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The next few pages feature several stories from past issues, reprinted and remastered on beautiful 11x17 newsprint. Enjoy!

# COMPASS RERUNS

## Taking A Look Back At What Made Fall 2007 A Great Semester For The Writers, Readers, And Editors Of Suffolk CC's Favorite Paper

By Mike DeVine  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Well, it's been quite a semester for Compass. We started out with two brand-new co-editors, a new Managing Editor, and mostly new Department Editors. No one was sure how the quality of the paper would be affected; the concern wasn't so much whether we would be able to maintain our current level of quality, but how much better we could make a paper that was generally agreed to not be living up to its potential. After Issue One hit the stands, however, sentiments toward Compass began to change almost immediately. People began hating us, and we couldn't have been happier.

Famed Yankee slugger Reggie Jackson once claimed that only the great players get jeered by their team's fans. He said, "the fans don't boo nobodies." How appropriate it was, then, that we used the amount of Compass-bashing letters we received throughout the semester as a basis for how well we were doing. At the beginning of the semester, our inbox had basically no outside presence at all; but by the time several issues had circulated throughout campus we had received a flurry of

emails from readers, most of whom had wanted to remind us that, although we had never heard from them before, we were apparently no longer living up to their personal standards of student journalism.

It wasn't all bad, though. For every poorly written complaint we received, we received nearly twice as many letters complimenting us on our work. It was those letters which wound up being plastered all around the office (alongside some of the funnier hate mail). And as our reputation and visibility within the school grew, so did our ability to seek out new and bigger stories.

Staff Writer Adrienne Spector managed to snag an interview with the elusive Dr. Marvin Bright, the new Associate V.P. of Student Affairs, bravely tackling the extreme fullness of Mr. Bright's Day Planner. Former Managing Editor Peter Verry pulled together many interviews and stories highlighting Long Island's broad underground music spectrum. And although Peter's no longer with us, his contributions brought many new readers into our fold. Our former Co-Editors-in-Chief both brought many, many stories to the table as well, as did our Department Editors.

Activism Editor Travis Malekpour used his psychic powers to predict the violent clash in Myanmar and cover it for us weeks before it became a global hot topic. Sports Editor Shaun Morash was eerily accurate in his preseason claim that the New York Giants would be contenders heading into the offseason. And of course I myself brought the practice of writing togar captions to new lows, filling each issue's top two inches with more off-color and tasteless humor than you can shake an inappropriately-shaped stick at.

Needless to say, this past semester was quite an interesting experience for our staff, and I think that reflects on our paper, which in turn reflects on our readers and their perception of us. I like to think that, in general, you guys have come to know us—our styles, our personalities, and our sense of humor—as much as you've familiarized yourselves with our reporting and our journalistic methods.

If nothing else, the letters we've received show that you're at least paying attention. When we make a mistake or report inaccurately, it's you the readers who are always right there to call us on it. And when we put out a kick-ass paper, you make sure that we hear about it. Even if we gained nothing else out of this past fall, I'm glad we at least earned the privi-

lage of hearing the voice of our readers.

Now we stand at the beginning of an entirely new semester, with a dramatically changed staff roster and an ambitious new game plan. In case you haven't picked up on our subtle hints, we're working on a website to help cut down on staff paperwork; we're also cranking up the advertising around campus to hopefully bring in some new blood and fresh ideas. Keep an eye out for our flyers, banners, signs, pens, t-shirts, mugs, etc. because we're merchandising, baby. We've also set aside a considerable amount of cash for trips to journalism competitions and conferences, which should please our staff members who worked so hard and stuck with us through all of our ups and downs in the last year.

So whether you're a Compass reader, staff member, editor or just a critic, you can rest assured that we'll all be plenty busy this spring as we continue to deliver the news, opinions, sports, arts and entertainment, photos and features that have become cornerstones of the Compass.

Oh, and we're finally going to get to do an April Fool's issue— we're all kind of pumped about that.

