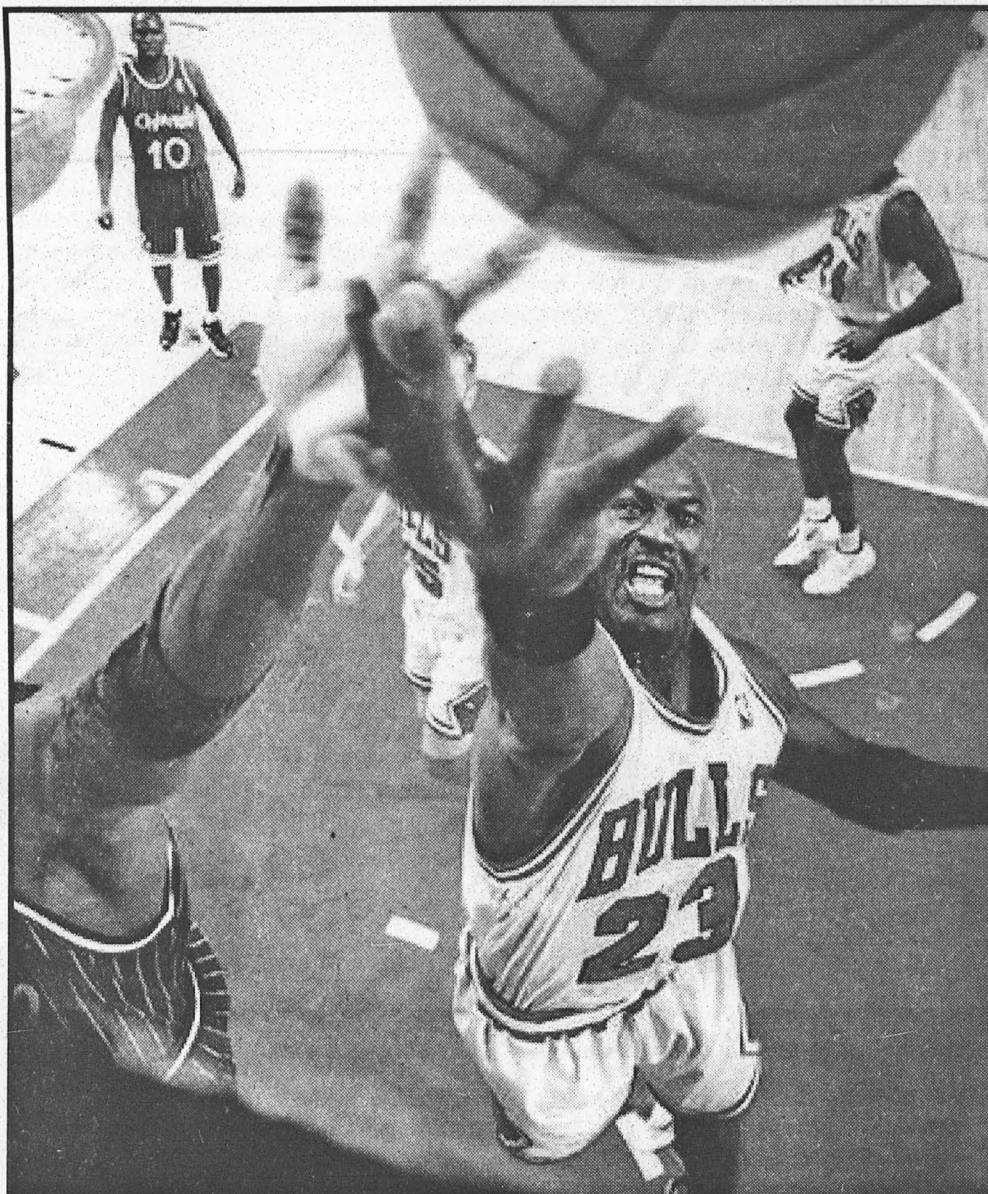
Has anyone checked the standings lately? The Chicago Bulls are sitting in third place of the Central division behind the Charlotte

Hornets, and the perfect 10-0 Atlanta Hawks, who are this seasons' surprise. Atlanta has shocked every team they've played and haven't looked back. The Hawks have beaten teams convincingly with the exception of the last two, who they beat by a total of three points.

Hawks Guard Steve Smith has been playing superb ball while Hawks Center Dikembe "Mount" Mutombo has been blocking shots and pulling down monster boards. This is why Atlanta is paying him the big bucks. Hawks Guard Mookie

Blaylock has been the All-Star he's always been but has become more focused since the start of the winning streak. Hawks Forward Henry James and Forward Alan Henderson have added depth to the team and have opened up the perimeter. Hawks Center/Forward Christian Lattener has been sub par so far but he will get going once he starts finding his way into the

offense. The teams that they have beaten are solid teams such as The Seattle SuperSonics and the once mighty Chicago Bulls.



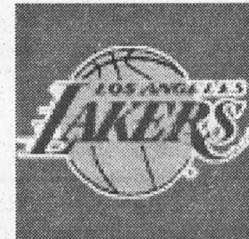
Chicago Bulls' star MICHAEL JORDAN fights for a rebound against the Orlando Magic.

The Bulls who have just been struggling this season are trying to survive without Bulls Forward Scottie Pippen. Pippen's worth will skyrocket once he leaves the team after this season in which he will be paid mega bucks. Being beaten by the Cleveland Cavs, Boston Celtics, Washington Wizards, and Philadelphia 76ers

have proven the Bulls as mere mortals. It's open season on the Bulls and no one is scared to go into Chicago's United Arena anymore, now that several teams have defeated them there.

Their total amount of losses is four at the moment which is how many they had after Christmas last season and November isn't even over! Will they make a 60 win season, I highly doubt it, I'd look for the L. A. Lakers or San Antonio Spurs to attain that goal.

The other team that is undefeated is none other than the Los Angeles Lakers, my personal favorite. They have the best record in the West so far this year. Off to their best start since their last championship year, they are surging through the Pacific division. Holding the league's highest offen-



sive output behind Laker Center Shaquille O'Neal's first place in scoring. They are 8-0 after a dramatic win over the Houston Rockets who made a huge comeback rallying from an 18 point deficit. The Rockets forced two overtimes but had succumbed to the Lakers all thanks to Laker's Guard Nick Van Exel's brilliant three point shooting. With the game on the



Laker's Guard
Nick Van Exel

line in regulation, the Lakers were down by three points and with four seconds to go, Van Exel was way behind the three point line, drilled a three pointer to force overtime. In the first overtime, Van Exel continued his shooting by hitting shot after shot behind the arc. The Lakers seemed to have had the game in hand when Rocket Forward "Sir Charles" Charles Barkley caught a football type pass and scored to force a second overtime. O'Neal and Van Exel proved to be too much as Shaq hit foul shot after foul shot. Hakeem played only half the game and sat out the first overtime until Rocket Center/Forward Kevin Willis fouled out.

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