

Community College

Serving Community Colleges Downstate, in New York City, and on Long Island.

# CAMPUS NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1  
Debut Issue! Free!

## Where do all the students go?

February 1, 2010

<b>Tuition and You</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Fiction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Letter From Us</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>New Movies</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Poetry</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Classifieds</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Sports</b>	<b>15</b>

Visit us at [cccnews.info](http://cccnews.info)



"Whip It," Page 6



Football After the Super Bowl, Page 9



Hoops, Page 14

**Laura LaVacca**  
*Campus News*

It's the first day of classes and you're walking around campus trying to find the right building. Takes you a few minutes, alright maybe more than few, and but alas you enter the right classroom. Class looks pretty packed, maybe about 30-35 students with one chair left for you to sit in. As the weeks go by and the calendar pages disappear, so do the students. You can't help but notice how the class seems to be shrinking. Ever wonder where everyone went? Did everyone drop the class? Is the professor that bad?

This actually occurs at many community colleges, private universities and basically, colleges in general across the country. This disappearing act that students pull is becoming an unwelcomed trend. A New York Times piece ran this past September by David Leonhardt and delved into the issue asserting that, "Yet in terms of [universities'] core missions — turning teenagers into educated college graduates — much of the system is simply failing." The United States does a good job enrolling teenagers in college, but only half of students who enroll end up with a bachelor's degree. Among rich countries, only Italy is worse (Leonhardt 2009). But why is the system failing?



Hudson Valley Community College

Is it the kids or the college?

Putting aside the most obvious reason, money, researchers have discovered that 40% of college students will leave higher education without getting a degree, with 75% percent of these students leaving within their first two years of college ([www.stateuniversity.com](http://www.stateuniversity.com)). Colleges are failing to provide the environment that students transitioning from high school are looking for. It is then most critical for first year students to feel supported individually as well as feel connected to the campus community. If students are isolated or feel as if they don't fit in, they won't stay. It's important for col-

leges to offer programs and services that integrate first-year students into the social community at the start of their experience.

According to their website, one such program runs at Hofstra University on Long Island, in which first year students are put into, "seminars, clusters and block courses designed to get your college experience off to a great start... limited to 15 students, first-year seminars allow you to interact in a smaller setting and connect with a faculty member who may become your major adviser, depending on what major you choose." These first year

continued on page 14

## Finding the right professor for you

**Shirley Paul**  
*Campus News*

Have you ever sat down on the first day of class with a new professor, took a look at the syllabus, and wanted to bolt out the classroom to drop the class? If so, then you know how hard looking for the right professor can be.

It's like an investment. More research you put into finding the right professor can mean a better grade at the end of the semester.

When I say research I don't mean finding out your professor's favorite foods to bring to class to get a better grade, or their astrological signs to read their horoscopes and see how their mood will be in class that day.

I mean adequate information that can often aid in the decision-making process. There are many resources students can look to when shopping for the right professor.

For one, students often overlook the simplest aid yet: word of mouth. A student that took the professor prior to you will know

their reputations the best. It's important to seek their advice. They can share their experiences and give you some form of guidance.

Also, prior students may also have access to old syllabi, exams, and quizzes. These resources can help to give a preview of the courseload the professor may expect.

Seeking out prior student's advice will take time and effort. It requires researching as well. Some will give advice formed on opinions. These opinions can stem from the grade received as well as personal learning styles. This is something important to consider in the search.

When using this method it would be best to seek out more than one student. Though responses may differ, one will outweigh the other. It's a very practical approach in finding the right professor.

Another resource that has been found useful is the popular website known as, [ratemyprofessor.com](http://ratemyprofessor.com).

Christopher Washington, a

second year student at Nassau Community College, often seeks the opinions of the website when searching for his professors.

"In my opinion, it's been extremely accurate," he says.

It is a very simple and helpful tool that can easily aid in the search. The opinions are based on ratings from students. The criteria include the easiness, helpfulness, and clarity of the professor. Also, textbook use, attendance, and grade the student received in the class. They are all factored in, to produce a rating. Comments are also encouraged.

This can be a well sought out resource because of its versatility. There's also a lot of feedback which could aid greatly in the research process. The ability to have a range in opinions can help to narrow choices easily and more effectively.

Yet, like any opinion there can be factors that lead them. It's important to not base decisions solely on what others thought of a professor. Learning styles of different students may vary. What you

think is hard may have been easier to somebody else.

Also, a student's opinion of what a "good" professor looks like may also differ.

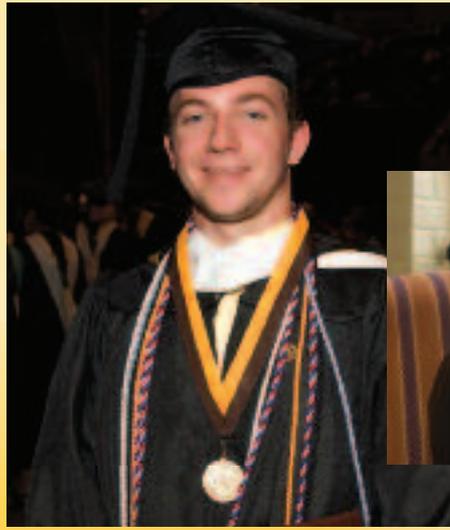
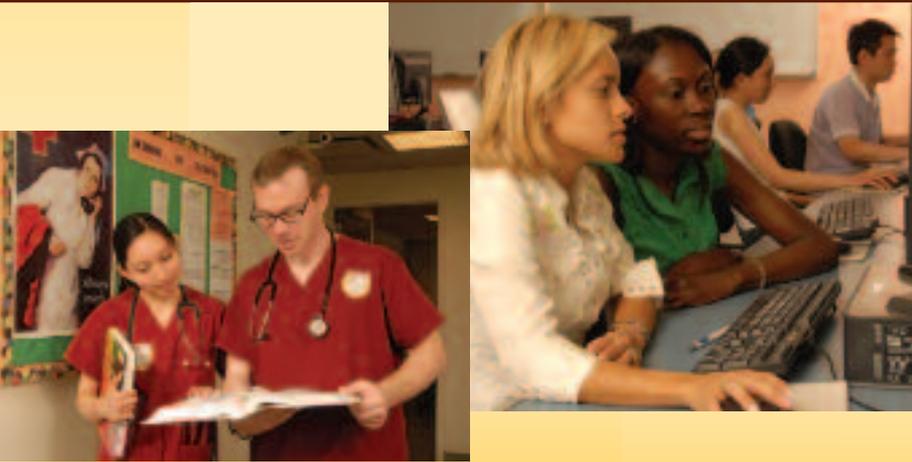
"I consider a good professor to be one that gives material that's easy to understand, someone who's easy to talk to and makes time for office hours, and also a teacher that can make any material fun and interesting," says Anthony Edwards, a second year student at Westchester Community College.

Opinions can be diverse. Though they are helpful, it is your choice to stick with a certain professor. This is why it's important to find what's best for you in a professor. There are many effective ways to achieve this.

Before you think about bolting out the door at the sight of the syllabus, stick it out. The only way to truly know what the professors expect is by getting through the first day and listening. The syllabus may look jam packed with assignments and work, but once the professor

continued on page 8

10,000 Copies in Print!



# Where Transfer Students Succeed



College of Arts and Sciences

Gordon F. Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies

Honors College

School of Business

Ruth S. Ammon School of Education

School of Nursing

School of Social Work

University College

## Find the right fit at Adelphi University

You've built a strong foundation—now you want to take the next step at a school that will set you up to succeed. Adelphi's transfer counselors will work with you to transfer the maximum number of credits, and guide you through the application and financial aid process. Our generous transfer scholarships are just one reason why we were named a "Best Buy" for the fourth year by the *Fiske Guide to Colleges 2010*. Once you're an Adelphi student, you'll understand why over 80% of our transfer students return for a second year.

**For more information,  
email [transfer@adelphi.edu](mailto:transfer@adelphi.edu),  
call (516) 877-3040, or visit [adelphi.edu](http://adelphi.edu)**



### Small Market Sports



# Tuition and the struggling student



**Christine Barton**  
*Campus News*

President Obama in his early days of his administration announced his vision for the country and for the future of education. In 2009, he announced a \$12 billion dollar community college initiative specifically designed to improve education, boost graduation rates and create new technology. In addition to the money set aside for renovations, \$9 billion will be used to award grants designed to raise graduation rates and encourage transfers to four year schools and \$500 million is to be used to develop online curriculums for community colleges. The money saved from the proposed changes to the student loan programs is intended to fund this new college initiative.

Despite the President's vision for the nation's educational future, major cuts are being announced to public service funding all over the nation. In October 2009, Governor David Paterson announced a 4.5% cut to the higher education budget for the State of New York. A promise to make further cuts mid year has education officials in a panic. Paterson's proposal included a \$90 million mid-year cut to the SUNY systems throughout New York. SUNY has always been well known for quality and affordable education. A cut to the government funding can have snowballing effects on the educational system. The looming cuts will force students to immediately realize an increase in tuition costs.

One of the biggest issues facing education today is the shift from full-time tenure-track faculty to a more non-permanent workforce, states Cynthia Garza, spokesperson for the American Federation of Teachers. Budget cuts have a direct impact on quality. Layoffs and job cuts lead to fewer resources yet the same demand. Fewer resources cause classes to become larger. Lectures and classes once offered may be cut or combined to reduce teach-

ing resources. Professors that already often double as advisors and mentors become busier and less available to assist students on a one on one basis. Less individual attention and personal investment in students negatively affects the overall quality of education. A decline in resources means that quality begins to be watered down to meeting a minimum standard rather than upholding a mission of excellence. The bar gets lowered. Educators will be forced to find ways to make ends meet with less financial resources.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is a union of professions that was founded in 1916 and currently has five divisions. AFT represents almost 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, 43 states affiliates and has more than 1.4 million members according to its statistics. The AFT Higher Education program is one of the five divisions and represents the specific interests of higher education. The AFT has developed a specific strategic plan to focus the union's efforts to address the current trends in higher education. According to AFT research, the data shows a significant reduction in the full-time tenured faculty and an increased reliance on part-time professors, graduate employees and non-track faculty. Non-tenured employees do not have the same professional support, fair wages and job security as do permanent employee therefore compromising the quality of higher education. The AFT plan calls for immediate action to reverse this trend and make a move to increasing permanent teaching positions and rely less on part-time and graduate faculty; 70% of the people teaching in U.S. colleges and universities today and nearly half of all undergraduate public college courses are being taught by contingent faculty. The increased reliance on contingent instructors was found most dramatically in community colleges. Budget cuts will make reversing this trend almost

impossible. According to Garza, "The significant disinvestment in our country's higher education academic workforce is likely to worsen with more budget cuts."

The picture is grim if budget cuts go through as planned. Budget cuts have the potential to have a drastic impact on all facets of education. "Administrators faculty and staff must really team up to make the compelling case that higher education is an investment in the states, citizens and economy," states Garza. If cutbacks must be made, it is imperative that management involves representatives of the front-line works to work through how to do these things in a way that does the least harm to educational service."

Budget cuts aside; it's no secret that education is expensive. There is a distinct difference between federal aid and student borrowing; qualifying for either can be a challenge. Financial aid, loans, grants and scholarships are typical methods most students use to finance higher education. The gloomy economy makes the availability of these types of options much slimmer than in the past. Students who are lucky enough to be able to afford the entire cost of higher education without borrowing are few and far between. Many exhaust every funding option available to them to piece together the payments for their educa-

## 'Budget cuts often mean higher tuition, more difficulty getting loans and increased book costs'

tion.

Student loans are a primary source of funding for most students. Meeting the criteria for financing is a whole other ball game. The pending changes to the student loan regulations may make getting approved for and paying back loans more difficult than ever before. The anticipated budget cuts will have significant effects on students already struggle to find ways to meet their higher education costs. Garza notes that the increased tuition will also lock out students without financial means from even going to college.

According to information obtained from a report done by My Loans Consolidated in July 2009, it is estimated that currently 70% of student loans come from private lenders such as Sallie Mae; 30% of student federal loans are originated from the government. Student loan re-

form legislation has already been passed by the House of Representatives. If it passes the approval of the Senate, it will be expected to take effect in July of 2010. This proposal will eliminate the option for student loans to be obtained through the private sector. Loans will be awarded only through the government's direct lending program. This new legislation is promising to lower percentage rates making loans more available and affordable for students. The national discussion on the changes in private and federal loans is still a much debated topic. This in addition to the budget cuts is sure to have significant impact on the landscape of higher education.

Financing education used to be an investment in your future. It's a fact that the unemployment rate is at a high and the economic stability of the nation is uncertain. Financing education is becoming a risk factor. Currently student loans are awarded through either the private or public sector. Federal or public sector loans are awarded by the government. Private sector student loans are not guaranteed, there are no limits on interest rates, no guarantees that you will be awarded a loan just because you apply and there is no regulation on the charges. Typical private lenders are Edu-Cap, Sallie Mae and Citibank.

Federal loans like Stafford loans are available to all students regardless of their past credit information. The pending legislation surrounding student loans means changes in availability and affordability for students. Sascha Zahariadis is a part-time nursing student at Maria, a two year college in Albany, New York. When asked about how budget cuts may affect her as a student she stated, "Budget cuts often mean higher tuition, more difficulty getting loans and increased book costs." Zahariadis has attended her share of community colleges in the past. She now attends Maria as a part-time student while working full time. "The cost of education is lower in community colleges than in private schools, but the cost of books is usually higher," she points out.

Zahariadis also notes that it is difficult to qualify for a tradi-

tional loan when you are a part-time student. She chose Maria because they are one of the only schools in her area that offers loans for part-time students. Zahariadis states that although she would rather go to school full time to finish her degree quicker she has to work full time in order to ensure that she has health insurance. College students who age off of their parent's health insurance and do not work full time often go without health insurance or only have emergency coverage. In addition to the cost of education itself there are many hidden fees that also add up such as health insurance, books and administrative fees. These added expenses are often out of pocket for many students.

The economic recession now entering its second year has put society in an interesting position. The current unemployment rate is at 10% in New York State. An economy in recession typically drives more adults to college. Long periods of unemployment have given people the time and drive to return to school in the hopes of improving job skills. Unfortunately, these same unemployed people lack the money to fund their education so they look for financing options such as borrowing or financial aid. The affordability of private institutions is almost unreachable, which pushes people towards furthering their education in community colleges or trade schools.

Recent reports show that enrollment at two-year schools are on the rise and have been for the past 10 years. The demand for skilled workers continues to rise, keeping enrollments steady. A poor economy motivates people to invest in their future through continuing education. Despite the rise in enrollment, many states across the nation have felt the sting of looming funding cuts because of the declining economy.

Budget cuts affect the institutions' ability to meet the demand of increasing enrollment and the students' ability to afford their education. If the budget cuts that threaten the state become a reality, students are sure to be caught in the crossfire. "We are already seeing the impact hitting colleges and universities including lay-offs, cancelled classes, increased class size and higher tuition," states Garza. "These things all impact the students."



Tiger Woods

## Don't end up with this guy! Advice for women

**Nancy Muldoon**  
*Campus News*

Things every woman should know:

- You don't want to be defined by your genitalia; men don't want to be looked at as a walking, talking cash machine. Buy your own drinks and when you do allow a guy to buy you a drink, make sure it's someone you are actually interested in as no one likes to be used.
- Learn how to drink intelligently. Don't be the kind of girl that has to be carried to the car and then has to be put into bed every time you go out with your girlfriends. This might be an amusing story to tell if it's a one time only deal but there is nothing worse than a woman who can't hold her own when out on the town.
- I don't care how sensitive or understanding he is or claims to be, do not under any circumstances talk about your menstrual cycle with a guy. They do not want to hear it. Save this subject for our fellow female counterparts. Your gay male friend is not the exception, trust me.
- Lose your sense of entitlement. Whether you are a "starving" college student or come from a wealthy background, it still doesn't exempt you from tipping at a bar or restaurant. At a bar, the general rule for tipping is a \$1 a drink, more if the drink is somewhat complicated to make, and it's 18% not 15% at a restaurant. Thinking that tipping is your friend's or boyfriend's responsibility just makes you look like you have absolutely no class.
- Don't fall for the hot guy that is "too busy" to see you or refuses to make solid plans with you. Everyone in our culture is busy, if he really wanted to see you he would, so make yourself unavailable when this jerk just happens to show up at your door unexpectedly or calls you at 2 a.m.
- No one wants to be the girl who brings a condom on a date just in case; however, it is better to be prepared than to get a present that requires pills, ointment or worse.

# Fiction: "Lost in Time"

**Kaylee Johnson**  
*Fiction Writer*

I stretched my arms up as I yawned and pulled myself up to see my window wide open. "Mom, come quick!" I screamed.

My mom ran up the stairs, giving me a horrified look. "What is it, Stella?" she asked.

"Look, my window's open and all of my earrings are gone!" I yelled.

My mom laughed. "It was a windstorm," she said.

"But what about my missing earrings?" I asked.

"Oh, your sister probably borrowed them. Don't worry," Mom said, leaving the room.

I looked around and noticed several toys were gone and my lamp was missing. I felt like a kid who had woken up on Christmas morning and gotten coal.

"But who could have gotten in? I lock it every night," I thought.

Just then, I noticed a bright green hat on the floor that was not mine or my sibling's. I looked very closely at the tag on the hat. It said "160 Elm" on it.

I said, "Elm Street is only a

few blocks from here. I bet that's what that means. Whoever lives there probably stole my stuff."

I didn't tell my mother because I didn't want to scare her, so I decided to take a walk to Elm Street. But when I got to 160 there was no house there between 158 and 162, just a few old pottery plates in the grass and lots of weeds. I knocked on the neighbor's door to ask about the empty lot.

A red-haired, middle-aged woman in jeans and a sweatshirt opened the door and smiled. "Hi, sweetie," she said. "Why are you here, today?"

"Look at this hat I found in my house, and a lot of my stuff was missing. And this hat says to go to 160 Elm, but there's no house here," I said.

The woman inspected the hat. It was a green beret with a 1960s peace symbol on it. And then the lady started to cry.

"Why are you crying, Miss?"

"You see, dear. It's a very long story, but they were my best friends and my neighbors — 40 years ago. I don't know how you found this hat. I thought it had gotten lost in the fire."

"What fire?" I asked.

"The fire that burned down the house next door at 160. It killed my friend, Lilly. I have a photo of her, from Christmas that year. The next day was the fire and she died."

The woman ran and got the photo. It was black and white. I guess it was very old. In it was a little girl my age, wearing a beret with a peace symbol on it. The presents under the Christmas tree in the photo were my toys and my lamp was in the background. She was wearing my earrings!

When I got home, I ran to mom, who was baking cookies like nothing had ever happened.

"Mom, have you seen my pogo stick, hoola hoop, lemon twist or Raggedy Ann dolls?"

"No, honey, you never had those kind of toys! Is it April Fool's Day?"

I ran up to my room frustrated. I looked around my room and saw an iPod, an Xbox, a cell phone, laptop and flat-screen TV. No old-school toys. I dug through my toy chest. At the bottom there was a school portrait from last year. In it, I was wearing the green peace beret.

## Have an opinion? Send it to us!



Contact [ccn@twinforks.com](mailto:ccn@twinforks.com).

## Book Review: The Clash got politics, then art

**David Marx**  
*Campus News*

The best book ever written on The Clash has to have been "The Last Gang In Town" (1997) by Marcus Gray; a writer whose all round musical insight, passion for and knowledge of the band, lends just as much to the trajectory of their high-octane, colourful gravitas, as they themselves. That the band's reputation remains as ideologically intact as it does intangibly idiosyncratic is surely down to Gray's most qualified of literary misses. So when I heard the author was assembling a book that was to primarily focus on the recording of "London Calling" — unquestionably the band's finest album — my curiosity was more than merely piqued beyond aberration.

Clocking in at 493 pages, this veritable tomb of Clash induced knowledge is a precision account of a great band recording a great album. In fact, "Route 19 Revisited — The Clash and London Calling" might be considered something of a precision account of the band as a whole. Along with biographical assimilations on all four members of the band and their on-off-on peripat manager, Bernie Rhodes, there are also references to the political climate of the day, upon which

the latter was most forthright and influential (especially regarding the band's formative years of 1976/77).

In the chapter, "From The World's End..." Gray states "The Clash members were not politically minded before they took up with Bernie. London's underground scene had influenced Mick's thinking, but he had always considered himself to be 'of the left' without getting actively involved [...]. Paul's father had embraced Communism by the early seventies, and made his son deliver leaflets, but it didn't rub off [...]. Joe would later claim that he himself had been politicised by his forceful evictions in the early Seventies. He did drop out of society at that time, but it was because he didn't want to work (and possibly because he was clinically depressed following the death of his brother)."

Suffice to say, Gray covers considerable canvas by way of further delving into the band's history; a history, which, depending on your viewpoint, injects a wide gaping whole of ambiguity into the proceedings. For the above being the case, one wonders to what (varying) degree the revolutionary rhetoric within The Clash, was, of pristine and paramount importance.

As the author continues to make clear,

"The Clash of London Calling" would not have been permissible without The Clash of their debut album, which in turn, would not have been possible without the aforementioned influence of Bernie Rhodes: "It was Bernie who took and shaped this rough clay into the intensely political and pro-active Clash. His success in communicating his theories to the songwriting members of the band, most importantly chief lyricist Joe Strummer, goes some way to explaining such first-album songs as 'Remote Control' and 'Hate & War.' The sense of not only living a life with no values, but also a life not valued by society — and with no prospect of change for the better."

With such clarity of light shed upon the early stages of The Clash, by the time one reaches the book's prime chapter "Across The Tracks," it's a forgone conclu-

sion that the track by track analysis is going to be something of an informative and consistent marvel; not to mention supremely iconic — which, to all intents and purposes, "London Calling" most definitely is.

That Q Magazine voted Pennie Smith's cover the best rock'n'roll photograph of all time in 2002 substantiates as much.

Just as one has to (patiently) look far and wide before stumbling upon the organic head charge of said album, so too, does one have to search high and low before coming across another superlative rock'n'roll dissertation such as "Route 19 Revisited."





“Dollar Store Policy” – or  
“Why Dollar Stores Are Going  
Out of Business”

# In defense of online, citizen journalism

**Darren Johnson**  
*Publisher*

I own 631politics.com. It's part of the “new journalism,” like it or not. It now gets about 8000 real hits a day and over 100 posts. On election night, 16,000 people checked in. Obviously, the vast majority of people read it but don't post. The regular posters, therefore, are the storytellers. They can spread truths (that the standard newspapers often stay away from), or they can create whis- pers. Some usernames are more trustworthy than others. If you read it enough, you know who to stay away from and who may have a point. I know at least a hundred people who at least occasionally post. I know that the site is book- marked in government offices across the New York Metro area. The usernames are like CB “handles” – they give the regulars a clue as to the ID of the writer. Regular posters pay the site fees, making it free for everyone else. About 20 of them were at a party recently in Riverhead.

The posters on 631politics are mostly everyday people, and they have better typing skills than the people posting on most newspaper sites. Most people I meet don't know I own the site, but when I go to networking events all over Suffolk I hear people reciting information that they could have only gotten from 631politics. Yes, to local newspapers' editors chagrins, the site has been critical of most incumbents at one time or another, and usually deservedly. Long Island papers endorse incumbents at an 80% clip, it seems; a counter-balance is needed.

The site has had some accom-

plishments and led to some county legislation and action. Considering how close many elections are, maybe it swayed enough votes to turn the tide in a couple of races. Also, a minor party I used to organize, the Integrity Party, would not have gotten 10,000 petition signatures each summer without the site as a networking vehicle. We would have had the same sorry tally of 2000 or so signatures we had with previous minor party efforts and likely knocked out at the Board of Elections.

I've seen local smalltown journalism drastically change in the past 10 years. Maybe some of the quality local papers in my area, Eastern Suffolk County, are the last bastion of the first amendment, but I can tell you it's disheartening when I hear that some reporters for Long Island weekly papers also sell advertising on the side. When you see not only cable news channels but also the City ones shamelessly promoting some trendy product during the broadcast, or see local reporters get jobs in town hall after regime changes, or you hear about non-journalist plants at press conferences tossing softballs to the holder of the conference – and no one notices – or you know about major daily papers in the area holding back stories until after election day as not to damage the editorial board's candidate; it makes you think maybe the Internet is our last hope for the future of some sort of honest journalism. It's messy right now, and it's new-fangled, but every medium seems to have growing pains as it fights for an audience.

Let's face the economic reality

of the situation. These small-town papers pay what? Thirty g's a year for an experienced writer with a college degree? These same people can get at least double that in almost any other writing-related job on the Island. With the massive increase in local cost of living, it's only going to get harder and harder for traditional papers to attract and keep good writers. Any advertiser worth its salt won't advertise in a poorly written paper. So what could happen? These small weeklies become the Pennysaver. My part of Long Island, which has several award-winning papers (the best in the state, according to NYPA contests), seems to defy these journalistic trends, but for how long?

The people who post on posting board websites – for free – should be lauded, not criticized. Most of them are reporting things in their neighborhoods feeling it's a civic duty, and it is. Would you rather they spend their idle time passively, playing “Madden 2010” or watching “American Idol”?

Traditional journalists take cracks at people's anonymity on the web. Well, before I mentioned how most regular posters are known in some way by somebody – but even if they aren't, it has been proven time and time again in the courts that anonymous speech is free speech. The American Revolution was partially fueled by anonymous pamphleteers.

I'm very proud to offer an outlet for people who previously felt stifled or helpless. They keep posting because they see that often their posts have results. God bless them.

**Nancy Muldoon**  
*Campus News*

Pay attention, fellas...

• Just because girls are somewhat math impaired doesn't mean that we don't know the difference between 2 inches and 10 inches. If you are not well endowed, do not tell girls that you are. Most girls don't care about stuff like that as it should be; but lying about your equipment is only going to make a girl wonder what else you lied about. Don't be this kind of guy.

• If you are at a party and you haven't made a connection by midnight, leave with dignity and call it a night. Everyone has their off nights and you are not the exception. If you decide to stay all you are asking for is a long night with a girl that's too drunk to be of any use to you anyway. It is also considered an act of desperation and word does get around, you know. Do you really want to be that guy?

• It's called Locker Room Talk for a reason. Save the really gross verbiage for your male friends who will really appreciate it. Women might say they like to hear it but we are just being polite.

• Nothing is more of a turnoff to women than an insecure guy, so what if you don't come from the right pedigree or don't drive a Beemer, neither do most people. If you are the scholarship kid and are working your way through college, be confident about that; because anyone who looks down upon that isn't worth your time anyhow.

Nancy Muldoon is the Managing Editor of the Ballston Journal newspaper. She lives in Saratoga Springs, New York. Nancy can be reached at chief\_fortress@yahoo.com.

## Poetry Corner: “16 or 60?”

**Robert Savino**  
*West Islip, NY*

not everyday begins  
with a car ride up Route 110  
in first gear, motor  
moans, tranny stress;  
nor does it unravel  
in an up and down staircase  
shuffle, miles of stretched  
memories between hips and knees.  
there are days when  
mind muscles clear clouds,  
basking in solar energy  
at Argyle Park.  
the motor idles, neutralized  
by children passing down the slide,  
reflecting callow years.  
fast-spinning turns  
of the round-a-bout empty  
into a perpetual sandbox.

# Letter from the publisher

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

Major newspapers all over the country are slashing staff, some are closing down. The written word is increasingly, exponentially, moving to the web and devices like Kindle. And there's a big recession going on where consumers are questioning every purchase that's not an immediate necessity. Print newspapers — as there are other, free, electronic options — are in that category for most people today.

So who would be crazy enough to start a print newspaper today, here in 2010?

(Raises hand enthusiastically.)

You're holding the first edition of Community College Campus News, a newspaper that, at the drawing board, had taken many forms as I debated on my popular 631Media web sites what to do. At first, I was thinking a PDF publication to the huge mailing lists I've developed. That seemed state-of-the-art. Then I considered a small-circulation magazine that a niche audience would pay for; perhaps similar to my 1990s literary magazine Rocket Press, which, like most other small-press mags of that era and before, lost the wind in its sails as the Internet became a reality for more people. Rocket Press wasn't a horrible magazine, though, and got a few hundred subscribers at one point and submissions from some top poets of the day.

A hometown newspaper? We already have a lot of those where I live and work. Plus, I'm always worried about conflicts of interest as I work for public colleges. In the late 90s or so, I'd tried a few pilot issues of a paper devoted to a town I was living in at the time called The Greenport Report (later titled The Twin Forks Report), but wasn't good at ad sales at the time and let it fade away. Those publications are so obscure, google searches find nothing. But I remember the pride I had seeing people reading my newspaper at local laundromats and restaurants.

A book? Maybe I'll do that again some day, but one I wrote as an angst-filled young adult was published back in the day and the \$1000 or so it generated really wasn't worth all the work that went into it. Plus, if I wrote the kinds of books people really want to read, I'd probably be fired from any university job I had at the time. Real life is not always politically correct. At least it wasn't from my lower-middle-class, Upstate background. I always kid that my next poetry chapbook will be titled, "Poems That Will Get Me Fired From the University." Maybe if I ever get tenured.

A web site? Been there. Done that. My 631Media family of web sites get 10,000 views a day and are very popular and influential in Suffolk County, Long Island, NY. The main draw is a political posting board site, 631Politics, but I also have other types of media there, including 631Radio, an 80's alternative/punk/new wave station that's

currently No. 45 in the country in its genre vs. many hundred. While the sites are well-trafficked, and when I first started college teaching I was assigned to courses like Writing With Computers and HTML, it's not my first love.

And, I decided, at 40, which I turned the day before the date listed on this paper, I was going to create a media entity that has a special place in my heart. Not that the other ventures don't have meaning, and have helped and entertained tens of thousands of people. Just print journalism is a big part of who I am. I can't give up on the marriage just yet.

In the earliest photograph of me that I own, I am in a diaper, in a walker, clutching a newspaper like most kids clutch a rattle. As I kid, I made mock newspapers — did every aspect. Drew the cartoons, wrote the obits and advice columns, laid it out. Then I had a door-to-door paper route. It took me a while longer to accomplish than the other kids because I'd actually read the paper while I delivered it.

In high school study halls, I'd read the New York tabloids, having bought them before school. I was in the Explorers, a high school internship-type program that met at the Utica Observer-Dispatch daily newspaper. Because I played on the football team, I wrote sports for my high school paper.

I debated whether to go to college for an English department Writing program at Southampton College or Mass Media at Plattsburg. I chose the former while writing for my college paper, taking any journalism class I could find, and, to pay my bills, delivering The New York Times. Yes, I would read that, too, daily while delivering it. Then I went on to be a reporter and editor for mostly community newspapers, with some freelance placements at larger papers. Won some awards. Then got into teaching and advising the craft to community college students. Soon, I realized I actually could sell ads, as the campus paper I advised didn't have a students who could handle that end. Writing, publishing, ad sales. My skill set was complete.

While I have degrees in English and am well-versed in literature, MY literature is newspapers, especially print newspapers. So I'm not about to give up on that even though every talking head says that's what I should do.

Every town I visit — large and small — I pick up all the hometown newspapers and read them beginning to end. Even though I don't live in those places and have no pragmatic reason to know about the people who live there, I do have a hard-to-describe need to know about the cop who made a water rescue, the sick kid who got an organ donation just in time, the super market clerk who hit the lottery (these winners always say they are keeping their day jobs — sure!). It's as if, by seeing these stories in print — even though I am anonymous to the writers

of and the people in the stories — I am giving them and their work value. They all are important.

Any community that has a newspaper can't be bad — or else no one would read that paper. Why read about a place you could not care less about? A newspaper ultimately is about expressing the value of a community. By reading that paper, we celebrate that success and belief in the value of mostly ordinary people.

So, here I am bringing you a community paper focused on community colleges, which have a high, often unrealized, value in educating and training the people in our communities. It's where journalism programs are largely at risk, along with their newspapers. And, as an educator, the community college population is one I know a lot about. I enjoy these students more than the ones I used to teach at a fancy four-year school. They are diamonds in the rough, often, and have so much potential ahead of them. They are students I can work with, build confidence in, have a laugh — and hearty debates — with.

Community College Campus News will be distributed at New York's downstate two-year campuses. It won't compete with existing

## Seeing someone cold and homeless

**Svetlana Sforza**  
*Campus News*

As another 30-degree day descends upon us, I only hope that my heat and hot water work in my basement apartment. I wake up, wrapped in my down comforter, counting down the days until summer returns. Once I quickly look at my thermostat, I know that 68 degrees feels a lot nicer than this. Do I really have things so bad? Well, I wonder how others might feel under these conditions. Not that I will spend the night just in my backyard, encountering the bitterness of January, but I shall certainly investigate this matter and see exactly how are the homeless in New York City dealing with the cold.

I just recently visited Penn Station, wrapped in my brown, fuzzy jacket drinking a healthy smoothie (apart from the usual pizza and beer I consume there) with a smile on my face. All I thought about was going for tea with my friend. Then, an older man approached me. Of course, I could not hear what he was trying to say, since I donned my headphones. I took them off, but then realized he was asking for spare change. He looked kind of sick and dirty, so I said, "Are you hungry?" He obviously replied, "Yes, very." So I asked him what he would like to eat, and he just wanted a piece of chicken. We proceeded to the nearest vendor selling that product, and I fed this man. He was extraordinarily grateful and offered me a lamp shade in return for my kindness. I replied that I had no lamps, and we laughed, then just spoke about life in general. Treating him with dignity, and not judging his life decisions, I bid him farewell and gave him the last 2 dollars on my Metrocard, so he

could see his brother. Well, I saved that receipt from the chicken purchase, and now feel proud looking upon that.

Why choose this alternative to shelters? This is a crowded, open place, with access to millions of people (tourists and natives alike), bathrooms and warmth. But many helpers at shelters take their vans to look for homeless on the streets at night, and try to convince them to come in from the cold. Extra effort is particularly paid during these months of frost and bitterness. Assured they will not be victims to assault or harassment, those on the sidewalks accept. They cannot be forced, unless their life is in danger. But nowadays, individuals are not the only ones to fall victim to the homeless crisis; entire families encounter this hardship. There is no shame in avoiding hypothermia and frostbite. If you should witness symptoms such as shallow breathing, discoloration of skin and slurred speech, you may contact 311 as a helpline.

No strangers to these occurrences, New Yorkers lend helping hands when and however they can. Giving away old jackets and warm clothing is a big step, or even just leaving a warm blanket for a person currently residing in a cardboard box. If you want to handle things in a more professional manner, there are always outreach centers. For more information on how you can help, please visit these websites: [www.coalitionforthehomeless.org](http://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org), [www.bowery.org](http://www.bowery.org), [www.women-in-need.org](http://www.women-in-need.org), [www.urbanpathways.org](http://www.urbanpathways.org) and the NYC Department of Homeless Services. And now, you can think about donating some time and/or money to these shelters. Not to sound cliché, but every little bit helps.

Also, our stories will be different. CCCN will aim to bring general interest stories to community college students in a larger region than any one campus paper can do.

By reading your campus newspaper (and maybe by submitting stories to us), you're showing you really do care about this community. That the stories and people in here do matter.

Contact us any time at [ccn@twinforks.com](mailto:ccn@twinforks.com) or [www.ccnnews.info](http://www.ccnnews.info).



“Shutter Island”

## Upcoming New Movies: Gibson, Travolta, ‘Hangover’ Return

Laura Tucker  
Arts Writer

Mel Gibson is back with another suspense thriller. He’s carrying the flick, with no other big names here, playing a homicide detective in Boston. His only child is a young adult woman, and when she is murdered in front of his home, it’s the assumption that he was the intended victim. He sets out to find the truth and finds out about his daughter’s secret life that takes him into world of big business where it’s not mixed with pleasure. At the same time, a government operative has been sent to clean up the evidence left behind. “Edge of Darkness” is rated R for strong bloody violence and language and released on January 29.

Just in case we’re missing the fun of “The Hangover” and don’t want to wait until its upcoming sequel, Steve Buscemi and Sarah Silverman star in a comedy/drama about a compulsive gambler (Buscemi) who escapes Las Vegas for Albuquerque to lead a normal life, working in an auto insurance agency, trying to avoid tempting lotto tickets while getting involved with an eccentric coworker (Silverman). His boss sends him and a fraud debunker to investigate a questionable accident near Vegas, and on the road they encounter a stripper in a wheelchair, a nude militant, and a human torch. “Saint John of Las Vegas” is rated R for language and some nudity and is released in limited areas on January 29, with a wider release expected on February 12.

Kristen Bell and Josh Duhamel star in this romantic comedy about a young woman from New York who goes to Rome for a wedding and meets a charming reporter who she’s very interested in. Yet while there, she picks up coins that she feels others have foolishly left in a fountain of love. Only after does she find out the old wives’ tale that explains that if you pick up others’ coins from the fountain, they will fall in love with you.

Through this, she picks up a wide range of strange suitors, and it makes her wonder if the reporter is really interested in her, or if she picked up one of his coins. Danny Deviator, Jon Header, and Ax Sheared star as well. “When In Rome” is rated LPG-13 for some suggestive content and was released on January 29.

This one’s getting some heavy promotion and is based on the novel by Nicholas Sparks. A young soldier (Canning Stratum) comes home on leave and falls in love with an idealistic college student (Amanda Seyfried) who is on her spring break. The two see each other whenever they can over the next seven years and stay in touch with love letters. These letters eventually bring fateful consequences. “Dear John” is rated LPG-13 for some sensuality and violence and is expected to be released February 5.

John Travolta is back with his third film in the past year, this time in an action flick. The personal aide to the U.S. Am-

bassador in France (Jonathan Rhys Myers) has a great life carved out for himself in France, but wants to become a bona fide CIA agent. He gets offered his first big assignment, but is partnered with a real loose cannon with an itchy trigger finger (Travolta). After some time with him, Myers is looking for his desk job back. “From Paris With Love” is rated R for strong bloody violence throughout, drug content, pervasive language and brief sexuality and is expected to be released February 5.

The best date night movie of the month reminds me very much of “He’s Just Not That Into You” in that it’s a light romantic comedy, with famous names, and is about different couples whose lives intertwine. For this group of lovers, their lives will all intertwine throughout one day, Valentine’s Day. Just some of the famous names include Jessica Alba, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Eric Dane, Patrick Dempsey, Jennifer Garner, Topher Grace, Ashton Kutcher, Taylor Lautner, and Taylor Swift. And that’s just half of the big names. Let’s not forget that it’s also being directed by Garry Marshall. “Valentine’s Day” is rated LPG-13 for some sexual material and brief partial nudity and is expected to be released February 12.

If you’re not into light romance, you can instead check out a horror film with Benicio Del Toro, Anthony Hopkins, and Emily Blunt that is inspired by the classic werewolf film. Del Toro stars as a nobleman who revisits the family estate after his brother disappears, and sets out with his father to find him. He instead finds out his own terrifying destiny. “The Wolfman” is rated R for bloody horror, violence, and gore, and expected to be released February 12.

Leonardo DiCaprio stars in this Martin Scorsese-directed film about two U.S. marshals who are brought to a remote and empty island just off the coast of Massachusetts to look into the disappearance of a woman. The woman had been doing time for murder at a fortress-like hospital for the criminally insane. Mark Ruffalo, Ben Kingsley, Michelle Williams, Patricia Clarkson, and Max von Sydow star as well. “Shutter Island” isn’t rated yet and is expected to be released February 19.

Not only do we have Gibson and Travolta back, but Bruce Willis is back this month as well, but in a crime comedy instead of an action flick. He stars with Tracy Morgan as two NYPD partners who are searching for a rare baseball card that was stolen. They get pitted against a memorabilia-obsessed gangster. Finding this card is the only hope Willis has for paying for his daughter’s wedding, but Morgan has a hard time concentrating on the crime at hand because of his wife’s alleged infidelity. “Cop Out” isn’t rated yet and is expected to be released February 26.

## New DVD ‘Thrillers’

Laura Tucker  
Arts Writer

Among the DVDs released on January 26, the biggest might be Michael Jackson’s “This Is It.” This is the documentary that was put together from backstage and practice footage of Jackson’s planned concert right before his death. If you skipped it in the theater, waiting for it on DVD, here it is. Also being released is “Atonement,” a romance starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy of a privileged young woman who falls in love with the son of the family’s housekeeper, but her young sister interferes. If you’re looking to be scared instead of romanced, “Saw VI” is being released in both full screen and widescreen. The roller derby comedy/drama, “Whip It,” starring Ellen Page and Drew Barrymore, is out, and is a great story about finding your own path in life.

Who can turn the world on with her smile? That’s right, Mary Tyler Moore. The sixth season of her self-titled comedy is expected to be released February 2. The 1941 version of “The Wolf Man” is being released just in time for the Benicio Del Toro updated version to come out in theaters later in the month. It is February and all, so we have a couple of romances including the Jennifer Aniston/Aaron Eckart movie “Love Happens,” about a self help guru who is miserable, and “Ice Castles,” the remake of the 1978 film with Robby Benson and Lynn-Holly Johnson. If you’re not into the romance, look for “Zombieland,” a horror/comedy starring Woody Harrelson.

Despite being the week of Valentine’s Day, on February 9 there are a couple of science fiction releases out. “Stargate Universe (SGU 1.0),” the 10-episode first season is being released for those serious SGU fans. “Time Traveler’s Wife” is sci-fi in a way, but a romance as well. Erica Bana and Rachel McAdams fall in love, but he can’t stop from traveling through time, never known when he’ll leave or when he’ll come back. If you want comedy with your romance instead of sci-fi, look for “Couples Retreat,” which includes Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn as writers and actors. It also stars Jason Bateman, Kristin Davis, and Kristen Bell, in a story about three couples who think they’re going to a relaxing resort, but find instead an intense experience, where working on their marriages is forced on them.

During the week of February 23, the Matt Damon comedy blockbuster “The Informant!” comes to DVD. Damon stars in the true story of a top level executive who blows the whistle on his company, thinking it will get him ahead. It also stars Scott Bakula and Joel McHale. For more comedy, as well as a definite heavy dose of drama, Robert DeNiro stars as a lonely widower who wants to reconnect with his kids in “Everybody’s Fine.” It’s definitely funny in parts, but it’s also quite sad and makes you think about your own family situation. The Cameron Diaz/James Marsden thriller “The Box,” about a couple who face a moral decision, is being released as well. Finally, “Nurse Jackie” fans are in luck, with season one being released



“Whip It”

## Poetry Corner: “Spoons”

Tammy Nuzzo-Morgan  
Suffolk County Poet Laureate

I remember when you spoon-fed me  
ice-cream as we lay in bed on that rainy  
afternoon

and the way your fingers tasted and  
your neck had a hint of sweat and I  
closed my eyes

and you drove away the dark with  
your hips and I called your name in a  
low, soft moan.

I remember when you spooned sugar  
into your morning tea on that sunny  
Tuesday

and I watched you drink as if you  
were a foreign film I could not under-  
stand

and your smile told me my poetry  
made you hunger for more than a nine-  
to-five life.

I remember when you spooned dirt  
into the flower pot and filled it with  
mums for me

and I was peeking out the window  
seeing you bent down working away softly  
humming

and I decided then that I was not  
who I wanted to be without you in my  
days and nights.

And I remember how after you left I  
packed away all the silverware, including  
those spoons and I gave the box to the  
Salvation Army, hoping for some salva-  
tion of my own  
and I drove away from our town knowing  
I would never see another sunset like  
you.

## CAMPUS NEWS

**Community College Campus  
News is published monthly and  
distributed to 15 downstate  
New York two-year college  
campuses.**

**Publisher:** Darren Johnson

**Design:** Thomas Johnson (no rela-  
tion)

**Writers:** Laura LaVacca, Laura Tucker,  
Shirley Paul, David Marx, Zack  
Pumerantz, Ashley Tortora, Kaylee  
Johnson, Tammy Nuzzo-Morgan,  
Svetlana Sforza and Nancy Muldoon

**Cover Photo:** Christine Barton

**Contact Us...**

CCC News, PO Box 2352,  
Aquebogue, NY 11931

or [cccn@twinforks.com](mailto:cccn@twinforks.com)



## Warm up to TV this month

**Laura Tucker**  
Arts Writer

Of course the big news this month with TV coverage is the Winter Olympics in Vancouver. From February 12th through the 28th, we'll see the best in skating, skiing, hockey, etc. The first night there won't be much else other than the Opening Ceremonies, and while it can be a little boring sitting and waiting for your own country's flag to be introduced, you can't deny the excitement of that opening ceremony, or the closing ceremony for that matter.

In between, there will be the usual excitement, which you can catch not only on NBC, but also USA, MSNBC, CNBC, Universal HD, and Universal Sports. The Speed Skating competition will start on Feb. 13th, with Figure Skating beginning on the 14th. Alpine Skating and Freestyle Skating will both begin on Feb. 13th as well. The USA Men's Hockey team will first compete on Feb. 16th against Switzerland, and that

curious sport of Curling will begin its coverage on the same date.

In other sports, the CBS will be handling the annual "Super Bowl" on Feb. 8th. Coverage starts at noon, with the game starting at 6:25 PM. It seems we have run out of aging rock stars, as for an interesting change, the halftime show performer will be CBS' crime drama "CSI." If you're not into drama on the field, either by the actors or the football players, check out the "Puppy Bowl" on Animal Planet which starts airing at 3:00 PM and keeps repeating throughout the evening. There is absolutely not anything cuter then watching the puppies cavorting on the makeshift "field" and the refs calling timeout every time they have an accident.

Dogs are featured again in the annual "Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show" airing on USA Channel. It always airs as a two-night special, this time beginning on Feb. 15th. Myself and my dogs will be rooting for

the Airedale terriers, but I can be pulled in by just about any good-looking dog in the sporting, working, or terrier groups. This will be the day after we've watched the next season of NASCAR start off at its usual haunt of Daytona. Hopefully by that time they'll have the hunt for a new Sprint Cup Series director sewn up.

There's more drama happening in February as well, as "Lost" comes back to the airwaves with its final season. It will start with a one-hour recap special "Beginning of the End" at 8:00 PM on ABC, and the two-part season premiere will directly follow it. The show is known for providing more questions than answers, so hopefully for once they'll answer a few, but I have a suspicion they'll leave fans guessing in the very end. There's always drama as well with "Survivor," and this upcoming season, on Feb. 11th, will be

**continued on next page**

# Remembering my dad



Autumn '09, Riverhead, NY

**Ashley Tortora**  
Campus News

Living with a parent who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness can be one of the hardest challenges a child can deal with. Knowing that there is treatment but no cure is often hard to accept. You never think it can happen to you, you always hear of it happening to someone else's family. So when you are faced with this reality a natural feeling is to go into denial. I know from first-hand experience watching someone you love suffer and put up the fight of their live breaks your heart and change your life forever. When my father was diagnosed with stage four colorectal cancer on January 25, 2008, the phone call I received while I was away at college replays in my head as if it was yesterday. All I wanted to do was help my father but I felt helpless. My father was the most important male figure in my life he was always the strongest, toughest hard working person you would ever meet. My dad never gave up and fought until his last dying breath. He is my hero and my idol. Throughout his year battle I never heard him complain about the excruciating pain he was in. He still woke up each day with a smile on his face. His illness took a backseat to his family. He was always worried about taking care of his family before anything else. Cancer did not run in my family so when the news came my family was in shock. It felt like it was a bad dream. How could something like this really be happening and no one saw it coming.

My family life changed with my mother becoming a second nurse taking care of my father 24 hours a day. Some days my father would be fine and you would never be able to tell he was even sick, and other days my heart broke to see someone so amazing go through such a terrible illness that did not deserve

this. Some people who are ill deal with different emotions which can affect a family's well being including depression, and fear of not knowing what's going to come next. Families may also start to feel helpless, and unable to have someone to turn to because their parents may be preoccupied. In my situation that was never an issue. My parents were always there including my dad who was dealing with a lot at the time.

Family life can change when a family dependant on two incomes will start to become a financial strains. Sacrifices will be expected of everyone. This can come as a bit of a shock to the children since the family finances are usually the sole concern of the adults. Kids and teens are rarely aware of how much it takes to maintain a family and don't fully understand the changes that have to be made.

Living the past year in a nightmare I learned to become more independent and more thankful for the life I have. Watching my father go through several stages is something I will never forget. Coming from a close knit family, without my father things will never be the same. My father was told on New Year's Eve 2008 that the treatment was not helping and he only had a few months left. Little did we know that nine days later my father would be placed in intensive care and pass away on January 9, 2009. Life won't be the same without him but remaining strong and close to family can help in the grieving process.

While standing in the intensive care unit with my sisters, brother and my mom while my dad passed away before our eyes, I knew what Billy Joel said in his song was correct -- "only the good die young."

## Finding the right professor

**continued from page 1**

explains what's expected, it may not seem that bad.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Ask about the midterm and final on the first day. Who cares if people think you're jumping the gun. Find out specifically if the midterm and final will be cumulative. This is an open window into what to expect for the semester. This will prepare you to know that keeping notes and studying will be a top priority throughout the semester.

Learn your strengths and weaknesses. Are you a visual learner or an auditory learner? Would you rather learn through power points, charts and graphs or sit through a lecture and take notes. This can be crucial in finding a professor that's right for you. Many professors set out their teaching styles and explain them during the first lectures. This is a great time to see if your learning style will adhere to the professor's teaching style.

One thing many shy away from is communicating with professors. This is also another important factor in finding the right professor for you. Are their

office hours reasonable? Do they provide contact through emails or telephone numbers in case of questions and concerns? Is extra study and review sessions available before exams? Your needs and the answers to these questions can help you make the right choice for a professor.

Identifying your personal matters can also help you in finding the right professor. What do you hope to get out of the class and what can the particular professor offer you? Is the course load reasonable? Will you be able to put forth the time and effort that's demanded by the professor? These are good questions to reflect on in the process.

There are usually adjustment periods and deadlines to schedules. So, if even in doubt stick it out.

The approach of a new semester can be refreshing. Another term brings the excitement of new experiences, new classes, and even more importantly new professors.

Though rigorous and challenging at times, the research of finding the right professor can be rewarding at the end of time. It can be the difference between that anticipated 4.0 or a 3.5.

# Ricky Gervais' "Out of England"

continued from previous page

an All-Star version, "Heroes vs. Villains." Some of the choices have us shaking our heads, but it's always exciting to see Boston Rob playing any reality TV game, and many fans are left thinking Russell deserves another shot at the big prize after the other survivors didn't seem to pay him his dues after he virtually recreated the game.

Ricky Gervais got mixed reviews for his stint as host of the Golden Globes, and now we'll get even more of him with "Out of England: The Stand Up Special." HBO will air this comedy special beginning on Feb. 19th.

It will feature Gervais brand of British humor. This co-creator of "The Office" won't leave much uncovered. Comedian Ellen DeGeneres has been around the hosting block more often and will begin the stint of her life on Feb. 9th when she replaces Paula Abdul on "American Idol" when the season moves to the Hollywood round of the auditions. Early reports say she adds her brand of humor.

It'll be interesting to see how she does since she'll be the only judge on the panel representing the fans, without a musical background.



## Money-saving tips

### Nancy Muldoon Campus News

Lose your long distance phone company and get a calling card. They can range from \$10-\$20 dollars depending how many minutes they have on them. You pay for the card up front so there is no bill later on to worry about. Calling cards are sold in most drug stores and supermarkets.

- Get rid of your cable television; there are all kinds of channels but not really anything worth viewing. Rent a movie instead.
- Buy groceries in bulk and try to shop only once or twice a month. This cuts down on gas costs and be sure to make a list of everything you need. Stick to the list.

- If where you are going is within walking distance, walk and encourage your children to walk, too. Childhood obesity isn't only caused by eating the wrong foods; it's caused by a lack of exercise. This saves money on gas and encourages healthy attitudes and well being.
- Reduce texting. It isn't really necessary and it's a waste of money. Take 15 minutes of your day when you are available to really talk to people and call them personally or e-mail them.
- The more efficient the appliance, the cheaper it is to run. Replace your light bulbs with energy efficient ones.
- Make sure windows and doors are sealed, why let the heat or cold escape. Caulking and seal-

ing and weather stripping are inexpensive ways to reduce energy bills and usage.

- Don't cancel credit cards you don't use, rather use them as tools to negotiate zero interest for purchases and balance transfers. Every time you apply for a new credit card there is an inquiry on your credit report; you don't want too many inquiries.
- Car pool, invite your friends over for pot luck dinner, rotate houses. Take turns babysitting kids, one weekend you babysit for a friend, the next weekend they do it for you.
- Shop around for gas prices, use regular unleaded as it is always cheaper. Few cars require anything else.

## SUNY rallies for Haiti

The State University of New York committed recently to a system-wide effort to assist the victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher and the Board of Trustees have authorized SUNY Vice Chancellor Mitch Leventhal to develop and coordinate appropriate disaster response in Haiti among the 64 SUNY campuses.

"New horrors are revealed daily in Port-au-Prince and throughout Haiti," said Board Chairman Carl T. Hayden. "The entire SUNY community is affected by this disaster and grieves with families who have lost loved ones. SUNY will act to help those in desperate need."

"SUNY campuses are developing plans and programs to assist the tens of thousands of victims of this terrible disaster," said Chancellor Zimpher. "By coordinating our efforts, we can help the people of Haiti on the long and difficult road to recovery."

"Each SUNY campus knows best what it can contribute to this urgent relieve effort," said SUNY Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs Mitch Leventhal. "However, it stands to reason to focus on short-term training and degree programs that can return people to the field, within a relatively short period, with the technical skills most appropriate for alleviating human suffering and rebuilding the nation."

SUNY's efforts may include, scholarships in fields focused on basic human need, welcoming Haitian students on campuses and into appropriate programs, and other assistance, as appropriate.

The rebuilding of Haiti will be a multi-year project and must focus on basic human needs and sustainability. SUNY is in a unique position to assist through the training of technicians and practitioners in the areas of health care and delivery, building trades, education, sanitation, and related

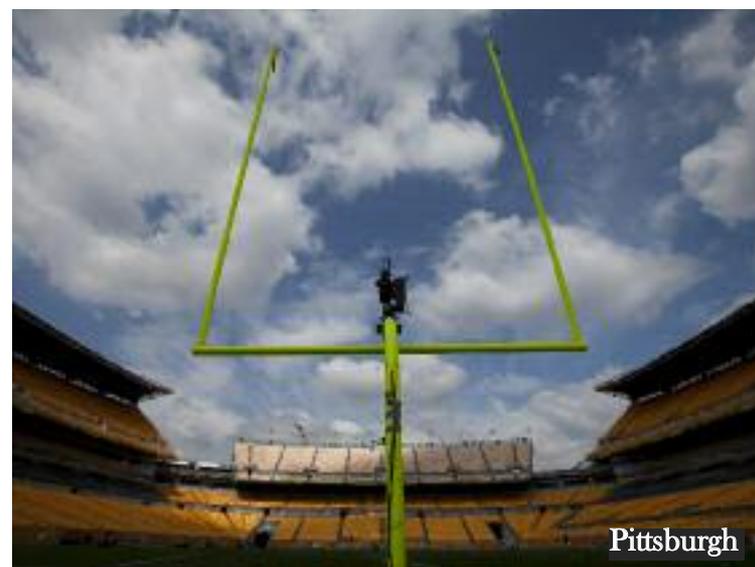
areas. Identification of qualified students for associate degree programs in these fields will ensure that graduates will be returned to the field in Haiti in the relatively near term.

SUNY has initiated discussions with the Organization of American States (OAS), which is currently contemplating the creation of an Emergency Scholarship Program for Haiti. SUNY will also be reaching out to the City University of New York and other institutions in the State as part of a coordinate response from higher education.

## Write for us!



Contact [ccn@twinforks.com](mailto:ccn@twinforks.com).



## So you think football season is ending? Not quite.

Laura Tucker  
Arts Writer

One of the most depressing days of the year has to be the Sunday after the Super Bowl. After spending every Sunday watching football, it's hard to know what to do with Sunday afternoons. Naps only take so long, and that list of things that needs to get done on the weekends is never quite attractive enough. While Sundays will still be empty in this off-season, our Monday night will still be full of football, thanks to truTV's new series, "Full Contact."

"Full Contact" will fittingly premiere on February 8, the night after the Super Bowl. It will follow all the behind-the-scenes action from draft day to the Super Bowl. It's interesting to see what goes on that we don't see. For some reason we know and expect there to be a lot going on behind any other entertainment we watch on television, but we just don't think about the workings or drama in the background of our sporting events. "Full Contact" shows there's much to be seen.

In the premiere episode, "Full Contact" will take us behind-the-scenes at the NFL Kickoff game in Pittsburgh. Before the game, they had performances by the Black-Eyed Peas and Tim McGraw, an interesting combination to say the least. Revealed on this episode is that they had hired a "cast" for the audience shots. What looks like hundreds of Pittsburgh Steelers fans in a standing-room only crowd is actually just a few hundred people dressed for the part that were hired to stand in a special holding pen to make it look like a huge audience. Think about that the next time you see the cheering crowd. It might just be people hired to look the part.

Definitely the most interesting member of this audience casting is the man that decided to show up dressed like Tim McGraw, tight jeans, black t-shirt, black hat and all. He's wandering all over the stadium, until one of the event coordinators starts to question if he's possibly an impersonator. Once they track him down, the man says he's not impersonating McGraw, and it's not his fault if they think he looks like him. Yet, for security reasons, it's still something they need to rectify. If he looks so much like McGraw, he can gain access to many places at the stadium where he wouldn't have normally been allowed.

Yet, if you're a Hall of Fame Steelers football player, you aren't allowed to roam around the stadium. Security becomes really tight during the game itself, and they aren't letting anyone through without proper identification. This includes Ron Woodson, who had recently been named to the Hall of Fame. He needed to get down to the field at halftime for a

continued on page 14

# When You're Serious About Music, Media, Education & The Performing Arts

## Join us at our Open Houses

**Saturday March 13 at 1 pm**

**Saturday April 17 at 1 pm**

**It's not too late to apply!**



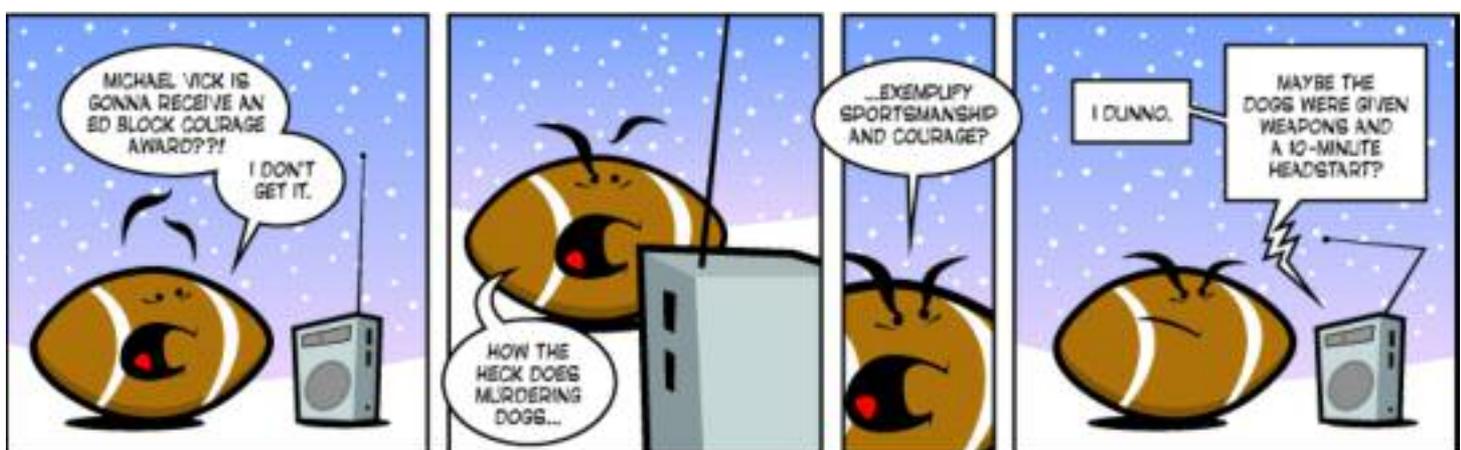
**631.656.2110**

## FIVE TOWNS COLLEGE

**305 N. Service Road Dix Hills, New York 11746**

**AUDIO RECORDING TECHNOLOGY • BROADCASTING • BUSINESS • FILM/VIDEO • JOURNALISM • ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION  
MUSIC TEACHER EDUCATION • MUSIC BUSINESS • MUSIC PERFORMANCE • MASS COMMUNICATION • THEATRE ARTS**

Small Market Sports



www.smallmarketsports.com

Follow me on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/voicesinmyhand>

©2009 Bill Charbonneau.

# 86% of adults 18+ read community newspapers weekly!

"Readers and advertisers have not abandoned community newspaper that serve their

## 75% of those readers read most or all of their newspaper

communities well, that are involved in their communities," Stevenson said. "In towns and cities across the country, vibrant local newspapers continue to

help strengthen their communities, and those communities in turn strengthen and support their local news source. They grow, together."

### D I D Y O U K N O W ...

- On average, readers spend 45 minutes reading an issue of their paper, compared to 42 minutes from the 2007 survey, and 38 minutes in the 2005 survey
- More than 1/3 of readers keep their paper for more than 6 days, enabling them to revisit a story or advertisement at their leisure

**Advertise here! Visit [www.cccnews.info](http://www.cccnews.info), email [cccn@twinforks.com](mailto:cccn@twinforks.com) or call 631-591-1622 today!**

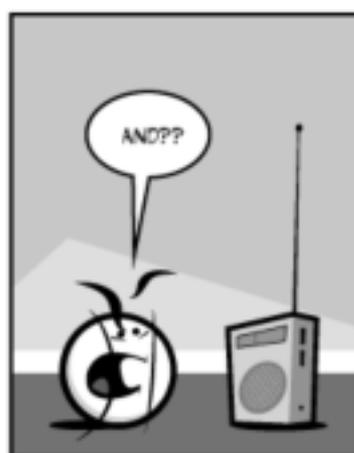
# CAMPUS NEWS

\* Source: 2008 Readership and Advertising Survey Conducted by the National Newspaper Association in Partnership with the Reynolds Journalism Institute / RJI at the Missouri School of Journalism

### Small Market Sports



[www.smallmarketsports.com](http://www.smallmarketsports.com)



©2010 Bill Charbonneau. All rights reserved.

# Classified advertising

Community College Campus News | February 1, 2010

## STILL HOOKED UP TO A WIRE?

Be free! I'll set up a wi-fi connection in your house and get your laptop(s) online. \$300-500, includes equipment. Contact [wifi2010@twinforks.com](mailto:wifi2010@twinforks.com).

## LIKE '80S NEW WAVE, ALTERNATIVE, PUNK AND ONE-HIT WONDERS? Then listen to

631radio.com. The No. 45 rated alternative radio station on Live365! Four out of 5 stars! Office friendly.

631Radio.com.

Did you know that 86% of adults 18+ read community newspapers weekly?

**WRITERS WANTED!** Community College Campus News actually pays for your stories, \$10-25. Get useful clips and real experience. Contact us today at [CCCNNews.info](mailto:CCCNNews.info) or [CCCN@TwinForks.com](mailto:CCCN@TwinForks.com).

**COMPUTERS!** Do you just need a

computer for basic word processing, some Internet browsing and email? Get a computer that can do all that, and works at a decent speed for as low as \$150 -- shipped to you. Just open the box, plug it in, and it's ready to go! See [www.bouncepass.com](http://www.bouncepass.com).

**PRESS RELEASES.** Tired of not having many people show up at your events? Contact [631Media.com](http://631Media.com) or call 631-591-1622.

## How to buy a classified ad...

1. Write your ad.
2. Send it to the address below with \$1.50 per word (minimum 10 words). Check, cash, MO.
3. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Send to CCC News, PO Box 2352, Aquebogue, NY 11931.



"Out of Date," Port Jefferson, NY, Thrift Store

## Fiction: "Looking West, in Fear"

Adam D. Fisher  
*Stony Brook, NY*

Henry was following his son-in-law's white Toyota which jostled over the speed bump to the exit of the Kiddie Gym parking lot in Selden when he caught a quick glimpse of the silver car, a sporty Audi, he thought, stopped at a light way up on the hill to the left. His daughter Michelle, with her large brown eyes and a smile that Henry said could melt an iceberg, sat next to her husband, Alan. Noah, Henry's four-year-old grandson, sat on the left in the back. It was close to dusk then, and the sun was in its inexorable descent, mercilessly baking the road. Even the usually lush maples and oaks looked wilted and the sand of Long Island's soil was scattered along the edge of the road. Henry checked the Audi and thought that the heat waves rising from the blacktop and the setting sun behind it, made it look like it was mysteriously rising out of the road itself. Henry's windows were closed and the AC was on high so he heard only the swoosh of the air coming out of the vents. He adjusted the one in the center to blow on him. The cold air felt good. He watched Alan driving to the stop at the end of the lot.

Earlier, at Noah's birthday party, Henry thought that Michelle and Alan seemed especially tired—there were dark rings under their eyes. Now he looked ahead and could see the top of Noah's car-seat through the back window. He pictured Michelle making sure he was belted in, even though Noah who sat looking at picture books like he was a little professor, often complained that the straps were too tight. Alan waited for the traffic to pass. Henry watched an oil truck lumbering from the right followed by a motorcy-

cle with chopped pipes and a few sedans, gray, dark blue, a rusting Mazda, a pick up with a hanging tail pipe spewing sparks. Henry looked left toward the west holding up his left hand to shield his eyes from the sun. The road appeared clear except that Henry could now see the silver car speeding out of the sunlight and bearing down the hill from the left.

Henry had enjoyed pushing Noah and his friends on the swings but felt a slight soreness in his arms after following their pleadings to push them higher and higher. He took his hands off the steering wheel to rub them.

Alan edged out into the shoulder ready to turn left then stopped—Henry thought he was waiting for the silver car to pass but then gasped in alarm to see Alan inexplicably start across the lane. The Audi moved closer. Henry felt his heart pounding. He wondered if Alan saw it. Was the sun in his eyes; had he turned to Michelle; had he turned to Noah who was always asking questions? Henry thought the Audi must have been doing at least 70.

After Noah blew out the candles, Henry had watched a little girl, leaning over to eat, being careful not to get the melting ice cream cake on her new turquoise skirt. Another little boy had a big ring of chocolate around his mouth. Henry had smiled to himself.

He was afraid to honk and distract Alan—he didn't want him to stop—Henry watched Alan pull across in front of the Audi and willed him to go faster—get out of the way—he thought, gripping the steering wheel until his hands were white. For just a fraction of a sec-

ond, Henry was a little boy tightly holding his mother's hand near the edge of a subway platform. Someone, he never saw who, bumped into him hard and he felt one leg swing over the tracks as the train with its deafening clatter headed into the station. For that split second there was the terror of losing his grip on his mother's hand, the terror of falling on the tracks in front of an oncoming train, but he immediately felt the tug of his mother's arm pulling him away from the edge. The Audi came closer and Henry shouted, "Get out of the way," as Alan ambled across the lane, apparently not aware of the danger Henry was witnessing. The Audi which didn't slow at all seemed headed for the back door just where Noah was sitting. Henry pictured Noah's brown eyes and long lashes wearing his favorite Spiderman tee shirt. He saw his smile during the party as he ran and played on the slide and in the large pit with the plastic balls. The Audi, only twenty feet from Noah's door, was now a blur. Henry held his breath, held up his hands as if to stop the Audi, which only sped closer, then covered his ears expecting to hear the squeal of brakes and the crash of metal on metal—the destruction of his family right there in front of him. He opened his mouth to scream. For a fraction of a second he could not see his son-in-law's car—the Audi came between him and his family. It passed just behind them.

Henry slumped over the steering wheel, his shirt wet, gulping for air. The car behind him honked for him to go.

Same...  
as...  
it...  
ever...  
was!



Authentic  
'80s New Wave, Punk,  
Alternative &  
One-Hit Wonders -  
Office Friendly

**631RADIO.COM**



## BMCC's strong second half up-ends Suffolk

**Zack Pumerantz**  
*Campus News*

On the surface, it seemed like a quiet night in the city that never sleeps, the sound of students walking along the stone walkway in front of The Borough of Manhattan Community College the only excitement on Chambers Street. The men's basketball team, known as the Panthers, sees tonight differently as they are ready to take on the Suffolk County Community College basketball team in a battle of David and Goliath on Jan 14.

As fans leisurely made their way into the gym, amassing to a crowd of thirty, the sound of rubber high-tops on the maple floor became the only noise in the quiet arena. After warm-ups and ubiquitous chatter from players and coaches, the game began.

It was a sloppy start on both ends, turnovers abundant. With the teams combining to commit double-digit turnovers in the first half, the players seemed flustered and frustrated. A fan with a rippled blue turtleneck and thick glasses seemed aggravated as well as she yelled, "Better passes guys, come on." It was a shoddy first half performance by both teams.

As the first half dwindled down and the players began to find their rhythm, Suffolk's point guard hit a couple of three-point shots to maintain their lead. Manhattan's first year coach, Dan Nigro, was livid and red in the cheeks. "Other teams make their shots, that's how the game works," he yelled to his team after his sophomore point guard, Justin Alleyne, missed a crucial free throw with less than two minutes remaining in the half. After Josh Tuazon, a freshman shooting guard, missed a half court heave with one second remaining, the half ended in a score of 34 to 30, with Manhattan down.

As the players and coaches left for the locker rooms, the court once again became quiet. Like crickets in a forest, the fans chatted quietly to break the serene state of the arena. Hoping for more excitement, a fan yelled, "Come on, they gotta pick their heads up."

The second half began in crisper fashion. In contrast to the first half, the second half was a dominant performance by Manhattan as they outscored Suffolk by double digits, while having four players in double figures. Sharrod Drummond, a freshman guard, and Tony Vails, a sophomore guard, finished with 22 points and

25 points respectively. The three-point shot helped Manhattan dominate the second half, with two crucial 3-pointers in the final four minutes from Tuazon, who finished with ten points. When asked how his team was able to dominate the second half, Tuazon said, "We stopped playing scared."

While Suffolk had four players in double figures as well, they weren't able to stop the three-point shot the entire half. Even more importantly, they couldn't stop Vails, Manhattan's star guard who is listed at six feet and two inches. Scoring almost all of his 25 points in the second half, Vails took Manhattan on his shoulders and got to the basket with ease. He was able to get to the foul line effortlessly throughout the second half and made Suffolk pay, hitting almost all his free throws. Drummond also pitched in, hitting five crucial three-point shots in the second half with the game bereft of a comfortable lead by Manhattan, despite offensive dominance. Missed free throws on Suffolk's end, lackadaisical fouls and lazy passes led to a rough half for Suffolk. While their point guard finished with 22 points and their power forward finished with 12 points and brought a great energy boost off the bench, it wasn't enough in the end.

With the game all but over with 45 seconds remaining, Suffolk's coach, who repeatedly screamed "Motion three!" to his point guard as he brought the ball up the court, prayed for a miracle. It was a tedious process, yet a positive experience for his players as they practiced clutch passing and shooting in the crucial last minute of the game.

It was a tale of two halves, as Manhattan struggled in the first half but dominated the second half on the way to an 87 to 76 win. With big performances from Vails and Drummond, along with crucial shots from Tuazon, Manhattan prevailed and went home happy. The Borough of Manhattan Community College Panthers were set to battle Hostos Community College at 7:30 pm on January 21st at home, in the calm arena at 199 Chambers Street.

Upcoming Games:

2/2: BMCC (9-4) vs. Suffolk (11-3) @ 7pm

2/6: BMCC (9-4) vs. Orange @ 12pm

2/9: BMCC (9-4) vs. Bronx (5-12) @ 7pm

## Steelers live on through a new reality show

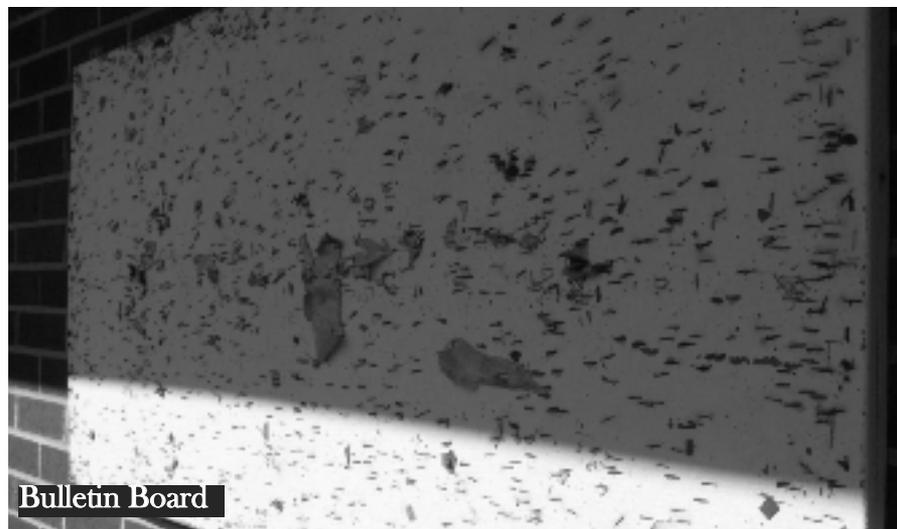
*continued from page 9*

special celebration to receive his Hall of Fame ring and was wearing that mustard-yellow jacket and everything, yet they weren't going to let him through without proper credentials.

Before the musical performances, it was realized that the makeshift dressing room for Fergie needed a top on it instead of just four sides, otherwise anyone flying over could see her changing. How anyone didn't think of that earlier is a little puzzling. And during the performances, a distraught mother approaches security telling them she has lost her little girl. The identifiers they

have for her are that she has brown hair and is wearing a Ben Roethlisberger jersey. That has to be a dime a dozen in this crowd!

To anyone that watched the NFL Kickoff game last fall, none of this was seen or realized. By the time the show aired, it went off without a hitch. The events coordinators are so good that everything is taken care of swiftly and quietly, so that the audience is none the wiser. This ought to make the resulting episodes that much more interesting. If this is what goes on during the Kickoff game, what happens behind-the-scenes at the Super Bowl?



**Bulletin Board**

## Why do community college students sometimes just disappear?

*continued from page 1*

seminars involve being with the same group of students, professors and even attending events and lunch together. It is the university's attempt to create an environment "supportive and conducive to building lasting friendships and academic excellence."

Do community colleges need to learn from private university programs, such as the aforementioned? Even if a college has this supportive environment, is that enough? Researchers suggest that the lack of direction some students have, as to career choices, leads to higher dropout rates. Andrea Salzburg, advisor to the "The Success Coaching Program" at Housatonic Community College in Connecticut, explains that the university developed this program to "increase the retention and degree completion rates of first-year students at HCC because literature shows that students who declare a major are more likely to achieve academic success." The program involves students taking part in various career readiness programs and those who are undeclared are able to receive ideas on potential careers that match their skills and interests and leads them toward selecting a major by the end of the semester. As of fall 2008, Ms. Salzburg explained, "students who were exposed to Success Coaching demonstrated a higher retention and persistence rate in consecutive semesters than students who were not exposed to Success Coaching. If we can help steer students towards selecting a major, they are more likely to stay enrolled."

Research and specialists can only help so much, asking students is what counts. After interviewing students at

Nassau Community College, located in Garden City, NY, an interesting insight into students' views of what a community college is entered the mix. As student Lauren Caldera, 21, explained, "I have noticed the trend of people not showing up to classes, but then they usually show up after a month before the class ends or just skip class every other week. Of course, people care less about a community college versus a private college. One: they are paying less and two; they think it's not as strict as a private school. It even goes for some professors too!"

Also expressing a similar sentiment, Matt Zappia, 21, stated, "I have seen students attend class for a week, never to be seen until the day of the final or ever again. At Nassau Community College, students often refer to their freshman year as the '13th grade.' With no housing options and attending school close to home, and returning home at the end of the day, it is similar to that of high school, so old habits may remain."

Is the drop-out rate at community colleges simply a reflection on how the education one receives there is less serious or in some way lacks as good of quality as a private institution? In this case, no matter what research has shown, there needs to be a shift in the mentality of what the student population believes a community college is. Community Colleges across the country offer hundreds of programs in which highly qualified and competent professors teach. Incoming students need to be informed of all the educational opportunities community colleges offer so the stigma and stereotype of what a "community college" is can change.

# My Degree. My Way.



Name: Bojana  
Degree: B.A. English Literature  
Personalized curriculum: 50% one-to-one study, 50% online study  
Transferred credit: 85

## As a transfer student...

At Empire State College, you have the power to shape your bachelor's degree around your busy schedule. As an alternative to traditional classroom learning, you choose how and when you study with flexible options such as independent study, online courses, study groups, and residencies. You'll benefit from valuable one-to-one time with your faculty mentor who will advise and guide you to degree completion. You also may earn credit for college-level learning gained from work and life experience.

We offer flexibility, affordability and the opportunity to earn a highly respected degree from the State University of New York. It's your choice. It's your degree.

---

Hartsdale • Newburgh • Nanuet  
Manhattan • Brooklyn • Staten Island  
Old Westbury • Hauppauge • Riverhead

---

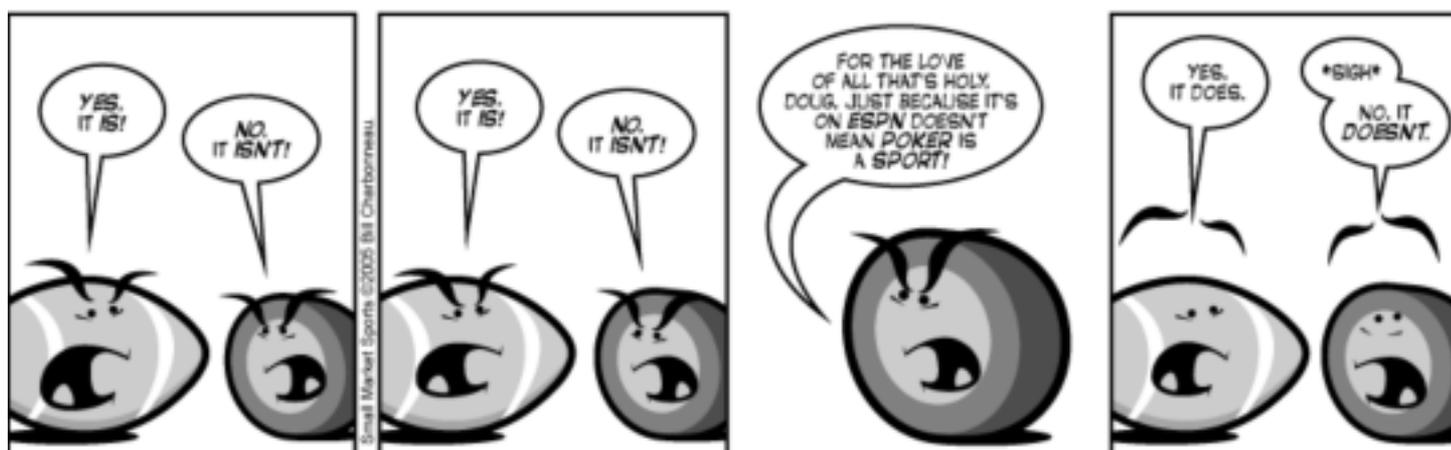
For more information, call 866 372-3197.  
Visit us at [www.esc.edu](http://www.esc.edu)



# EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

### Small Market Sports



# MERCY COLLEGE

## GET THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE

### TRANSFERRING MADE EASY

- » Maximize your transfer credits and choose from over 90 academic programs taught by esteemed faculty.
- » The Mercy College Honors Program offers competitive scholarships and laptops. Featured as a smart choice by *Smart Choices: Peterson's Guide to Honors Programs and Colleges*.
- » One of the most affordable colleges in the country offering scholarships and financial aid.
- » PACT is the country's premier program that pairs undergraduates with their own professional mentor to ensure career success.

### APPLICATION DAY.

Join us on Monday, February 15, 9 am to 7 pm at any of our campus locations. Please bring your official or unofficial transcript with you, if possible.

**TO RSVP,** visit [www.mercy.edu](http://www.mercy.edu) or call **1-877-MERCY-GO.**

SCHOOL OF Business

SCHOOL OF Education

SCHOOL OF Health and Natural Sciences

SCHOOL OF Liberal Arts

SCHOOL OF Social and Behavioral Sciences



MAIN CAMPUS - DOBBS FERRY

BRONX

MANHATTAN

WHITE PLAINS

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS

#### Small Market Sports

