



Staten Island Advance

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NEWS

FACING THE AX OVER TEXTS



An Annadale resident is on the verge of losing his job at a Brooklyn high school after investigators say the married father exchanged nearly 3,000 text messages with a female student. **PAGE A 3**

SPORTS

YANKS CLINCH AL EAST



Robinson Cano and Curtis Granderson each hit a pair of homers, powering the Yankees past the Red Sox, 14-2, for their 13th AL East title in 17 years. **PAGE B 1**

AWE

THE SCARE PACKAGE

AWE's annual roundup of October's haunted houses, zombie fests, pumpkin fests and much more

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE INSIDE



FOOD

LOOK WHAT'S BREWING



Beer gets a big cheer with the Brooklyn Pour on Saturday and the Richmond County Craft Beer Fest on Sunday at Killmeyer's Old Bavaria Inn, Charleston. **PAGE C 1**

DASH

EASY ENTERTAINING



Let the kids decorate these fiendishly fun treats in this month's issue of dash magazine. **MAGAZINE INSIDE**

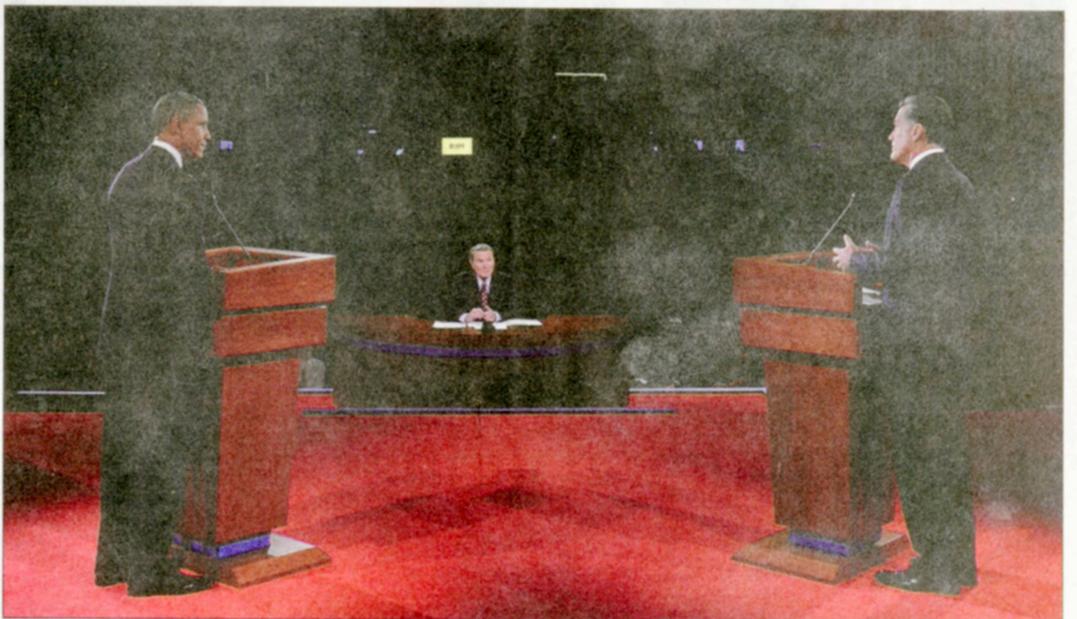
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CAMPAIGN 2012

OBAMA, MITT CLASH ON THE ECONOMY



President Barack Obama and GOP challenger Mitt Romney offered very different views of how to repair the ailing American economy in their first debate, Wednesday night in Denver. ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Advance asked two of Staten Island's leading political lights and two esteemed members of the borough's academic community to watch Wednesday night's critical debate in the race for the White House. Pals state Sen. Diane Savino (D) and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R) caught the 90-minute showdown together in Ms. Savino's Fort Wadsworth home. Also tuning in were Richard Flanagan, an author and professor of political science at the College of Staten Island, and Lori Weintrob, a Wagner College history professor and chair of the history department. They grade each candidate and share their analysis here. — *Judy L. Randall*

FOR FULL COVERAGE, SEE PAGES A10-11

	President Barack Obama (D)	Gov. Mitt Romney (R)
 State Sen. Diane Savino (D) GRADE B REASON: He was a little stiff in his presentation.	BEST MOMENT: When he spoke about the strength of the American people in spite of any adversity. WORST MOMENT: He allowed Romney to mistakenly say several times that he cut \$716 billion from Medicare.	BEST MOMENT: His critique of time wasted on Obamacare when the president should have been focused on jobs. WORST MOMENT: When he said he'd cut programs if it wasn't worth borrowing money from China to fund them.
 Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R) GRADE C REASON: On the defensive talking about what should be done, but he's had four years.	BEST MOMENT: Saying he's fond of the term "Obamacare," making light of one of his administration's worse moments. WORST MOMENT: He seemed flustered responding to Gov. Romney's points on the economy and health care.	BEST MOMENT: Calling out the president for wasting two years on Obamacare instead of fighting for jobs. WORST MOMENT: A bit too eager and overly agitated when responding to the president's misrepresentations.
 Prof. Richard Flanagan, College of Staten Island GRADE B REASON: Played defense at first; confidence grew as debate proceeded.	BEST MOMENT: The story of how his grandmother was able to maintain her independence because of Social Security and Medicare. WORST MOMENT: Early in the debate, his examples of the nation's economic revival fell flat.	BEST MOMENT: When he talked about the burdens that fall on small business because of taxes. WORST MOMENT: When he interrupted (moderator) Jim Lehrer to spit out additional factoids about his budget and tax plans.
 Prof. Lori Weintrob, Wagner College GRADE B+ REASON: Made personal connections, but weakness was repetition.	BEST MOMENT: When he promised a return to Clinton-era job growth because "middle-class families need money." WORST MOMENT: He wasn't able to defend spending \$90 billion on green energy, rather than education.	BEST MOMENT: When he argued middle-class Americans are crushed by high prices on gas, food, health care. WORST MOMENT: Lacked specifics on middle-class taxes, allowing Obama to say, "His big bold plan is never mind."

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COMING SUNDAY



TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES

In this week's Parade, find out why so many parents are delaying or skipping vaccines — and what it means for the rest of us.

WEATHER WATCHER



VICTORIA GOMEZ, WEST BRIGHTON

Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers; high of 77.

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STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

Although rooting for different candidates, State Sen. Diane Savino and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis put party differences aside and watched the debate together at Ms. Savino's home.

The barbs that stuck in our experts' minds

By JUDY L. RANDALL
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

We asked our panel of four local experts to wade through the verbiage of Wednesday night's presidential debate and come up with what was, in their opinion, the most memorable quote of the night overall.

Here's what they had to say:

State Sen. **Diane Savino** (D-North Shore/Brooklyn): I have to give it to Gov. Romney, when he told the president: "You're entitled to your own airplane and your own house, but not your own facts."

Assemblywoman **Nicole Malliotakis** (R-East Shore/Brooklyn): When Gov. Romney said President Obama increased the debt almost the same amount as every

previous president combined.

College of Staten Island political science professor **Richard Flanagan**: When Obama said of Romney, "He's been running on this tax plan and now five weeks before the election he says his big, bold idea is 'never mind.'" Snappy line that speaks to contradictions in Romney's plan and his reputation as a flip-flopper.

Wagner College history department chair and professor **Lori Weintrob**: Gov. Romney saying, "I like Big Bird but I'm not going to borrow money from China to pay for him." It demonstrated how he wishes to curtail the role of the federal government, but it may not resonate with average families.