

THE BANNER

VOLUME V, ISSUE VII

DECEMBER 18, 1997

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CSI'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER



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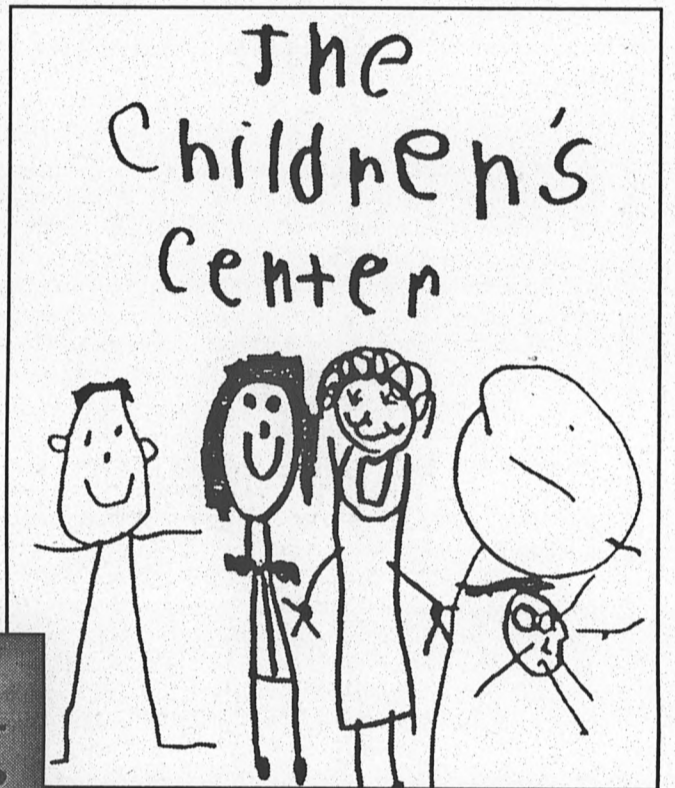
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CSI Child Care In Crisis

WILLIAM WHARTON
BANNER CONTRIBUTOR

Is affordable, safe and educational child care a fundamental right of every student that attends the College of Staten Island? This is the question that the student body of CSI is currently faced with. Since the move to the spacious new Willowbrook campus, the Children's Center has been providing students with quality child care but recent funding problems have placed this vital service in doubt. For students with children, further cutbacks will most likely signal the end of their college education. As with other social programs that were developed in the 60's and 70's to address vital societal needs, child care currently faces the harsh scrutiny of the budget cuts of the 90's.

Over the past ten years, child care funding has been caught in a crushing vice of decreased state and federal funding and sharply rising expenses. While expenses have risen from \$192,388 in 1990 to \$598,890 in 1997, state funding has remained flat at \$149,000 a year and federal funding has increased by a mere \$40,000 from 1993. Despite annual attempts by parents to increase funding for child care services, legislators in Albany do



SPECIAL BANNER COMMENTARY

not consider this issue to be high priority. The deficit has been made up on the backs of students by increases in per hour fees for services, a reduction in hours and contributions by the CSI Student Government. The Center currently runs at a yearly deficit between \$80,000 to \$100,000 and further cuts to service are imminent if long term solutions are

PLEASE SEE **CHILD CARE**, PAGE 3

STUDENTS HOST HOMELESS EMPOWERMENT DAY

MEREDITH FOGELMAN
BANNER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

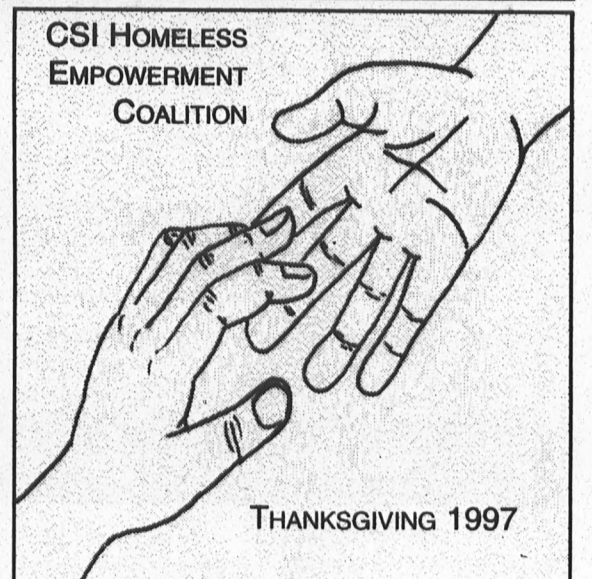
On Monday, Nov. 24, a coalition of student groups from the College of Staten Island hosted residents of the Island Family Inn, a homeless women and children's shelter, for a Thanksgiving dinner, along with a workshop for the women and entertainment for the children.

The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the women to the College of Staten Island and some of its programs.

"Island Family Inn is very excited to participate in an event with CSI," said Claire McCue, Director of Education and

Employment at Island Family Inn, a subsidiary of Homes for the Homeless. "The women who reside in Island Family Inn are very interested in exploring the campus. The event will give the women a chance to interact with college students and the campus in a comfortable forum. Many women are interested in continuing their education but often feel ostracized."

The women were given a



tour of the campus and its facilities, while their children were entertained with an arts and craft

PLEASE SEE **EMPOWER**, PAGE 2

News & Sports Briefs

WAGNER PLAYS BASKETBALL GAMES HERE

Due to the construction of the new Sports Center at Wagner College, Wagner's men's and women's basketball teams will be playing here at the C.S.I Sports and Recreation Center this year.

Students will get to see North East Conference Basketball on a CUNY campus. Another interesting item will be the Jan. 14 game against LIU. This game will feature Charles Jones and Richie Parker. Jones leads in scoring for the country. Parker is well known for his off-the-court problems.

Don't be shocked if you see Spike Lee in the stands. He is a big LIU fan. Also the Dec. 15 game against St. Francis and the Feb. 19 game against Central Connecticut State will be seen on MSG.

CSI INTERNS PROVIDE FREE SMALL CLAIMS COUNSELING

Students at CSI have joined the New York Public Interest Group (NYPIRG) to assist consumers with questions about small claims court. The Small Claims Courts are an important way to help people who have been ripped off. It seems that many consumers find navigating the Small Claims process very confusing. Some of the problems associated with using the Small Claims Court are: poor judgment, collection, inadequate evidence preparation, and simple lack of confidence. This is where the Small Claims Action center enters the picture. The students are trained by a lawyer to provide phone assistance, to answer questions and to provide information to consumers who are in the process of filing a claim. It is important to note that the students do not provide legal advice.

Students who are interns; receive college credit for their work. The interns are required to put in 4 to 8 hours a week and attend a class. It is important to mention that students can also volunteer without participating in the internship class. This is a great experience for any student who is thinking about attending Law School.

NYPIRG's Small Claims Court Action Center can assist you in the effective use of the Small Claims Courts. The Action center supplies the necessary information to make filing, proving and collecting a judgment in a Small Claims action, a lot easier. In addition to providing assistance in Small Claims matters, students also offer general tips on how to solve consumer grievances. Individuals who need help can use this service free of charge by calling 718-982-9221.

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A Father's Love Eternal by P. Melissa Visnosky

Daddy, I'm sorry
to disappoint you so.
I know your plans for
me were not what
I've become.
But I'm a woman now
not your little girl.
My life is now
my own.
Mistakes that I'll
surely make
Must be mine to make.
The man I love, you
might not.
But a father's love's eternal
Or so I always thought.
For as a mother to a son
I must always love
Even when
I don't approve.
For just one reason
He's my child
Just as I am yours.



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EMPOWER FROM PAGE 1

workshop. After the Thanksgiving dinner, donated by CSI Auxiliary Services, the women attended a program in which various speakers addressed several topics including financial aid, tutoring, and day care.

"It's important that they realize that their situation, whatever it may be, should not be considered an obstacle to getting an education," said Meredith Fogelman, editor-in-chief of *The Banner*, CSI's newspaper.

The event was staffed by roughly 30 student volunteers. The students are members of several different student groups including CSI Student Government, NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group), *The Banner*, *The College Voice* (CSI's political journal), the Apostolic Christian Life Center, and *The Third Rail* (CSI's literary magazine).

"It really is great that so many students decided to get involved, despite their busy schedules," said Greg Mihailovich, project coordinator of the CSI chapter of NYPIRG. "Students can be a force when they unite for a common cause. It's a shame they don't take advantage of it more often."

The students stress though that helping the homeless once or twice a year isn't enough.

"Students should not allow this event, a meal which lasts only one day, to give them a feeling of moral cleansing, thereby covering up the larger issue of how our society systematically creates a group of dispossessed individuals," said William Wharton, CSI Student Government president. "This event should facilitate a larger discussion around the issue of poverty and allocation of societal resources."

Overall, the students were hopeful that the event would have a positive long-term effect on their guests.

"They're people, just like you or me," said Tara Khan. "Everybody needs some help once in a while."

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Child Care from page 1

not found. The Center currently provides over 200 children with care on a flex time basis, a number which has increased from the 53 children that were served at its inception in 1990.

Beyond its conventional uses as a daycare center, the Children's Center is an integral part of the entire college community. Many early childhood education and psychology students use the Center to do their field work. In addition to this, using the term daycare is really a misnomer when it comes to the Children's Center. The Center is not a stop and drop station and this is a major part of the reason for the rising costs of the service. Only trained, certified professionals work with the children and they are committed to making the experience an educational one, not just a way to expend excess time while the parents take classes. The environment in the Center is also one that will hopefully foster a much brighter future for society in terms of race relations. Children from many different races and ethnicities are in attendance and are encouraged to share their distinctly different cultural heritages with each other. For this holiday season, children express the various ways in which they celebrate the holiday season, from Kwanzaa to]

Chanukah. With bridges like this being built at such an early age, it gives a person a ray of hope for the future.

In an attempt to alleviate the budgetary crisis currently plaguing the Children's Center, parents along with students have begun to formulate some long term solutions to the problems that the Children's Center faces. Ultimately, it is essential that everyone understands that the responsibility should fall directly on the State and Federal governments. In order to attempt to address this issue, parents at the Center will be going to Albany to lobby in late January. Beyond this, there has been talk about sponsoring a referendum to increase the student activity fee by \$10.00 and return the Center to 1995 levels of services and per hour costs. Last year's referendum failed because of student resistance to the many groups that attempted to use the daycare issue to increase their own funding. Faced with multiple problems and far less solutions, the student body has been left in a quandary. Lobbying usually falls on deaf ears and a student activity fee increase is tantamount to a self imposed tuition hike. So what can be done? Just as our cries to Albany have fallen on deaf ears, so to has the Administration turned a similar ear to the problems with child care. As students, we can only solve some of the problems CSI faces, therefore as students, we need to unite and make daycare an issue around which all segments of CSI are working at developing solutions. Solutions that ensure that daycare will be made available to all students that require it.

A Parents view on The Children's Center

Since the Children's Center opened here at the Willowbrook campus in September 1993, I have had my daughter registered at the center. This semester I also have my son there. One of the biggest concerns as a parent and a student is not when my exams will be, but rather who will take care of my children while I attend class?

The Children's Center is a wonderful place for your kids. The center is extremely well organized, the staff are highly qualified and very friendly to the children and their parents. The environment is spotlessly clean and the children can play in a safe and secure area. Nowhere will you find a daycare program that so conveniently matches your classroom schedule. In addition, the fees for daycare are unbeatable. But all this will change for the worse if bud-

get cuts force the center to reduce staff or worse yet, if it should be forced to close down completely.

Please take note, because those of you who are students now, may one day become parents. When you become parents, you will have the worry of who will take care of your children while you work or study.

To the staff at the Children's Center, thanks for doing your jobs so well. And to fellow students, please help in any fundraising or drives designed to prevent future and present budget cuts.

By: Helen Kneeshaw
Full time mom & part time student

Profile of a Community Health Educator

NICOLE RAFANO
BANNER WRITER

The Wellness Center in the Staten Island Mall was crowded. About twenty people were waiting for their blood pressure to be taken and diabetic glucose screening to be done. As they walked in, Adam Newman, coordinator of the medical facility, greeted them by saying, "Thank you for coming to the center. Now, how can I help you?" He was a tall man, with a full beard and brown hair. Wearing tan pants, a blue and white checkered shirt and a tie with lemons on it, he gave the impression of being both compassionate and helping.

The Wellness Center is a part of Staten Island University Hospital. Its goal is to provide the community with free health screenings and health education. "We are working on making a healthier Staten Island and to educate Staten Islanders on how to create a healthier mind and body," Newman said. "My role at the Wellness Center is to provide the public with a substantial amount of information on all kinds of different diseases and illnesses. I also have the duty of giving referrals to excellent physicians in the community.

"For as long as I could remember, I have always wanted to be working in the health field, but I

wasn't up to being a doctor—I couldn't handle all the blood and guts. So I took a different turn—health education—which led me to my present career. I have always been serving the community with facts about their health, both mental and physical. It excites me that I am making a difference in people's lives just by educating them, instead of prescribing medicine," said Newman.

Newman has many responsibilities at the Wellness Center. He is in charge of staffing, which consists of eight registered nurses and three dietary nutritionists. He is responsible for setting up all of the different support groups that meet there. Some deal with cancer, diabetes, cerebral palsy, to name a few. Newman also arranges for doctors or therapists to speak at these support groups. Teen rap groups are also held at the center.

At age 25, Newman has already worked for a variety of community-based projects including Homes for the Homeless, the Jewish Community Center, and the American Red Cross. "I have always had a helping hand. I guess you could say that whenever there was a need to help, I was the first one on the scene," said Newman.

"Adam has always been the person we could count on the most, whether it was a situation at work, or a personal matter dealing with

friends," said Mike Palleschi, Newman's co-worker and friend.

One of Newman's first jobs was at the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island where he assisted in creating an educational curriculum for children in their after school program. Its goal was to teach children how to deal with daily peer pressures and how to have good socialization skills. He was also the leader of an HIV teen peer group. "HIV and AIDS are serious problems that affect us all, especially teenagers. Teens go through a stage of invincibility and I felt that we needed to address the issue," he said. When he worked at the Island Family Inn, working with homeless families, he counseled single mothers and their children. He created an educational program to teach these mothers how to work out the stress of their daily lives.

Newman graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work, with a concentration in family studies from Wagner College in June of 1994. He is currently attending Long Island University part time to obtain masters degree in community health services. While attending Wagner College, he volunteered at the American Red Cross where he was later hired as a full time employee.

"The most rewarding job that I have ever had was working at the American Red Cross. Yet in some cases was the most depressing," said

Newman. "I was the services assistant, supervising the safety and health department and disaster services. One day, I received a phone call at about 1:30 am. There was a fire in a residential neighborhood where two houses had burned down, leaving two families consisting of twelve people out in the cold winter weather, with nothing but pajamas. Myself and two other members of the Disaster Action Team responded to the family's needs. After everything was over came running over to me, and said, 'Mr., Mr., thank you, for helping me and my family.' I could never forget that night," said Newman, while smiling. "But of course not all of the stories are that rewarding. The crash of TWA Flight 800 was the worst experience of my life, and we all know the outcome of that. Being there was not a pretty sight."

For a man at the young age of 25, Newman has a lot of work experience and accomplishments under his belt. "I just feel that every one of us has a duty in life. I think that mine is to help make the community a better place for all. I feel that if more people are educated and informed about certain health risks and other health-oriented matters, they will know what to look out for and how to handle such situations, making it better for everyone," said Newman.

Going to College After 30

CAROLYN DE STEFANO
BANNER WRITER

What is prompting older adults to leave the kitchen or the work force in search of higher education? Turn to the person next to you and ask him or her because there's a good chance you might be sitting next to one. Thirty-one per cent of CSI's students are over thirty, according to the Office of Institutional Research. Their reasons for returning to college are as diverse as the degrees they are pursuing.

Many of these "aged academics" are eager to tell their stories, though not all were willing to reveal their ages or their last names. Georgiana Fazio at 55 is as springy as a 20-year-old, which is the age she says she feels mentally. One of the reasons she says she is attending CSI is that she "always wanted more education." She says, "My generation went to work after you graduated from high school. Money was scarce and my family needed my salary to help out financially," she said. She is a high school graduate, taking commercial courses, which prepared her to work directly after high school. "This wasn't unusual; most of my generation was in the same boat," she said.

After her marriage Fazio continued to work until the birth of her daughter,

and later another daughter and a son. When her youngest went to kindergarten, she enrolled at the Wilfred Beauty Academy on Staten Island. According to Fazio, Wilfred was a fast way to pick up a career. "It filled the need at the time," she said. "It gave me the opportunity to work around my children's school schedule. "Graduating from Wilfred put me in the work force; subsidizing my husband's salary."

Fazio's love of people is what drew her to a career as a beautician. It became her outlet for her creativity. Her creative talents are not limited to hair styling; she is now expressing this on canvas. "I love to paint," she said. A desire to get a college education is what prompted Fazio to apply to CSI. Chris Johnson of the Adults Returning to College (ARC) Program encouraged Fazio to come in for an interview and to learn more about the project. Fazio entered the ARC Program in the spring and says she loves it. Asked what she would do differently, she replied "My only regret is that I'm not forty years old," she said. "The age factor would give me more time to attend school and do more with a degree."

Kathy Reilly began her academic journey at CSI in September 1995 at the age of 47. "I didn't get the chance when I was younger to go to college, and I really wanted it," she said. "When my children

were older, the opportunity presented itself to go to school." Her goal is to become a teacher or enter the nursing profession. "Some people said I couldn't make it and stick it out and that I was wasting my time," she said. "I was undaunted, and determined to accomplish my goal." In Reilly's opinion, the hardest part in returning to school is figuring out the transportation. "I don't drive, and I was unfamiliar with the bus routes and schedules," she said. Her next hurdle was getting used to the campus and the various buildings. "I found myself walking around with a map, I would have been lost without one."

Reilly confides that her classes can be overwhelming at times. She says her philosophy class has enriched her knowledge of religion and past times. She has a whole new look on history thanks to Plato and Aristotle. Her view on math is simple—"I hate it," she said emphatically. "Lucky my sons are pretty good in math. They've been helping me out, thank the dear Lord." Asked how her family has reacted to her going to college, she smiled broadly, and said, "My son said he'd do an Irish jig when I graduate."

A similar theme ran through the story Josephine told. At fifty she decided to attend college after the last of her five children left for college. The "empty nest" syndrome didn't last too long, she said.

"There is only so much cleaning you can do, when there is no one home to make a mess," she said. "It was time to get out, and make a dream come true, go to college." Working part-time during the day, she manages to carry eight credits, maintain her home and still find time to garden. "My life has never been fuller or more rewarding," she said.

Thirty-nine-year-old Maryann decided to attend college because "I had no skills, and I couldn't get a job," she said. According to Maryann, entry level positions were paying eleven to twelve thousand a year, she wanted more for her effort on a job. "The only way I would qualify for better wages was to return to school and get a degree—the future is in computers," she said. "Without a degree the opportunity to succeed in that field would remain out of reach for me," said Maryann. "I look past the difficulties at hand, and see the financial light at the end of the tunnel. I also have a very supportive husband. Without his encouragement I don't think I could have made it this far," she said.

Many of the women shared a common bond; they had a desire to learn, and a commitment to earn their degree. Many found math to be the most intimidating subject to study. One student said, "Math was like giving birth, extremely difficult, but rewarding when I finally passed."

CSI's COMPETITIVE PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

DEANNA QUINLAN
BANNER WRITER

It's a four day weekend for Sabrina Calley, a fourth-year biology major. As CSI closes Thursday and Friday in observance of the Jewish holidays, she has no plans to go out. Her friends call but she begs off as she must stay in to study for her biology of disease quiz, an organic chemistry test, a cell-structure and function quiz, and an organic lab presentation.

Calley, an attractive 21-year-old with a 3.67 GPA, can't afford to take the long weekend off and relax. "An A- isn't good enough when you're in pre-physical therapy. You need all A's if you're going to even think about applying to the p.t. program," said Calley.

Her sentiments are echoed by those in attendance at an open house sponsored by the physical therapy (p.t.) department, none of whom would give their names for publication. The open house drew approximately 45 would-be applicants, each eager to be one of the lucky ones—one of the 25 to make it into CSI's prestigious p.t. program in the spring semester. Maureen Becker, a partner in the office of DeVita and Becker and a CSI p.t. board member, conducted the seminar, outlining the program and its requirements. "It's a tough program, but a rewarding one," said Becker as she directs students to a table containing printed material.

CSI offers a bachelor of science/master of science degree program in physical therapy. Basic credit requirements, distribution, and pre-major requirements must be completed before a student can be considered for entrance into the program. In addition, a student must have a minimum of a 2.8 GPA, at least 100 volunteer hours in practical experience, and letters of recommendation. The applicant must submit an essay and he must be interviewed by a panel of board members.

Approximately 400 applications are received for spring entrance, and they are weeded down to 200. Of these 200, 100 are selected for interviews. Of those, 25 will make the program, with five alternates in the event a seat is not accepted. "The college only budgets for 25 seats so they take the cream of the crop," said a person who works in the department. "The program is nationally accredited. CSI has an excellent reputation and its location attracts many applicants both local and from out of state. We need to expand the program to let more people in."

Robert Molinari, a third-year student, looks over the pre-requisite courses and mentally checks off all those he has taken. He is applying for the first time and wants to make sure he isn't missing anything. He worked all summer at University Hospital South's physical therapy center, accumulating 150 volunteer hours. His GPA is 3.85. He is confident but hesitant. "I know the competition is tough. We [students in the sciences] all mostly know each other and we're all pulling for each other, but you just don't know what's coming in from the outside," says Molinari, referring to last year's admissions. Of the 25 seats filled, only 7 were CSI students. The remaining 18

seats went to transfers from other schools.

Marina Erickson (not her real name), another 20-year-old first-time applicant with a 3.80 GPA, plans on applying to Touro College, Hunter College, and Long Island University, although their programs are just as competitive, if not worse. "Hunter has 50 seats but they don't even look at your essay. They take 50 GPA's," says Erickson. LIU has 35 seats out of a pool of 650. Touro takes 175 out of 600, but Touro is a private school with a \$20,000 a year tuition bill. If Erickson doesn't make a program she'll go for a degree in science and teach.

Applying to the programs at other schools can be difficult too. Each school requires different pre-requisites. "I could spend six years just satisfying requirements so that I could apply across the board," said Calley, who isn't sure at this point about what she will do. She applied at CSI last year and was not accepted. Originally a music major at Seton Hall University, she transferred as a sophomore to CSI and changed her major to physical therapy. She's been concentrating on the sciences since her transfer but still doesn't have enough of the right credits, after four years, for a biology degree. She took last year's rejection hard and looked for alternatives.

"I feel as if I'm on a tread mill and need more credits for a B.S. in bio. I'm under pressure to keep my GPA competitive. I can't get a B in anything. Bio of disease, organic, and cell structure are so time-consuming that there is no time for anything else. I had to drop a music class and put my minor in music on hold, for fear of not getting an A, which would mean my GPA would go down. I got an A- in a voice class last year, and I was sick about it," she said.

Molinari feels the same way. "I'm afraid to take a class I might be interested in on the side for fear of its taking time away from the all important p.t. required ones," he said.

These students take school very seriously. They have little time for anything other than classes and study. They tend to stick together forming study groups that are fixtures in the science building and in the library. When not on campus, they study together at home or on the phone. "It's almost like a family," said Molinari. "We need and support each other. We're with each other more than with our real families," she said.

The open house at the Green Dolphin Lounge is just about over and Calley and Molinari meet Donna Levin outside. She was part of Calley's study/support group last year. She's a 40ish mother of two and she made it in last year. They exchange greetings and update each other. Levin offers advice to Molinari and encourages Calley to apply again. Calley protests saying she couldn't live through another rejection and the thought of another three years of pressure once in the program is not a pleasant one. "Sure there's pressure for me now," said Levin, "but it's different." Once you're in, you're in. You just have to keep up. The competition, the uncertainty, the overwhelming fear that you're dealing with now doesn't exist once you're in. It's easier to concentrate once all that is gone." Once you have one of those 25 seats, it's a new ball game.

The Banner staff wishes you
good luck on your final exams!

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Back to Back Thefts at CSI

PERI M. VISNOSKY
BANNER STAFF WRITER

Is the area behind 1C safe? With two incidents occurring within just two days of each other, the administration is now planning to install lights around the campus.

The loading dock area behind 1C is a common area for members of the CSI community to wait for cabs, or for their rides home. It also in the most sought after parking lot for students who have their own cars, due to its convenient proximity to so much of the campus.

The first incident took place on Wednesday, November 19, at approximately 8:30 PM. A visitor to our campus (who wishes to remain nameless) was approached by two young black men. The two men brandished a knife, and asked for money. After the woman complied, the youths thanked her, and left her physically unharmed. The woman immediately went into the building and reported the robbery to Public Safety.

Public Safety is conducting an investigation of the incident, but due to the fact that the victim was unable to give a good description of her assailants, campus security is not very hopeful. Any information that anyone can give to aid this investigation would be greatly appreciated.

To give said information, you can call 982-2111, or go to the campus security office in 2A-108.

The second incident was also theft, but this time the target was parked cars. On Friday, November 21, two parked cars had airbags and, other items, stolen from them that had a total value of approximately \$5,000. Such items as a lap-top computer and a cellular phone were taken.

In this case, the quick reporting of the crime, by its victim, paid off. Frank Kiwak III was visiting the campus in hopes of obtaining a contract with the bookstore. Upon returning to his car, he noticed that his passenger airbag was missing. Kiwak immediately reported this theft in 2A-108, where a suspect was spotted breaking into another vehicle, on the security camera.

The suspect was followed to a Honda Civic by the camera in the public safety office. The Civic was tracked on campus, and stopped by parking lot #3, where Sgt. Gemma, of Public Safety, attempted to apprehend the dri-

ver, Ernest Martinez. Martinez and two others, Jose L. Rosa and Julio C. Laspina, took off down Loop Rd, exiting the campus at Forest Hill Rd. During the struggle to escape arrest, Sgt. Gemma suffered injuries to his right shoulder and elbow. When the vehicle was stopped again about 100 feet north of Rockland Avenue, CPO Silva suffered an injury to his right knee during further resistance to arrest.

Martinez, Rosa and Laspina were arrested and brought to the 122 police precinct and were charged with second degree assault, larceny, and criminal trespassing. Due to the fact that the articles stolen from Kiwak's car were not found in the suspects' possession, they were not charged with that crime.

In a phone interview with John Houdacs, vice-president for finance and administration, said that lights would be installed soon to increase campus security. "Buildings and grounds is installing lights all over campus to insure the safety of our students, faculty and visitors." As of now, portable lights are being used to brighten some areas, but no new permanent lights have been installed. So far, there has been no lighting added to the area behind 1C.

KEVIN COSTNER

The year is 2013.

One man walked in
off the horizon
and hope came with him.

THE POSTMAN



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OPENS DECEMBER 25 EVERYWHERE

SEX, MONEY AND THE NET

MARK L. ALCH, PH.D.
BANNER CONTRIBUTOR

In the mid-nineteenth century the taking of nude images, sold under the counter, helped create the photography industry. One can be reasonably assured that the first obscene telephone call occurred soon after the Bell Telephone Company began its network service to homes. When silent pictures came of age, the "stag film" was invented for the male audience. Later, the adult oriented theaters originated to provide entertainment on the big screen. Sexually explicit films released to theaters were later replaced by VCR's hawking titles such as "Deep Throat," "The Devil in Miss Jones," and "Behind the Green Door." One could watch these "classics" in the privacy of their own home. In the 1980's the mass distribution of small, compact video cameras inaugurated amateur sex movies. A new industry was created where nearly anyone could direct their own adult film. Adult entertainment is the driving force behind the explosive popularity of the Internet. As an exam-

ple, Vixxen.com, one of the largest adult oriented web sites, features over 1,000,000 free pictures. The adult oriented web sites have paved the way for all types of commercial ventures on the Net.

To understand how they make money, one needs to survey adult entertainment, since all businesses follow one or more of their models to generate income on the web.

The vast majority of sites attempt to generate income in one of six ways:

1. Ads— Vixxen.com is one of the few free adult sites generating the heaviest traffic. This web address contains over 1 million stored pictures, and advertisers pay \$10,000 to place a banner on the site. In this model, advertisers receive a large number of visitors and the consumer, in return, receives pictures free of charge.
2. Pay per month—Only one-hundredth of 1% of viewers sign up for

this type of service, which is understandable because of all the free adult pictures already on the Net, according to Rick Ferguson, Web master at Vixxen.com.

3. Advertising by female models— although not too prevalent, a few models and agencies have established sites in order to augment their business. Ferguson stated, "by increasing their visibility through a high hit rate they hope to capitalize on modeling contracts."

4. Aligning with an adult verification service— if an adult wants access to such sites, they have to pay yearly fee and receive an access code that allows entry at any web address that signed with the firm. The stated purpose is to protect the underage viewers from getting into the adult sites. Ferguson of Vixxen.com mentioned, "the verification service shares a percentage of the fees with the site that initially signs up that customer." To date, this has only attracted a minority of adult web sites.

5. Free sites contracting with pay sites on a per click basis— a pay (usually \$.02-.03 per click) to a free site for consumers who arrive at their business through links or banners. A prodigious amount of traffic has to be generated before significant income can be made. Then too, the burden of effective

advertising is on the host site rather than the advertiser, as the adult site has no control over the flow of income.

6. Pay per service—these sites offering live (or simulated sex), chat lines, phone sex, video streaming, and CD's. These firms pay for ads on free sites, such as Vixxen.com, keeping them in business. As a consumer, you are paying for the technology to have anonymous, safe sex, in the privacy of your own home. Ferguson of Vixxen.com affirmed, "with charges ranging from \$2 (chat lines) up to \$240 per hour, this segment of the adult entertainment industry can offer extremely high profits to the owner."

Behind computer products and travel, the adult entertainment industry is the third largest in total sales. It is first among all industries in terms of the number of visitors on a daily basis. In review, only a handful of sites are generating tremendous profits and receiving notice, such as Vixxen.com. Those on the leading edge of technology are paving the way for other industries in the scramble for market share and high profits on the Internet.



A Place For Poets

MATTHEW SPANO
BANNER WRITER

Is that Shakespeare by the fountain? No, it is just another amateur poet trying his hand at an ageless art. In recent years there has been a resurgence of poetry in popular culture. More and more people have decided to express themselves with poetic words rather than prose, and have also decided to share their art with others. The College of Staten Island is fortunate enough to have a plethora of aspiring poets on its faculty and among its students.

The College offers classes in poetry and students can be seen writing and discussing it in the library, at the fountain, in front of buildings and other spots around the campus. The College community also supports two publications that showcase students' work. *The Serpentine* and *Third Rail* are two school based literary magazines that afford students the opportunity to see their written word in print.

One reason for poetry's re-birth is its use in today's music. The music of the 90's has gone a step further, and deeper, than the music of the preceding decade. Bands such as Nirvana and Bush have pushed the envelope and have created their music with more poetic lyrics. They have been influenced by their predecessors of the sixties and seventies, namely Bob Dylan, The Doors, and Pink Floyd to list a few. The music scene of the 80's may have sold out to corporate America, but the artists of the 90's wanted to defy that trend and created their own.

Staten Island has its share of poets who are looking for a place to congregate and share their ideas. These individuals want a place to meet and with others who love poetry and want to hear what their fellow Staten Islanders have to say. But there is a problem; there are very few places on the Island that afford this opportunity.

There are establishments on Staten Island that afford aspiring poets a place to recite their poetry. The people who run these places have what is called an open mic. Any person who has something to say can go to the microphone and address the other patrons of the establishment and speak their mind, read their poetry, play their instrument, or just rant. Everyone is given their five minutes of fame.

There are two places on Staten Island that seem to be the most popular. They are: The Cargo Cafe on Bay Street and the Snug Harbor Center for the Arts at Snug Harbor. They offer poets a place to recite their work and get feedback from their peers.

The Cargo Cafe has a large following, and Snug Harbor is getting on its feet. The Main Street Cafe in Tottenville, and The Little Theater Off the Lane in New Dorp, used to have nights for open mic, but because of a lack of business have stopped offering those opportunities.

This poses a serious question: If the popularity of poetry is growing, why would a business that caters to it fail? The answer is not so clear. Poets are a fickle bunch. They want to be free to create their art and express it. Some of these establishments do not give the poets all the freedom they want. Some poets feel that money is what drives the establishments to have a poetry night, and therefore are selling the art short.

"The businesses want to make money from the poetry. And so do too many poets," said Vincent Vok. Vok has been a student at CSI since 1990 and is a graphic artist and a poet. "The problem is that the places for poets to go are too spread out over the island. Their needs to be a row of coffee houses or places for poets to read. If one isn't good, then the group moves to the next. There can't be a drive for money. There has to be a group of poets that stick together," said the 45-year-old husband and father. "There needs to be a priority for poetry and not money," said Carl Eckert, a 22-year-old student at CSI. "Poets need to unite and have a movement. We have to join together and work for our art—not to impress the cliques that fill some of the Island places."

Some poets feel that the establishments are ruled by the dollar and will only hold these events as long as patrons continue to eat and drink. If the scene becomes too radical and their is a major shift in ideas and style of poetry, Vok and Eckert both feel that the bottom will fall out and that the establishments will close their doors to poets.

Poetry is a way for those who are dissatisfied with the state of things to voice their opinion. It is an outlet for emotions that sometimes become stifled or ignored by the powers that be. Much of the poetry today is not rhyming verse about nature and love. A great deal of it is the deep reflections and feelings of the people who want to explore their place in the world.

"The poets on campus should get together and read their work at the fountain while students go from class to class. They should read to students walking in and out of the cafeteria. They should go

to Pathmark and read it to the customers that come and go. If people can not get to poetry, bring it to them. Get the world inspired," said Vok. He chuckled as he explained his ideas. "It sounds absolutely ridiculous but it will work." Vok smiled with a big grin.

Vok and Eckert are going to try to work together to get permission to use the Green Dolphin Lounge on campus for poetry reading. They want to organize students to read their poetry at different places on campus. They are committed to staying true to their art and want others to follow suit. If any student who writes poetry is interested, the two poets said that they will be more than happy to work with them.

Poetry is growing in popularity, but as with anything that goes mainstream, there is a threat to the integrity of the art. Poetry is a living breathing movement that must be fed and cared for. It is not words that sound good together. It is a powerful art-form that allows free thinkers to express themselves. Unfortunately the places on Staten Island that are giving it half a chance are doing it for monetary purposes. What the Island needs is a place, free of charge, and of stigmas, for poets to congregate and work.

The Cargo Cafe and the Main Street Cafe are great places to go to write and collect one's thoughts. Snug Harbor is another great place that is filled with culture and history. But these places are not the place for the underground movement to go. The College of Staten Island is the best place.

So if you are walking across campus and as you cross the fountain there is someone reciting poetry from a worn marble notebook, stop for a minute and listen. Open your ears and mind to the artist that is sharing with his fellow man the ideas that drive his heart and soul. If you are a poet get involved. Look to bring poetry to those who are not aware of its power and beauty. Poetry does not have to be Yeats or Browning or Shakespeare. It can be anyone expressing their thoughts.

If a student does have any poetry that they wish to have published they should give their manuscript to the editors of the *Serpentine* and *Third Rail*. Submissions to *Third Rail* should be brought to building 1C Room 231 at the college. Submissions to *Serpentine* should be brought to the attention of the faculty advisor, Morty Schiff.

The Do's and Don'ts on Stress

KATHLEEN MASON
PEER EDUCATOR

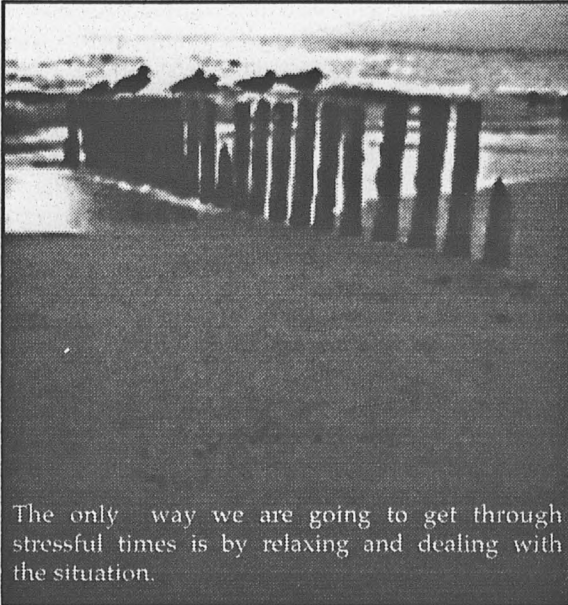
What is stress? We have all heard the word. When we think of the word *stress*, we think of the worst. Stress is a way your mind and body react to any situation that's new, threatening or exciting. Stress may be harmful and helpful. It can be helpful because it gives you an extra burst of energy — more adrenaline enters the bloodstream, heart and breathing rates increase, blood flow quickens and muscle strength

improves. However, it can also be harmful. It can cause headaches, backaches, loss of appetite, constant fatigue, depression and other serious physical problems. So, as you can see and hopefully understand, stress can really take over a person's whole being.

Stress can really take over a person's life. If the person lets these stress problems build up inside, he or she can really be in serious trouble. It is not good to let yourself suffer this way. Life is complicated enough. If we learn to handle our stress, we can live a more healthy life. And a healthy life is what we all deserve!

We all need a push sometimes to get us going. Dealing with college, new surroundings, new friends and more responsibility is a handful all on its own. Reducing stress is the best medicine we can all use.

If we learn to control it, we will all have a better life. We can reduce stress by eating right, exercising regularly, getting enough sleep and most importantly,



The only way we are going to get through stressful times is by relaxing and dealing with the situation.

BANNER PHOTO • FROM THE NET Do's

taking time to relax. These all sound easy to do, but if we let the stress build up inside of us, these ideas may stay just ideas. Learn to practice these all the time and then when stress comes your way, you'll be ready.

College is a place where stress can really build up. When is the time when this stress is the worst? If you answered during finals, you are correct. Finals is a rough time for all of us. We all know what it is like when we have pressure to study for an important class. During finals we have to study for all of them. Finals are from December 16 to December 24. I wish you all luck during your finals! Take it easy during these finals. Eat right and plan ahead for your studying. And make sure you take breaks and make time to relax!

Here are some tips on how to deal with this stress:

- choose a quiet place to study
- don't skip classes
- take breaks
- recognize your limitations

Don'ts

- don't give in to peer pressure
- learn to manage your time
- don't rely on cramming
- don't hesitate to seek help

There is another time when stress can really build up and that is during the holidays. The holidays that are coming up are Hanukkah, Christmas, New Years and Kwanzaa. There is definitely a lot of stress here. The stores, the

If stress is getting the best of you, don't deal with it alone. Ask someone to help you through it.

- Kathleen Mason
Peer Educator

people and bills all bring stress to everyone. The holidays around the same time as finals can bring anyone down.

The only way we are going to get through stressful times is by relaxing and dealing with the situation. Take time to think things through and don't take on too much. If stress is getting the best of you, don't deal with it alone. Ask someone to help you through it. Some people who can help are family, friends, student services, advisors, physicians and counselors. There is always someone to help you through a time of need. *Stress* is one tough word for anyone to deal with. One last thought is to take it one day at a time.

It may be stress that's on your mind, or it may be something else. No matter what the issue is, there is a place on campus you can go to for help, advice or information. This place is called the

Peer Drop-In Center. It is located in 1C-112F of the Campus Center. You can go there to talk to either myself or another trained peer educator. We have information on AIDS, date rape, nutrition and much more. We are always available to help you in any way we possibly can.

THE REALITY OF AIDS

CHRISTINE BESHARA
PEER EDUCATOR

As we approach the beginning of the second millennium, the people of the world have come to better understand the reality of AIDS. AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, is an immune system disorder. This syndrome was discovered by virologists of the United States and France. The virus is thought to have evolved from a similar virus in Africa and has been traced to as far back as 1959 from a preserved blood sample.

The virus attaches itself to cells and begins to use the cells' material to replicate itself, budding from the host cell and circulating, infecting other cells. The virus has the ability to remain latent invisible to the immune system. For this reason, antibodies fail to terminate the disease. It has been determined this virus may be the most lethal pathogen ever confronted with a mortality rate of nearly one hundred percent.

The virus usually multiplies within five years after HIV infection while the person is asymptomatic. The following five years commonly include a halving of T cell count, but some people still remain asymptomatic. Thus, the route from HIV to AIDS typically takes ten years. As the helper T-cell count decreases, there is a progress in the symptoms of AIDS. These can include:

- mild flu-like symptoms
- constant swollen glands
- weight loss of more than ten lbs. without dieting or exercising
- severe fatigue, disorientation, or headache
- diarrhea
- sore throat with complimentary white coating on tongue
- high fever or night sweats
- easily bruised skin
- signs of mental deterioration
- unexplainable bleeding or growths on skin
- shortness of breath
- yeast infections (very common feminine problem)
- infections, viruses, bacteria, parasites or cancers (Kaposi's sarcoma)
- swollen lymph glands
- tuberculosis (TB)

After becoming infected with HIV, antibody levels are high enough to be detected somewhere in the time period of two weeks until six months. People are diagnosed with AIDS when one or more of the advanced symptoms are prominent, their T4-cell count becomes less than 200 and they are HIV positive.

How HIV is transmitted is critical knowledge for every human. It can only occur through sexual intercourse with an infected partner,

the transfer of contaminated blood and transmission across the placenta or by breast milk from mother to child. Intravenous drug users are exposed to the virus via needle sharing. Blood transfusion is no longer a major source of transmission due to mandatory antibody HIV testing held prior to processing the blood.

Other means being used to help prevent the spread of HIV include screening semen, organs, tissues and blood. Blood has been tested since 1985. Most important, education has greatly influenced the prevention of HIV and AIDS. Injecting drug users are urged to sustain from sharing needles and invest in personal, sterilized kits. Both men and women, homosexual and heterosexual, should use proper forms of protection, preferably latex condoms with non-oxynol-9, when engaging in vaginal, oral, and anal sex.

Anonymous and confidential HIV antibody testing is provided by agencies such as the New York State Department of Health, as well as the Health Services Office here at the College of Staten Island. In addition to medical resources, an outreach network has been established statewide which includes hotlines, prevention education, service information and referral, support groups, counseling, and assistance with legal issues and civil rights.

At this time, there is no cure for AIDS, but researchers continue to search for a cure and doctors provide treatment for the illness. Treatment includes medications like diapasone

and pentamidine for PCP, pneumocystis carinii pneumonia. Anti-viral drugs such as zidovudine (ZDV or AZT), didanosine (ddI), and zalcitabine (ddC) inhibit the multiplication or reproduction of the virus.

Infected persons are treated with appropriate nutrition, rest, and exercise practices. Protease inhibitors, a combination of several drugs, have been used to decrease the number of virus materials in blood of an infected person.

Every year the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, collaborate on the World AIDS Campaign, designating a focal point in order to educate and unite people. The theme of their 1997 Campaign is "Children Living in a World with AIDS" which focuses on children under the age of eighteen years.

Information and free condoms are available anytime during the school year at the Peer Drop-In Center.

Trained peer educators are always on hand to offer assistance, guidance and a concerned ear in an atmosphere of confidentiality. Drop In anytime you need someone to talk to. We are located inside Health Services office in the Campus Center, Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., from 9-5 and Wednesday from 10-7p.m. No appointment is necessary, just follow the signs to the Drop-In Center.

Lady Borton Lectures On Vietnam

PERI M. VISNOSKY
BANNER STAFF WRITER

Here in the United States, it's called the Vietnam War. In Vietnam, it's known as the American War. At a talk on November 13, the effects of the war—regardless of name—were discussed in touching detail by Lady Borton, a woman who spent 30 years living and working with the Vietnamese people on both sides of the war.

The talk was sponsored by the following: The South-East Asia Working Group, The Center for International services, The Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, the PDC, and The Institute for Basic Research. Ann Helm, head of the Center for International Services, emceed the event.

Borton is an American woman who went to Vietnam in the late '60's to work with a Quaker organization called the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). While there, she was the assistant director of the AFSC, and was one of the few foreigners allowed over the border to North Vietnam. She was also one of the only foreigners allowed to live in post-war Vietnam as an ordinary citizen.

From her experiences in South-East Asia, Borton wrote two books. The first, *Sensing the Enemy: an American Woman Among the Boat People of Vietnam Nam* (Doubleday, 1984) is the only inside story of the struggles of the Cambodian Boat People written in any language. Her second book, *After the Sorrow*, is the only honest account of the stories of the common citizen of Vietnam.

Many of the stories Borton told were of Vietnamese spies. "The Vietnamese people could tell right away who was on which side. They always knew who the communist sympathizers were," Borton said. Unfortunately, the Americans had no way of knowing the difference. My favorite of her stories was of a Vietnamese communist sympathizer who worked for the French ambassador. She was so well respected that she was invited to all of the cocktail parties, along with her boss. What the democratic nations didn't know was that she was collecting all the information divulged at these parties, and reporting back to her communist contacts.

Another more common source of information the communists used was the Vietnamese women who did the menial tasks of the military bases. "These women were checked very thoroughly for any goods they may be trying to smuggle off base, but all they were smuggling was under their hats!" Although the women spoke no English,

they were able to see what supplies were on base, how many soldiers were there, give the basic layout of the base, and by listening to conversations, tell what villages were targeted for attacks.

"In Vietnam, people were publicly tortured. People of the village (including the victim's family) were forced to witness the torture. If they showed any emotion at this, they were considered communist, and then tortured too!" Borton explained. This is but one of the atrocities inflicted on the Vietnamese. As horrific as it is, it is by

The way this weapon worked was to have a mother bomb release hundreds of baby bombs. The baby bombs, upon contact with the ground, released metal spikes designed to cripple anyone in their path. The poor of Vietnam made shields and helmets from the straw that was a by-product of rice; this was to protect them from the baby bombs.

War stories were not the only subjects of Borton's talk. According to Borton Post-War Vietnam is a very different place! "1978-1981 was the most difficult time for the Vietnamese. They had no help rebuilding, after the war. No reparations were made by anyone," explained Borton. The common citizens of Vietnam had almost nothing to eat, and there were attempts to sabotage what little they had. They were not allowed to talk to anyone. If they did, the police would be there momentarily to debrief them.

The society of Vietnam from '78-'81 is a sharp contrast from Vietnam today! With the technological advances made there, Vietnam is now a leading exporter of product ranging from electronics to rice! (Vietnam recently passed the USA in rice exportation, making them second only to China.) Now a wealthier country with a different government, Vietnam is looking more and more at Western culture and goods. "Mac Donald's is everywhere in Vietnam!" exclaimed Borton. They are now trying to reduce the Americanization of Vietnam, for fear of losing their own culture!

Borton stated that Vietnam is trying greatly to increase its tourism trade. She told of the friendly people who "would stop you on the street corner to tell you their stories—now that they could!" She went on to tell of the color and the grandeur that is Vietnam.

When asked what we, as Americans could do to help the Vietnamese, Borton replied, "Visit them and talk to them! Learn about their culture, or house a Vietnamese exchange student." At the moment, there is no Student Overseas program to Vietnam for American students, but hopefully there will be in the future. There are, however, volunteer programs.

One student at the event commented, "Although it is known by all that everyone suffers in a war, it was enlightening to learn not only of their suffering of the civilians involved in this war, but of the part they played in

it, how the rebuilt their nation after it, and of their society now that there are children who never experienced the war. It's always a good thing to learn about other cultures, but it was especially heartwarming and informative to learn the truth behind misconceptions of these people! The College of Staten Island was made a little better by the presence of this great humanitarian!"



Lady Borton Lectures

no means exceptional in its severity! Weapons were used (and still are today) that were meant to maim instead of kill. "If a person was killed, his or her family would just move on, but if they were maimed, the family would be stuck where they are. It would be tremendously difficult to go to another village with a family member who couldn't walk." One such weapon was called a "Baby bomb."

SEEK is for Success

By: SEEK DEPARTMENT STAFF

Sharron Willis' mom was already living in New York when she sponsored her daughter's move the island of Jamaica in November, 1987.

After exploring the business world, Sharron soon found she was going nowhere. The reason: her education. Sharron told me, "I was talked down to by others because of my lack of education. I graduated high school in Jamaica, but that wasn't good enough; I couldn't get anywhere."

To make matters worse, Sharron soon found that her Jamaican education wasn't accepted. She had to get her G.E.D.!

In 1989, Sharron decided college was the answer. She was told by a friend, a former SEEK stu-



Sharon at her graduation

dent, to check off the box marked "SEEK" on her application. Sharron did, and began her CSI career in the Fall of 1989.

"I had a rough time adjusting to college life. Even though I spoke English, it was hard adjusting to the way it's spoken here. I was also frustrated when it came to choosing my classes. I didn't know what to take."

Soon, she was accepted into the SEEK Program and assigned a counselor, Professor Shabaka. "She was wonderful," Sharron explained. "She helped me choose the right classes and really motivated me." Sharron utilized her tutoring privileges for math reinforcement and proofreading. "The office was in the old Sunnyside campus - it was a very small

space. There weren't any computer, only typewriters!"

In 1990, Sharron became an English tutor for SEEK. By 1994, she graduated with her BA in English Literature with a concentration in Secondary Education and a minor in African American Studies. In addition to tutoring, Sharron has also worked as a Peer Counselor and adjunct for the SEEK Program. In June of 1997, Sharron received her Master's in Education.

Sharron is currently doing her 30 and above credits for the Board of Education. She continues to work for SEEK and also works for Academic Advisement.

"If it wasn't for the caring people who make up the SEEK Program, I'm sure I would have had a more difficult time with school. Thanks to their constant support I have achieved, and continue to achieve my goals."

WHAT'S UP, CSI?

LUIS F. CRUZATTE
BANNER STAFF WRITER

• The holiday season has arrived! The painful stress of final exams, papers due, Christmas shopping lists, the long registration lines for next term, begging your professors for mercy, eating off hours or not eating at all, getting a "coffee" drinking attack, computer crashes, losing disks, missing final reports. It is late, you have a test, and the bus is "unusually" behind the schedule.

Then your boss tells you to work overtime, you cannot study, he does not care, you are depressed, he laughs. Mom and Dad are coming downtown for the holidays, the apartment is utterly messy, there is no food and you are behind on the rent, your girlfriend hates you, she is going through the bizarre monthly cycle process. Nevertheless she still wants the \$300 gold ring as a Christmas present, otherwise she will go on without you. Your boyfriend has not called you for two weeks...says he is too busy, however your best friend tells you he is cheating on you, but you don't know that its with her. The school loan payment begins next week and your credit cards are full of debts. Yeah! The holiday season has arrived! ...

• A female senator, *Joanne Gallo*, from Student Government is involved in a controversy. This particular senator verbally harassed *Shawn Fisher* - Banner Business Editor - telling him that he was kissing the wrong #%@\$ and that he should consider dealing with the students that were going to stay in Student Government next year... • The popular South Asian Club celebrated a party last Thursday, November 4, in the Green Dolphin Lounge. It was a total success!... Good job *Sarika* !... • The three lil' pigs wanted to send a message to their "dear friends" of APD ... Oink, Oink...losers!...



The always smiling pretty faces from ex - Rho Sigma Phi sisters, hanging out at the Campus Center

• Talking about, Greeks where have they gone? we hardly hear about them... • Believe or not, our voice was heard! The loop bus schedule is now posted, good one VP. *Carol Jackson* Now, what about a keg party at the Campus Center for New Years!... just kidding!!... • The always efficient *Betty*, secretary from the Student Life Office, has left us - she retired. We will miss your kindness and friendship Betty, we wish you the best!!... • The well known *Spanish Club* celebrated their Annual Festival last Thursday,

CHRIS MERILLO
BANNER CONTRIBUTOR

Professor Robert Hulton Baker displayed and discussed many aspects of Tibetan culture being destroyed due to the communist Chinese occupation of Tibet at a seminar in the Bijou Lounge yesterday.

Professor Baker's presentation focused on the culture that is being lost rather than the Chinese take over. Baker explained the deep connection of religion to all aspects of Tibetan society.

"Tibetan culture at heart is devoted to religiousness, harmlessness and meditation practices," said Baker.

Baker showed some Tibetan art and religious items which are getting eliminated from this "unique and independent culture", as Chinese migrants try to redefine and repopulate the society.

December fourth... some students were disappointed, they were expecting a show from this popular club. Nevertheless they had a good time dancing at the rhythm of salsa and meringue. "It's a good way to release the tension of finals," Club President, *Miguel Lopez* said... • Biology Professor, *Dr. Clitheroe* celebrated his farewell from classes with his students, they love him... • The Hispanic Cultural Club and the Modern Language



The Chinese Club members having fun at the '97 Spring Club Festival

Department celebrated their 3rd annual Poetry Recitation. Twenty five students participated in the contest. The judges were Prof. *Ruth Calderón*, Prof. *Laura Picott* and Prof. *Francisco Soto*. Students demonstrated their skills as poetry writers. "This kind of event should be held once a month, because it give you self steam as a person" Student participant, *Elsa Nuñez* commented. Congratulations to the winners!!! *Melrose Juannah* (Beginners), *Elizabeth Rodriguez* (Advance - Non Native), *Catherine Pamiás* (Advance - Native), *Sevim*

Erkin (Original Poem - Non Native), and *Vielka Rollins* (Original Poem - Native). The next Recital will be during the months of April or May, so all Shakespeares at CSI, get ready... • What happened? Some trees have been cut down around the library. In an Island where pollution is synonymous with "pure air"?... • Kwanza was celebrated in the Center of the Art Building...it was fantastic... • Did you know if you are a registered CSI student you are entitled to

obtain a free E-Mail Account? No? Well now you know, so do not waste time and go to the Information Technology Office in the Library (1L - 203) and ask for *Luba Vigilina* ... • We have new board games (chess, checkers, dominos, etc.). If you want to use them, all you have to do is go to the Student Life Office (1C-201 on the second floor of the campus center) with your student ID and get it... • In an unusual case, an elected Student Government senator from the last Spring elections (Yeah! the one with the lawsuit) has never attended any meetings! The question is, why did she run for SG if she never planned on attending meetings?... • Students are complaining about the cafeteria prices again, and they are right! Sincerely, we believe *Auxiliary Service* should compromise with this issue and come up with a better discount deal for CSI students for the upcoming Spring

Death of a Culture

The professor displayed two Tonkhas, a portable form of art that rolls up into a scroll. One depicted the Goddess of Art and the other Buddha, showing the connection between art and spirituality.

Baker also unrolled a heavy wool carpet featuring a design of the "Black Crown" - a symbol of the High Lama in Tibet.

His presentation included two brass bells to begin and end meditation and a Dorje, which is a symbol of the Buddhist faith, akin to a cross in Catholicism.

The program notes point out that Tibet is 1 million square miles and is home to 6 million people.

However, as Professor Baker explained, Chinese migrants out number Native Tibetans by more than a million, making up the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

semester... Some suggestions would be to use coupon discounts or offer two lunches/dinners for the price of one. Students would greatly appreciate it... • The CSI Volleyball Team occupied the third place in the CUNY championship... " We promise you (Coach *Russ Robinson*) we'll be the next CUNY Champions " It was a commitment made by team players *Ciara Rosario* (Freshman), *Kerri O'Neill* (Sophomore) and *Fatima Jasari* (Freshman)... • Well fellows, this is the last issue of the 1997 Fall semester, and what a year we had.... unforgettable Leadership Club Retreats.... Spring Club Festivals.... Greek Day.... CSI Women Basketball Championship.... Graduation Day.... Fashion Shows.... Club Awards.... Student Government Elections voter turn out.... President Clinton's visit to CSI.... and on and on...

- The 1997 Christmas Shopping List for CSI!...
- for *The Banner* - The video collection "The Little Rascals"
- for the *CSI College Bookstore* - The video movie " Mo' Money"...
- for the *Campus Center Cafeteria* - The recipe book "Fresh Food Kills"...
- for Student Government President, *William Wharton* - a time machine, to enable him to travel back to the French Revolution.
- for Finance Commissioner, *Neil Schuldiner* - The magic mirror from the cartoon video the *Sleeping Beauty*, to tell him everyday how perfect he is!
- for some *Student Government Senators* - A prescription of Prozac and a lawsuit!...
- for the *Student Union* plaintiff members - \$20,000 dollars!...
- for Director of Student Life, *Marla Brinson* - aspirins...
- for former president of SG, *Joe Canale* - Chairs and a gavel!...
- for *The College Voice* - A one way flight ticket to Cuba,



A great Fashion Show performance made by the South Asian Club at the '97 Spring Cultural Club Fest

a second Fall issue, and some staff members

... • and finally, for CSI President, *Marlene Springer* - a new CSI Student Government!... and a picture of Ronald B. McGuire to play darts with!

The answer to last week's trivia question is:

PDC is a CSI program that enables students, faculty and staff to promote cultural and social events on campus. The Program Development Committee, funded through your student activity fee consists of 8 student members and one advisor, *Alexandra Duggan*. Any registered CSI student is entitled to submit a proposal and request funds for any event held on campus....

And we leave you with the trivia question of the week: Do you have any idea who *Ronald B. McGuire* is?... • we wish you all **HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR!!!**

Baker noted, what is "in essence a religious culture", is being destroyed by the Han Chinese which has also tried to repress Christianity and Muslim religions.

Also featured in yesterday's hour long presentation was a twenty minute excerpt from the Tibetan play "Nunsa Obom" in which a young woman struggles between practicing religion and marrying a Prince.

His speech also included some less important but equally interesting facts such as how Tibetan monks must do at least 6 and sometimes up to 20 years of solitary meditation before they can begin teaching the faith.

Baker has studied Tibetan culture for over two decades and translated several Tibetan dramas. He is currently an English Professor at the College of Staten Island.

CSI Students Juggle School and Work

CHRISTINE GARTNER
BANNER WRITER

Yesterday, Kerry Bannon coached a woman through childbirth. She spent the day before in the nursery, feeding and changing newborns. Today, she glows as if she's just given birth herself as she talks about her new job in the maternity ward of Staten Island's St. Vincent's Hospital. Kerry is excited. She has recently obtained her associate's degree in nursing here at the College of Staten Island. She has passed her state board exams and is now a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). There's just one thing missing — a paycheck.

Bannon's job at Bayley Seton is part of the clinical requirement of CSI's nursing program. It's not wages, but experience that is obtained here. And although Bannon is an LPN, she has decided to continue her education in pursuit of an RN (registered nurse). This places her in the position of many college students find themselves in today, with the task of trying to find and maintain a balance between work and school. For Kerry, further education renders work impossible. For many, this is common. For most, there is a solution, part time employment.

According to The Office of Institutional Research, the number of students employed full time has dropped 35 per cent since 1992. The number of students employed part time has risen steadily, with an increase of 5.5 per cent from 1995 to 1996. These statistics led to the question of whether students were forgoing full time work in order to concentrate on full time education.

While the statistics indicate a trend, CSI academic advisor Fay Schiff doesn't see one. When asked if the number of students working while attending school in the past couple of years has changed, Schiff said, "It has probably stayed the same for the most part."

At Kingsborough Community College, also a CUNY school, there doesn't seem to be such a trend. According to Rick Fox, statistics director at Kingsborough, "The figures had pretty well stayed in the same proportion in the past. I don't remember the exact figures but I think there was an fair balance between full and part time over the past few years."

Many CSI students say that their studies demand full time attention. According to Kerry, "The nursing program does not realistically understand the needs of working adults. There is a required clinical two days a week, from 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., followed by classes until 6:30 p.m. Then there are liberal arts and distribution requirements to fill on other days. The studying involved makes it impossible to work full time. There are people who do, but their grades suffer as a result. And you need to maintain a 2.5 GPA in the nursing program, so who can afford to let their grades suffer?"

Scheduling seems to be the biggest obstacle students face. Judy Guirrerri, a 33-year-old mother and sole supporter of a teenager, was forced to quit CSI to make room for the two jobs she works in order to earn a full time salary. "I was in the Adult Education Program at CSI for court stenographer, but with a son at home and two jobs, I needed something where I wasn't killing myself to get out of there," says Judy, who is now attending Manhattan's Stenotype Academy. She continues to say,

Bright:Net Photo



Nurses are the backbone in the medical society

"At the Stenotype Academy, I spend more hours a week in school, but they're spread out so that it's only a couple of hours each night. It's going to take longer to graduate than it would have at CSI, but I'm not in a position to give up any hours of work. I just pray it will pay off in the end."

Fay Schiff agrees that it's hard for the student who chooses to work and attend school at the same time because, she says, "It is more like having two jobs at the same time." She thinks it's manageable, however. Of students who work part time along with carrying a full time credit load, she says, "I would say that the student doesn't have a bad match as long as it's only twelve credits. Anything more than that may be too difficult to handle. Especially if it's a first semester freshman who has not juggled college along with a job before."

Business major Christopher Richards has found the opposite to be true. When he was a freshman, he had little trouble keeping his full time maintenance job at Carmel Nursing Home, S.I. He says, "When I started school three years ago, I worked full time and went to school full time. In the beginning, I found that night and weekend classes were available. But once finished with my one hundred level requirements — English 111, Psych 100, etc. — I found that two hundred level and above courses didn't offer as many sections. They also cut out the Sunday college all together, making my options even more limited. Gradually I began cutting my work hours to accommodate my classes. Now I've gone from a full time worker and evening/weekend student, to a part time worker and daytime student."

Schiff says she realizes the scheduling conflicts employed students face. She says, "The working student is at a disadvantage because they cannot focus all their attention on school work. Another disadvantage is that if the student has a boss that isn't flexible, then there might be classes he or she can't take. The time the class is offered may not fit their schedule ... a choice should be made of whether or not they love their job so much that school takes a back seat."

Chris Richards chose an on-campus job. "I work on campus because of the scheduling," says Chris, "It's not easy to go from a full time job with an above-minimum wage salary to a part time earning minimum wage. But my education is my first priority, and I can't work full time and give my education the dedication it requires."

On-campus jobs are a practical solution for many students with scheduling or transportation problems. The Auxiliary Services Corporation, which runs the bookstore, dining services, and parking services, actually prefers to hire students. According to Vickie Cicero, manager of dining services in the cafeteria, "Our policy, especially for the restaurant and the cafeteria, is to hire students. We thought it would be a good opportunity for students to work and learn at the same time. We hire students for everything—to work parties we cater, waitstaff, and cashiers."

The reason they prefer to hire students? Cicero says, "We hire students because there are so many hours available and they need flexible schedules. It's beneficial to both the worker and the employer who has a variety of hours that need to be filled." Auxiliary Services tends to be cooperative with the ever changing needs of the students. When they have tests and finals, if they need time off to study, we accommodate them. We want to be flexible so that students' jobs don't interfere with their studies."

A good balance between work and studies is a rare find, and one that does not come without sacrifice. Ask Marilyn Sarch, former editor at McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, and former Dean of Taylor Business Institute, who specializes in job preparation skills. She said, at the Communication Club Resume Writing Workshop, "I am proud of each and every one of you for your efforts of working while going to school. It's not easy. It's very, very hard, and it's a terrific achievement."

CSI Interns Provide Free Small Claims Counseling

JOANN RAIOLA
BANNER CONTRIBUTOR

Students at CSI have joined the New York Public Interest Group (NYPIRG) to assist consumers with questions about small claims court. The Small Claims Courts are an important way to help people who have been ripped off. It seems that many consumers find navigating the Small Claims Process very confusing. Some of the problems associated with using the Small Claims Court are: poor judgement collection, inadequate evidence preparation, and simple lack of confidence. This is where the Small Claims Action centers enters the picture. The students are trained by a lawyer to provide information to consumers who are anywhere in the process of filing a claim. It is important to note that the students do not provide legal advise.

Students, who are interns, receive college credit for their work. The interns

are required to put in 4 to 8 hours a week and attend a class. It is important to mention that students can also volunteer without participating in the internship class. This is a great experience for any student who is thinking about attending Law School.

NYPIRG's Small Claims Court Action Center can assist you in the effective use of the Small Claims Courts. The Action Center supplies the necessary information to make a filing, proving and collecting a judgement in a Small Claims Action a lot easier. In addition to providing assistance in Small Claims matters, students also offer general tips on how to solve consumer grievances.

Individuals who need help can use this service free of charge by calling 718-982-9221.

ARE ROSENCRANTZ AND GILDENSTERN REALLY DEAD?

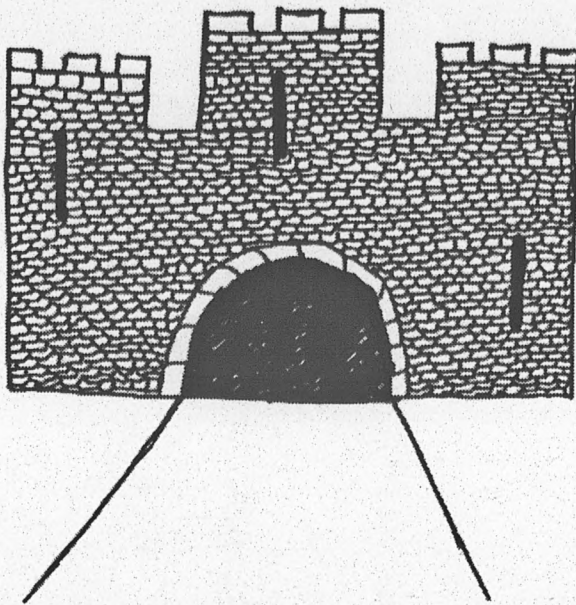
LOU BARDEL
BANNER STAFF WRITER

Words take up so much space in one's mind. Recently taking up space in the Lab Theatre this past December 11-14, having done a fine job of it, was the latest production directed by Laura Graham. It was the play, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," written by Tom Stoppard, which is a synthesis-play of "Hamlet" and "Waiting for Godot." It's a curious production that explores issues such as probability, faith, reason, and chance. Ralph Taliento & Alec Caldwell, as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, were the stars.

The dialogue of the play is dense with ideas and words, at once bedazzling and befuddling. If the play had talents less than Taliento & Caldwell then it would have been, shall I say, a mind boggler. Both actors enunciated their words clearly, with a tragi-comic flair. Taliento, who affected an English accent, seemed to be taking hits from a helium balloon before he spoke, so high pitched was his voice. It was a playful touch for the sometimes dim-witted character he played.

Like the star's counterparts, Vladimir & Estragon, from Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," Rosencrantz and Guildenstern attempt to make sense

of life, however difficult and illogical it might be. It must be said that R&G are the more intelligent pair of characters. Dressed in modern gear: hoodies, phat



hats, baggy pants, and corporate sneakers, they navigate the two worlds of the play. One world is the 16th Century setting of royalty, tragedy, and comedy. The second world is the ulterior world — the one of words. The minds and motives of the play's two main characters, through the constant back and forth dialogue, are exposed for all the theatre goers

to imagine.

On a raked stage, bordered by black walls painted with white cloudy swirls, complimented by blue, violet, and green lights from above, the dark ambiance of the set was a perfect backdrop for the bright, colorful infusion of the other character's outfits. Most of them wore tunics of many different colors. The best dressed character of them all was Shawn Walsh, who played "The Player," the dagger-wielding leader of a traveling band of Tragedians; his duds were marked by flaring velvet & turquoise colors, supplemented by matching heavy eye make-up. The sequins on his tunic sparkled. When he removed his Pompadour Hat his red hair seemed to blaze & glow under the multi-colored lights. His physical persona was just as witty and playful as was his witty and playful dialogue — simply delicious.

The Tragedians were the magic of the first act, evoking muses, and fairies, and Shakespearean-era comedy. In the second act, we are introduced to the glum-violence of the character "Hamlet," played by Shawn Ramos; his foil was "Ophelia," played by Jessica Jackson.

What will Laura Graham direct next? Will it be another witty existential contemplation? Theatre fans will be waiting eagerly...

The Banner Staff Hopes You Have A Happy Holiday Season!

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INROLL BY MAIL, PHONE

Show Me the Money—Athletes Today

MICHAEL DANZA
BANNER WRITER

"Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio?" is a famous line from a Simon and Garfunkle song, but I would like to address that question literally. There is no one in professional sports today who could claim to be as well respected on and off the field as almost any of the old-time athletes. Today's athletes have replaced family values with the almighty dollar.

My father likes to tell me stories about people like Muhammed Ali, Mickey Mantle, and Merlin Olsen—all great athletes of his young adulthood. Who do today's kids talk about when they discuss their favorite athletes? Mike Tyson, Lawrence Taylor, Dwight Gooden, and Darryl Strawberry could all be mentioned when talking about the great athletes of the 1980's and early 1990's. The problem with all of the above mentioned latter-day athletes is that they all have had some kind of run-in with the law, yet they have all made more money in one year than the average person will probably make in a lifetime.

Lawrence Taylor is my all-time favorite athlete. He was a throwback player, meaning that, unlike most players, he was a player who

could have played at a high level during any time period. Personally, I was crushed when my idol was arrested not once, but twice for attempting to buy crack-cocaine from an undercover police officer. Taylor's run-ins with the law did not end there. He was also arrested twice for driving drunk on the New Jersey Turnpike. Taylor was also involved in a well-publicized paternity suit which he eventually settled out of court. He agreed to pay the woman child support for the baby she said was Taylor's. He was married to another woman at the time she gave birth.

Dwight Gooden and Darryl Strawberry were both integral parts of the New York Mets' World Series' victory in 1986. I remember cutting out of school to go to the victory parade on Broadway. As I stood there with a couple of friends watching the players go by, everyone was asking the same question: Where's Dwight Gooden? It turned out that he was a no-show; a few months later he admitted to having a cocaine problem. After a stay at the Betty Ford Clinic, Gooden was readmitted to the league. It wasn't long until he had relapsed and was once again tossed from the league. He now plays for the New York Yankees.

Darryl Strawberry hit the

most homeruns in major league baseball from 1985 to 1989, but after leaving the Mets in 1988 for the big bucks of Los Angeles, he was arrested for hitting, not homeruns, but his wife instead. He also entered the Betty Ford Clinic for alcohol abuse and is currently on the Yankee roster.

Mike Tyson is perhaps the most famous of the above mentioned athletes. His story is exceptionally sad. Here is a guy who fought his way out of a life of crime to become the most famous heavyweight champion in years. He destroyed every opponent he faced. He was a vicious puncher like the world had never seen before. At his peak, he was making more money than any other athlete in the world. He averaged more than \$100,000 per minute in the ring. In the early 1990's he was convicted of rape, and spent four years in jail. In 1997, he bit his opponent's ear off. He was disqualified and suspended from boxing in the U.S. for one year. There is talk of him fighting again this year outside of the U.S.

There is one glaring difference between the athletes of old and today's athletes—money. Don't misunderstand what I am saying. The athletes of old made much more money than the average person, but

the gap was not nearly what it is today. I'll put it in perspective. Kevin Garnett is a twenty-year-old basketball player who never attended one college class. He recently signed a new contract with the Minnesota Timberwolves for \$102 million for ten years. Tyson was paid \$33 million for the fight in which he bit off Evander Holyfield's ear off. He was fined \$3 million for doing so.

When Muhammed Ali was fighting for charity to help local hospitals in the 60's and 70's, Mike Tyson was breaking his hand while getting into street brawls. Instead of taking pride in signing a huge contract at age 20, Merlin Olsen took pride in graduating from college at age 22. In 1956 Mickey Mantle won the MVP (most valuable players award) in the American League, and at the end of the season the owner of the Yankees asked him to take a pay cut. Nowadays players expect to make more than the minimum salary, which is about \$100,000 in baseball, just for showing up at work. It's sad that sports fans have gone from listening to songs with the lyrics "Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio?" to listening to the athlete in *Jerry McGuire* telling his agent to "Show me the money."

Untitled
By Chris Perrotta

Are you afraid of the night?
When the warmth of the sun is gone
Trees move, creatures stir
The stars shine, lighting the way
Yet unseen forces make their move
Are you afraid of the dark?
It grows slowly Envelopes the land
Sight will betray you
If you trust only your eyes
Are you afraid of the cold?
The night air Rips through your clothes
Caress your skin
It lets you know you're alive
Do not fear the night Embrace the darkness
I will keep you warm

Time
By P. Melissa Visnosky

Time is a thief, but steals more than our youth
'Tis memory that's the greatest loss
The now inaudible sound of a loved one's voice
Surely not to be heard again
Once so clear Now forever gone
How many tears shed?
How many sleepless nights yearning to see her again?
Now her walk escapes me
I can't recall the things she said
Time heals all wounds
But sometimes the salve is cruel
Replacing pain with apathy

Lady Dolphins Flying High After 6-0 Start

FRANCIS STUCHBURY
BANNER SPORTS EDITOR

This year's Lady Dolphins have started the season going 6-0, annihilating opponents. Led by Super-Sophomore Tara Gagliardo, who is averaging 16 points a game, they are winning by a total of 48 points a game. The other big scorers are Tanisha Bell and Tracy Derevanik. Tracy is apparently the 6th man, I mean lady—let's be politically correct. She averages over 13 points a game from the bench. Last year the team had the best defense in Division III. The team has to use a deep bench because after every basket they run a full-court press. Coach Eugene Marshall uses 8-9 players off the bench. With all the blow outs, other players have been getting more play time, which is good for the team.

They destroyed Bard 105-

35 in the season opener. In the second game they beat Stevens Tech 109-43. In the third game they beat SUNY Old Westbury 86-49. In their fourth game they beat Stevens Tech 68-33. They started the game with a 16-0 lead. The leading scorer was Tanisha Bell with 15 points. Tara Gagliardo chipped in 12 points and Mary Giblin contributed 11.

In a game we broadcast on WSIA, the Lady Dolphins destroyed John Jay 71-24. It was 49-11 at halftime. Defense was the big part of the game in the first half as John Jay created 22 turnovers.

The last game they they beat York 83-43. Tara Gagliardo had 21 points and Kristen Lisi chipped in 15 points.