# BANNER

February 16, 2004

#### CHINESE JOURNALIST WILL WRITE COLUMN ABOUT CSI FOR SHENZEN TIMES



Jennifer Mosscrop

Professor Sheying Chen, Chairperson of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, has brought a piece of the world to you. Two journalists from Shenzhen, China are here at CSI, participating in the college's Scholar Program.

"Their visit will help promote a better understanding about America among the Chinese people," said Professor Chen. "It is also a unique opportunity for them to show their views to the students."

Professor Chen invited Jiang Bing to visit his sociology class and teach the students about himself and his view of the world. The class engaged in an open discussion with him. Professor Chen was pleased with "the serious exchange of views and thoughts between cultures."

Jiang also made a presentation to ENL/COM 277, Introduction to Journalism on Friday, February 13th. This presentation was about Chinese journalism. Jiang hopes to show similarities and differences between Chinese and American newspapers using sample newspapers from Shenzhen.

Only 24 years old, Shenzhen, China is a newly modernized city with a growing economy, beautiful skyscrapers. It is surrounded by green, lush trees, fields and wetlands. Hong Kong is its neighboring city.

CSI Professor Sheying Chen, who conducts research in China with Shenzhen as the focal point, explained how the government is focused on economic growth and is putting social growth issues such as environmental issues, workers benefits, and labor legislation, on the sidelines.

One of many changing industries in Shenzhen is journalism. The Shenzen Press Group, newly unified by the central government, now boasts 11 daily newspapers, 5 magazines, and one website. "The newspapers are no longer economically owned by the government," said Professor Chen, and the neswsprint teems with advertisements for Buicks and real estate.

Many people not familiar with China take it for granted that Chinese journalists cannot be critical of their government. According to CSI's Chinese visiting scholar, Jiang Bing, such ideas are untrue. While there are certain guidelines for what the newspapers will publish, journalists in China are allowed to be critical. For example, The Daily Sunshine, a new tabloid whose circulation has reached 400,000, is only "semi-official."

"After twenty years of progress, there is still need for improvement," said Jiang Bing.

"Chinese journalism doesn't have freedom of the press," said Professor Chen. "It is not a democracy.

Continued on Page 3

#### MEDIA AND THE BIG CITY

NBC-TV, Newsday and Z100 Want To See Your Resumé At The 4th Annual CUNY Student Media Conference.

You Better Learn How To Type



CBS news correspondent Byron Pitts, keynote speaker at the 4th Annual CUNY Student Media Conference, to be held on Friday, February 20th.

#### Diana Illuzzi

On Friday February 20th, the Graduate Center will host the Fourth Annual CUNY Media Conference. The Conference, which is sponsored by CUNY and the Office of University Relations, offers CUNY students the chance to meet industry leaders, circulate their resumés, and learn some of the intricacies of print, broadcast, and radio journalism. It will also promote the CUNY School of Journalism, set to debut in September, 2005.

At the Job and Career Fair, students can meet dozens of career recruiters and hear about job opportunities in numerous media outlets. Venues such as NY1, CBS, Chennel 13, New York Press, The New York Observer, The Amsterdam News, Court TV, El Diario La Prensa, and WNYE- TV will be represented at the Conference. Students will be able to attend seminars on writing, reporting and interviewing.

Those with a strong interest and/or experience in journalism should feel free to bring copies of their resumés and published material. For those who do not have an intense desire to enter the world of mass media, the complementary breakfast and lunch buffet may be enough to get you through the door at 8:30 in the morning.

The keynote address will be delivered by Byron Pitts, a CBS news correspondent since 1998. Pitts has been awarded Emmy, Associated Press, and National Association of Black Journalists honors. He has also received praise for his coverage of the War in Iraq and of Ground Zero.

Vanessa DeBello, Junior, poring over submissions to CSI's newest publication, U Magazine. "I want this to be something that the students can' truly indulge in. I felt frustrated with my options for seeing mys tyle of writing published." U Magazine is presently looking for articles, photographs, and graphic designers.

#### What Are U Reading? CSI Welcomes a New Publication

#### Mellissa Seecharan

additional reporting by Jessica Mendez

Joining CSI's family of publications is the creative journal, U Magazine. Its creator, Vanessa DeBello, specifically wanted her brainchild to be an alternative to the college's already existing newspaper, and its political and literary journals.

"I want this to be something that the students can truly indulge in," said DeBello. "I felt frustrated with my options for seeing my style of writing published." The new journal will focus on personal experiences students have had, ranging from travel and internships to family life and health issues. The magazine is also looking to publish articles about culture and the arts. The main objective

of will be to keep issues real, but not political.

The idea for U Magazine came to Ms. DeBello in September, and she was ready to fight for a spot in the CSI publication family. Fortunately for Ms. DeBello, what she was greeted with was encouragement and a great deal of support from faculty and friends alike. Though the road to recognition as an official CSI publication had its moments of mountainous amounts of paperwork, getting the magazine started was not the bumpy road she had originally anticipated. "Everything went relatively smooth," she said. "I just took it as it came."

What does seem to be the biggest

Continued on Page 3



Continued on Page 3

# AMERICAN DEMOCRACY PROJECT

The New York Times

**BANNER** 



In this first installment of articles for the American Democracy Project, The Banner focuses on Staten Island and the Middle East. In both cases, the personal meets the political.

January 29—Assemblyman Matthew Mirones of East Shore held his first community forum in Carmel Richmond Healthcare and Rehabilitation

Center. East Shore residents voiced their opinions on issues such as garbage cans being thrown by sanitation workers. The meetings will continue monthly to allow new issues to be addressed.

Report and photographs by Maria Simioli





#### A PART OF SOMETHING GREATER: CSI STUDENT FINDS CULTURAL AWAKENING IN ISRAEL

**Igor Gembitsky** 

"Judaism is a culture, a land, a movement, a people," says Sara Polon, one of the organizers for Israel Outdoors. "These trips open doors to so many young Jews to become a part of something greater—the Jewish people. I had no idea what kind of transformations I was going to witness and be a part of."

Like Sara Polon, I had no idea what I was going to be a part of when I signed up for an Israel Outdoors, allexpenses-paid trip from January 4th-14th, 2004. I travelled through one of the most ecologically diverse and historically saturated places in the world.

Israel's land mass is no bigger than the state of New Jersey, but Israel is rich in history. Every stone has its story. It is a land that has been the source of conflict and turmoil for more than 3000 years.

When it comes to visiting Israel,

there are a plethora of programs to choose from. The programs cater to specific needs and desires, and to your affiliation with Judaism (ranging from highly religious, to not at all).

I am not religious by any stretch. I'm barely considered to be Jewish and so, since I'm an outdoors enthusiast, I chose the "Israel Outdoors" program for myself, which promised a 10-day bike and hike tour of the land. I was going to get off the tour bus and really experience the land.

Some of the places we saw were the old city of Jerusalem, the ancient port city of Akka, Zefat (the artistic capitol), and the Sea of Galilee. In Jerusalem, we walked the ancient cobblestone streets. We stood over the place where Jesus had his last supper, and we saw the Western wall.

There was a spot in Jerusalem

from which I could see all four quarters of the city: From the golden crosses and church bells of the northwest to the giant domes and mosques to the northeast; from the flags of blue and white branded with the Star of David waving in the southeast, to the southwest's Armenian Quarter. Later, we ascended the ancient stronghold on the mountaintop of Massada, then cooled off by swimming in the Dead Sea.

We lived the nomadic life by spending a couple of days with a Bedouin tribe. We attended a traditional Bedouin feast, hummus and fried vegetables that we ate with our

fingers while sitting on the ground of a huge tent. The next morning, it was time for a camel ride.

We hiked the breathtakingly lush Golan Heights with views of Syria and Lebanon. In Beit Gurvin, we climbed, navigated

and excavated an ancient cave. We biked the awesome Judeo Desert and rode along the River Jordan Valley, the most beautiful ride of my entire life.

We spent a good deal of time with Israeli peers who joined us on our adventure for a couple of days. This cultural infusion added to the experience by allowing us to interact with locals, form relationships and better understand and appreciate the similarities and differences in our cultures.

Before I signed up for the trip, I feared that I'd be preached to and funneled biased ideas about nationalism and religion. However as Sara Polon says, "The beauty of the Birthright program is that it conveys all these ideas to the participants without force."

Among many things I hadn't expected from the trip was the awesome group of travelers I met. I



thought I'd be an outcast because of my non-adherence to Jewish faith. "You'll never find a better experience with complete strangers," said David Heilbrunn, who also took the trip, "By the end of the trip you feel like you knew them and were best friends your entire life."

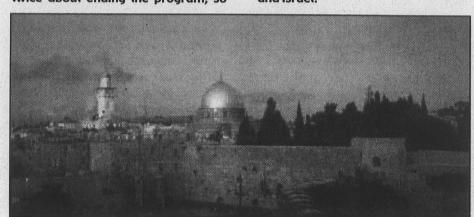
I feel like I went to Israel a tourist, but I found myself a family and a home.

It pains me to have learned that due to poor fiscal conditions and the loss of some key philanthropist support in the program, the program is due to be cancelled, and this Spring's trip might be the last one ever to be sponsored by Taglit Birthright. "The thought that this invaluable program may come to an end soon is heartbreaking, and, in my opinion, a grave step backwards for the next generation of the Jewish people," said Polon.

I encourage those who have been part of the Birthright gift to write letters letting the sponsors know the impact that this trip has had on your life, to sway their opinions and let them think twice about ending the program, so that future generations may make the same homage. For those who haven't gone, sign up fast and reserve your seat.

"Birthright allows young adults to rekindle their faith, culture, and connection with Israel, and that is something we cannot lose," says Rachel Greenbaum, who was hardly looking for a cultural connection or spiritual enlightenment when she signed up for the Birthright gift, though both seem to have found her.

**Taglit Birthright** (http://www.birthrightisrael.com) is a partnership established between the Israeli Government, local Jewish communities, and leading Jewish philanthropists to give the gift of a first time, peer group, educational trip to Israel for Jewish youths, between the ages of 18 and 26. Taglit Birthright Israel believes that once Jewish people have experienced the land of Israel, they will come closer to bridging the gap that is growing between the international Jewish community and Israel.



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#### STAFF

MIKE BRUNO
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#### CONTRIBUTORS

IGOR GEMBITSKY
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MARCEL SANDOUNGOUT
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## New Magazine Looks to Report on Culture & Arts

Besides being founder and editor of U Magazine, DeBello is a teaching scholar and involved in new student orientation and the Emerging Leaders Program.

and only challenge for this newly planted journal will be to publish its first issue before the end of April. The lacking staff has placed an even greater amount of pressure to make the mid-April deadline. This means only two months will be allotted for article and photography submissions, editing, and printing. As stressful as that might be, don't expect any of the writers or editors to be pulling their hair out over this. Referring to the journal as a "learning process," DeBello's top priority is quality, the main priority of U Magazine that DeBello hopes to establish with this first issue. "If the first issue contains 12 pages then so be it," she commented. "But those 12 pages are going to be filled with good stories, photographs, etc."

Given the amount of time and work that has been put into getting U Magazine started it would only be fitting that expectations would run high.

However, that doesn't appear to be the case.

"We're not hoping or expecting that it will create some sort of grand reaction," she added. If anything, Ms. DeBello would like to see more students use it as a tool to express themselves creatively. DeBello and her staff are not putting any undue pressure on themselves. In fact, the hope that is shared among the journal's staff is simple enough; get a positive response from the student body. After all, the journal is named U Magazine, meaning that, aside from the obvious connotation of the journal as a University publication, the students will play a part as to whether it will succeed or wither away.

Nothing gives people more satisfaction than seeing their hard work and effort pay off. Vanessa DeBello and the U Magazine staff are no different. So when U Magazine rolls off the presses this April and this fledgling journal hits the campus, don't pass it by or throw it away.

U Magazine is looking for the usual journalistic suspects: writers, photographers, and the graphically minded for layout design. But U Magazine welcomes all students who are cultured and interested in sharing their experiences in life and the world beyond campus. If you would like to contribute or be a part of this exciting new journal, all you have to do is show up on Thursdays during club hours (1:30-3:30). If you prefer to email Vanessa DeBello and the staff at U Magazine, the address is: umagaz@yahoo.com The Office of U Magazine are in 1C, 225.

# From Shenzen to CSI continued from page 1

American journalism is appealing."

Understanding American journalism is a major reason for Jiang Bing's visit to America. He has been a journalist for seventeen years, working for one of the most prominent newspapers in China, the Shenzhen Special Zone Daily at one point, and is currently the assistant to the editorin-chief of a weekly newspaper, the Shenzhen Times. He wants to study American journalistic techniques in which he can apply to the Shenzhen Times at home.

"I chose journalism as a career path," he said, "because I could expose some unfair things in society."

His advice to young journalists is to "travel more, make friends and read as many books as possible. As a journalist, my traveling experiences have benefitted me significantly. It makes me more objective." Jiang has traveled to Europe, South East Asia, and Australia.

Jiang Bing said that he likes living in Staten Island and that he really values his studies here. "Even though I just started here, I am enjoying my life at CSI," he said. "It will allow me to improve in my English and as a journalist."

He plans on writing a column in the Shenzhen Times about his experiences and observations in American society and college life. The column will allow Chinese people to get a better understanding of American society.

"I appreciate what Marlene Springer and the Center for International Studies do to create opportunities for students," said Professor Chen. "The beauty of the international dimension to the CSI education is that it offers so much opportunity to expand student's views of the world."

Perhaps Americans forget that there is a world out there (even beyond Staten Island!) that teems with different and interesting cultures and ideologies. Turning a deaf ear to the world can cause misconceptions, prejudice, and violence. If we take the time to better understand and respect other cultures in our world, we can avoid these problems.

It is important that students be exposed to people who are not like themselves; such exposure brings understanding, respect, and breaks down the communication barrier that may lead to conflict due to cultural misunderstandings.

The Scholar Program gets students in touch with the world outside CSI. It is a way to bring different cultures to the students without them leaving the classroom.

## All The CUNY That's Fit To Print





Jay Hershenson, Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Chief Externa Affairs Officer of CUNY.

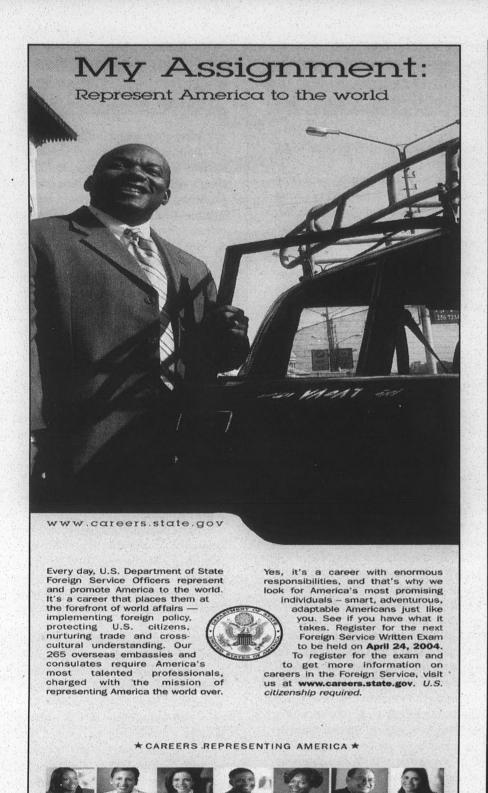
Other speakers include
Michael
Arena,
University
Director for
Media
Relations
since May
2000. Arena
worked as a

special reporter and investigative reporter for Newsday and New York Newsday over his over twenty-year career. He was nominated for Pulitzer Prize in 1987.

Jay Hershenson, Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Chief External Affairs Officer of CUNY is also expected to speak. Hershenson serves on numerous committees and boards of civic, community, and educational organizations. He received an M.A. in Urban Studies and a B.A. in Communication, Arts and Science and University Administration at Queens College, CUNY.

The Conference is free to all CUNY students, however those who wish to attend must register beforehand. Students can sign up at www.cuny.edu/mediaconference. Events begin at 8:30 a.m. and will last until 3:00 p.m. The Graduate Center is located at 365 Fifth Ave., Manhattan. WSIA is organizing bus service from the college to the Graduate Center that morning. The bus leaves at 7 a.m.

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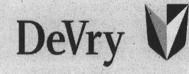
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#### THE BANNER

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- COMICS

If you fit the description, come to our meetings, Thursdays 1:30-3:30, 1C 228

# ATTENTION STUDENTS - NOMINATIONS WILL SOON BE OPEN FOR THE SPRING 2004 STUDENT ELECTIONS NOMINATE YOURSELF FOR A POSITION AS AN

NOMINATE YOURSELF FOR A POSITION AS AN ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

POSITIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, CSI ASSOCIATION, COLLEGE COUNCIL, AUXILIARY SERVICES CORPORATION & FACULTY/STUDENT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

# NOMINATION PERIOD WILL BE FROM MARCH 1 - APRIL 1

PICK UP A NOMINATION FORM IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICE, ROOM 1C-207 BEGINNING APRIL 1!

SOME OF THESE SEATS HAVE CREDIT AND GPA REQUIREMENTS -CHECK IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

#### Letter From the Editor...

You wonder what goes on 48 hours before the Banner goes to press? Let me tell vou.

I'm losing my mind! I'm playing hostess to visitors from China who are very nice, but they won't let the managing editor take their pictures. Why not? Cultural reasons. And, of course, because I'm so understanding, I have no choice but to oblige them.

One of my fellow student publications, which shall remain nameless, refuses to speak to me, although the article I want to write is quite positive. And they have their own picture issues. I went in there a few days ago and saw two students who, as I later learned, were not associated with the publication. These two very politely granted permission to photograph the office, and they offered to relay a message to the editor from me. I took some pictures, shots of desks, computers, chairs, and posters. The same thing you see in, well, in my office. A couple days later I was approached in the Campus Center by a member of the editorial staff of this publication - a publication that is still remaining nameless – who immediately began to question my motives and interests. This individual even told a colleague that I had no right to take those photographs of the inside of the office. Shouldn't an individual involved in a student publication know about freedom of the press and all it entails? CSI is a public university. CSI receives federal funding. And public means public. We own it, we have rights to it, and those rights include the rights to write about it and photograph it.

And then there's the two-page spread that has suddenly fallen through. I've come to the conclusion that if you want something done right, forget about it. I was hoping to bring you coverage of a CSI-sponsored event held this past Sunday at the Staten Island Mall. However, once again, people seem antsy about what the Banner will publish. Why is this so? Haven't we finally outgrown the irresponsible journalism of the last decade? My staff and I have worked consistently at putting an end to old stereotypes, whether about sex, drug use on campus, or the administration. When will everybody else meet us halfway?

In the meantime, I am currently preparing to "serve" as bridesmaid in my brother's wedding. Yes, yes, I know, what a joyous occasion. Don't get me wrong, I am very happy for him and his fiancé. It's the bridesmaid thing that gets me twisted. First and foremost that "always a bridesmaid, never a bride" gets me discouraged. This will be my third time as a bridesmaid. Does that constitute "always"? Will I never be a bride because I happen to be close to several people who have gotten married before I have? I sure hope not! However now picture me weeping big fat tears over the typewriter - if I never am to walk down that aisle in a white satin off-theshoulder A-line Vera Wang, at least I had

Diana Illury

#### Letters to the Editor

Re: Letters to the Editor

Why do you even waste your time publishing so many negative letters from some of your readers? I think you should try to find a balance among all the criticism you receive. It would help to also publish some good comments that others have. Personally I enjoy the paper. Good Luck and Keep up the good work.

-Ron F. Aguilera, Junior

Life, Love, Sex

Let's get serious! No, this is not high school, it's college, but what does this mean? We are all mature adults and are well aware of the risks that come with sex. As adults, we should be comfortable talking about sex and everything that comes with it. Talking about your sexual experiences does not make you pathetic. If you have the guts to do it out loud, I applaud you. For people who have problems with this area and keep it secret, this is one piece of writing that can help you be more sexual or whatever the case maybe.

-Christina Armstrong, Senior

The Beacon Parts 1 & 2

Props to Enrique for his work on this comic. The underlying message was not only great, it was genius! I can't wait to see what happens at "The Beacon" in the following weeks.

-Mellissa Seecharan, Junior

Francesca La Block

I felt that the brief descriptions of each novel described were well written. They drew my interest. Now I want to read them for myself.

-Tina Simone

Mendez responds: Thank you for delving into the magical world of Francesca Lia Block. I hope you find it as wonderfully intoxicating and emotional as I do.

**Re: Office of Career Placement** 

I feel this is very helpful for students, especially me. I will graduate this semester, but I still have not any plan and idea of my job. Through this article, I got an opportunity to think about my future.

-Kumi Suto

Big Fish: The Gold Ring Captures Our Imaginations

After reading Jessica Mendez's review of "Big Fish", I couldn't agree with it more. I had the opportunity to see this film a few weeks ago. It was superb. I'm very glad this review was written in order to give CSI students an idea of great this film actually is. I can bet any amount of money that they'll walk away from this film knowing their ticket was worth it, unlike their feeling after viewing "The Butterfly Effect." I made that mistake.

-Lacey Axelrod, Senior

**Bubbles On The Brain** 

The opening of the tennis center was a very good idea. It gives the college a more university type look. This tennis center could get the ball rolling on new developments that can help the college.

-Anthony Gallo, senior

American Democracy Project

I for one am happy to see the addition of this page to The Banner. While issues on campus may be important, I feel more global stories are something The Banner has been lacking in the past. I look forward to reading student opinions, and student articles about what, who, and how our Democracy is being shaped in this critical time in our history. I hope students will take advantage of this opportunity to share their worldviews with the readers of our campus newspaper. I know I plan to.

-Matt Safford, Senior

Dancing With Myself

As I sit here reading the article on female masturbation. I tried to understand the psyche of this writer. Apparently, the word shame is not in Mendez's vocabulary. When this "taboo" is talked among a close circle of friends, I see it as just joking around and having fun.

-Boris Ureyustein

Mendez responds: Boris, you are absolutely right. I have no shame when it comes to being open about sexuality and pleasing oneself. I'm so sorry that you consider masturbation so hush-hush and strictly a topic to joke around about. My aim is to promote awareness and open minds. There's nothing shameful in that.

## ARE YOU FOLLOWING CAMPAIGN 2004?





Yes. I'm 22 years old and I'll be voting for someone who is going to be my president and I need to be aware of given issues. You need to know now. We need to be informed of their take on important matters.

-Rebecca McClure

The Banner asks, why is there only one positive response to this question? If it is true that CSI students can't tell the difference between George Bush, John Kerry, John Edwards, Howard Dean, Dennis Kucinich, and Al Sharpton, we fear for the future ... Rock the Vote 2004!

No, I have never followed political campaigns. I'm not really into politics. I should be though. I don't vote, although I am registered.

-Lavinia Solano, Junior

No. I don't have time to watch. It really doesn't interest me. I also don't vote and am registered.

I don't follow the political campaign because it really hasn't sparked any interest. To tell you the truth, I haven't heard much in regards to the political parties and their opinions on given matters.

-Christian Bustamente, Senior

No, I don't follow Campaign 2004, I never even thought about voting.

-Sadia Rafi, Sophomore

No, I don't follow. I'm just not that interested in politics. Oh, I don't vote ... yet, because I'm underage.

-Tiffany Chico, Freshman

No, I'm not following, but I'm usually kept busy by life and school. I usually wait until the last minute and expect a quick review on democratic issues.

-Christi Martinez, Senior

No, only beause it really doesn't pertain to schooling and our campus. I'm a member of NYPIRG and believe in fighting for rights but they don't really have anything of value to the students -Gerard Francoid, Junior

## New Astronomy Professor is a Star Burning Bright

#### **Paul Cantor**

You can reach for the stars, but the chances of touching them are slim. Study the stars? Charles Liu has made a career out of doing just that.

Hired in the fall as an assistant professor of astronomy in the Department of Engineering Science and Physics, Liu, a Harvard graduate, just recently finished his lengthy tenure as a leading scientist involved in the redesign and renovation of the famed Hayden Planetarium (now appropriately renamed the Rose Center for Earth and Space).

"I was brought into the project around the fall of 1997," he says. "So I was involved in everything from the beginning of the construction and the redesign, re-doing all the exhibits, trying to figure out how we want to communicate what's out in the universe out to the public." The Rose Center for Earth and Space has since been lauded by scientists, critics, and the general public. "The attendance in the first year, after the redesign, nearly doubled in the museum, went to almost 5 million people," Liu says. "People realize, yeah there's Gee Wiz cool stuff out in the universe, but beyond that it's really amazing that we are all part of it. We're as important to the universe as any planet, or any star, or any galaxy- we're significant, we may be small in some ways but we're big in others. It's a great feeling to know that. If we can communicate that to the public than we've done our jobs."

Though he's still on board with the Rose Center for Earth and Space as a special assistant, and he does spend at least one day a week at the planetarium, Liu has, at least for now, shifted his focus to furthering the



Harvard graduate, Dr. Charles Liu, was recently hired this fall as the new assistant professor of astronomy in the Department of Engineering Science and Physics.

study of astrophysics at CSI and throughout the rest of CUNY. "Over the next few years, Professor Robbins, Professor Rowan, and I, hope to increase the stature of the research that is going on here," he says. "There's a tremendous amount of scientific research going on in astronomy now. What we want to do is to bring the college, and looking larger, all of CUNY, into astrophysics research mainstream." Liu is involved in a few projects that attempt to do just that. One such project is called MUSYC (Multi-wavelength survey by Yale and Chimmin). Another fairly large research project that he's involved with is called COS-MOS. "That is the largest program ever scheduled for the Hubble Space Telescope," he says. "I'm one of a large team of international collaborators, an international team of scientists, and we're trying to understand the nature of the universe using this project as well." The goal of both these projects is to bring a large degree of astrophysical research to CUNY, and to actively involve both students and scientists alike.

Liu, who earned his P.H.D. in Astronomy at the University of Arizona, has also been involved with assisting CUNY on other levels. In a low, restrained voice, he says, "What I've been involved with in the college, aside from the work that I'm trying to do, I'm actually serving on a committee to study and improve the general education programs CUNYwide." In addition to that, Liu is teaching three classes at CSI this semester. "Specifically, this semester, I'm teaching Astronomy 101, 102, and 103," he says. "101 is a planetary laboratory; 102 is a lecture

class- contemporary theories of the universe; and 103 is Stellar and Galactic Laboratory."

When he's not teaching in school, Liu is teaching at home. Having just had his third child, the self-professed jazz lover stresses the importance of early forms of education. "Parents are such an important part of the education of children," he says. "If you just leave it to the teachers at school it's not enough, so yes, we are very involved." Liu claims that his wife specializes in teaching people how to make the connection between what they learn in a classroom and what goes on in the real world. "Young children haven't been taught bad habits," he says." So if you get them right at the beginning, then they always have good learning habits and good thinking habits." For the most part, both he and his wife want their children to just be comfortable with learning.

With so many things going on in his life, it would appear that Liu might crack under the pressure. He credits his study of the universe as a key reason why this hasn't happened. "We go through our daily lives and a lot of times we're trapped by the details of our lives and the troubles of what's going on and it can seem sometimes overwhelming, but if you can see the big picture, how the universe works, and how we all fit into it, and what it's all about, then those things get put in their context," he says. "You can get a real sense of peace, a sense of satisfaction; that comes from understanding the universe, and I hope all my students and everyone has a chance to learn that."

The Banner is proud to introduce a series of profiles of your Student Government representatives.

We are happy to offer CSI students the opportunity to become better acquainted with the individuals who serve as their voice in at the college.





Name: Michael (Mikey) Zymaris
Title: Senator
Sex: Yes, please
Nickname: Stitch
Favorite Sesame Street Character: A tie between Oscar the Grouch and Cookie Monster

B • So what exactly do you do at SG?

MZ • I am an Elections Commissioner. The main part of my job is to recruit people for Student Government and to get people to vote in the SG elections.

**B** • Are you involved with any other clubs or organizations here at CSI?

MZ • I am a Chairperson the Program Development Committee.

B • How long have you been involved with SG?

MZ • I have been there for two and a half years now.

B • If you could pick one way to improve the school, what would it be?

MZ • I would get better food. That would probably keep more students in the Campus Center.

B • Name one thing that SG has done for the student body?

MZ • Every year SG donates \$10,000 to the library so that students can have access to books on

**B** • Describe your dream job.

MZ • Sanitation worker. Yep I really want to pick up garbage from the corner.

B • Boxers or briefs?

reserve.

MZ • Every year SG donates \$10,000 to the library so that students can have access to books on reserve.

**B** • If you want to know, I am taking applications!

MZ • If you could clear up one misconception about members of SG, what would it be? I want students to know that they can feel free to approach SG representatives. Some students feel intimidated by us, but there is really no need. We are students here just like they are.



## CSI at a Glance.



Everyone at CSI is required to display CSI's ID on CSI's dog leashes to enter buildings 1R, 1C, and 1L. "CSI is now on the bandwagon with the rest of CUNY," says Office of Public Safety enforcing this new procedure. The rest of the campus buildings will soon follow suit.

-Debbie Jones-Shaw

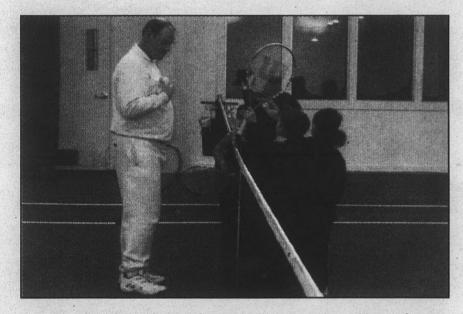


CSI women defeated the Cougars of Medgar Evers 73–43 in CUNY Conference basketball. Jaclyn Rock scored 15 points and 16 rebounds.

-Michael Gutierrez



# News Quickies...



Young students learn the art of tennis during a practice section at the new tennis center on the CSI campus. This dome was created thanks to collaboration between CSI and the Staten Island Community Tennis Center.

-Marcel Sandoungout





The Pluralism and Diversity Programs in conjunction with the Center for International Service organized the Asian New Year Celebration in the library lobby on February 4th. The New Year began on January 22nd according to the lunar calendar. The festivities included: lucky "money," candy, zodiac bookmarks and student's names written in Chinese.

Ron Aguilera



The Office of Student Life is planning a celebration for the tenth anniversary of the Campus Center, which makes its home in the 1C building of CSI. The event, which is being planned for sometime this April, will be aimed at raising student morale and pride in the Campus Center.

-Diana Illuzzi

# Campus reports.

In honor of the commemoration of African American Heritage month, CSI's Librarian Karl Madden, exhibits an assortment of books and articles in the Rotund. Madden anticipates utilization of his resources for term papers this semester. According to Madden, the national memorial theme commends the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

-Yomeri E. Recio





# 

# THE BEACON PT.3 of 9 enrique inocente

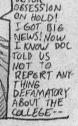
## LAFF QUICKIE enrique inocente

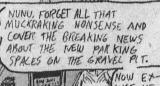


LOOK AT YOU! GOING BEHIND MY BACK TO INVESTIGATE GROSS CORRUPTION.

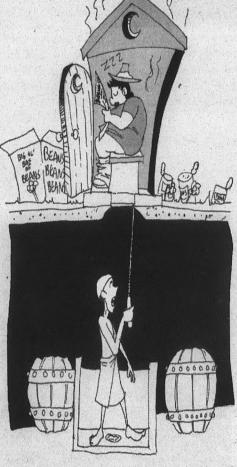
THE TENNIS COURT
RENOVATIONS AS A FRONT TO DUMP FEDERAL TOXIC WASTE. I SAY IF NEVADA DOESN'T WANT IT THEN WE HERE AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE WILL BE ALL TOU HAPPY TO TAKE PROFIT OF COURSE.











"AH, THIS MUST BE FOR THE SHOWER."





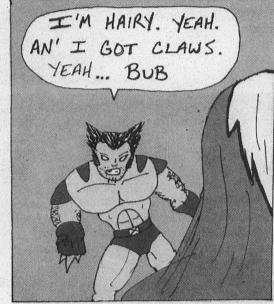




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IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY AT SUPERHERO SCHOOL THE X-DUDES WANT TO ASK A CERTAIN X-BABE OUT FOR A DATE. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY - BY GREGORY TUMBARELLO



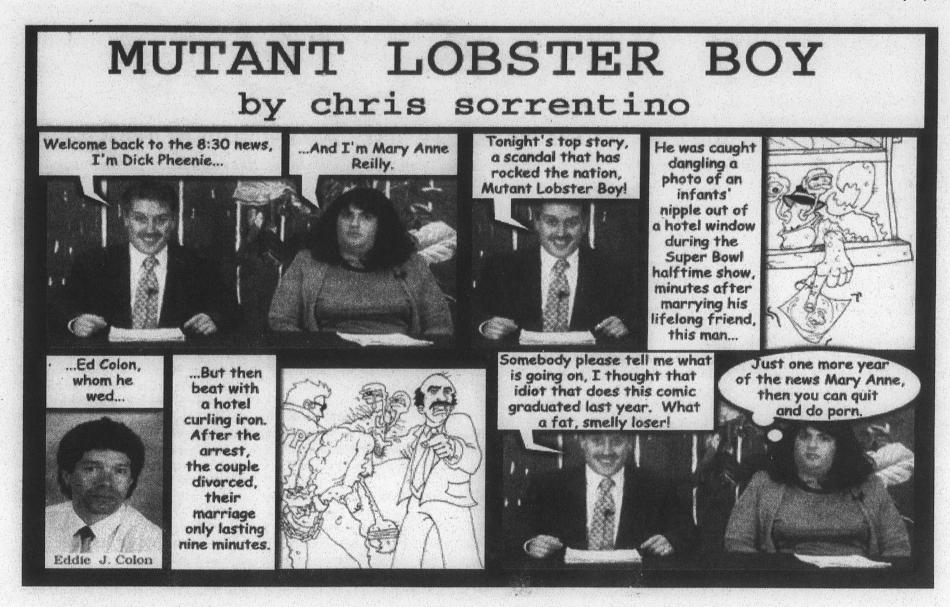
DASTARDS!

YOU DARN TOOT IN THAT'S FWHAT I SAID!!!





FEB. 2004



# THE ABSENT-MINDED STUDIO EXECUTIVE enrique inocente



I NEVER HEARD OF
IT MYSELF, BUT I
GLIMPSED THROUGH
IT. THIS GUY NAMED
KING JAMES VERSION
WROTE IT, AND I'M
TELLING YOU IT'S
FAN-FREAKING-TASTC!

IT'S GOT THIS KID
WHO KILLS A GIANT
WITH A SLING SHOT,
SOME OLD GUY WHO
PARTS THE RED
SEA, AND ANOTHER GUY
WHO RAISES FROM THE
DEAD LIKE SOME ZOMBIE AFTER BEING
NAILED TO A POST!

I WANT PETER JACKSON TO DIRECT AND MEL GIBSON TO PLAY ALL THE MAJOR ROLES LIKE THAT FUNNY GUY DID IN THE NUTTY PROFESSOR. THIS IS GOING TO BE THE BIGGEST FANTASY EPIC SINCE LORD OF THE RINGS!!!

# Life.... & SEX

#### REACH OUT, TOUCH FAITH: THE MORTAL AS DEITY IN LIFE...AND IN BED

In relationships, our lovers are often transformed into our saviors, looked upon as infallible deities. But every deity has disciples...

Jessica Mendez

PART I

"Your own personal Jesus/someone to hear your prayers/someone who cares" • Depeche Mode

Religion and sex are lovers. They are forever entwined in a passionate, bitter affair, filled with hypocrisy, spite and blame. And yet, they need each other to exist. Premarital sex is the forbidden fruit of our generation, juices (literal and figurative) licked off our fingers with rebellious relish. The virgin/whore struggle is the offspring of purity and guilt. With holy wars and extreme fundamentalists (of all religions), terrorizing those with open minds, there seems to be no real way to merge the two.

Ah, but seems is the operative word here. Catholic, Muslim, Agnostic, Atheist, Pagan, Jewish, whatever you do (or don't) believe in, the ghosts of religious structure exists in every relationship.

**PART II** 

"Have you ever been kissed by God? Passionately (tongue, lips, etc)?...Perhaps, like me, you have likened [a] person to God in your life and realized that God was loving you through them." • from the introduction, said the shotgun to the head, by Saul Williams

Being in love is like being an apostle in a religion you created. Finding a significant other means finding the physical manifestation of the Great Giver of Unconditional Love. The ecstasy of the discovery can make us fanatical lovers. When I fell in love for the first time, I was amazed by the strength of my devotion for Mr. DJ and equally amazed by the vast praises he sang in my name. The beginning of an affair, much like the inception of a new religion in your life, seems to be faultless, the answer to the questions we have all had. Words and promises pour from our lips like the Nicene Creed in Sunday school, until you know the words of your lover better than you know your own.

PART III

"God is love/love is blind/Ray Charles is God." • unknown, MAC Lab,

Trust me, in love, we all become blind to our Personal Jesus' faults. We are deeply imbedded in our microcults. It doesn't matter what our friends and families say. I am not ashamed to admit to being in that position. We have all been like "Dr." Laura Schlessinger pointing out that one line in Leviticus that condemns homosexuality, saying, "You don't know [insert name here] like I do,"

ignoring the entire body of evidence that would shatter our faith. But hey, we're not alone. According to Anthropologist Helen Fisher in February's Allure magazine, a person's "brain circuitry alters [to] overlook negatives" when they are in love. Furthermore, she states that love "is not an emotion, it is a drive or craving to pursue a...partner." This is strikingly similar to the emphasis of "belonging" that is prevalent in most religions.

PART IV

"your body is the crucifix/my soul is nailed to/for no one is holier than thou/in this bed we are lying in now/this is my new religion/i embrace without inhibition/and i am filled/and thrilled/with the Spirit." • Jessa ShoutBaby

If our bodies are, in fact, our temples, then more of you are attending services than guilty Catholics on Easter Sunday. Sex is the ultimate prayer, opening our temples for worship. Tantric sex is the most literal merge of sex and meditative prayer. In Christianity, sex is represented by the two most famous (or infamous) Marys—the virgin and the whore. According to the Old Testament, the minute Eve trusted a slippery, dare I say phallic serpent, women were forever sentenced to an eternity of consequential sex. Going even further back, in

Judaism, there is Lilith, Adam's first wife banished from Eden for wanting to be on top of Adam during sex. This was what would become the beginning of every power struggle in bed, bringing about domination, submission, and sadomasochism.

Sex can be a joyful song, a solemn hymn, a violent homily. Prince and Madonna, 80s sexual power players, have recently traded being dominant to being dominated by rather strict religions Jehovah's Witnesses and Kaballah, respectively. The French call orgasm le petit morte, the little death, implying that orgasm is the act of transcending the physical. The dying surrender to a god, the screwing surrender to each other.

When it comes down to it, it is usually through fanaticism and subsequent disillusionment that we realize that sex, love and religion are only relevant when based on a strong sense of self, not bulled into belief by fear and desperation. Sex and religion will forever be entangled in red satin sheets—luxurious, scandalous, lost in each other in a cycle of worship and blame.

Setten M Wenter

#### You Got Served... a Really Bad Movie!

**Cristal Brown** 



You Got Served follows the competitive world of street dancing, where crews battle each other for money and respect.

If Director Chris Stokes, the former members of B2K, Marques Houston and Steve Harvey meant to subtitle "You Got Served"...a really bad movie, then they definitely succeeded. This 90-minute movie was drawn out with an unclear and disconnected plot. It was unrealistic and, at times, comical.

This drama, which was supposed to show the different circumstances of love, faith, hope, trust, and incredible dance skills, more than failed to succeed this goal. There were hints of these emotions throughout the film but not nearly enough to overpower the many loopholes in the plot. It was

confusing, with one scene jumping to the next without explaining the relationships.

The main characters David (Omarion) and Elgin (Marques Houston) start as good friends but later turn into enemies when David begins a love affair with Elgin's sister Liyah. This subplot, along with Elgin's involvement with a drug dealer and a seven-year-old getting shot and killed all diverted from the focus of the movie, which was supposed to be a dance competition.

When director Stokesfinally focused in on the dance portion of the film, the choreography was actually great, but the hype dance scenes only lasted for about three to five minutes each. Altogether, there were two dance offs and one grand finale dance competition at the end, not nearly enough for a movie based on dancing.

Overall, the movie was not worth seeing more than once and needs to be reorganized and rewritten. The actors needed about six months of acting school and Stokes needs to find one plot and focus on that.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH MUSICAL RETROSPECTIVE

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## Zelda: Best Game of 2003



The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker is the highly anticipated sequel to Nintendo
64's The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time

(not including the side story, The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask).

#### **Dominic Fiduccia**



Here it is, the game of the year, The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker. If you haven't had the chance to pick this game up, well you don't know what you're missing out on. It's everything that you love about past Zelda games, but is featured on the Nintendo GameCube with the much talked about cel-animation style graphics.

Gameplay:

The Wind Waker plays very similar to Ocarina of Time and Majora's Mask, except it improves over the previous. games. For those who have not played the Nintendo 64 incarnations of Zelda, allow me to explain. B is used to slash the sword. Holding it will have Link do a horizontal swing attack. Pressing B repeatedly makes Link slice the sword in a horizontal fashion. Up and B is an upward slice. Down and B is a downward slice. If you lock on with L, Link may jump and slice downward when you press the A button. Also, whenever Link's sword glows green, press A and Link will do a counter attack.

As with previous Zelda games, there are dungeons for the player to go through. Each one has a different puzzle to be solved, and each one has a new item for Link to use. To use these items, you need to set the item to either Y, X, or Z. By finding small keys, Link can open locked doors, and by finding a Big Key, Link will be able to fight a boss. Bosses leave behind heart pieces which increase Link's health, and allow him to be hit more by enemies before he dies.

Like in Majora's Mask and Ocarina of Time, there is a musical instrument in this game in the shape of a baton, the Wind Waker. The Wind Waker allows for a variety of things including warp, travel, changing the direction of the wind, the time of day, and more.

To travel in this game, you need King of Red Lions, a ship, and a sail. With King of Red Lions, you can travel around the vast overworld from island to island wherever the wind blows. Items from dungeons that Link can use can also be used to fight enemies and find treasure while sailing. Unfortunately, this becomes rather tedious.

There are many sidequests within The Wind Waker. Some require giving items to people certain enemies leave behind such as Skull Necklaces, Joy Pendants, and Knight's Crests, some require having weapons for King of Red Lions while at sea and for Link, some require skill at puzzle solving skills.

Overall, the gameplay offers a lot to do. Puzzles are what make this game challenging.

However, the game is rather easy since death may be a minor concern for skilled players. Enemies usually take 1/4-1/2 a heart, and there are many ways to replenish health through various items.

Story:

The story of The Wind Waker takes place a hundred years after Ocarina of Time. Ganon has returned to ravage the peaceful land of Hyrule. However, the Hero of Time (which of course is Link), never came. The story of the Hero became legend, and now it is traditional for a boy on one island to get the same clothing the Hero had (Link's traditional green tunic), on his 12th birthday.

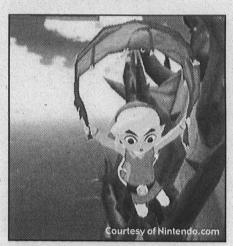
The Wind Waker begins with Link's 12th birthday, and he gets a telescope from his sister, Aryll. Using it, he sees a girl trapped in the claws of a giant bird. The bird drops the girl, and Link sets out to save her...

Unlike previous Zelda games, in this one there is a greater character development and many plot twists. Also, the game relates a lot to Ocarina of Time. Areas of the game and creatures in it will look familiar for those who played the classic N64 game.

**Graphics:** 

What this game is famous for (or infamous for, depending on your point of view). The cel-shaded graphics are glorious in this game. Some of the people's expressions are priceless. There are not overly cartoonish expressions as in a Looney Toons cartoon (except sometimes for the spinning birds around people's heads), but more of an anime style of animation.

Because of the animation, the water is blue with white for waves. There isn't a water level in this game where you must either swim or walk in water, which is a little disappointing. The sound in The Wind Waker is reminiscent of past Zelda games. Characters make noises like they did in the N64 games, and Link sounds whinier than ever. The music is great, and uses music from past Zelda games including the classic Legend of Zelda theme song, as well as a few new tunes. All of the songs are excellent.

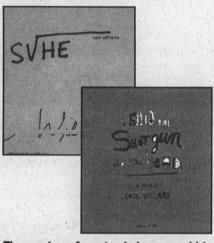


# Saul Williams Makes us All Beautiful Victims

S/he
Author: Saul Williams
Publisher: MTV/ Pocket Books
\$12.95
Paperback, 117p
1999

,said the shotgun to the head. Author: Saul Williams Publisher: MTV/ Pocket Books \$11.95 Paperback, 182p 2003

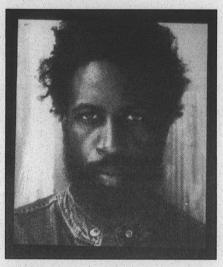
#### Jessica Mendez



The savior of poetry is here, and his name is Saul Williams. Throw out the notions of Shakespeare, high school English class, and suicidal women (Plath, Woolf, etc.). Or at least cast them aside for now. In a world post-Pinero-poet and founder of the Nuyorican Poets Café—there is a new breed of poet, on the street, in your ears, coming out of your stereos, and in Saul Williams' case, writing with such passion and ferocity the words are branded on the pages, scorching your fingers as you hold his books, S/he and ,said the shotgun to the head.

Saul Williams is, first and fore-most, a slam poet, entrancing us for the first time in the 1996 documentary, SlamNation. He then went on to co-write and star in the critical darling Slam, hits at both Sundance and Cannes. He has two albums, Road to Damascus and the more recent Amethyst Rock Star, poetic hip-hop with experimental beats in the vein of The Roots, Talib Kweli, and Mos Def. He is more than a jack of all trades—he is the master.

Slam poetry may be an auditory experience, but it all begins with a pen and a pad, which is why these two extended poems are so powerful . S/he is a love story, an extended poem that tosses cliches for such brilliant musings as: "i rubbed my thumb/across her palm/a featherbed/ where slept a psalm" and "you will sit in darkness/ swallowed by silence/until the angel of solitude/ignites your spine." He truly understands the intricacies that shape every relationship, from the nature of a kiss ("hers is the kiss/that turns symbols/into that which they symbolize") to the pain love often brings ("she says/she responds/to hugs/like α battered woman/who is offered chocolate/by



her batterer/invisible scars/take the longest to heal'). S/he also features photos of brilliant primal art collages by artist Marcia Jones.

Williams' latest effort, ,said the shotgun to the head., is a more abstract view of love and politics, brought about by the events of 9/11. He digs deep into the soul of humanity and the lack thereof in government: "the greatest americans/ have not been born yet/they are waiting patiently/for the past to die.../a nation in its saturn years/that won't acknowledge karma." He acknowledges the machismo of our patriarchal government ("your weapons/are phallic/all of them") and rallies for the impassioned worship of Mother Nature ("...demanding our families back/our rituals back. Our cultures back/our language back/and our gods/so that we may return them/to their proper source/the source of life/the source of creation/the womb of the Great Mother"). In fact, Saul Williams makes no secret of his love for the earth and his belief of God as female, and vice versa. His fierce anti-Bush/antiwar stance is best expressed in the idea of Bush as a daddy's boy: "your father's diet/kills him/and you hire/his chef."

Williams has a special talent for etymology, disassembling and reassembling words to show their literal or alternate meanings. In shotgun, Williams says, "mater: fr. Latin meaning mother/this is a material world." He refers to writing as his pen man ship. Williams' wordplay prompts the reader to get to the heart of a word, to truly understand it.

Saul Williams is the clear leader of the Def-Poetry-era literati, perhaps the Shakespeare of a lost generation, battered and beaten by politics, ambition and loneliness. In , said the shotgun to the head., Williams warns us, "mother nature is a whore, said the shotgun to the head." In S/he, Saul says that love can make us "beautiful victims." Yes, we are all victims of society, and it is the words of prolific visionaries such as Saul Williams that make us into something salvageable and possibly, beautiful.

# SPORTS

February 16, 2004

Men's Swimmers Take CUNY Championship

**Dominic Ficuccia** 

Saturday, February 7—The CSI Men's Swimming teamwon their third straight CUNY championship in the CUNY Swim Championship that took place at Lehman College in the Bronx. The team went 5–2 this season with a perfect record in CUNY conference meets (4–0). Freshman Swimmer, Vlad Fedosseev was named the MVP.

The women's team which started the season with an incredible undefeated streak of 7–0 came in second for the second straight year. They lost to the team that also ended their undefeated streak last, the Hunter College Hawks. The Lady Dolphins were leading by 16 points going into the final event, but lost by a mere two points. The final was 488.5–486.5.

After Student Pride Comes Free T-Shirts, Pizza, And a CSI Double Victory

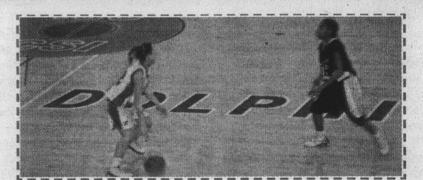
**Dominic Ficuccia** 

Wednesday, February 11—It was Student Pride night at CSI. The event was planned to boost fan interest for CSI's Men's and Women's Basketball games against divisional rival, the Brooklyn College Bridges. It all stared at 2:30 in the Campus Center, where hundreds of CSI students took part in a Pep Rally to support their basketball teams.

Several gifts were handed out to the fans that went to the games. The first hundred fans in attendance were given free T-shirts and pizza during the game. There was also a bookstore gift card raffle.

As for the games themselves, the Lady Dolphins squad easily defeated Brooklyn in the first half of the double header held in the Sports and Recreation Center.

The score was 36–13 with five minutes left going into halftime, but the Bridges made a quick recovery by scoring seven points to trim the



Dolphins' lead to 39–20 going into halftime.

The Lady Dolphins answered in the second half and won the game 87-41.

It was the team's 12th straight win. They are now 18-4 overall and remain undefeated in CUNY conference play with the record of 12-0.

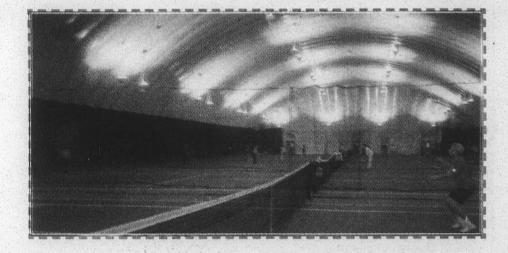
The battle of the boroughs continued into the second half of the double header as the men's teams faced off.

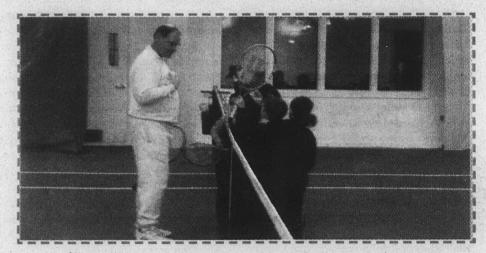
CSI's men's team easily defeated Brooklyn. After going into halftime with a 43–25 lead, the Dolphins did not let up. Just four minutes into the third period of the game the score had soon become to 52–26, due to several three point shots that had been drained. The game ended at the in a Dolphin victory, 95–68. The men's record has now improved to 15–7, 10–2 in CUNY play.

In the men's final home game at CSI on February 14th, they'll face-off against the John Jay Bloodhounds who also have a 10-2 CUNY record. The winner of that game will become the number one seed in the CUNY Championship Tournament which will be held at York College beginning February 21.

# Under the Bubble

Students may complain, but it looks as though men, women, and children are all swinging away under the white wart. Photo credit: Marcel Sandoungout





CHECK OUT THE CSI ATHLETICS WEBSITE AT: www.csi.cuny.edu/athletics

For updated scores and news, there's only one number to call:

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call x3149