

CSI in the News



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Table of Contents

<i>Ads</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Arts & Events</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Faculty & Staff</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Sports</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Stories</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Students & Alumni</i>	<i>86</i>

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Arts & Events

HOLIDAY WRAP '11

'TIS THE SEASON FOR AWE'S
FIFTH-ANNUAL GUIDE
TO DIVERSE DECEMBER
ENTERTAINMENT

STORY BY ROB BAILEY
bailey@siadvance.com



John Pizzarelli was born with the gift. The raven-haired gent with a self-deprecating swagger was practically destined to be, as the son of jazz legend Bucky Pizzarelli, who played with everyone from Benny Goodman to Les Paul. At age 85, his dad is still one of the hardest-working axe-slingers in the touring biz.

Now, fresh off engagements at Café Carlyle (with his wife, Broadway actress-singer Jessica Molaskey) and Carnegie Hall (with the New York Pops), the John Pizzarelli Quartet will perform its "Swingin' for the Holidays" set Saturday at the Center for the Arts on the College of Staten Island's Willowbrook campus.

And trust us: The singer-guitarist's show isn't just jazzed up Christmas carols, folks.

"I don't mind doing a whole evening of holiday songs, but it's my first time playing Staten Island so it would be kind of unfair to hear me do two hours of 'Jingle Bells,'" Pizzarelli said. "I'll be doing every thing from holiday songs to the Great American Songbook."

But don't get the idea he was always so hep to the beauty of standards.

"There was a time when I thought I was gonna be the next James Taylor or Billy Joel," he said. "My dad always says, 'You're the only guy who played jazz to pursue his rock 'n' roll habit.' I was play-

ing with Dad at night and during the day I was gonna take the world by storm with my drum machine and four-track."

What happened? He discovered Nat King Cole — and his style evolved.

"Through his music, I found a way to make jazz as much fun as playing my nutty little rock songs," he said.

"Through solos and presentation I learned to express happiness and sadness, humor and melancholy — all in one fell swoop."

So, does the second-generation practitioner of the Great American Artform aim to pass on the gift to a few young converts this weekend?

"Sure, you always think about that: Making it a nice experience instead of something where they're saying, 'Jeez, I had to be here...'" Pizzarelli said, chuckling during an interview last week at his Manhattan home. "'Cause, you know, professors give them extra points if they go. You want them to leave loving it."

Turns out Pizzarelli is in good holiday company this weekend, with the legendary Beach Boys set to headline Sunday at the historic St. George Theatre. But that's the just beginning — We don't know who's busier this year: Santa or Scrooge? Both have multiple appearances booked around the borough in the coming weeks. The following are just a few of the local options coming up:

A celebration of unity, about 3 weeks early

By MARK STEIN
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

WILLOWBROOK — One of the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa is *umoja*, which is defined as striving for, and maintaining unity in, the family, community, nation, and race.

Umoja (unity), like the remaining six principles, were celebrated at the College of Staten Island (CSI) last Friday evening, as the school honored the week-long holiday to African-American heritage and culture.

Last week's event included music, dancing, singing, a Kwanzaa candle lighting ceremony and the history of the holiday that is observed annually from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

Close to 75 people filled the concert hall of Building 1P for the salute to tradition.

Shawn Landry, director for the CSI Liberty Partnership Program, said celebrating Kwanzaa is a beautiful thing, especially because it involves different cultures coming together.

For those wondering, CSI celebrated Kwanzaa last week because the school is not in session at the end of this month.

Ms. Landry said that the school does a lot of community activities during the year to celebrate community pluralism and diversity.

"It's so important to educate everyone of different cultures and holidays and to help bring together the communities," Ms. Landry explained.

The CSI Kwanzaa event was sponsored by the City University of New York (CUNY) Black Male Initiative, the **Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK** Program, Liberty Partnerships Program, CSI's Alumni Office, the Department of Performing and Creative Arts, the Office of the President, and the Division of Student Affairs.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/MARK STEIN

Dancers perform at a Kwanzaa celebration at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook.

"All these programs are opportunity for supportive programs that assist the community," said Ms. Landry. "They help others achieve goals."

She said it's important for young people to attend such events to learn of themselves, the culture's history and their communities.

Nancy Ashon-Poku of St. George was proud to be a part of the 35th annual Kwanzaa event hosted by the college.

"We're really happy that they're keeping the tradition. You really get an idea of what it is when you come to it," she said.

The event, which lasted over an hour, featured African-style clothing, drums, a stilt walker, traditional dances, singing, a feast, and more.

"The importance is Kwanzaa includes making sure that our children know this is a holiday that is ours," Ms. Ashon-Poku said.

Her friend, Stapleton resident **Elizabeth Plair**, who was representing the Purple Hats, said there's great meaning to sharing what Kwanzaa is all about.

Sajad Musawwir **Ladner** of Tompkinsville explained the significance of the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa and highlighted unity as one to start with.

"That's what the universe is. Everything is connected, and it's very important to get into that," she explained.

"When you connect with that on any level, you're on the right track."

Ms. Ladner was one of several vendors at the event. While she sold African clothing, others sold beaded, handmade jewelry.

Dr. A. Ramona Brown, vice president of student affairs, told the audience that she was glad to gather to witness a moment in time to honor and respect, a moment where the African-American community can come together as one culture and share a moment with many members of other cultures.

Mark Stein covers the West and South shores of Staten Island for the Advance. He can be reached at stein@siadvance.com.

Star power at the ballet for 'The Nutcracker'

Sunday, December 11, 2011, 5:14 AM



Michael J. Fressola
By



Photo Courtesy of Ballet Next

Ballet Next founder Charles Askegard.

STATEN ISLAND, NY — From Pensacola to Petaluma, hometown ballet companies book guest artists for their "Nutcracker" runs. Partly, it's marketing. Imported stars confer glamour and box-office oomph.

At the Staten Island Ballet next weekend, guest star Charles Askegard, an ex-principal dancer with New York City Ballet and recent tabloid gossip target, will leap into the company's "Nutcracker," partnering Sugar Plum Fairy Anna Liceica.

Askegard, a tall, fair-haired, leading-man type, has had an unusually newsworthy

fall. In October, he retired from City Ballet. The following month he launched a new company, Ballet Next. And last week, tattle columns were all a-hiss over his impending divorce from Candace Bushnell, author of "Sex and the City."

Founding director Ellen Tharp has booked guest artists on occasion, but she hadn't considered trying to hire Askegard for the 2011 "Nutcracker," Staten Island Ballet's 18th. "It just happened," she said last week.

The company's regular cavalier, Vitaly Krauschenko, was unavailable. His Sugar Plum of the past few years, Miss Liceica (herself a former American Ballet Theatre soloist), knew Askegard and proposed him as a replacement.

She called him. He was available. Not only that, his fee, which might easily have been too high, was affordable.

"I think he's being kind to us," Ms. Tharp said.

Askegard and Liceica are rehearsing together this week. They don't need practice time with the rest of the

company, since their contribution to the evening consists of the famously challenging pas de deux late in the second act.

Originally choreographed by Marius Petipa in 1890s Imperial Russia, "The Nutcracker" (based on a tale by E.T.A. Hoffman) came to New York via choreographer George Balanchine at New York City Ballet. It is based on a dark tale, "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," by E.T.A. Hoffman.

Most versions have comparable plot points: Festive house party, mysterious visitor with a toy nutcracker, a dream, an invasion by belligerent mice, and an enchanted wonderland. The choreography is derived from Petipa and Balanchine, although companies tailor it to their own sensibilities.

Petipa commissioned the score from Pyotr Tchaikovsky. It would become his best-loved music. The Staten Island Ballet's "Nutcracker," opening on Saturday, occurs on the 119th anniversary of its debut at the Mariinsky Theater, St. Petersburg.

Ms. Tharp's version is locally famous for having no Mother Ginger, a giant, grandmotherly female character, so big that she can hide a dozen little students under her capacious skirts.

"Even as a kid," Tharp explained, "I detested Mother Ginger."

She also inserted dancing into a stretch of the score that the Balanchine version uses as background while set pieces are rearranged.

"Does it make sense to move furniture during it?" she said. "It's some of the most beautiful music in the score."

All "Nutcrackers" require children. Fortunately, Staten Island Ballet consists of a school and a professional company (both housed in the organization's Sea View building) and has easy access to student dancers.

Some of the cast, which totals 75, started their "Nutcracker" rehearsals before Halloween.

Analise Scarpaci, who began studying at the Staten Island Ballet as a two-and-a-half-year-old will play Clara, the girl's whose dream creates the ballet.

Three company apprentices (Elizabeth Sokolovski, Olivia Duffy and Jillian Pizzi) will perform and for one of them, 15-year-old Miss Pizzi, it will mark her debut as a company member.

'The Nutcracker'

Presented by the Staten Island Ballet

Where

Center for the Arts, on the campus of College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook;
CFAShows.com.

When

Dec. 17, 3 & 7 p.m.; Dec. 18, 1 & 5 p.m.

How much

Tickets are \$47, orchestra; \$37, balcony.

More information

Call 718-980-0500

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The ABCs of Staten Island's art scene

Thursday, December 29, 2011, 11:28 AM



Michael J. Fressola
By

A is for Alan Aurelia, founder of the busy Richmond County Orchestra and Riverside Opera Co.

B is for Bruised Ego (shelled, whole), a foodstuff in the wittily bogus Jeffu Market art installation at SHOW Gallery, St. George

C is for collage, perfected by West Brighton artist Andrea Phillips at the Staten Island Museum

D is for Tashi Dhargyal, whose transcendent Tibetan paintings graced the Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art

E is for Eyes on Infinity, one of many interesting guests tapped by Musical Chairs Chamber Ensemble.

F is for the folk tale The Bamboo Cutter, turned into a play with music by Wafoo, the Japanese-American jazzers.

G is for 50Gs, an overdue (\$50,000) prize last year for Island accordionist/composer Guy Klucevsek.

H is for Helen Levin, the maternal half of Gestures, a mother-son exhibit at the Staten Island Museum

I is for If You Could See, open-hearted Alice Austen bio-play produced/commissioned by Sundog Theatre Co.

J is for Janice Patrignani, sculptor represented in a good group exhibit at Art at Bay, a weekend North Shore showcase.

K is for Kokomo Christmas: The Beach Boys hang 10 at the St. George Theatre.

L is for Lady Gaga, video-ing at Snug Harbor; also Legionnaires Disease, dreadful but not invincible.

M is for Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, where the sesquicentennial of Italian unification was honored.

N is for Nanki-poo et. al., brought to hilarious life in the S.I. Philharmonics The Mikado,

O is for Opera Exposures, the city-wide recital series founded by North Shore impresario Edna Greenwich,

P is for Pat Passlof (1928-2011), abstract painter and beloved, elfin prof at the College of Staten Island

Q is for Valerie Quinlan, director of the irreplaceable Serenade Series at Christ Episcopal Church.

R is for rapacious Texas gals, immortalized in Paul Zindels Ladies at the Alamo, and revived by S.I. Shakespearean Theatre

S is for Suddenly Last Summer, centerpiece of Sea View Playwrights Tennessee Williams centennial celebration.

T is for Tara Mateik (and other artists) in The Noise Carousel at Snug Harbors Newhouse Center.

U is for unseen: Noisy local entities judged the Brooklyn Museums Hide/Seek show sight unseen.

V is for valuable: Music (sheet) donated to various recipients by the now-fully-retired S.I. Chamber Music Players.

W is for the Wesbys (Roger and Barbara) and the Wagner College choruses, in concert with Richmond Choral Society.

X is for crossed out: Staten Island Film Festival is canceled; the funding stream evaporated.

Y is for Yvonne Simons, Island-based boss of the Anne Frank Center, Manhattan.

Z is for soprano Julie Ziavaras, whose Greek songs opened the Music at St. Albans series this past fall.

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Faculty & Staff

Faculty views on the crisis

Jenna Lucente, City Tech
ADJUNCT LECTURER, ART & DESIGN

I have been an adjunct at City Tech for the past seven years. I am one of those people who truly loves teaching. I enjoy the intellectual stimulation in preparing courses and challenging my students, and I thrive on watching the students learn, grow and build confidence in themselves. I truly believe good education can build a better society, and I want to be a part of it. One of the main reasons I am able to make it as an adjunct – and when I say make it, I mean live with an income of under \$35K a year – is that I know my health benefits are taken care of. For all of myself I give to my school, my students and my department, I feel this is only fair.



Stuart Chen-Hayes, Lehman
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, COUNSELOR
EDUCATION/SCHOOL COUNSELING

Our graduate program in Counselor Education/School Counseling would not exist without the outstanding contributions of part-time faculty. They work long hours, teach great courses, advise, and grade just like the rest of us, but only get paid a fraction of what full-timers make. That's unfair to begin with. But as a full-timer who has access to health care coverage, I stand in complete solidarity with my part-time colleagues who deserve the same coverage.



Nicholas Freudenberg, Hunter
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR, URBAN
PUBLIC HEALTH

CUNY's public mission obliges us to set a higher standard than private businesses for how we treat our faculty and staff. Taking away health insurance coverage for adjunct faculty would be a step in the wrong direction.



Voices united across CUNY

Renee Mizrahi, Kingsborough CC
ADJUNCT LECTURER, ENGLISH

I began teaching at CUNY about nine years ago. On February 8, 2008, I received a kidney transplant because I was fortunate enough to have adjunct medical coverage. In order to stay alive, I must continue to take immunosuppressant medication for the rest of my life. The cost of my medication is well beyond what I could afford on my adjunct salary. Reducing the amount of coverage would mean that I, and other adjuncts, won't have access to the medication or quality medical care that we may need. Allowing this to happen would be the 21st century equivalent of an "order of execution" for many hardworking adjuncts.



Rosalind Petchesky, Hunter
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR,
POLITICAL SCIENCE

The source of the problem is the two-tier labor system and the CUNY administration's unwillingness to treat adjuncts as educators with equal rights. To deny adjuncts health care is just wrong. You walk down the hall and share space with people who are being heavily exploited. On a practical level, the more CUNY can exploit part-time workers, the more the University is emboldened to compromise the rights of full-time workers.



Arlene Geiger, John Jay
ADJUNCT LECTURER, ECONOMICS

I've been teaching economics at John Jay since 1992. I teach three courses each semester plus one in the summer. I've been committed to my students, the college and my discipline. To face being left without health insurance at the age



of 63 is outrageous. John Jay is my only employment. Although I'm in reasonably good health, at my age with my adjunct income, I would be priced out of the health insurance market. I would have no access to preventative care or exams, and could only turn to the emergency room for emergency care at public expense. The union needs to make an all-out effort on this issue and it must be our first priority. I will be at the Board of Trustees meeting on September 26.

Linda Principe, CSI
ADJUNCT LECTURER, ENGLISH

I began my teaching career as a person with a debilitating disease that I still battle every day of my life. Because adjunct teaching is part-time, I can handle the hours and I have been able to build a successful career in spite of my disability. What would losing my benefits mean? I would probably have to give up my teaching career to go back on disability because I cannot afford to pay (wholly) for my benefits, nor can I afford to be without them. All in all, losing my benefits would be disastrous and have far reaching consequences for me. After 24 years of service, it is profoundly sad I should even have to be facing this prospect. without health insurance at the age



Brian Pickett, Queensborough CC & Brooklyn College
ADJUNCT LECTURER, SPEECH AND THEATER

It's important to understand how the potential loss of adjunct health care coverage at CUNY fits into a broader climate of austerity measures being enacted around the country. Everywhere benefits and pensions are being cut, social services reduced and student tuition is rising. This is



about much more than preserving health insurance for a small sector of public employees. It is about realigning our priorities and demanding adequate funding for the public infrastructure we all rely on.

Paul Washington, Medgar Evers
ASSOCIATE HEO, MALE
DEVELOPMENT & EMPOWERMENT
CENTER

This is another assault on labor. Adjuncts teach the majority of classes at CUNY and for them to not have health care coverage is wrong. We want CUNY and the City to get involved. It's chump change in the overall scheme of things when you're talking about \$14 million to fund adjunct health care in an annual City budget of \$66 billion and a State budget of \$132.5 billion.



All photos: Dave Sanders, except Chen-Hayes by Peter Hogness and Washington by Pat Arroyo.



Hispanic Educators to Honor Cal Poly Pomona President

Cal Poly President Michael Ortiz is to receive the "Alfredo G. de los Santos Jr. Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award."

- December 10, 2011

The American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education will honor Cal Poly Pomona President Michael Ortiz.

Ortiz is to receive the organization's "Alfredo G. de los Santos Jr. Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award," according to the [university's website](#). The award is named for a faculty member, leader, and mentor at Arizona State University.

"President Michael Ortiz emulates the leadership characteristics reflected in the description of this award. AAHHE is proud to honor President Ortiz with this very deserving award," says Loui Olivas, president of AAHHE.

Tomás D. Morales, president of the [College of Staten Island](#) and former provost at Cal Poly Pomona, recommended Ortiz for the award, lauding his commitment to equity in higher education.

"It was my honor and privilege to nominate Michael for this prestigious award," Morales says. "He has been a mentor to me and so many others across the country, and I am proud to see him recognized in this way."

The association will present the award, sponsored by The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine, at its national conference March 8-10 in Costa Mesa.



St. John's to Host Closing Ceremonies for Staten Island's 350th Anniversary Celebration in Grymes Hill

December 15, 2011



Show off your passion for Staten Island and celebrate its history by attending the closing ceremonies for the **350th anniversary (Si350)** celebration on **Sunday, December 18 at 3 p.m.** at St. John's University in **Grymes Hill**.

The celebration concludes the end of a year of collaboration between cultural and educational institutions on Staten Island. St. John's University will be hosting final closing ceremonies with music by the **Richmond County Orchestra Quartet** and **Curtis High School Jazz Band**, a photo slideshow and remarks by honorees and dignitaries.

We will honor major contributors to the year's success. Students from the three colleges will narrate the slideshow of the year's highlights with participation of the **New York State National Guard** (Color Guard), the **Staten Island Knights of Columbus** (Honor Guard). **Borough President James P. Molinaro** and **New York State Assemblyman Michael Cusick** are scheduled to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Joseph Sciame, *Vice-President for Community Relations*, St. John's University, will be master of ceremonies.

"As Vice-President for Community Relations for St. John's University, I found that the diversity of the programs throughout the year were an expression of the many facets of life on Staten Island. And in many a case it was enlightenment for those who may not have known of so many activities that exist on the Island," said Sciame. "Anniversaries are a time for reflection, both looking back and ahead, and for such reasons Si350 was an important time for all on Staten Island and off the Island to become even more proud of its existence and founding."

Honorees at the closing ceremonies will be: **Patricia Salmon**, *Curator of History*, **Staten Island Museum** and *Adjunct Faculty*, **Wagner College**; **Leticia Remauro**, *Chair*, **Community Board One**; **Dorothy Myhre-Donahue**, for organizing and recording the SI Memories programs at all 12 NY Public Libraries on Staten Island; **Ann Merlino**, *faculty emeriti*, **College of Staten Island**; **Gerard McEnerney**, *Assistant Vice-President and Executive Director*, **Staten Island Campus**, St. John's University; the **Staten Island Advance** "for 125 years of bringing the world to our doorsteps and strengthening Staten Island and its diverse communities by promoting our civic, educational and cultural initiatives," and the **Richmond County Savings Foundation** for their support of programs to celebrate Staten Island's Military History and the publication *Discovering Staten Island*.

"The Staten Island Campus of St. John's University is pleased to host the closing ceremony of the year long celebration of the 350th Anniversary of Staten Island. The year has been filled with exciting events with highlights such as the lighting of the Empire State Building in honor of S.I. and a highly attended Academic Conference. The culminating event on our Campus on **December 18th at 3 p.m.** will be a joyous time to acknowledge the past, present and future promise of Staten Island," said McEnerney.

For more information regarding the Si350 anniversary celebration and its closing ceremonies contact **Lori Weintrob** or visit their web site at www.si350.org.

Interested media can contact **Dominic Scianna**, *Assistant Vice President for Media Relations* at St. John's by calling **(718) 990-6185** or e-mail inquiries to sciannad@stjohns.edu.

Late breaking news and information regarding St. John's can be found by visiting the university web site at www.stjohns.edu/news.



Israel's Hard Times, and The New York Times

By Abraham H. Foxman

ADL National Director

This article originally appeared in *The Huffington Post* on December 27, 2011

When it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, perhaps no newspaper's coverage generates more passionate and emotional reaction from the Jewish community in America and around the world than that of The New York Times.

Not surprisingly, the newspaper often becomes the target of withering attacks from those who believe that it is fundamentally biased against one side or the other in the conflict.

Enter the most recent controversy surrounding the Times – a letter sent to the newspaper from Ron Dermer, a senior advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The letter was prompted by an offer, extended by Times editors, for the prime minister to pen an op-ed piece of his own stating his views on current issues facing the Jewish state.

The prime minister's office "respectfully declined" in a letter from Dermer, which outlined a litany of complaints and grievances about the newspaper's coverage of Israel. "The opinions of some of your regular columnists regarding Israel are well known," Dermer wrote. "They consistently distort the positions of our government and ignore the steps it has taken to advance peace."

The letter, published Dec. 16 in The Jerusalem Post, was immediately made public and has since generated extensive reactions.

One of Israel's leading journalists, Nahum Barnea, was highly critical of Prime Minister Netanyahu, suggesting that that Times' coverage of Israel was not as bad as Dermer claimed and, in any case, the newspaper was too important to break off relations with it.

I fall in between Barnea and the prime minister's office.

The New York Times is, indeed, one of the most influential newspapers in America, if not the world. As such, it is important to cultivate proper relations since its outreach to the world is continuous and unlimited.

The Times' coverage of Israel, both in its reporting and its editorial pages, is mixed – problematic in some instances, less so in others. Nonetheless, compared to some other leading international publications such as The Economist and The Financial Times, The Times can appear respectable and relatively objective.

Still, Dermer was on to something. There has been an increasingly troubling imbalance in the way that The Times presents stories and opinions on the Middle East conflict. And, contrary to Barnea, who argued that being critical of Mr. Netanyahu's policies does not make one anti-Israel, let alone anti-Semitic, some of The Times' commentary goes beyond mere criticism.

Characteristic of this was the way that the newspaper discussed the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

Instead of commending Israel for being willing to make great sacrifices and to take great risks to ensure the release of a lone soldier, The Times used the occasion to publish an editorial bashing Prime Minister Netanyahu for allegedly not taking an initiative for peace. What was so troubling, regardless of how one views Israel's policies vis-à-vis the Palestinians, is that making those policies the focal point on a day when Israel showed humanity while the Palestinians hailed terrorists with blood on their hands spoke volumes about The Times' inability – or worse, unwillingness – to even acknowledge those facts.

Similarly, Israel's admirable and unique record of equality in the region for its gay citizens was demeaned in The

Times. In a piece called "Israel and 'Pinkwashing,'" Sarah Shulman, a professor at the [College of Staten Island](#), turned Israel's record on gays into a club against the country, suggesting that Israeli leaders use it to cleanse their image as human rights violators.

As with the Shalit editorial, the Times' decision to run this fundamentally flawed op-ed by an anti-Israel polemicist turned a positive story into a negative one.

In the past two years, the Anti-Defamation League has found the need to send [31 letters](#) to the editor criticizing or raising questions on editorials, op-eds and articles about Israel and the Middle East conflict.

To its credit, the Times published many of these letters. But the fact that we saw the need to send so many letters – sometimes as many as two or three a week – reflects our growing concern about what is appearing in the newspaper.

Many of our letters have expressed uneasiness not only with how The Times portrays Mr. Netanyahu's government, but with the absence of an appropriate broader and long-term perspective on the conflict. This absence or distortion conveys the impression that Israel is the party most responsible for the failure to end the conflict and bring about a Palestinian state.

So it is understandable that The Times would give a platform to Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority ("The Long Overdue Palestinian State," May 14, 2011). It is quite another matter for the paper to allow Abbas to grossly distort the historical record, particularly the war in 1948. For The Times to not have at least commented critically on Mr. Abbas's refusal to acknowledge that it was the Arabs, including the Palestinians, who rejected the U.N. partition and invaded Israel upon its declaration of independence, is symptomatic of recent trends.

There are also the assertions, gone unchallenged on the editorial page, by regular columnists such as Tom Friedman and Nicholas Kristof arguing that the "Israel lobby" (or "American Jews") controls U.S. Middle East policy. Again, these are false accusations that go way beyond disagreement with Mr. Netanyahu or the Israeli government.

What, then, is the appropriate reaction?

I do not believe it lies in boycotting the Times, which is neither justified nor smart. Rather, there is a need to continue to be brutally honest with the editors about our perception of their newspaper. We still should commend them when there are indicators of fairness, but we also must be frank, as in the manner of the Dermer letter, when we see patterns of bias against Israel.

We believe journalism's role is to be as objective as possible. We have confidence that with objectivity, democratic Israel will fair very well.

We look forward to seeing The New York Times assuming that position in its coverage of Israel and the ongoing Middle East conflict.

Also Featured on: [amnation.com](#) [huffingtonpost.com](#)

NJ toll increases could force drivers off Parkway, Turnpike; onto local roads

WOODBIDGE — Are newly paved roads, rebuilt bridges and widened highways worth the 50 percent to 53 percent toll increases that take effect Sunday?

Before the economic crash in 2008, New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway drivers might have deemed the New Year's Day toll increase worth it, for the \$7 billion in construction projects it funds. Turnpike authority officials said it will create 70,000 jobs.

But with a lingering recession, high unemployment and stagnant salaries, some drivers said they may opt out of using the toll road where and when they can take a parallel, free, state highway.

John McKeever of Hazlet is among those who are considering changing their routes to a free road such as Route 35, even though it may cost him more time than the parkway.

"I can use Route 35 for a stretch. It's not as fast as the parkway, but it's not like my income went up," McKeever said.

That phenomenon is called "diversion" and

is expected when a highway authority increases tolls, said Tom Feeney, New Jersey Turnpike Authority spokesman.

"There is always some level of diversion when there's a toll increase. There is diversion built into the revenue projections," Feeney said. "The history of the turnpike and parkway suggest that the diversion is short-lived ... that is, that the traffic eventually returns to the toll roads."

Whether a commuter decides to divert depends on where they live, how much they make and what options they have for toll-free roads paralleling the toll road.

Professor Jonathan Peters, a toll road finance expert, uses both the parkway and turnpike to commute between Fair Haven and his job at the College of Staten Island.

"A 50 percent increase, that's a pretty big whack on head for users to find an alternative route," Peters said. "I have that option, but it would add to my travel time. People may exchange (travel) time for toll

savings, it depends on the time (spent)."

An alternate route with a lot of traffic or signals may add more stress and time to the commute and send drivers back to the toll road, Peters said. Drivers in Middlesex County have a better selection of "free" routes than their counterparts in Monmouth or Ocean, he said.

"It's a pick-your-poison of pay more or have a longer commute. People may come back if the alternate route is a poor alternative," Peters said. "Higher income people have a higher value of their time ... if you work at lower end of the wage scale, it may be a significant hit. If it is \$3 to \$5 a day extra, it's coming right from your disposable income."

In the worst case scenario, some people may be forced to take a local, lower paying job because they can't afford the commute, he said.

Drivers will see a 50 percent toll increase on the Parkway and a 53 percent hike in turnpike tolls starting 6:30 a.m. Sunday.

At "barrier" toll plazas on the Parkway, the current \$1 toll increases to \$1.50, except at Toms River, where the 50-cent toll rises to 75 cents. Exit and entrance ramps jump to 50 cents, from 35 cents.

For cars on the New Jersey Turnpike, where tolls vary depending on the distance driven, the toll to drive a car from one end of the Turnpike to the other increases to \$13.85, from \$9.05. A local hop by car

from interchanges 11 to 13A in Middlesex County will rise to \$1.65, from \$1.10.

For a trucker driving a five-axle tractor-trailer, that same trip from 11 to 13A, the current \$4 cash toll will rise to \$6.10. A ride from one end of the turnpike to the other is now a \$32.50 cash toll but will cost \$49.75 Sunday for the same truck.

Peters said that cost for trucks will be a factor when businesses decide whether to locate or expand their facilities in counties on the toll roads.

"If you're looking to open a warehouse, forget the Jersey Shore, forget Middlesex County, it (toll increase) keeps clanging you in the head," he said. "When business people look to expand or build new, they don't go where it is more expensive."

Trucking trade groups and environmental groups criticized the pending toll hike because of the increased cost to travel and move goods.

"At a time when people are hurting financially, this is a hidden tax that will not benefit the average commuter," said Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club. "People are going to be paying more to sit in traffic longer since none of this money from the toll increases will be going to projects that will alleviate the commute for New Jersey commuters."

Tittel criticized the toll increase because a chunk of it will fund transportation projects elsewhere in the state. Part of the \$1.25 billion that was to be raised through the toll increase approved in October 2008 and earmarked for the canceled second Hudson River rail project was plowed into the renewal of the Transportation Trust Fund to finance projects around the state.

While that action avoided a possible increase in the state gasoline tax, Tittel said, the result is that drivers using the Parkway and Turnpike are funding improvements that they may never use.

"Instead of coming up with a long term solution for the Transportation Trust Fund, the administration has placed a hidden tax on the people of New Jersey through this plan to raise the tolls funding unnecessary projects around New Jersey," Tittel said.

Peters also said that means drivers using the toll roads and those in counties dependent on the Turnpike and Parkway, are paying more than their counterparts and may be subsidizing improvements on roads they don't drive on.

"I pay my gas tax. I pay my registration fees. I pay tolls. I pay the full cost of my road commute," Peters said. "I'm paying more than what I'm getting now."

The turnpike authority did throw truckers a bone by offering "volume" toll discounts for E-ZPass-equipped fleets of trucks when the two-phase toll-hike package was adopted in October 2008 and approved by Gov. Jon S. Corzine. Tolls were increased on Dec. 1, 2008; the second increase takes effect Sunday.

Authority Commissioner Michael DuPont of Red Bank defended the increase.

"The 2012 cost will be 4.8 cents per mile on the parkway which is among the lowest of 36 toll roads and the fifth lowest cost," DuPont said.

BY THE NUMBERS

Parkway toll increase: 50 percent

N.J. Turnpike increase: 53 percent

The driver of a car paying cash or using E-ZPass during peak hours now pays \$9.05 to travel the turnpike end to end.

The driver of a car paying cash or using E-ZPass during peak hours will pay \$13.85 to travel the turnpike end to end.

The driver of a car paying cash or using E-ZPass during peak hours now pays \$1.10 to travel the turnpike from Exits 11 to 13A.

Source: New Jersey Turnpike Authority

Also Featured on: mycentraljersey.com

Sports



CSI women roll past York in CUNY opener, 64-41

Thursday, December 01, 2011, 11:52 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

The **College of Staten Island** welcomed back junior guard Olivia Tierno in a big way last night, rolling to a 64-41 victory over York in a CUNY Conference opener at the Sports and Rec Center.

Tierno had five points and three rebounds in her first action since suffering a knee injury last season that required surgery. The Tottenville HS product played 19 minutes off the bench.

The Dolphins (1-0, 4-2) held a slim 28-24 halftime lead but used a pressing defense to dominate the second stanza, 36-17. Freshman guard Nikki Fabozzi led the charge with 17 points, six rebounds, four assists and three steals. Jaclyn Tocco (13 points, seven rebounds, four assists and eight steals) and Katelyn Hepworth (12 points, 11 rebounds) also enjoyed productive games.

York was topped by Joanna Josama's 20 points and 15 rebounds, but she also had 10 turnovers. The Cardinals (0-1, 1-5) had 41 turnovers to negate a 58-50 rebounding edge.

CSI hosts Sage at noon Sunday in non-conference action.

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College of Staten Island glad to grind out win over York, 65-60

Friday, December 02, 2011, 12:06 AM



Jim Waggoner
By



Staten Island Advance file photo by Hilton Flores

CSI senior Jordan Young, left, had 15 points and six rebounds in a win over York.

If last night's 65-60 victory over York was any indication, the **College of Staten Island's** road to the CUNY Conference championship will be paved with more bumps and bruises than gold.

The Dolphins survived a physical battle with the athletic and larger Cardinals by outscoring the visitors 12-5 over the final six minutes of the conference opener at the Sports and Rec Center.

"It wasn't easy," said **CSI** senior center Jordan Young, who had 15 points, six rebounds and three steals. "They're always very athletic and they all go after the ball hard. You combine athletic ability with toughness and you're in for a battle."

Bloochy Magloire sank two free throws after driving the lane to give the Dolphins a 57-55 lead with 3:33 remaining. Thomas

Tibbs hit two more freebies after similar penetration, and Magloire's 14-foot jumper made it 61-56 under the two-minute mark.

Meanwhile, the defense was stiffening with stop after stop. York's frustration reached its high point with a shot-clock violation preceding Magloire's shot.

"We're definitely going to have to rely on defense to win games," said Tibbs after a 18-point, four-assist night. "We got them taking tough shots with the clock running down. We have to worry about stopping the other team."

Dylan Bulger, a 6-foot-11 reserve junior center, played the final 12 minutes and his defensive presence altered several York shots down the stretch. The Staten Island Academy product, who played the previous two seasons at Drew, had five points and a team-high seven rebounds in 16 minutes.

"We definitely know what Dylan's capable of doing," said Tibbs. "He's a starter on most teams. He's a big boy and he has a nice soft shot around the basket."

Said head coach Tony Petosa: "He's played back-to-back games for us where he's had an impact in wins. That's great for us."

Sophomore guard Louis Valdes also gave **CSI** some quality minutes off the bench. His 3-point shot from the deep left wing cut into York's largest lead, 46-40, with 12 minutes remaining.

That shot triggered a 9-2 run capped by Dale Taranto's 3-pointer from the right wing that put the Dolphins ahead 49-48.

There were three more lead changes and two ties before **CSI** took command in the final minutes.

Mark Evans paced York with 20 points and Tony Vails added 14. The Cardinals also pulled down 18 offensive rebounds while winning the backboard battle 37-28.

"They're a tough team. We expected nothing less," said Tibbs. "They're well-coached and tenacious. They slowed the game down and controlled the tempo."

With the Dolphins leading 63-59 and less than 30 seconds left, 6-6 junior Shamir Wilkinson took the ball strong to the hoop and was challenged by Bulger's 6-11 frame.

The shot rolled off the rim and Young came away with the rebound.

"(Bulger) knows he's going to have an advantage down low," said Young. "In certain situations in the game, he can really help turn things around in our favor."

NOTES: **CSI** improved to 3-2 overall with its third straight victory ... Taranto had nine points, five rebounds, three assists and three blocked shots ... York dropped to 1-5 overall ... The Dolphins don't play at home again until the 10th annual Tournament of Champions on Dec. 29-30. They begin a four-game road stretch tomorrow (2 p.m.) at Stevens Tech.

YORK (60)

Lawson 0-4 0-0 0, Vails 5-14 4-8 14, Gregoire 3-4 1-4 7, Evans 7-16 2-4 20, Phipps 3-8 0-0 6, Sanders 1-1 0-0 2, Roper 0-1 0-0 0, Lausell 3-3 2-4 8, Wilkinson 1-5 1-1 3.

Totals: 23-56 10-21 60.

CSI (65)

Taranto 4-7 0-0 9, Tibbs 6-14 5-6 18, Magloire 3-6 2-4 8, Van Manen 3-4 0-2 6, Young 7-10 1-1 15, Jenkins 0-0 0-0 0, Valdes 1-2 1-2 4, Bulger 2-5 1-4 5.

Totals: 26-48 10-19 65.

Halftime: 32-30, **CSI.**

Three-point goals: York 4-9 (Lawson 0-1, Vails 0-1), Evans 4-7); **CSI** 3-9 (Taranto 1-3, Tibbs 1-4, Valdes 1-2). Rebounds: York 37 (Gregoire 8, Phipps 7); **CSI** 28 (Bulger 7, Young 6, Taranto 5). Assists: York 12 (Vails 5); **CSI** 10 (Tibbs 4). Turnovers: York 13, **CSI** 10. Total fouls: York 18, **CSI** 17. Fouled out: none.

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College of Staten Island men top Stevens Tech for fourth straight win, 65-59

Saturday, December 03, 2011, 8:29 PM



Jim Waggoner
By

HOBOKEN, N.J. — Junior center Dylan Bulger continues to spark the College of Staten Island off the bench, contributing 13 points and 11 rebounds Saturday in a 65-59 road victory over Stevens Tech.

Bulger, a 6-foot-11 transfer from Drew, broke a 38-38 deadlock with a tip-in with nine minutes left, and the Dolphins followed with 3-point shots from Louis Valdes and Thomas Tibbs to take a 46-38 lead.

Stevens Tech (5-2) drew even at 54 on Russ Thompson's 3-pointer from the top with 2:32 remaining, before Jordan Young's conventional 3-point play ignited a 11-5 run to finish the game.

Matt Van Manen turned a Bloochy Magloire pass into a layup and Tibbs followed with a 4-point play — a 3-point shot and free throw — for a 63-56 CSI lead with 32.5 seconds left.

The Dolphins improved to 4-2 with their fourth straight win. They dropped their first two games of the season, both in overtime.

Bulger dominated the paint during stretches of the game, although he fouled out with 3:10 remaining on a charging foul. Moments earlier, the Staten Island Academy product drew a charging foul on Simon Smith (14 points, 11 rebounds).

Bulger did his damage in 17 minutes of action.

CSI's three-guard alignment of Dale Taranto, Tibbs and Magloire had a poor shooting night — combining for 26 points on 10-of-31 shooting — but they also teamed for 14 rebounds as the visitors controlled the backboards, 50-33.

And the Dolphins played solid defense, as the Ducks were held to 32.3 percent shooting accuracy. Russ Thompson was the main scoring threat, hitting 6 of 12 3-pointers while scoring 20 points.

Young and Magloire led CSI with 14 points apiece.

The Dolphins scored the first seven points of the game before the Ducks battled back to take a 27-24 halftime lead. **CSI** twice led by eight points, the last edge at 48-40 with eight minutes left.

CSI travels to Mount Saint Vincent on Thursday night for another non-conference game.

CSI (65)

Taranto 1-3 0-0 3, Tibbs 2-12 3-3 9, Magloire 7-16 0-2 14, Van Manen 3-3 0-0 6, Young 5-12 4-5 14, Jenkins 0-1 1-2 1, Valdes 2-2 0-0 5, Bulger 4-9 5-6 13.

Totals: 24-58 13-18 65.

STEVENS TECH (59)

Thompson 7-13 0-0 20, Skrelja 1-5 2-2 4, Smith 4-9 6-8 14, Cutri 3-13 0-1 8, Jones 2-12 2-3 6, McManamy 1-4 1-2 3, Meszaros 1-3 0-0 2, Schwartz 1-3 0-0 2.

Totals: 20-62 11-16 59.

Halftime: 27-24, Stevens Tech.

Three-point goals: **CSI** 4-14 (Taranto 1-2, Tibbs 2-5, Magloire 0-5, Young 0-1, Valdes 1-1); Stevens Tech 8-26 (Thompson 6-12, Skrelja 0-2, Cutri 2-6, Jones 0-1, McManamy 0-3, Meszaros 0-2). Rebounds: **CSI** 50 (Bulger 11, Young 8, Magloire 6); Stevens Tech 33 (Smith 11). Assists: **CSI** 7 (Tibbs 3, Magloire 3); Stevens Tech 12 (Skrelja 5). Turnovers: **CSI** 17, Stevens Tech 12. Total fouls: **CSI** 16, Stevens Tech 18. Fouled out: Bulger.

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Dolphins score big at ECAC champs

CSI swimmers have record-setting weekend on way to medal haul

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

EAST MEADOW, L.I. — Three College of Staten Island swimmers swam off with four individual golds and the Dolphins' relay squad was first in another event during the ECAC Division III Open Championships held over the weekend at the Nassau County Aquatics Center.

CSI took sixth place overall, earning a total of 12 medals, set five ECAC and a pair of school records and had 11 NCAA Division III National Championship cut times.

Vladislav Romanov, Danila Novikov, Yury Zimarev and Timur Rakhimov were first in the 200-yard medley relay with an ECAC-record 1:32.77. The foursome set another ECAC record in the 400-yard medley relay with 3:23.73, but just finished second.

Romanov won gold in the 200-yard backstroke, turning in a time of 1:49.97, beating his own CSI and ECAC record which he set last year. The senior achieved gold again in the 100-yard backstroke, posting an impressive time of 49.83, which was good for another ECAC record. Those performances qualified Romanov for Nationals in March.

He also participated in the 200-yard Individual Medley, turning in a personal-best time of 1:53.83, good enough for third and a B-cut qualifier for Nationals.

Sophomore Novikov took first place and earned a spot in the Nationals in the same 200-yard Individual Medley, posting a new personal and

ECAC record with a time of 1:50.53. The mark will also insure Novikov of a trip to Nationals later in the year.

Novikov then took third in the 400-yard IM at 4:02.49 to earn a B-cut qualifying for Nationals.

Freshman Zimarev was tops in the 100-yard butterfly at 50.17 and was third in the 50-yard freestyle with a CSI-record of 21.25. Both times have met National cut times and should merit Zimarev a trip to Nationals.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sage Colleges 60, CSI 56

Following 18 ties and lead changes, the Sage Colleges owned the final four minutes and went on to defeat the College of Staten Island 60-56 yesterday at the Sports and Recreation Center in Willowbrook.

The upstate Gators, who shot 50 percent from the field in the second half, outscored the (4-3) Dolphins 9-5 over the last 4:01 to stop a four-game losing streak.

Sage used a 16-6 run over the final seven minutes of the opening half to take a 24-23 lead into halftime.

Behind defensive pressure, CSI went on a 7-0 tear to grab a 30-26 advantage before Sage responded with a couple of field goals to knot the score, the first of seven second-half ties.

A pair of Jaclyn Tocco baskets for CSI tied the score a final time at 51-51 with 4:09 to play. From there Sage took over. The ball inside to Amie Henderson, who converted a pair of critical layups to extend the Gator lead to 57-51 with 1:27 to go.

Katelyn Hepworth's 15 points headed the Dolphins, who host the College of Mount St. Vincent tomorrow at 6 p.m.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011

MSV nips Dolphins

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Mount Saint Vincent used bench depth and a second-half spurt to post a 75-70 non-conference victory over host College of Staten Island last night.

The visitors (2-3 overall) trailed 34-25 at halftime but outscored the host Dolphins 50-36 in the second half. They held a 30-11 scoring advantage in the battle of bench players.

Kara McNish led MSV with 10 points and 14 rebounds while Brittany Griffin and Andree DeLeon both had 10 points apiece.

Nicole Quattrocchi led CSI (4-4 overall) with 18 points, including 4 for 6 from 3-point range. Olivia Tierno added 14 and Danielle Kartalis added 10 points, while Jaclyn Tocco had six points, six assists and six steals.

MSV freshman center Kelly Fraser, a Tottenville product, had eight points, eight rebounds and two blocked shots in 20 minutes.

Jordan rules for Dolphins

Senior big man drops in 26 points in CSI's 69-55 win over Mount St. Vincent

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Sooner or later, senior forward Jordan Young was going to break out with a monster game for the College of Staten Island.

Last night was that game, with the 6-foot-5 New Jersey native scoring 26 points, grabbing 13 rebounds and blocking three shots to power the Dolphins to their fifth straight win, 69-55, over Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx.

Sophomore center Matt Van Manen broke out with a 15-point, 10-rebound game as CSI dominated the paint while improving to 5-2 on the young season.

"We did a nice job getting the ball into the post," said coach Tony Petosa. "Our big guys took the ball to the basket."

Young began the season with 1,249 points to rank 17th on the school's all-time scoring list. He averaged a quiet 14.2 points and 7.2 rebounds through the first six games as the deeper Dolphins spread the wealth.

Young sank 12 of 19 shots from the floor, while Van Manen nailed 7 of 9 attempts.

CSI took a 33-29 halftime lead and built a 20-point advantage, 59-39, on two Louis Valdes free throws with 7:21 remaining.

Thomas Tibbs added seven points and seven assists and Bloochy Magloire pitched in with seven points and eight rebounds.

Ex-Petrides point guard Sean Caputo topped Mount Saint Vincent (1-5) with 13 points. The junior connected on 3 of 4 3-point shots for the cold-shooting hosts, who made 22 of 65 from the floor (33.8 percent).

Meanwhile, the road Dolphins were enjoying a 49-39 rebounding edge and a 44-24 scoring edge in the paint.

NOTES: CSI returns to action against Penn State-Berks on Friday night during a two-day swing at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa.

CSI (69)

Van Manen 7-9 1-2 15, Young 12-19 2-6 26, Taranto 2-3 0-0 5, Tibbs 1-4 5-6 7, Magloire 3-15 0-0 7, Valdes 1-3 4-6 7, Bulger 0-5 2-2 2, Gamea 0-0 0-0 0, Jenkins 0-0 0-0 0, King 0-0 0-0 0, Manes 0-2 0-0 0, Cox 0-1 0-2 0, Husslein 0-0 0-0 0.

Totals: 26-61 14-24 69.

MOUNT ST. VINCENT (55)

Gauvard 4-11 2-3 10, Moore 1-5 0-0 2, Bonaventura 1-3 0-0 3, Waite 3-4 1-6 7, Cunningham 5-18 1-2 11, Caputo 5-8 0-0 13, Henry 1-1 2-2 4, McPhatter 0-4 1-1 1, Lopez 0-1 0-0 0, Fatzinger-Bruce 0-0 0-0 0, Belgrave 0-0 0-0 0, Oliver 0-1 0-0 0, Santos 2-7 0-1 4, Woods 0-0 0-0 0, Knott 0-2 0-0 0.

Totals: 22-65 7-16 55.

Halftime: 33-29, CSI.

Three-point goals: CSI 3-8 (Taranto 1-1, Tibbs 0-1, Magloire 1-4, Valdes 1-2); MSV 4-9 (Moore 0-1, Bonaventura 1-1, Cunningham 0-1, Lopez 0-1, Oliver 0-1, Caputo 3-4). Rebounds: CSI 49 (Young 13, Van Manen 10, Magloire 8); MSV 39 (Waite 7, Santos 7). Assists: CSI 18 (Tibbs 7); MSV 6 (Cunningham 3). Turnovers: CSI 16, MSV 18. Total fouls: CSI 18, MSV 18. Fouled out: none.

Dolphin squads sweep Brooklyn

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The College of Staten Island men's and women's swimming and diving teams picked up CUNY victories last night at the CSI Sports and Recreation Center in Willowbrook.

The Dolphin men evened their season record at 2-2 after topping Brooklyn College 118-78 while the CSI women went to 2-4 with a 112-90 victory over the Bulldogs.

The women's meet was highly contested as CSI used a decisive advantage in the diving portion (26-0). Stephanie Collyer took gold in both events, including an outstanding 170.85 score in the three-meter portion.

After seven events the score was tied at 52-52, but CSI won four out of the next six races, including a pivotal win by Elaina Lei in the next-to-last event of the 100 breaststroke.

The CSI men were in control from start to finish. The Dolphins started with three straight first-place finishes: first in the 200 medley relay, followed by Vlad Romanov's time of 10:33.66 in the 1,000 freestyle and Andy Gil's 2:59.52 faring in the 200 freestyle.

CSI does not return to action until Jan. 9 when the Dolphins take on York College at home in both men's and women's competitions.



Alyssa Lubrino From Baruch Honored as November's Scholar Athlete of the Month



Flushing, N.Y. – For the month of November, Baruch College’s Alyssa Lubrino has been recognized by the City University of New York Athletic Conference as the CUNYAC/ Hospital for Special Surgery Scholar Athlete of the Month.

In the three swim meets she competed in for the month, Lubrino finished with top times in the 200 meter freestyle relay and twice in the 200 meter medley relay. On the November 3rd meet against the Fashion Institute Technology, Lubrino won the 200 meter freestyle relay with a time of 2:15.22 and also finished first in the 100 meter freestyle (1:07.62).

The junior from Staten Island finished on top against two conference opponents, College of Staten Island and Brooklyn, in the 200 meter medley relay, with times of 2:00.30 and 2:15.2, respectively. Lubrino also finished the 100 yard butterfly (1:11.40) right behind her teammate placing her second in the 11-92 team win for the Bearcats. Lubrino had a similar performance in the 102-76 victory over Brooklyn.

The St. Joseph Hill Academy alum was unable to compete in Baruch’s remaining match for the November as she flew to the NCAA offices in Indianapolis to represent CUNYAC as the national representative of the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

“It is a great honor to win for both academic and athletic reasons,” said Lubrino. “It has been a great November for me in not only being a part of an undefeated team in the CUNYAC standings, but also to

be representing our conference at the national Division III SAAC Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana. I want to thank my teammates and coaches for all their support."

With a GPA of 3.86, the team captain is currently on Baruch's Dean's List as well as part of the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY. In her previous seasons with the Bearcats Women's Swimming team, Lubrino was part of the back-to-back wins in the CUNYAC Finals (2009-10, 2010-11) and won the Baruch Women's Swimming Coaches Award in 2011. She was also amongst the selected athletes to take part in the CUNYAC Goodwill Tour, which took place in New Orleans in the summer of 2011.

Honorable Mentions

Wendell Appleton, Hostos

Brooklyn, NY

Wendell Appleton, the 6'6" forward from the up and coming Hostos Caimans Basketball squad, sets the example for his teammates with his academic prowess. A Liberal Arts major with a 3.43 overall GPA in his sophomore year, Appleton is a member of the ASAP (Accelerated Study in Associate Programs) Program, as well as a member of HALO, the Hostos Athletic Leaders Organization. Appleton provides a steady presence for the Caimans on the court as well, helping the team earn the #2 spot in the conference and #5 spot in Region XV of the NJCAA Division III.

"Mr. Appleton's progression and development truly embodies that of a successful student-athlete," said Dr. Jody King, head coach of the Caimans basketball squad. His learned approach towards successful classroom habits has paid off dividends not only in academia, but athletics, and life."

Catherine Chan, Brooklyn

Flushing, NY/ Townsend Harris

Catherine Chan, Biology major with minors in Anthropology and Archaeology, sports a 3.906 GPA. The senior is enrolled in both the Macaulay Honors and BA/MD Programs at Brooklyn College and will be entering SUNY Downstate College of Medicine in the Fall of 2012 after graduating in the Spring of 2012.

Entering her second season on the Brooklyn Women's Swimming and Diving team, Chan had a solid month of November, participating in four of the Bulldogs' five meets in the month. On November 11th against CUNYAC rival Baruch, Chan recorded a first place finish in the Women's 100 SC Meter Breaststroke with a time of 1:42.84. On November 19th against SUNY Old Westbury, the Flushing, NY native was a member of the Women's 200-Yard Medley Relay that took first with a time of 2:17.29. In BC's final meet of the month on November 30th against conference foe

Hunter College, Chan took first in the Women's 100-Yard Breaststroke with a time of 1:29.55.

Mark Courtien, Hunter

Pelham, NY/ Pelham Memorial

In addition to boasting a 3.599 GPA as a Psychology major, Mark Courtien has shined for the Hunter Hawks men's basketball team thus far and especially in the month of November. Starting in all five games played in November, Courtien currently leads his team with 71 points and is tied for three-point shots at 13. The Pelham native had 15 boards for the month, as well as nine total steals and seven assists.

Head Coach Shay Berry stated, "Mark is a classic captain, a great teammate, a leader both on and off the floor but most importantly, a strong student."

Donika Rexhepi, City College of New York

White Plains, NY/White Plains

Donika Rexhepi is an Advertising and Public Relations major, with a minor in Journalism with a 3.6 GPA. She is heavily involved with the organizations on campus, and is in the Kaye Scholarship Program, and has been for the last three years. The Kaye Scholarship provides funds for a program to attract and support promising City College students who are considering a major in the Humanities and Arts. In addition, Donika also handles Public Relations at two New York City Restaurants, including a steakhouse and a seafood joint. She also serves as the President of the MCA workshop group that leads an HPV Awareness campaign. The sole purpose of that campaign is to increase awareness and educate students to make smart decisions when it comes to their personal interactions with others.

On the court, Donika is a prototypical difference maker, and a quintessential game-changer. For the month of November, she nearly averaged a double-double in CCNY's five games, scoring 16.2 points per game while grabbing 9.6 rebounds per contest, including 17 on the offensive glass. She also averaged three steals per contest and connected on 74.2 percent of her shots from the charity stripe (23-31). Donika very rarely gets a breather on the court, as she played 182 out of a possible 200 minutes during November.

Vanessa Rivera, York College

Queens, NY/ Grover Cleveland

Rivera has been busy this semester as she has managed to balance participating on both the Women's Soccer and Women's Basketball teams, while still managing to maintain a 3.8 GPA as a Physical Education major at York College. In the month of November, Rivera has been a key member off the bench for the basketball team, scoring five points per game, while being a threat from long-range.

Vasiliki Stergiuola, College of Staten Island

Athens, Greece/ Dimosthenio

Vasiliki Stergioula has been determined, since falling in love with swimming at her arrival at CSI, to improve. The Athens native had not swam competitively before coming onto the Dolphin's Women's Swimming team a year ago. In the month of November, the sophomore had two top finishes, one of which was against conference opponent John Jay College. In the 200 yard freestyle event, Stergioula finished in the top spot with a time of 2:31.20. Against Baruch in the 200 yard medley relay she placed third with a time of 2:28.17, and second in both the 200 yard freestyle (2:34.88) and 100 yard freestyle (1:06.90). The sophomore ended her November matches with a top place finish in the 100 yard freestyle against Maritime College with a time of 1:04.24.

Out of the pool, the Biology major has a 3.7 GPA and has been on the Dean's list since the Spring 2011 semester. She is currently on a CSI International Scholarship and spends time volunteering for the Environmentally Friendly Organization which fixes up homes and planting trees.

Eric Troche, Kingsborough

Brooklyn, NY/ FDNY

With a 3.276 GPA, Eric Trouche has shown himself to be on his game when it comes to his academics in relation to his role as a student-athlete. Majoring in Liberal Arts, he always seems to get in there, get his work done and come out passing all courses with outstanding grades. On the court, the 5'8" guard totaled ten points, ten boards, seven assists, and four steals for the month of November.

Alvernia snaps **College of Staten Island's** six-game winning streak, 66-58

Saturday, December 10, 2011, 11:21 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**



Staten Island Advance file photo by Bill Lyons

CSI senior guard Thomas Tibbs scored 22 points in a 66-58 loss at Alvernia.

READING, Pa. — Alvernia closed the game on a 11-3 run to defeat the **College of Staten Island**, 66-58, Saturday and snap the Dolphins' six-game winning streak in a non-conference basketball contest.

Senior point guard Thomas Tibbs carried the Dolphins (6-3) in the early going, scoring 16 first-half points including three 3-point shots, as the visitors took a 31-27 halftime lead.

"I was thinking eventually he's gotta miss," said Alvernia coach Mike Miller.

Tibbs finished with a team-high 22 points while Jordan Young added 15 and Bloochy Magloire 11.

CSI, however, was limited to just one basket over the final four minutes.

"They came in here averaging 75 points and we held them under 60," said Miller, whose team improved to 4-3. "That's going to be their low for the season."

Josh Vargas powered Alvernia to the win with 23 points, while Cory Boone added 15 points and eight rebounds.

The Crusaders had a decisive edge at the free-throw line, sinking 18 of 26 while the Dolphins made 5 of 8.

CSI (58)

Van Manen 2-4 0-0 4, Young 7-11 1-1 15, Taranto 0-3 0-0 0, Tibbs 7-14 4-7 22, Magloire 4-11 0-0 11, Jenkins 0-0 0-0 0, Valdes 0-3 0-0 0, Bulger 3-6 0-0 6.

Totals: 23-52 5-8 58.

ALVERNIA (66)

Nerney 0-3 2-2 2, Thompson 3-7 0-0 7, Boone 6-8 3-6 15, Vargas 8-18 4-6 23, Davis 0-4 4-6 4, Clark 2-3 5-6 9, Parker 1-2 0-0 2, Bridgers 2-6 0-0 4.

Totals: 22-51 18-26 66.

Halftime: 31-27, **CSI**.

Three-point shots: **CSI** 7-21 (Young 0-1, Taranto 0-2, Tibbs 4-9, Magloire 3-7, Valdes 0-2); Alvernia 4-16 (Thompson 1-4, Vargas 3-7, Davis 0-3, Bridgers 0-2). Rebounds: **CSI** 29 (Van Manen 6, Magloire 6); Alvernia 35 (Boone 8, Clark 6). Assists: **CSI** 6 (Tibbs 4); Alvernia 11 (Vargas 3, Davis 3). Turnovers: **CSI** 14, Alvernia 12. Total fouls: **CSI** 19, Alvernia 12. Fouled out: none.

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December 12, 2011 issue



Joseph Sadler

Devine, Texas > Football

Joseph, a senior running back, cornerback, kicker and punter at Devine High, scored 50 points in a 56-42 Class 3A regional playoff win over Wharton High to break the Texas single-season record, set in 1953 by Sugar Land's Ken Hall (395). He had seven touchdowns, kicked six extra points and scored on a two-point conversion to reach 441. This year he had 451 points, two points short of the alltime mark, and rushed for 3,887 yards, most in the nation for the season.



Alicia Ogoms

Winnipeg, Manitoba > Volleyball

Alicia, a 6'5" senior middle blocker and team captain at St. Mary's Academy, had a 49% kill percentage to lead the Flames to the program's first 4A provincial title with a win over Crocus Plains (25-17, 23-25, 25-22, 19-25, 15-13). Alicia, who was named championship game MVP, led the team this season in attacks (996), kills (487), blocks (171) and aces (77) and was named All-Manitoba. She is ranked No. 1 in the province by sportswriters and coaches and will play at USC next year.



Tanner Trosin

Folsom, Calif. > Football

Tanner, a senior quarterback at Folsom High, threw for 407 yards and four touchdowns (including a 99-yard TD pass) in a 39-35 Northern Section Division II championship loss to Vacaville, making him the first player in state history to eclipse 5,000 passing yards in a single season (5,185). He also rushed for 101 yards and a score, which made him the state's alltime single season all-purpose-yards leader, with 6,364. In September he threw for a Northern California single-game-record 601 yards.



Lauren Stephenson

Lexington, S.C. > Golf

Lauren, a freshman at Lexington High, shot back-to-back 66s for a two-day total of 132 to win the 14- to 18-year-old girls' division and set tournament and course records at the South Carolina Junior Golf Association's Players Championship at Hartsville Country Club. A member of the Lexington varsity team since seventh grade, she helped the Wildcats to their seventh straight state title last year and was the individual runner-up this fall. She is ranked second in the state in her age group.



Jean Pierre (JP) Eloff

Pretoria, South Africa > Rugby

Eloff, a sophomore center at Davenport (Mich.) University, led the Panthers with 106 points this fall to help them finish with a 7-0 record and a No. 1 USA Rugby Division I-AA ranking from Rugby Magazine. In the team's first season at the D-I level last spring, Eloff scored 13 tries, led the Panthers in conversions (37) and penalty goals (11) for a team-high 172 points, including 25 in a 38-19 win over UC Santa Barbara for the program's first national championship, and was named tournament MVP.



Jennifer Albuja

Union City, N.J. > Soccer

Albuja, a senior striker at New Jersey City University, netted a first-half hat trick and added an assist to break the 200 career point mark in a 6-0 win over the [College of Staten Island](#) in the Eastern College Athletic Conference quarterfinals. She finished her college career with eight alltime records for the Gothic Knights, including 203 points and 91 goals (25th in Division III history). She scored at least 25 goals for the second time in her career, and was named all-NJAC for the fourth time.

Photo credits: Debi Petty (Sadler); Brenda Westwood (Ogoms); Kevin Gray/Visual Sports (trosin); Courtesy of the Stephenson Family (Stephenson); Aaron Segraves/Davenport University Athletics (Eloff); Ira Thor/NJCU Sports Information (Albuja)

For more on standout amateur athletes, follow [@SI_Faces on Twitter](#).

Press-Republican

December 15, 2011

Sports shorts: December 15, 2011

Press-Republican

Hoop for Hope resumes Friday

CLINTONVILLE — The Hoop for Hope boys' basketball tournament resumes Friday with Harwood playing Schroon Lake. The JV game will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the varsity game to follow.

The winner will play AuSable Valley in the varsity championship game 5 p.m. Saturday. The consolation game is at 3:30 p.m. Willsboro is in the consolation game.

Bowman two-time Rookie of the Week

ALBANY — Sage Colleges' rookie guard Megan Bowman, from Saranac, was named the Rookie of the Week by the Skyline Conference for the second week in a row.

The Gators' newcomer had an impressive week and helped the team to a 3-0 week along the way as they opened play with a 60-55 win over the College of Staten Island on Dec., then beat Purchase 79-49 on Dec. 7. The week was capped on Dec. 10 with a 59-34 win over Bard on the road.

Bowman had a great game in a league win over Purchase, with a game-high 17 points (7-of-11), four rebounds, six assists and a steal.

Junior luger claims silver in Austria

IGLS, Austria — United States junior luger Tucker West slid to his third consecutive podium result Sunday in the Youth A division of a boy's Junior World Cup event in Igls, Austria.

The 16-year-old from Ridgefield, Conn. picked up a silver medal after two consecutive bronze medals at previous races in Park City, Utah and Calgary, Alberta.

West will lead a contingent of five Americans who have been nominated to the United States Olympic Committee to compete next month in the first winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Innsbruck, Austria.

The International Luge Federation (FIL) has established a five-sled maximum quota per nation for the luge races that will be held in Igls, Austria, home to the Olympia track, where the Olympic luge events were held in 1964 and 1976. USA Luge has earned all five slots.

The 2012 Youth Olympic Games will take place from Jan. 13-22; the luge events are slated for Jan. 15-17. The YOG is for athletes born in 1994 or 1995.

West, will be joined in men's singles by Ty Andersen, 17, of Alpine, Utah.

Summer Britcher, of Glen Rock, Pa., and Raychel Germaine, of Roswell, Ga., will race in women's singles.

Payne picks up two weekly awards

FREDONIA — Kathleen Payne of the Plattsburgh State women's basketball team was named State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Player of the Week for the week ending Dec. 11.

Payne was also chosen as the ECAC Upstate Player of the Week for the Upstate Region.

Payne finished with 75 points in a 2-1 week for Plattsburgh to earn her first conference weekly honor of the season. The Goshen native picked up her first double-double of the week Tuesday at New Paltz with 28 points and 11 rebounds.

On Friday, she netted 19 points and shot a perfect 4-for-4 from the free throw line in a 75-71 overtime win against Geneseo. Payne wrapped up the week shooting 10-for-17 from the field in a 28-point, 13-rebound performance against Brockport, helping lead the Cardinals to their first conference weekend sweep since the 2008-09 season.

The Cardinal sophomore averaged 25 points and 11 rebounds, shot 54 percent from the field, 41 percent from beyond the arc and 84 percent from the line. Payne currently leads the SUNYAC with an average of 22.6 points per game.

Plattsburgh returns to action on Dec. 28 at The Big Easy Challenge in New Orleans, La.

The Cardinals will open the holiday tournament against Geneva College at 10 a.m.

CSI athletes, committee take Special plunge

Wednesday, December 21, 2011, 9:26 AM



By
Staten Island
Advance



CSI SACC members, from the left, Danielle Ponsiglione, Katie Arcuri, Jordan Young, Catherine Ebro and Henry Roman.

WILLOWBROOK -- It may not have been your ideal beach weather, but that didn't stop a handful of members of the College of Staten Island Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), and assistant athletics director Katie Arcuri, along with some 650 others, from jumping into the frigid waters of South Beach earlier this month.

The 12th annual Polar Bear Plunge was the reason, and the cause — Special Olympics — was even better. Many of the special Olympians showed their support by diving into the cold water as well. The day's event helped raise \$95,000, the biggest turnout ever for a New York City region

event. The 600 plus plungers featured 59 teams, including other colleges and high schools.

The idea to participate in the event was initiated by Katie Jo Righi back in September when Special Olympian Doug Patterson attended one of CSI's monthly SAAC meetings. Being a multi-sport Olympian in aquatics, track and field and basketball, Patterson found a common ground with CSI's athletes. The committee was inspired and decided to join Doug in trying to raise some money for the athletes.

The athletes arrived at the sun-drenched beach at 10 a.m., and after registering, prepared for the chills to come. A group of Special Olympians led the charge through the sand and into the water.

CSI SAAC president Jordan Young was among the athletes who participated. "Everything about the event was exciting," said the CSI basketball star. "When we saw Doug plunge into the water it really came together that we were helping others who shared a passion for sports the way we do."



Old Westbury holds off CSI women, 69-59

Friday, December 23, 2011, 2:07 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

OLD WESTBURY, L.I. — The College of Staten Island showed some rust from a 16-day layoff by falling behind by 24 points early in the second half of Thursday night's game at SUNY-Old Westbury.

The Dolphins (4-5) woke up in time to stage a rally and pull within five points late in a 69-59 loss to the Panthers at the Clark Athletic Center.

Old Westbury (4-5) was paced by ex-Dolphin junior guard Denise Zajonc, a Port Richmond HS product, who scored a game-high 17 points on 4-of-5 shooting from 3-point range.

The start couldn't have been much worse for CSI, which trailed 31-12 at halftime and 38-14 four minutes into the second half.

But behind the efforts of Olivia Tierno (16 points, 10 rebounds, three steals), Nikki Fabozzi (12 points), Katelyn Hepworth (11 points) and Victoria Donegan (10 points), the visitors came charging back. A 17-6 run brought the Dolphins to within 57-52 with less than three minutes remaining.

Old Westbury iced the game from the free-throw line.

The Panthers won the rebounding battle, 51-34, and limited the Dolphins to 29.2 percent shooting from the floor.

CSI returns to action at home on Wednesday at 1 p.m. against Wesley College.

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A small Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame class that's big on grit

Sunday, December 25, 2011, 10:05 AM



Cormac Gordon
By



Staten Island Advance file photo

Susan Wagner HS product Frank Menechino played three infield positions during his career with Oakland and Toronto.

The Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame has inducted 107 individuals in its 16-year existence.

The initial inductees who stepped onto the stage at College of Staten Island's Williamson Theatre in January of 1995 comprised an all-star, no-brainer list of 11, headlined by names like Bobby Thomson and Hank Majeski, Rich Kotite and Jim Albus.

And, amazingly enough, there has been nary a noticeable drop in quality candidates in the years since.

The names that now hang on the walls of the Hall of Fame room at the CYO-MIV

Center at Mount Loretto include 16 major leaguers and 11 NFL players. There are Olympians, and college football All-Americans, boxing trainers and tennis stars.

And legendary local coaching names like Somma, McGinley, Tierney, Paturzo and Levinson are sprinkled into the glittery mix.

A walk amidst the photos and memorabilia of The Hall is an Island history class dating all the way back to the mid-19th century when Mary Outerbridge was playing the game of tennis in St. George, a sport she helped import from the British colony of Bermuda.

At virtually the same time, future three-time 20-game winner Brewery Jack Taylor was learning the roughhouse game of baseball a couple of miles down Richmond Terrace.

TWO INDUCTEES

Across all that history a typical Hall of Fame class has averaged about seven entrants. This year just two inductees -- the 108 and 109th individuals -- will take the stage on Saturday, Jan. 28 at Mount Loretto.



Staten Island Advance file photo

Cincinnati Bengals assistant coach Kevin Coyle's long football career began at Monsignor Farrell.

Kevin Coyle, the 150-pound Monsignor Farrell HS defensive back known as "Mean Harry" by his teammates for the way he hit in practice and big games, and who has gone on to a professional coaching career that includes the last 11 seasons working the defensive end of things with the Cincinnati Bengals, will join several former Farrell teammates in the Hall.

Joining Coyle will be seven-year big leaguer Frank Menechino, who defied naysayers at every step -- from high school to junior college to the University of Alabama, and through seven long, long years in the minors -- before making it to

The Show just in time to play for the Moneyball Oakland A's.

Why only two inductees, the smallest class ever? Not because of any lack of worthy possibilities, that much is for certain.

"When the list for this year was first compiled, I looked at the names, the quality of the people, and thought, 'It will be a big class,' " was charter committee member and driving force Jay Price's initial reaction.

But the Staten Island Hall of Fame always has been an exclusive club.

By comparison, when the Baseball Writers' Association of America Hall of Fame ballots are sent out each December, the voters deciding who will enter Cooperstown are reminded that an eligible players' name must appear on 75 percent of those ballots in order to gain induction.

HIGH STANDARDS

That's a high bar that has seen stars like local hero Gil Hodges, big-game Tigers ace Jack Morris, and seven-time All-Star Tim Lincecum, miss year after year.

The Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame has an even more difficult voting hurdle.

The Hall demands that 14 of 17 committee members, or better than 80 percent, vote "yes" on any given nominee. So it is that in a year like this, with many to choose from, the votes were dispersed in such a way that only two reached the number necessary.

Did the outcome surprise members like Price?

"Yes," he admitted.

Did it disappoint?

"Yes," was his answer. "There were some others I was hoping would be selected this year. But the Sports Hall of Fame is important to Islanders, and it should be difficult to get in."

Present committee chair Lou Bergonzi feels similarly.

"The Hall of Fame is too prestigious an honor to lower the selection standards," said the former Advance sports editor. "There are plenty of great candidates, and voters are forced to make some tough choices. But that's the good news. And the bottom line is that there is always next year."

"Over the years we've broadened our net, bringing people on board who have wide-ranging sports interests," explained Bergonzi. "That's helped to bring to the attention of the committee some deserving people who might have been overlooked."

It would have been virtually impossible to overlook Coyle as a high-quality Hall of Fame candidate.

The New Dorp native and 1974 Farrell grad was coached by Dennis Barrett when he was a team captain for the Lions.

RESPECTED COACH

After playing at UMass, he worked everywhere in the college game. Early on for Lou Holtz at Arkansas, and on to Cincinnati, Syracuse, Maryland, Fresno State, Holy Cross, just to name some schools on his resume.

How did he stick with the Bengals for 11 seasons, through a head coaching change that normally means a total staff house-cleaning?

Not because he won a personality contest.

"Right from the start, you knew Kevin was going to be a great coach," said Barrett, a fellow Hall of Famer. "He has tremendous focus and intensity, and he always had a great impact on people."

So well respected is the now NFL vet that last offseason Andy Reid tried unsuccessfully to win permission from the Bengals to speak to Coyle about the Philadelphia Eagles defensive coordinator position.

"He's a driven guy who knows how to teach and motivate," said Barrett.

Menechino's road to The Hall went over every imaginable obstacle, beginning with his spending most of his high school days at Susan Wagner as a catcher. That very fact basically eliminated any chance the then 150-pounder would draw interest from professional organizations.

Off Menechino went to Gulf Coast Community College in Florida where he played for Darren Mazerowski, son of Hall of Fame second baseman Bill Mazerowski. The former Pittsburgh Pirates star would stop by and help Menechino work on his infield defense.

GRITTY COMPETITOR

From there it was Alabama, where the undersized kid from New York became the Crimson Tide's leading hitter as a junior.

Still, he was a throwaway 45th-round draft choice by the White Sox.

"But he never stopped trying," said committee member Larry Anderson. "Every time someone said Frank wasn't capable he proved them wrong by working hard and getting better."

The present-day Yankees minor league hitting instructor lasted seven years, mostly with Oakland and the Toronto Blue Jays. He hit .284 in an 11-year minor league career, and .240 in the bigs.

"And he was a much better defensive player at all the infield positions than he ever received credit for," said Anderson.

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Dolphins hope to break the ice in **College of Staten Island** Tournament of Heroes

Wednesday, December 28, 2011, 5:00 PM



Jim Waggoner
By

They've arrived in Willowbrook from places as far away as Spokane, Wash., and Demorest, Ga., representing schools with names like Whitworth and Piedmont.

Wheaton College enjoyed the Tournament of Heroes experience so much in 2006 that the Thunder returned the favor by inviting the **College of Staten Island** men's basketball team to travel to play in Chicago two years later.

"It's been mostly by word of mouth," says **CSI** coach Tony Petosa, whose legacy in honoring the three former Dolphin players who perished in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center outweighs his 330 career victories. "We try to find schools not from this area and the response over the years has been good. More times than not, schools hear about our tournament from other schools who have participated."

The 48-year-old Petosa, who remains the school's all-time leading rebounder, was close with Tom Hannafin and Scott Davidson, two New York City firefighters who starred during **CSI's** golden era of the 1980s, and computer analyst Terrance Aiken, an athletic sixth man on the NCAA Division III Tournament-qualifying 1994-95 squad.

"It started off as an idea and thanks to a lot of sponsors and hard-working people in the athletics department, it took off," said Petosa. "I'm really proud of it. I think we do a pretty good job with it."



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

Bloochy Magloire, right, and the **CSI** Dolphins will try to win their own Tournament of Heroes for the first time this week.

CSI'S TOURNAMENT OF HEROES

The 10th annual Tournament of Heroes honors the memory of former CSI basketball players Tom Hannafin, Scott Davidson and Terrance Aiken, who all perished in the 9/11 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center.

When/where

Thursday night & Friday night, CSI Sports and Recreation Center

First round (Thursday)

Illinois Wesleyan (7-2) vs. Bethany, W.Va. (10-0), 5:30 p.m.

CSI (6-3) vs. Vaughn (4-5), 7:30 p.m.

Friday

Consolation, 5:30 p.m., Championship, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets

\$5 adults, \$2 students and children 10 and up

Tourney champions

2002 – Bethany; 2003 – Kean; 2004 – NJ City University; 2005 – NYU; 2006 – Wheaton; 2007 – Bridgewater State; 2008 – Trine University; 2009 – Piedmont; 2010 – Anderson U.

Other participants

Other schools to have played in the tournament include Nazareth, St. Joseph's (Brooklyn), Richard Stockton, Whitworth, Rivier, Westfield State, Emmanuel, Clark, McDaniel, Rhode Island, St. Joseph's (L.I.), Elmira, Kings Point, Colby-Sawyer, Randolph and University of Dallas.

The tournament's 10th anniversary will be celebrated during a two-night run beginning tomorrow with CSI (6-3) facing Vaughn College of Queens (4-5) in the 7:30 p.m. nightcap.

The 5:30 p.m. opener features Bethany College of West Virginia (10-0), which won the inaugural Tournament of Heroes in 2002, making a return appearance against Illinois Wesleyan (7-2).

CSI has never won its own tournament, in part because of the caliber of competition. The Dolphins dropped an 80-78 overtime game to Kean in the 2003 final and a hard-fought 70-67 decision to Anderson University of Indiana in last season's title game.

The Dolphins are 6-12 all-time with three championship-game appearances.

"We've talked about the fact we've never won the tournament," said Petosa, whose team's six-game winning streak was snapped in the game prior to the holiday break. "Any time you put a challenge out to a kid, they usually want to answer it. They take it seriously and they want to win games.

"The intention of the tournament outside of honoring the three former players and their families, is to help make us a better team down the road. We've had Top 10 teams play here. We want to play the best competition possible."

NOTES: The second annual Matty White Alumni Game is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 21 prior to CSI's CUNY Conference game against John Jay at 1 p.m. The prelim honors the late assistant coach who spent 17 seasons on CSI's bench following a lengthy high school coaching career that included induction into the CHSAA Hall of Fame. He coached for 14 seasons at Manhattan's LaSalle Academy and also coached at St. Raymond's HS of the Bronx and Port Richmond HS. White died in May 2010 of kidney cancer at the age of 74 ...

CSI plays eight of its next nine games at home after playing only two of its first nine at the Sports and Rec Center ... Vaughn College, a small aeronautics school located near LaGuardia Airport, started its program right after building its first residence hall in 2007 ...

Illinois Wesleyan's most famous basketball alum is former NBA great Jack Sikma, who joined the elite 17,000-point, 10,000-rebound club during a 14-year career with Seattle and Milwaukee.

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Ducks End '11 with a Win as Women's Basketball Beats CSI 71-55

12/30/2011

HOBOKEN, N.J. (December 30, 2011) – The Stevens Institute of Technology women's basketball team (3-5) put an end to their four-game skid with a convincing 71-55 victory over the [College of Staten Island](#) in both teams' first action since the start of the winter break. Seniors Dawn Garcia (Brooklyn, N.Y.) and Jillian Barrett (Philadelphia, Pa.) led the way for the Ducks; Garcia accounted for 19 points to lead all scorers and Barrett came through with her fifth-straight double-double (16 points / 11 rebounds).

Stevens played a fundamentally sound game at both ends of the floor as the team shot 83.3 percent from the free-throw line, out-rebounded the Dolphins 45-26 and held the visitors to just 33.3 percent shooting from the field.

[CSI](#) enjoyed the early lead, however, going up by as much as eight points with seven minutes remaining in the first half. Stevens began to chip away with a 7-0 run at that point, capped by a three-pointer from Garcia. The teams stayed close before Stevens took the lead for good late in the first: Barrett and Vicki Zucker (New City, N.Y.) both put away layups in the waning seconds of the period to give the Ducks a 29-26 halftime lead and a good jolt of momentum as well.

The Ducks scored 11 of the first 15 points in the second period, methodically adding to the gap growing between them and the Dolphins. A jumper by Kate Cox (Aston, Pa.) put Stevens up by 10 with 16 minutes remaining.

The Dolphins would make it a one-possession game once more at the 12-minute mark when Nikki Fabozzi (Staten Island, N.Y.) hit a three to cut the Duck lead in half, but Barrett answered right back with a second-chance layup on the next possession. That bucket began an 8-0 run for the home team and Stevens was never truly threatened again.

Zucker finished with 10 points, the first time she has reached double figures as a college player. Avis Benjamin (Queens, N.Y.) had a solid game for the Ducks with 9 points and 12 boards, and the game also saw All-Empire 8 player Victoria Webber (Silver Spring, Md.) return to active duty after missing the team's last few games with an injury.

Fabozzi led Staten Island with 15 points, and Katelyn Hepworth (Staten Island, N.Y.) finished with 12 for the Dolphins.

Stevens will ring in the New Year when it hosts Rhode Island College on January 4, 2012 at 6 p.m. inside Canavan Arena.

CSI advances to play Illinois Wesleyan in championship game of Tournament of Heroes

Friday, December 30, 2011, 12:04 AM



Jim Waggoner
By



Staten Island Advance file photo by Bill Lyons

CSI senior point guard Thomas Tibbs led the Dolphins into the championship game of the Tournament of Heroes.

The path to the College of Staten Island's first Tournament of Heroes championship will have to go through the Illinois Wesleyan Titans.

The host Dolphins (7-3) spanked Vaughn College of Queens 104-51 Thursday night after Illinois Wesleyan (8-2) knocked Bethany College of West Virginia from the unbeaten ranks with a 63-60 win.

That sets up Friday night's title game at 7:30 in Willowbrook.

CSI has never won its own tournament, although this will be its fourth championship appearance in 10 years.

"I'm a senior and I won't get a chance to play in this tournament again," said senior point guard Thomas Tibbs, who scored all of his game-high 21 points as the Dolphins

rolled to a 60-27 halftime lead. "I want to win it for Coach (Tony Petosa) ... we all do. This tournament was his idea and it means a lot to him."

That said, Illinois Wesleyan poses a formidable challenge.

"They're fundamentally sound, well-coached and have size," said Tibbs, the CUNY Conference's preseason player of the year. "We know it's going to be a tough game."

Vaughn, a small aeronautics school located near LaGuardia Airport, wasn't much of a test after Tibbs and sophomore guard Bloochy Magloire started heating up. Tibbs sank 8 of 9 shots, including 5 of 5 three-point shots, and Magloire nailed a pair of treys and had 10 points at halftime.

"We started slowly and Tibbs kind of carried us," said Petosa. "He made shots and we got things rolling."

The Dolphins finished at a blistering 61.2 percent shooting clip, making 41 of 67 shots from the floor. They connected on 14 of 24 three-pointers and 13 players scored, with sophomore guard Ahmed Gamea's jump shot pushing the hosts past the 100-point mark.

Freshman forward Javon Cox came off the bench to score 15 points on 6-of-6 shooting and a handful of reserves got extended minutes to show their skills.

"I'm glad people got to see that," said Tibbs. "We have talent for the future in this program and that's important to me."

Said Petosa: "I feel very comfortable that we have kids on the bench who can help us in the years ahead."

Illinois Wesleyan poses a more immediate concern, however. The Titans received 23 points from senior guard Jordan Zimmer while junior Kevin Reed had 10 points and 10 rebounds in the tight victory over Bethany.

Illinois Wesleyan finished No. 25 in last season's D3hoops.com poll, and Bethany arrived last night with a No. 32 ranking.

"Both of them are national caliber teams," said Petosa. "We've had a lot of ranked teams to our tournament the past decade.

"They (Titans) are very structured with a lot of size and shoot the ball very well. And they play great defense. For us, it's a great opportunity."

And a chance to grab that elusive trophy.

NOTES: Ex-CSI great David Paul, who ranks second on the school's all-time scoring list with 1,684 points, was among former Dolphins in attendance ... Bethany (10-1) plays Vaughn (4-7) today at 5:30 p.m.

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Stories

Science and Politics Collide in Medgar Evers Faculty Split

Wednesday, Nov 30, 2011

Story By Malik Singleton. Photo By Taleen Dersdepanian.



Medgar Evers College is trying to improve graduation and retention rates, but those efforts have divided the school's faculty. Opposition to some of the reforms has become intertwined with fears about a larger demographic change in the neighborhood.

Instructors at the Brooklyn college are divided over how to improve poor graduation numbers—and on whether the faculty on hand are qualified to operate a new science center.

At one end of Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway there is a cultural hub consisting of a busy library, a beautiful botanical garden and a world-class museum. Walking distance from there, just a few blocks south of the parkway in Crown Heights, is another key institution, CUNY's Medgar Evers College

Founded in 1969 by civil rights activists and local organizers who advocated for an institution to meet the needs of Central Brooklyn's low-income, working-class and largely black community, Medgar Evers (or MEC) has become a familiar resource for the African-American, West Indian and African population that has long occupied its neighborhood.

Now, the rapid gentrification of the area—which is moving those two, separate points on Eastern Parkway closer together in a demographic sense—is raising new questions about what it means to serve the people of Central Brooklyn.

Meanwhile, internal power struggles and signs of resistance to change have made transforming MEC into a higher-performing school an uphill battle.

Fighting stigmas and statistics

Many of MEC's challenges are common to any campus. One is capacity: Due to its open enrollment policy, the number of incoming students consistently rises, which is good for business but makes finding classroom space for all a complicated juggle.

Yet MEC faces some unique challenges as well. Among CUNY's 24 undergraduate, graduate, professional and community institutions, MEC is one of the four "comprehensive" colleges that offers both bachelor's and associate's degrees. Its retention and graduation rates are the worst of the comprehensive schools. In the fall of 2009, the one-year retention rate for MEC was 58 percent, compared with 69 percent for John Jay College, 67 percent for the College of Staten Island and 65 percent for the New York City College of Technology. After four years at Medgar Evers, 8.4 percent of the class that entered in 2006 had graduated, roughly half CUNY's system-wide rate.

On the bright side, for the first time in recent record, 2011 was the first time that MEC graduated nearly as many Baccalaureates (449) as Associates (478). And MEC officials say statistics don't address every caveat or every reality on the ground since such a large contingent of students who juggle full-time jobs, care for dependents and commute long distances.

But MEC's goal, officials say, is still to improve its numbers.

In his "state of the college" address this fall, MEC's President William Pollard announced his appointment of a strategic planning committee, charged with producing a five-year plan by Spring 2012. What this group of faculty, administrators, students and alumni is tackling primarily is a situational analysis of the college's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats ("SWOT")

To lead the 38-member group Pollard chose a 38-year veteran of the college and Faculty Senate member, Dr. Doris Withers. In an interview, Withers stresses the importance of long-term planning over short-term goals, which she says too many committees before hers had produced.

And although she intends to keep her group motivated by considering MEC's strengths and opportunities, she acknowledges that addressing weaknesses and threats is where the majority of work must be done.

"I would say that our retention rates is an area that we need to improve," says Withers, "and our infighting is a major weakness."

An argument over administration

For the past year, competing factions of MEC's faculty have been embroiled in a very public dispute over the way the college should be run. On one side is the president and his appointed provost who began instituting sweeping changes upon arrival in 2009. Opposing them is a small band of faculty members calling itself the "Medgar Evers College Coalition for Academic Excellence and Mission Integrity" (or simply "the Coalition"), which is backed by a larger body of outside supporters, all deeply disturbed by how the changes have been executed and communicated.

Somewhere in the middle are the majority of faculty, staff and students coping with problems on the ground such as a growing student body in a time of reduced faculty.

Each side claims their highest priority is to improve the institution's performance, but they wholly disagree about how to reach that goal. The Coalition wants improved support for MEC's existing programs. The administration, in some cases, wants to implement new programs. The Coalition has called for high-level resignations; the administration has carried out firings of sub-par performers. Adjunct contracts aren't being renewed. The Faculty Senate doesn't meet regularly, Sexual harassment accusations recently emerged against top administrators.

Meanwhile, a new science building has become a pawn in the arguments over MEC's future.

A new resource, a new challenge

MEC's new science building, officially called Academic Building 1 or AB1, is a \$247 million, six-story, 194,000 square foot facility at 1150 Carroll Street. It houses the School of Science, Health and Technology's departments of Biology, Math, and Nursing, plus the school's Physical, Environmental and Computer Sciences programs, includes a hospital simulation room for the Nursing Program as well as 14 labs, and boasts Brooklyn's only DNA sequencer available to college students.

Since the opening of the new building in the fall of 2010 MEC's faculty have been focused on better preparing students for science disciplines. "A bridge needs to be created so we get students into the STEM professions and prepare them for exams," Withers says, referring to the science, technology, engineering and math disciplines. She says that would require updated curriculum; she contends that her biology department hasn't seriously overhauled its curriculum since 1973. She also says instructor training is vital.

One of Medgar Evers College's biggest challenges is serving the higher education needs of the lower income demographic because so many students enter needing remediation, which is why MEC has served for so long as a teaching college. "This has traditionally been a teaching college," says chemistry Professor Michele Vittadello, "but with state of the art facilities like this we can become a research school."

Vitadello says his hope is that by having something as prominent and as central as the new science building, more and more students will get excited about studying in the college's Science, Health and Technology department which now accounts for 26 percent of degree seekers, behind the more popular Liberal Arts and Education disciplines which attract 43 percent of all full-time students. Vitadello, whose research is being backed by a grant from the U.S. Navy, also stresses the need to attract more "capable people" to teach at the science center.

Similarly, Withers says, "The building can't deliver instruction. Faculty still needs to teach," but puts the onus on administrators to organize the training that faculty needs.

Math professor Frank Ragland disagrees. An outspoken, staunch supporter of the new MEC administration, he is adamant that each educator is responsible for their own development. "What each of them should have done last summer," says Ragland, "was go on research up at Cornell or up at Boston U. or over at Chicago or Northwestern, up at Columbia, free of charge, and rebuild [their]

research skills in genetics or microbiology or plasma chemistry or something, and then come back and use those facilities and bring it to the students."

Some faculty members may have taken these steps, but Ragland says many are still not prepared to use the new science facility. "And so you've got here a building that costs up to almost half a billion dollars," he warns. "CUNY's not going to let those facilities go to waste."

A question of control

That, in fact, is a fear among some. Former Congressman Major Owens, now a professor at Medgar Evers College and one of the strongest voices of the Coalition, says he worries CUNY could move departments from a different CUNY college into MEC's Academic Building. "That new building is primarily a science building with state of the art equipment," says Owens. "The latest we hear is that they're going to actually lease out or give some of that building, part of the building, to another college in CUNY because our science department doesn't have the capacity to fully use all of that state-of-the-art equipment."

Withers admits there had been a few embarrassing incidents when MEC instructors weren't yet familiar with the lab's brand new versions of equipment.

Chris Hundley, a press officer and spokesperson for the CUNY administration, admits he is aware of rumors that the science building could be shared with non-MEC parties. But in an emailed statement he insisted, "There are not any plans for Academic Building I other than for our faculty to continue to conduct research and our students to continue to take classes."

Deeper demographic fears

Despite reassurances from CUNY's central administration, some faculty still fear AB1 could be descended upon by outsiders. But there is conflicting speculation on who, in which case, would come: Owens says he heard a relationship with Brooklyn College was considered. Withers offers that she heard John Jay inquired with CUNY about using labs.

Concerns about the science building's fate coincide with larger worries about demographic change sweeping Brooklyn. T. Rasul Murray, a community activist who supports the goals of the Coalition, was on campus November 3 to lead a public "Teach-In" session. "We stand within shouting distance of an expanding other community, that has demonstrably more political power, that is beginning to be evidenced," he told City Limits. "I suggest you come here on a Sunday and you look at who's in the science building, it is not us. It's not programs that are designed for us."

Some see a link between the faculty divisions over changes at MEC and the fate of the science center.

"They can't take it if we don't let them," says Withers. "The way they'll take it is if we continue to be a fragmented group of people."



Cause of man's death after struggle with cop at College of Staten Island is still undetermined

Thursday, December 01, 2011, 10:09 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

By **JOHN ANNESE**
and **JILLIAN JORGENSEN**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- An autopsy yesterday did not reveal what caused the death of a College of Staten Island cafeteria worker who perished after a struggle with a police officer on the school's Willowbrook campus Tuesday afternoon.

A spokeswoman for the city Medical Examiner's office said further tests will be needed to determine how Corey Holmes, 39, of the Bronx, died.



This cell phone picture, showing police subduing a person on the College of Staten Island campus Tuesday, circulated among students at the school shortly after it was taken. The man was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Holmes was engaging in drug use, possibly smoking pot, in a restroom on the north end of the college campus when a member of the NYPD's Staten Island Task Force walked in to take a bathroom break while on duty, according to police sources.

A struggle ensued, and witnesses saw Holmes battle the officer for control of his gun, sources said. Several passers-by rushed to assist the officer and restrain Holmes, who went into apparent cardiac arrest and died.

As of last night, the NYPD had not responded to an e-mail request seeking the name of the officer.

Several students and staff have criticized the college's handling of the incident, saying they received no official word from the school until more than two hours after the incident. During that time, rumors of gunfire and other situations that would threaten student safety pervaded, according to callers on campus who contacted the Advance.

Despite repeated requests from the Advance, **CSI** President Dr. Tomas Morales has been unavailable to comment on the incident. Other school administrators defended the college's response. A spokesman for City University of New York Chancellor Matthew Goldstein deferred comment to **CSI** officials.

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Flames engulf townhouse in Bulls Head; man hurt

Thursday, December 01, 2011, 8:03 AM



Mark D. Stein
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A roaring blaze erupted in a Bulls Head townhouse last night, injuring an occupant and a half-dozen firefighters.

Thirty-six FDNY units comprising 150 firefighters worked for more than an hour to defeat the blaze, which began at 7:46 p.m. and went to three alarms.

There was heavy damage to all three floors of 36 Gary Ct., said Battalion Chief Edward Watt, and the flames lapped houses on either side.

Officials are investigating the cause.

Firefighters arriving within four minutes of the first alarm encountered a "heavy body of fire" on the first and second floors, said Watt.

Ladder Co. 86 rescued a man in his 50s who was on the stairwell between the second and third floors, the battalion chief said. He was taken to Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze.

Six firefighters were treated for minor injuries and smoke inhalation.

The Red Cross was on the scene to assist



Staten Island Advance/Steve White

Firefighters battle the blaze in the rear of 36 Gary Ct., not far from Morani Street.



folks forced from their homes. Records indicate that the burned townhouse is owned by Project Hospitality, the North Shore-based social services agency.

Staten Island Advance/Michael Oates

Thirty-six FDNY units comprising 150 firefighters worked for more than an hour to defeat the blaze, which began at 7:46 p.m. and went to three alarms.

The spectacular blaze — smoke was visible from Richmond Avenue and Victory Boulevard — drew plenty of onlookers, some of whom used their cell phones to record it.

Victory was closed to traffic between its intersection with Richmond Avenue and the [College of Staten Island](#) to facilitate the Fire Department's work.

"The flames were rolling out," said John Wood, who had been taking a walk. "[Firefighters] opened up the roof and the flames started coming right out."

Wood confirmed that the FDNY arrived instantly: "They were right on the money."

Ivari Escamilla, whose godmother, Gertrude Contreras, lives at 34 Gary Ct., credited tenant Raul Sanchez with averting tragedy. "He smelled the smoke and got everyone out," said Ms. Escamilla, noting that three families reside at 34 Gary.

Ms. Contreras, a mother of three, was stunned.

"I was watching TV," she recalled. "We ran out of the house barefoot. The kids are scared."

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CSI complex devoid of city bus service

Sunday, December 04, 2011, 10:00 AM



Michael Sedon
By



Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

College of Staten Island students walk toward the campus after getting off a bus on Victory Boulevard near the school's entrance.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- In a borough sorely under-served by public transportation, the College of Staten Island sits as a sprawling complex without city bus service. And folks at the school are trying to change that.

A study by the college shows that some areas of the Island have a heavy concentration of bus stops, but the CSI campus also lacks adequate bus stops on surrounding streets.

Advocates at the school, including a professor and the student government, are trying to make their case to the MTA, which continues to maintain that service

can't be added because it would add cost.

But other large complexes, like Sea View Hospital Rehabilitation and Home and the Teleport industrial park, have bus stops on their campuses, so CSI simply wants the same level of service for its thousands of students.

"Staten Island is very poorly served by (public) transit," said CSI professor Jonathan Peters.

"The College of Staten Island happens to reside in one of the biggest holes in the city."

"Bus 93 terminates right at the door of the campus, so we're just looking to get the bus a little further into the campus," Peters said.

"The college would allow the MTA to run through the campus if they want, and they probably should."

They also complain that the area around the campus is under-served, compounding the problem.

The campus currently runs a shuttle bus service for students with a daily average ridership of 1,900 people, and the current MTA bus stop at the entrance to **CSI** is the seventh busiest stop on the Island behind areas such as the ferry terminal and the mall, Peters said.

"We're a major hub," he added.

And an MTA bus traveling through the campus would benefit more than just **CSI** employees and students.

Given the number of people that drive to and from the campus, Peters explained that better bus service for the campus could take between 300 and 400 cars off of the nightmarish section of Victory Boulevard daily, alleviating some of the chronic traffic tie-ups along that corridor.

MTA Board members Mitch Pally and Allen Cappelli proposed reinstating \$20 million for services to be split among New York City Transit, the Long Island Rail Road and the Metro-North Railroad, at the MTA's Nov. 16 board meeting.

Out of a \$12.6 billion annual MTA budget, Cappelli felt that finding the \$20 million to restore or enhance services sorely missed would be relatively easy if the rest of the boards resolve to do so is there.

"We've been cutting back for a number of years, but we will have to continue to cut non-transportation issues," Cappelli said.

"We're making some calls to some public officials to help make the argument as well."

Although Cappelli declined to identify the public officials that he has reached out to, he did say if the rest of the board approves the \$20 million request that one of the service "enhancements" he is eyeing is extending an MTA bus through the **CSI** campus.

"We're trying to create a pot of money to provide services such as that (the **CSI** bus service)," Cappelli said.

In a letter of support from several transportation advocacy groups sent Nov. 29 to MTA acting Chair Andrew Saul and Executive Director Joseph Lhota it voiced support for the additional \$20 million to be reallocated to restore some of the services cut in June of 2010.

Some of what was cut include: 20 local and 12 New York City express bus routes, hours of operation on 39 local bus routes, 570 bus stops and other rail and subway services, according to the letter signed by NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign, Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA, Transportation Alternatives and Tri-State Transportation Campaign.

OUR OPINION

CSI students denied

Let's look at a few simple facts when it comes to public transportation — read that “bus service” — to and from the sprawling campus of the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook.

Fact: When the campus was transformed from an institution that warehoused 6,000 mentally handicapped patients into a state-of-the-art college that eventually would service 14,000 students, little thought was given to how these people would get there.

Fact: The entrance to the college campus, located on one of the busiest streets on the Island at the hub of entrance and exit ramps of the Staten Island Expressway, was never designed to take advantage of that location. Ramps from both directions on the expressway directly into the campus would have alleviated a host of traffic issues on Victory Boulevard.

Fact: There are just 3,000 parking spaces on the campus in a borough known for its reliance on the automobile. And every one of those 14,000 students is a commuter, since the college is non-residential.

Fact: If you combine the ridership on the two bus lines that stop at the entrance to the college with the private shuttle that the college itself runs from the St. George Ferry Terminal every day, you have the third busiest bus stop on Staten Island. More than 2,000 ride a day. And the college is forced to pay tens of thousands of dollars annually from its own budget to supplement the anemic city bus service.

We'll stop here. We could go on. And on.

The fact is, College of Staten Island students are being discriminated against by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and that has to change.

Truth is, the college is not asking for much, and we are at a loss to understand why the college cannot get it. Simply re-route bus service to the center of the campus instead of dropping students off at the entrance of the school — about a half mile away from where they need to be.

Is that really asking so much? And what prevents it?

onto the grounds of the newly energized Teleport on South Avenue in Bloomfield to service students and workers who now use the new Corporate Commons I and II complex. That is a good thing.

For decades, buses have run onto the campus of Sea View Hospital Rehabilitation Center and Home to service staff and visitors. That is a good thing.

For decades, buses have run onto the grounds of the Staten Island Mall to service thousands of shoppers. That is a good thing.

Why is it not a good thing to service thousands of students getting to and from classes at the College of Staten Island — a city institution, by the way — many of whose daily activities include part-time or full-time jobs, and families to care for?

You would think Staten Island would be fortunate to have a Staten Islander on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to advocate for such minor improvements. Islander Allen Cappelli says he recognizes the need for the service “enhancement,” but ties it into to a plan to find \$12 million to add to the MTA's \$12.6 billion budget for service improvements among New York City Transit, the Long Island Railroad and Metro-North Railroad.

We understand why Mr. Cappelli must advocate for service enhancements in areas other than Staten Island. After all, he is a member of the overall board.

But at the same time, no one we know outside the MTA leadership believes that Staten Island is well served.

Nor do we understand why a simple improvement like asking a bus driver to turn onto the campus and make a loop that would hardly extend the day, making life easier for thousands of students, must be tied to a search for an extra \$20 million.

It would seem, if the MTA wanted it done, it would be done. It's basic common sense and doesn't seem like a very big deal to us.

CSI Celestial Ball: Reaching for the Stars

The College of Staten Island will host the "CSI Celestial Ball: Reaching for the Stars," its third annual scholarship gala, on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at the Richmond County Country Club. The reception begins at 6:30 pm.

This year's honorees are Denis M. Hughes, President of the New York State AFL-CIO and Honorary Alumnus; Dr. Mary E. O'Donnell, Chair, Department of Nursing, College of Staten Island; and Mrs. Rose M. Volpe, Community Leader and Long-time Friend of the College.

This year's Event Chairs are Christine D. Cea, PhD '88, Donna J. Fauci '96, '03, Joseph Ricciutti '94.

Whereas CSI's annual tuition compares favorably with the national average for public higher education, approximately 75 percent of CSI's student body works and raises a family while attending CSI. The sponsorship dollars raised by the Ball will allow students to focus on their academic careers and excel in the future, permitting many CSI graduates to go into highly successful careers and attend the most prestigious graduate, MD, and PhD programs in the country.

Tickets are \$250 per person or \$450 per couple. For further information, advertising and sponsorship opportunities, or if you have any questions, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 718.982.2365 or foundation@csi.cuny.edu. The tax-deductible portion of each individual ticket is \$150. Visit the Celestial Ball website at www.csitoday.com/gala

Year-long celebration of Staten Island's 350th birthday comes to close on Sunday

Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 5:54 PM



Stephanie Slepian
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island was first inhabited by the Lenape Nation in the 1500s, but it really came to be on an August day in 1661 when Peter Stuyvesant authorized land grants to Dutch, French and Belgian settlers at Oude Dorp.

That 350 years of history — and so much more — has been celebrated in a series of conferences, lectures, tours, re-enactments, the lighting of the Empire State Building and the creation of a living flag.

On Sunday, the si350 Committee, which teamed with a host of borough culturals, wraps it up with a closing ceremony at 3 p.m. at St. John's University, Grymes Hill.

"I found that the diversity of the programs throughout the year were an expression of the many facets of life on Staten Island," said Joseph Sciame, vice president for community relations at St. John's, and also Sunday's master of ceremonies.

"Anniversaries are a time for reflection, both looking back and ahead, and for such reasons si350 was an important time for all on Staten Island and off the Island to become even more proud of its existence and founding."

Linda Dainto, board president of the National Lighthouse Museum, called the collaboration among the culturals "extremely valuable to our Staten Island community and helpful in enlightening locals on the depth of Staten Island history."



When the first Europeans visited Staten Island 350 years ago, they encountered the Lenni-Lenape, a diverse group of Raritan, Hackensack and Canarsie tribes with contacts throughout the region.

"We were vital hosts in the making of history in the last 350 years and now need to insure the world knows just what Staten Island has to offer," she said.

The closing ceremonies will include music by the Richmond County Orchestra Quartet and the Curtis High School Jazz Band. A photo slideshow will be narrated by students from St. John's, Wagner College and the [College of Staten Island](#).

Also participating will be the color guard from the New York State National Guard and an honor guard from the Staten Island Knights of Columbus.

Honorees include the Advance; historian Barnett Shepherd; Carlotta DeFillo, librarian, at Historic Richmond Town; Patricia Salmon, history curator at the Staten Island Museum; Leticia Remauro, chairwoman of Community Board 1; Dorothy Myhre-Donahue, coordinator of the Staten Island Memories Program at the libraries; Ann Merlino, faculty emeritus at [CSI](#); Gerard McEnerney, assistant vice president at St. John's, and the Richmond County Savings Foundation.

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A kind stranger and fine concert all in one uplifting evening

Friday, December 16, 2011, 1:13 AM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Advance
By

By MARTHA MORRONGIELLO
ELTINGVILLE

WOW! It happened Saturday evening, Dec. 3, in Springer Hall where the John Pizzarelli Quartet filled the air to overflowing with the most thrilling jazz possible.

But WOW! happened even before the performance, as I was flailing about the black darkness of the College of Staten Island campus, trying to hack my way through the labyrinth of buildings and paths to find the hall.

After flagging down several cars to ask directions — with no success — serendipity kicked in, in the form of a beautiful little student on her way to the library. She had me follow her car to a parking space close enough to the hall to provide a safe path for walking.

She even second-guessed her first choice because it was unlit and unmarked. My safety concerned her. She led me to the better place and went on her way with my undying gratitude. I wish her all good things.

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CSI worker who died in scuffle with cop had fled the law in Texas, report says

Friday, December 16, 2011, 9:25 AM



By **Robert McCormick**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The **College of Staten Island** food-service worker who died, apparently of a heart attack, when he tangled with an NYPD officer who caught him smoking pot was a trigger-happy fugitive from Texas justice, according to a published report.

Authorities initially had identified the man who died in the Nov. 29 altercation on the Willowbrook campus as Corey Holmes, 39, of the Bronx, a 10-year veteran employee. But his real name was Patrick Dotson, his age was 40, and he hailed from Houston, a story in the New York Post says.



Dramatic cell phone picture of altercation was widely circulated. Man now known to be Patrick Dotson was pronounced dead at hospital.

"That's why he got spooked and fled [when the officer challenged him in a bathroom]," a source told the paper. "He knew if they ran his prints and saw his raps, he was going back to Texas to face the music."

In the event, the corpse's fingerprints linked back to Dotson, who twice shot at men in separate incidents in the Texas city.

Records show Dotson was serving eight years' probation for a Jan. 7, 1998, shooting when he was nabbed for another crime on Feb. 21, 1999 — he allegedly pegged shots at three men in a vehicle outside an apartment complex and another man who was exiting a building. None of the bullets went home.

Dotson — then working as a nurse's aide — was apprehended nearby with a 40-caliber Glock and a magazine still containing eight rounds, officials said.

Charged with aggravated assault, he was released on \$50,000 bail, records show, but not before posting an additional \$50,000 in consequence of violating the probation he was already serving, the documents state.

He jumped bail rather than appear in court on June 9, 1999.

"He was really scared of going to jail," the bail bondsman who got stuck told the Post. Dotson's criminal resume included a marijuana conviction from 1994, for which he paid a \$500 fine and spent eight days behind bars, records show.

Sources told the Post that Dotson stole an acquaintance's identity and high-tailed it to New York.

It seems he successfully concealed his record until the day last month that he met up with the officer in an out-of-the-way bathroom facility at [CSI](#).

"Were you just smoking in here?" the Staten Island Task Force cop asked him during the 12:15 p.m. encounter, sources said.

"Yea, I just lit one up," was Dotson's alleged rejoinder.

When the cop demanded his ID, he ran.

The officer caught and tackled Dotson; in the ensuing struggle, Dotson apparently tried to wrest away the cop's gun, but no shots were fired. He was subdued and removed to Richmond University Medical Center.

The official cause of death is pending, said a spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office.

The incident caused consternation among the college's students and staff, as information was initially hard to come by. Rumors flew via cell phone, and the college opted not to use its emergency alert system. Dr. Tomas Morales, the president, did not make himself available for comment.

A spokesman for the [College of Staten Island](#) declined to comment to the Post, citing an ongoing investigation.

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A 'misguided silence'? CSI thinks not

Saturday, December 17, 2011, 1:44 AM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Advance
By

By KEN BACH

CSI COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

I write to clarify published reports questioning the College of Staten Island's policy of providing its community with accurate, real-time information during ongoing public safety emergencies. ("A Misguided Silence," The Advance, Dec. 6, 2011)

On Nov. 29, a uniformed Police Department officer on break from traffic patrol stopped on campus to use a public rest-room.

Once inside, an incident ensued between the officer and an off-duty College employee. The altercation continued approximately 20 feet from the bathroom door, onto a lawn where the officer subdued the employee, less than two minutes after emerging from the bathroom.

College public safety officers arrived on the scene moments later, followed by senior members of the administration. Police also responded. With the arrest of the sole suspect, College public safety officers assisted the active police investigation by directing traffic, and the College continued normal operations with minimal disruption.

College officials took care to collect and verify facts and information with regard to the incident. A long-standing College employee died as a result of this incident, further heightening the need for accuracy.

As a member of our community, this employee had served our students, faculty and staff for nearly a decade in the College cafeteria and we continue to mourn his loss.

Once the information was checked for accuracy, messages were distributed via nearly 17,000 e-mails to students, faculty, staff and members of the community within two and a half hours from the start of the incident.

Simultaneously, messages were published to the College's Web site, which receives approximately 24,000

page-views per day.

With the benefit of hindsight, some have suggested the need for an immediate communication to the College community, even though the incident was over within two minutes.

College officials carefully balanced the desire for a quick communication with the need for accuracy.

No two incidents are exactly alike, but in this instance, we believe officials correctly chose to hold the communication for a short period to gather and check the facts.

The College is dedicated to the review and assessment of its performance benchmarks, and the timely communication of credible information to the College and community is of primary importance.

We are constantly seeking to improve our systems as part of all operational review.

It is important to note that the College has an active Emergency Management Plan and Administrative Structure. The Plan's Operations Group is currently reviewing the activities and processes of this incident, and exploring future policy considerations based upon its review and assessment.

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Staten Island colleges in hi-tech hunt for student cheaters

Sunday, December 18, 2011, 7:26 AM



Frank Donnelly
By



Photo Courtesy of istock

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- With the click of a mouse, college students faced with a daunting term paper or take-home test can download a bounty of information from the Internet.

But under deadline pressure, some students resort to "cutting-and-pasting" material from Wikipedia and other Web sources, without making the proper citations.

In the past 16 months, there have been 65 reported allegations of cheating, combined, at two borough colleges. One other school could not provide statistics.

To ferret out plagiarism in a web-based world, Staten Island colleges have increasingly turned to new computer-based tactics. Faculty at St. John's University, Grymes Hill, and at the College of Staten Island are tapping into plagiarism-detecting software to evaluate students' written work and identify possible cases of cheating.

Wagner College in Grymes Hill, doesn't use such programs yet, but the school is considering doing so, said Dr. Horst Onken, associate professor of Zoology and Physiology and chairman of the school's Academic Honesty Committee.

But that doesn't mean faculty isn't closely checking students' papers, he said. Many professors evaluate passages of students' work on Google to determine if it's original, he said.

"It certainly makes sense to me that cases of plagiarism become more numerous with the increasing availability and ease of access of online resources," said Dr. Onken, who also directs Wagner's honors program. "Every college is concerned about it. If you use a source, that is the work of somebody else ...

[and] proper citation is a requirement. In my opinion, it is the responsibility of the academic community to instruct students about the proper use of such sources."

Over the past 10 years, the Academic Honesty Committee has received 28 allegations of cheating on average, annually, said Dr. Onken. The high was 46 cases in the 2003-04 school year, he said. There were 34 reported incidents in the 2010-11 year, said Dr. Onken. Most allegations involve plagiarism, he said.

Incidents reported to the Academic Honesty Committee don't include other alleged incidents of cheating which professors, who have the option to do so, handle themselves, said Dr. Onken. There is no record of the number of incidents handled in-class, he said.

"It's a very common problem at any institution," said Dr. Deborah Vess, associate provost for undergraduate studies and academic programs at the [College of Staten Island](#), Willowbrook.

There were 31 reported incidents of cheating at the school for the current calendar year, said Kenneth Bach, a [CSI](#) spokesman.

Dr. Vess said she hasn't detected any discernible trend over the years in cheating or plagiarism at [CSI](#).

HONESTY CODES

But, according to a recent Pew Research Center study, 55 percent of college presidents surveyed say plagiarism has risen in students' papers over the past decade. About 40 percent said that plagiarism has remained the same.

Of those who said plagiarism has increased, 89 percent believe computers and the Internet have played a major role in that trend, said the survey.

Dr. Miguel Roig, a psychology professor at St. John's University, Grymes Hill, said incidents of "cut-and-paste" plagiarism have spiked.

In such cases, students download whole passages from Internet sources, such as Wikipedia and other websites and insert them into their papers without citing the information as someone else's work. Or they'll make minor alterations, believing they can submit the information as their own.

"Many students [incorrectly] think changing a word here or there is acceptable," said Dr. Roig. "The world's knowledge is at our fingertips with the Internet, but students need to learn the proper rules of scholarship. Can they analyze and synthesize" what they've researched?

Dr. Roig couldn't provide statistics on alleged cheating incidents at St. John's.

All three Staten Island colleges stress the importance of academic honesty to students from the moment they first walk through their doors.

At Wagner, for example, all students must sign the school honesty code. Professors are also asked to include a statement of honesty for students on all exams and papers, said Dr. Onken.

Students who cheat potentially face failing marks or, in repeat cases, possible expulsion, from the Island's colleges.

At Wagner College, for instance, cases of minor plagiarism, in which only a sentence or two of material has been lifted, typically result in an "F" on the paper, Dr. Onken said. Cases of major plagiarism in which significant amounts of material have been cut and pasted earn students an "F" for the course, he said.

In addition, first-time offenders must complete a tutorial on academic honesty within one semester, according to Wagner's Student Academic Honesty & Integrity Handbook.

Second-time offenders normally flunk the course and are suspended for one semester, the handbook states. The typical sanction for a third offense is failure for the course and expulsion.

OVERWHELMED FRESHMEN

Dr. Onken at Wagner said the "vast majority" of students accused of cheating there are freshmen.

"Then, it goes steeply down" among sophomore and upper classmen, he said, which indicates the school's academic-honesty policies are sinking in.

Freshmen might be more prone to cheat or plagiarize for a variety of reasons, academics say. Their college curriculum is typically more rigorous than high school, or they haven't grasped the rules for citing sources.

Many simply get overwhelmed or wait until the last minute to compose their papers.

"It's not that those students don't know what plagiarism is, but they have very bad time management," said Dr. Onken.

Dr. Roig at St. John's agreed.

"Procrastination is very often the reason for cheating and plagiarism," he said.

Others may be testing limits.

"Freshmen are definitely in a new environment. Maybe to some extent, it's like checking things out. 'Can I

get away with that?" said Dr. Onken.

Dr. Roig said he reviews students' work with Turnitin -- computer software designed to detect plagiarism in papers.

"That's a godsend," he said.

Dr. Vess and Dr. Susan Holak, CSI's associate provost for institutional effectiveness said the school offers training and workshops with anti-plagiarism programs for faculty and students.

"We need to produce students who are critical and independent thinkers," said Dr. Vess. "There's a need to learn to integrate other people's ideas and also include your own perceptions."

Besides checking Google, Dr. Onken will compare a student's paper to his or her previous writings. A noticeable difference sends up a red flag.

And while students sometimes go astray, educators say the Web remains a valuable tool.

"I'm a big supporter of the Internet," Dr. Onken said. "It's like a vast dictionary and collection of sources. The problem is that these sources are so accessible, and it's a challenge to use them and correctly cite them."

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College of Staten Island (CUNY) – Assistant or Associate Professor, Spanish

December 21, 2011

The Department of World Languages and Literatures, at the College of Staten Island, seeks candidates for an anticipated tenure-track position as Assistant or Associate Professor of Spanish, beginning in September 2012. Responsibilities will include teaching all levels of undergraduate Spanish language courses and a broad range of literature and culture courses from a multi-disciplinary perspective, demonstrating a commitment to research and publication, and performing department and college service. A Ph.D. is required (degree must have been conferred at the time of appointment). The area of specialization is pre-twentieth century Spanish American literature (with an emphasis on the 19th century). Candidates should demonstrate native/near-native fluency in English and Spanish, a commitment to undergraduate education and teaching basic Spanish language courses, competence in foreign language pedagogy, and the ability to participate in a number of interdisciplinary programs on campus. The successful candidate will present credentials appropriate for possible appointment to the doctoral faculty of the CUNY Graduate School. Salary range: Assistant Professor: \$42,873 – \$74,133; Associate Professor: \$55,602 – \$88,418. Salary commensurate with experience.

To apply, please log on to www.cuny.edu. Navigate to “Employment”, then “Job postings on line”. Find Job ID # 5084. In order to be considered for this position, applicants must submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, transcripts, three letters of recommendation, one writing sample in Spanish and one in English. If you have difficulty with uploading multiple document to the web site please send them to: facultyrecruithss@csi.cuny.edu. This job closes February 1, 2012.

We are committed to enhancing our diverse academic community by actively encouraging people with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women to apply. We take pride in our pluralistic community and continue to seek excellence through diversity and inclusion. EO/AA Employer.



MTA board passes \$12.6B budget but spurns plea for \$20M that would have aided Staten Island

Thursday, December 22, 2011, 12:33 AM



Michael Sedon
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's board of directors yesterday passed its \$12.6 billion operating budget for 2012, but voted down a \$20 million amendment that would have restored some services for Staten Islanders.

The 6-to-4 vote to kill the amendment came at the board's regular public meeting, when financial officials and board members voting against the measure described the present budget as "fragile" but "manageable."

"The reduction in projected subsidies underscores the fragility of the MTA's current fiscal stability," said Joseph Lhota, MTA executive director. "It also indicates how important it is for the MTA to continue its recent efforts to reduce costs, even as we work to improve services."

Board members Mitch Pally and Allen Cappelli proposed the amendment weeks ago, contending it would not add costs to the MTA's customers or the operating budget as the money -- less than two-tenths of a percent of the entire budget -- could be cut from another non-transportation-related area.

Cappelli mentioned cutting duplicated positions within the "MTA empire," such as lawyers, accountants, managers and professionals, and replacing them with bus drivers and train operators, so services could be restored.



Staten Island Advance/Michael Sedon

MTA comes in for criticism at press conference staged by Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis that includes union leaders and Allen Cappelli, the borough's representative on the MTA board.

"We have cut millions of dollars out of the expense budget through consolidations," Cappelli added. "I'm asking for a \$20 million additional cut in another area to move into giving the riders a break in services they need. We need to show the riders that we are listening."

Some specific Staten Island services Cappelli would like to see restored include extending an MTA bus route into the campus of the College of Staten Island, restoring the X18, more buses in New Brighton and restoring weekend service on Manor Road to Sea View.

"It's a disgrace, people are walking down the street on the weekend on crutches and having to hobble down to Victory Boulevard to pick up service," Cappelli said. "It's just totally inhumane, and I'm not just advocating for Staten Island. There are horror stories throughout the region."

Since service cuts took effect in 2010, many buses are overcrowded, especially when schoolchildren are aboard, going home. More fights for seats break out, and it's a dangerous condition for drivers with so many distractions around them, said Amalgamated Transit Union president Daniel Cassella.

"They have less service to pick up these children, and it's putting them in danger," Cassella said. "The more people on the bus, for the children, the worse it is. The driver can't see what is going on, and it's a problem for the children."

Although Cappelli later characterized the vote as a "numerical defeat," he felt that a consensus to restore services is being built among board members.

"This is not going to go away," said Cappelli, who voted against the budget and capital plan. "It's the creation of a significant movement."

FISCAL UNCERTAINTY

Members who voted for the budget but against the amendment cited the uncertainty of next year's fiscal climate. With a portion of the budget provided by taxes, those revenues could be down, negatively affecting the budget.

The approved operating budget already was hit with an \$87 million reduction in projected revenues generated by the Metropolitan Mass Transportation Operating Assistance -- a collection of taxes dedicated to public transportation.

This reduction in tax dollars opened a \$68 million deficit for 2012, which the MTA will close with \$35 million in reduced internal expenses and by releasing \$33 million from general reserves funds, the agency said.

Risks and uncertainty facing the agency include the possibility of a worsening economy, additional reductions in state subsidies and taxes, labor settlements falling short and other factors, the MTA said.

DEBT BURDEN

Shortly after the vote, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn) joined Cappelli and representatives from the ATU in slamming the recently passed budget as an "irresponsible spending plan."

"Repeated calls to restore \$20 million in restoration for buses that we lost two years ago obviously fell on deaf ears," Ms. Malliotakis said. "We've seen the MTA go down this road before, and unfortunately, this is just another example of this authority that's been fiscally irresponsible kicking the can down the road."

Ms. Malliotakis urged her colleagues and constituents to keep pressuring the MTA to restore services, and she urged folks to sign her petition at www.givememybusback.com.

"Additionally, the MTA board approved a capital plan that will leave the authority with \$40 billion of debt," she continued.

According to the MTA budget, nearly \$2 billion was paid to service its debt for 2011, and that cost is projected to reach \$2.6 billion for annual debt payments by 2015, presuming that interest rates remain relatively low. The agency has the fifth-largest municipal debt load in the country, after California, New York state and Massachusetts, and New York City.

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Not even crumbs

Tuesday, December 27, 2011, 7:18 AM



Staten Island Advance Editorial
By

Staten Island's Allen Cappelli and his fellow Metropolitan Transportation Authority board member Mitch Pally of Queens recently offered a modest and very reasonable proposal to the board as it prepared to vote on its 2012 budget. They said the MTA could divert a minuscule \$20-million portion of its mammoth \$12.6-billion operating budget and use the money to restore previous service cuts that have adversely affected riders.

After all, that amount represents just two-tenths of one percent of the overall budget and could be easily accomplished by trimming redundancies and waste within the vast "MTA empire" as Mr. Cappelli called it.

Mr. Cappelli said. "I'm asking for a \$20-million additional cut in another area to move into giving the riders a break in services they need. We need to show the riders that we are listening."

It's a reasonable request and it makes perfect sense for a widely mistrusted public authority that should be concerned about giving the public the perception that it cares about their needs. But this is the MTA, so it's not surprising at all that Messrs. Cappelli and Pally's proposal was voted down.

"The reduction in projected subsidies underscores the fragility of the MTA's current fiscal stability," said Joseph Lhota, the new MTA executive director. "It also indicates how important it is for the MTA to continue its recent efforts to reduce costs, even as we work to improve services."

For now, let's ignore his claim about "work[ing] to improve services." The MTA gave up on that concept a long time ago when it first stepped into a sea of red ink from which it has yet to emerge. The MTA isn't even working to maintain already inadequate service. In fact, it's cutting it even more.

As examples of this failure, Mr. Cappelli cites the lack of MTA bus service into and through the sprawling College of Staten Island campus, and the cut of weekend service on Manor Road to Sea View.

"It's a disgrace, people are walking down the street on the weekend on crutches and having to hobble down to Victory Boulevard to pick up service," Mr. Cappelli said.

He said there are similar "horror stories" throughout the MTA service area.

But what really sticks in people's craw about Mr. Lhota's statement - and equally galling statements made by other agency officials - is his whining about the "fragility" and "uncertainty" of the MTA's budget situation. Virtually everyone who uses the MTA system, especially the buses and subways, is enduring his or her own personal budget crisis, but ordinary people have no way to increase their own personal revenue stream.

That's why the tendency of the MTA, the Port Authority, the City of New York and other governmental entities to see struggling ordinary citizens as ATMs of first and last resort is particularly outrageous.

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis bitterly denounced the board's rejection of the proposal, adding, "We've seen the MTA go down this road before, and unfortunately, this is just another example of this authority that's been fiscally irresponsible kicking the can down the road."

Indeed, the agency has paid nearly \$2 billion alone in interest on its debt this year and has the fifth-largest municipal debt load in the country, trailing only perennial deadbeat California, New York State, Massachusetts and New York City.

To be fair, a part of that, is the shameless refusal of the state and the city to meet their own responsibility to properly fund essential mass transit, as other states and cities gladly do. But then, the MTA's profligate spending on an army of six-figure sinecures and non-essential frills has made its budget hole that much deeper.

So where does the MTA reflexively turn to find the money to make up the shortfall? From ever more service cuts and ever-steeper fares and tolls. So commuters suffer doubly.

This vote to reject the service cut restorations follows a long-standing pattern with regard to this "too-big-to-be-held-accountable" authority, so it would be easy for commuters and their advocates to see the situation as hopeless.

But as Mr. Cappelli notes, the MTA board's 6-4 vote this week may represent a defeat by the numbers, technically, but it can't be overlooked that two other board members sided with Messrs. Cappelli and Pally. A 6-4 vote the other way certainly seems within reach. And if the MTA continues to treat riders merely as a source of unlimited revenue, rider backlash will grow. That would be the best thing that could happen for the beleaguered riding public.

At least the P.A. gave people crumbs by scaling back the toll hike ever so slightly. The MTA wouldn't even do that.

Students & Alumni

Students



Mental Health Society's SafeTY.net helps teen find a home, job, education

Sunday, December 04, 2011, 6:12 AM



Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- m suffered from emotional challenges exacerbated by a dysfunctional home life, and dropped out of high school at 16.

Despite these problems, he was a likable and ambitious teen. To earn pocket money, he ran errands and did odd jobs, such as shoveling snow and mowing lawns for his neighbors. But when William turned 18, a crisis hit. His parents abandoned him; they moved to another state, leaving him homeless.

Fortunately, William was a participant in the Staten Island Mental Health Society's (SIMHS) SafeTY.net (Safe Transition for Youth) Program that provides comprehensive transitional services in areas of housing, employment and career, higher education and the development of life skills for young persons, ages 16 to 23, who have emotional/behavioral challenges.

This youth population, encompassing a broad array of socio-economic, racial and ethnic groups, experience the poorest outcomes compared with their peers living with all other special needs. Nevertheless, the SafeTY.net Program ups the odds, offering them the many supports they need to manage their passage into the adult world.

The highly competent and compassionate clinicians, vocational counselors and 24/7 life coaches who comprise the SafeTY.net staff provide each of their charges with therapy, practical advice, a shoulder to lean on and links to a broad array of service agencies, professional contacts and business mentors that open the door to opportunities for future success in the competitive business world.

William's primary need was safe and clean housing, the most difficult transitional goal faced by young adults with challenges. Such housing is often a rare commodity in New York and is almost non-existent on Staten Island. There are few government funds, agency contracts, plans or programs to provide housing for youth who have aged out of foster care or other types of support, and there is a waiting list of several years for subsidized low-income Section 8 apartments.

Undaunted, the SafeTY.net staff is trained to come up with innovative solutions in all situations. While William temporarily "couch-surfed" with friends, his life coach reached out to a retired couple with whom the teen had a long and congenial working relationship. Because both Mr. and Mrs. Smith had health problems,

and knew William to be of good character, they agreed to provide him with room and board in return for his working as their home helper and handyman.

If not for William, the couple would be in an assisted living facility, and if not for them, William would most likely still be homeless. Moreover, because he lived up to SafeTY.net's credo that hard work must be combined with responsibility, civility and trustworthiness, William has maintained this mutually beneficial relationship with the Smiths for over a year.

SafeTY.net was also able to fulfill another of William's goals -- to attend college. The staff helped him obtain a General Equivalency Diploma through the SIMHS's PASS and GED Preparation programs and assisted him with enrolling at the College of Staten Island.

He is currently a part-time student and also works part-time for a catering firm. Thanks to funds from the Children's Campaign that enabled William to receive SafeTY.net services, combined with the young man's strong motivation to succeed, he has a home, a high school diploma, college credits and a job, as well as the living skills and confidence to overcome his emotional challenges and mature into a responsible and productive citizen.

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'Amazing' team hands out clothes, toys

Saturday, December 17, 2011

By **Staten Island Advance**



Tina Glock, rear left, and her four children â Ira, Tianna and Julia, with Honisty in the front show off some of the gifts they received during a giveaway at the Levy Park House in Port Richmond last weekend that was sponsored by the Amazing Grace Interfaith Ministry.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — The “Amazing Kids Connection” giveaway last Saturday at Levy Park House in Port Richmond, provided Christmas gifts, not to mention cheer, for 104 families.

Santa and his elf, courtesy of Tommy’s Costume Characters, arrived early to entertain the families — most with four or five children each — waiting in line for the giveaway, which ran from 8:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. The event was organized by the Reverends Mary and Robert Hansen of the Amazing Grace Interfaith Ministry.

Every child received new toys and clothing, including new bathrobes and pajamas donated for the third year by Bees & Jam in Manhattan. South Shore and North Shore Ladies of Charity supplied underwear, socks and stuffed animals.

Andrew Lauria and Susan Lamberti represented the congregation from Olivet Presbyterian Church in West Brighton with new clothing and toys. Social Workers Union No. 371 and the Small Faith Group of St. Clare’s R.C. Church in Great Kills donated \$500.

Steve and Carol Aponte, their children, Natalie, 12, and Patricia, 5, of St. Adalbert's R.C. Church were among those who provided 200 cups of hot cocoa. Morgan Green baked and holiday-wrapped bags of cookies. Point Proven Auto Club donated games. Shop Rite and Target provided gift certificates.

Patients of New Dorp chiropractor Dr. Jerylyn Jacob provided new hats, scarves and gloves. Josephine Marino, senior community relations coordinator, provided 50 toys from the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau. Det. Irene Rivera, Staten Island borough liaison, assisted. Among the many volunteers were students Ian Yanda and Ryan Lurman of Tottenville High School, David Aponte of Curtis High School, Celine Burger of St. John's Villa Academy and Antoinette Maniscales of the College of Staten Island.

Amazing Kids Connection, in partnership with the city Parks Department and St. Clare's, has provided school supplies in September and baby food in November, in addition to the Christmas giveaway. The project continues on the first Saturday of every month at Levy Park House, at the corner of Castleton and Jewett avenues for the last 10 years.

"The only time we missed a distribution was in last year's snowstorm," said the Rev. Mary Hansen.

Northfield Savings Bank Foundation and the Lois & Richard Nicotra Foundation also are supporters. To make a donation, call Rev. Mary Hansen at 718-356-6441.

Your Soap Box: Louis D'amico, Tottenville

Wednesday, December 21, 2011, 11:21 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**



Louis D'Amico, Tottenville (Photo Courtesy of Pearl Tisman Minsky)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - We asked Louis about his special interests.

"I am especially interested in American Sign Language, familiarly known as ASL. I've always been interested in languages, but, at an especially distressful time in my life, I decided to make a deeper commitment to God. He brought me to a local church on Staten Island.

"It had a deaf ministry with ASL interpreters for the deaf as well as deaf followers. Immediately, I got to know the interpreters and the deaf attending and we became very good friends.

"Being intrigued, I started picking up signs with very caring people, many of whom took me under their wing when they realized my interest in the people and the language. I owe a big debt of gratitude to these people because, beside God's

influence, these people were instrumental in my developing an interest in teaching and interpreting ASL.

"I began to learn in the church and then took some college courses. My teacher, at that time, became one of my mentors and encouraged me to teach in her class. Since then, I have taught ASL in a private school in New York, in a community college in New Jersey and as a volunteer at the Arthur Kill Correctional Facility, where I found very eager students.

"I recently graduated from Empire State College with a bachelor of science [degree] in deaf studies and linguistics, after accumulating credits from the College of Staten Island and The Seymour Joseph Institute of

American Sign Language. I am continuing in Empire State College to obtain a master's degree.

"I have many interests, among which I particularly enjoy doing graphic arts projects and working with Donna Maxon, a Bette Midler tribute artist and an amazing friend. I find all of the activities in which I am involved stimulating and enjoyable. They enrich my life," he said.

- **Pearl Minsky**

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Staten Islanders tell pollsters they'd pick the quick click over coffee

Thursday, December 22, 2011, 12:35 AM



Michael Sedon
By

STATEN N.Y. -- The borough is chock-full of coffee shops that testify to Staten Islanders' java jones. But there's something they love even more: High-speed Internet.

According to a Time Warner Cable survey, 25 percent of Islanders say they'd forgo their morning coffee, if need be, but only 9 percent say could do without the quick click.

"I can't go without my high-speed Internet," said College of Staten Island student Ramadan Malek, 19, of New Springville. "Everything I do revolves around it. From schoolwork to keeping in touch with family and friends around the world, it has become a vital part of my everyday life."

With relentless advances in technology, Islanders are on upwards of five Internet-connected devices at once, higher than any other borough except the Bronx. With after-dinner being the peak time for Internet use, as many as 71 percent of Islanders finish eating and jump right onto the Web.

"In no way would I give up the convenience of high-speed Internet; I'd even revert to dial-up before choosing coffee," said Daniel Mulligan, 21, of Great Kills. "You can get the same effect from other beverages. [But] I would be lost if I was not connected with the rest of the world via the Internet."



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

The Time Warner Cable New York City Study of essentials was conducted by Strategy One, using Research Now services, among 1,000 city residents, 200 in each borough.

But the top must-have was a nice hot morning shower -- only 5 percent were willing to dispense with that.

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Alleged wannabe jihadist from Staten Island chatty for interrogators, report says

Wednesday, December 28, 2011, 1:36 PM



By **Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A former Staten Islander who authorities say took a trip to Pakistan in an attempt to join the Taliban spilled his guts for interrogators, ratted out dozens of New Yorkers he felt were pro-jihadists, according to a **published report**.

Abdel Hameed Shehadeh, 22, formerly of Annadale and Prince's Bay, apparently had a lot to say when he was questioned after his arrest by the FBI-NYPD Joint Terrorist Task Force, the Daily News reported, citing information from court papers filed in Brooklyn Federal Court.

The alleged pro-jihadists he described include a **College of Staten Island** student who attended a fund-raiser at Brooklyn College for a terrorist, according to the report. Also included are Brooklyn teachers of the Islamic orthodoxy Salafism, a livery cab driver and an Ethiopian Muslim in the Army.

Shehadeh's lawyer is trying to suppress the 22-page FBI report, according to the News.

Last October, **federal prosecutors charged Shehadah**, accusing him of lying when he told authorities that he took a trip to Pakistan in 2008 to attend a religious school. In fact, prosecutors allege, he was trying to join the Taliban.

A criminal complaint alleged the FBI and the NYPD had been investigating Shehadeh "and several other individuals in connection with a plot to travel overseas and wage violent jihad against the United States and other coalition military forces."

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Also Featured on: gothamist.com

Advance carrier steps in to help Staten Island man who fell and was injured

Wednesday, December 28, 2011, 6:42 AM



Staten Island Advance
By



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Advance carrier Brian Lang, 19, discovered one of his customers in need of medical help while delivering newspapers recently along his Eltingville route.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Any other day, Brian Lang is simply a Staten Island Advance carrier. Yesterday, he was a hero.

The Eltingville 19-year-old is too modest to call himself a hero, but that's just what neighbors and co-workers were nicknaming him after he helped one of the customers on his route who fallen outside his house and needed help.

Lang, who is studying accounting at the College of Staten Island, was doing his usually early morning delivery of papers in Eltingville. Lang, who normally wears his IPOD while delivering the papers, didn't initially see or hear the injured man while

doing his deliveries and stopping to converse with customers.

"All of a sudden I went by the house and he was laying on his back. I heard him say, 'Get an ambulance.' I ran to his house. He said, 'I fell. I think I broke my hip.' He told me to get his wife and call an ambulance," said Lang.

Lang said that the 92-year-old man had initially planned to get the blower to blow the leaves off his lawn, but he accidentally tripped breaking his hip.

"He was screaming and in pain and he couldn't move," said Lang.

Lang added that man's wife, also 92, may have had difficulty moving her hands. So Lang stepped up to call the ambulance on his cell phone.

"I called them and said, "A man is on his back and he fell and I think he broke hip so you have to get here,"
" he said he told 911.

"I felt a little helpless," said Lang. "I couldn't touch him." But still Lang waited with the man until the ambulance came which he said took over 15 minutes because the driver couldn't find the street.

Lang said the man instructed him to call his daughter. "She was in shock. She said, 'Oh, my God is he okay?'" I explained to her what happened.

The man was taken to Staten Island University Hospital. Lang said the daughter later called him and said the man would have to have an operation, but that he would be fine.

For his part, Lang said, "I don't consider myself a hero, I was just helping someone in need. But people on the route are calling me a hero. It felt good, but I didn't think it was that big a deal."

But Lang said he's going to change up his routine a little. "I won't use IPOD any more. I want to be alert."

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Alumni

GWENDOLYN WOODHOUSE RECOGNIZED BY STRATHMORE'S WHO'S WHO WORLDWIDE

Gwendolyn Woodhouse, of New York, New York, has been included in the Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide Edition for her outstanding contributions and achievements in the field of brokerage technology.

About Gwendolyn Woodhouse

Ms. Woodhouse has had more than 18 years of experience in institutional brokerage technology. She is currently the Vice President of Connectivity with ConvergeX Execution Solutions Group, a company providing brokerage technology and related products. Prior to her current position, Ms. Woodhouse was a Vice President of Brokerage Operations at New York Tax Transaction Services. She is a licensed broker for series 63, 7 and 24. She earned a B.A. Degree in Psychology from the College of Staten Island in 1992. Ms. Woodhouse is a member of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors. Residing in Staten Island, New York, she enjoys scuba diving, cooking and travel.

About Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide

Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide is a premier business communication resource highlighting the professional lives of individuals in every significant field and industry. Our goal is to ensure that our members receive networking, exposure and recognition to potentially increase their business.

Llega al país el libro que estudia a Juan Villoro

Lunes, 12 de diciembre de 2011



Foto: Editorial Candaya

Kalathos trae en exclusiva al país “Materias Dispuestas: Juan Villoro ante la crítica”, libro de la serie ensayo de la editorial española Candaya, en la que los autores mexicanos José Ramón Ruisánchez y Oswaldo Zavala proponen un acercamiento íntimo y riguroso al singular universo literario de Juan Villoro, uno de esos autores que, como dijo Javier Marías, “siempre da extraordinarias sorpresas”.

La presentación de esta publicación se llevará a cabo en la sede de la Librería Kalathos, ubicada en Los Galpones, el próximo miércoles 14 de diciembre a las 7:30 p.m., y estará a cargo del escritor venezolano Rodrigo Blanco Calderón y de la profesora de la USB conocedora de la obra de Villoro, Carmen Victoria Vivas.

Materias dispuestas: Juan Villoro ante la crítica recoge algunas de las reflexiones que la obra de Villoro ha suscitado en otros escritores contemporáneos, como: Balza, Skarmeta, Martínez de Pisón, así como también, las lecturas de críticos tan destacados como Juan Antonio Masoliver Ródenas, Cristopher Domínguez, Mihály Dés o Ignacio Echevarría.

Las semblanzas más personales y emotivas de amigos y maestros como Roberto Bolaño, Sergio Pitlor o Alejandro Rossi; los ensayos académicos escritos especialmente para la presente edición, y las valiosas aportaciones del propio Villoro, que conversa con Ricardo Piglia y algunos de sus lectores, completan la bibliografía literaria de este fascinante escritor mexicano, al que Javier Cercas definió recientemente como “el hombre de letras más importante de mi generación”.

Igualmente Roberto Bolaño se refirió a la obra de este importante autor como “Relatos excepcionales con ese raro poder que tiene el escritor mexicano no para asomarse al abismo sino para permanecer en el borde del abismo, durante mucho rato, balanceándose y por lo tanto haciéndonos balancear a nosotros sus lectores con movimientos que surgen de la duermevela o tal vez de una lucidez extrema. Sus cuentos están entre los mejores que se escriben hoy en lengua española”.

El público podrá asistir a la presentación del libro “Materias Dispuestas: Juan Villoro ante la crítica”, de Juan Villoro, el jueves 08 de diciembre a las 7:30 p.m., en la Librería Kalathos, ubicada en la Avenida Ávila con 8va Transversal de Los Chorros, Centro de Arte Los Galpones, Galpón 11. La entrada es libre.

Autores

José Ramón Ruisánchez (Ciudad de México, 1971) estudió letras hispánicas en la UNAM y la maestría en Literatura Comparada y el doctorado en Literatura Latinoamericana en la Universidad de Maryland. Es assistant professor del departamento de Hispanic Studies de la Universidad de Houston. Ha publicado, entre otras, la novela Nada cruel (Era, 2008).

Oswaldo Zavala (Ciudad Juárez, México, 1975) enseña literatura latinoamericana en el College of Staten Island, City University of New York (CUNY). Obtuvo el doctorado en letras hispánicas en la Universidad de Texas en Austin y en literatura comparada en la Universidad de París III, Sorbonne Nouvelle. Fue reportero del semanario político Proceso y de otros periódicos y revistas de México y Estados Unidos. Es autor de la novela Siembra de nubes (Praxis y Cuarto Creciente, 2011).

Tottenville resident taught in Staten Island schools for 13 years before deciding to try something new he'd always wanted to do

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Virginia N. Sherry
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **TOTTENVILLE** - A popular and dedicated teacher for 13 years, **Jeffrey Nirenberg** gave up his classroom in June, and plunged head-first into a new career – as **Jeff Paul**, stand-up comedian.

"School ended on June 28, and my first show was June 30," he said. The venue was the open mic at the East Ville Comedy Club on East 4th Street in Manhattan, and he was on for five minutes. "I didn't want to come off the stage. I was nervous and excited at the same time," Paul recalled.

It happened again last month, when he performed to a sold-out crowd at Stand Up NY, the club on Manhattan's Upper West Side. He went two minutes over his strictly allotted 10 minutes.

"I've already played a lot of the big rooms in the city," he said.

HUMORLESS UPBRINGING

The love and pursuit of comedy stands in ironic contrast to the atmosphere at home, as Paul was growing up, first, in Canarsie, Brooklyn, and – from age 8 – in Great Kills on Staten Island.



Jeffrey Paul, of Tottenville, has left his role as a teacher in the classroom for a new one - atop a stage as a comedian. (Photo Courtesy of Jeffrey Paul)

"There was no humor or jokes in our house. No one laughed," he said. His father, Stanley, a New York City housing court judge, and his mother, Bea, "were very serious." (The couple, now living in Florida, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary earlier this year.)

But, in a preview of things to come, Paul fell into a routine of asking this question as early as sixth-grade: "Would it be funny if. . .?"

As a student at Tottenville High School, he famously wrote and performed comedy skits. "I was always funny, and I always wrote," he said.

These days, the family home is filled with "paper all over the place," with notes for future stand-up sets. "I have a ton of ideas," said Paul, who also jots them down on his I-Touch while working out at the gym.

CAREER CHANGE

Many people change careers because of boredom or burn-out, but this was not the case with Mr. Nirenberg. Teaching "came very easy to me, and the best part of my days was being in the classroom. I loved the kids," he said.

His evaluations over the years typically noted "that I used humor as a teaching tool, and that I was a great story-teller, and this gave me the confidence to try performing," he added.

He began his teaching career in 1998 as a history teacher for grades 10 to 12 at the Francis School in Great Kills, then moved to Moore Catholic High School for three years, teaching American history, global history, economics, and psychology "to every class, from grades nine to 12." Next, he taught social studies at Barnes Intermediate School for three years, before returning to Moore for six more years, leaving in June.

FUNNY DAD

Paul earned a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's in liberal studies, both from the College of Staten Island, where he met his wife of 18 years, **Dr. Theresa Cavallaro**, a veterinarian who practices at Bay Street Animal Hospital in Rosebank.

Their son, **Ryan**, 10, a fifth-grader at Our Lady Help of Christians, "always tells me that I'm funny," said Paul. "We always have jokes going back and forth. When I'm helping him with his homework, I do voices, character voices, that stick with him," and help him learn.

Paul has learned a few things from working the comedy clubs, especially when hecklers are in the audience. "The rule with heckling is that if half the room hears it, you have to address it. You can't let anyone get the

last word on you," he said. Dealing with such a situation is challenging "spontaneous crowd work."

Growing up, his favorite comedians were George Carlin and Richard Pryor. "They were so amazing, I knew they were great," he said. "I remember sitting outside, in the summer, with my cassette recorder, listening to them. They were geniuses!"

His favorite comics performing today include Louis C.K., Jim Norton, and Nate Bargatze.

Paul still checks out his own jokes with his younger brother, Mark, who also has a sense of humor. "I'll ask him: Is this funny, or stupid?"

"I always wanted to do this, and I love it," Paul confessed, adding that his wife Theresa is "completely supportive" of his effort to shift professional gears.

"I'm trying something new. I've suppressed the comedy long enough. The only difference between teaching and stand-up comedy is that I'm now performing in front of audiences I don't know," he joked.

"I'm just gonna do comedy – and if it doesn't work out, I can always go back to teaching!"

Upcoming gigs

Dec. 15

Attic Bar and Lounge
44-25 Douglaston Pkwy.,
Douglaston, Queens
718-279-2337

Dec. 17

Magnet Studio Theater
259 W. 30th St.,
Manhattan
212-244-8824

Dec. 21

New York Comedy Club
241 East 24th St.,
Manhattan
212-696-5233

Jan. 5

Attic Bar and Lounge
44-25 Douglaston Pkwy.,
Douglaston, Queens
718-279-2337

Jeff Paul also hosts the open mic at the New York Comedy Club at 1626 Broadway in Manhattan on Fridays, 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Call **212-757-4100**.

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