



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper
spectator.stuy.edu

"The pulse
of the
student
body."

Volume XCIV No. 1

September 12, 2003

To The Stuyvesant Community

Where Were You When the Lights Went Out?

Battling the Blackout

By YITIAN LIU

On Tuesday, August 14 school was not the only thing out. Electricity was lost across part of the East Coast and Mid West. Many essentials vanished along with the power, including the subway system, refrigerators, and computers.

Stuyvesant students, both in and out of the city, were affected by the blackout of 2003. The school building itself suffered from glitches despite its back-up generators. Nonetheless, Stuy students did not let the power failure keep them down.

Junior Alexa Yim had just finished shopping in Flushing when her number seven train stopped moving in the station. At first, she believed the problem to be with the train, and proceeded to the nearby LIRR station. Yim later found out from a passerby about the blackout. She had her cell phone and was able to contact her mother but her usual half-hour ride home was tripled in length.

Yim's night was unusually quiet; even her younger siblings had given in to the heat and darkness. "I spent my time reading the first Harry Potter book by candlelight. I had already read it four or five times before, so it wasn't the most exciting thing to be doing," said Yim.

She was happy to visit her uncle with his battery-operated fans, and even more ecstatic to get her electricity back at 5:30 A.M. the next day.

Junior Andrew Kayserian took refuge at a friend's house in upstate New York during the blackout. Despite his friend's gas-powered generator, Kayserian remained a bit bitter about the blackout. He runs a computer programming business that gets rid of computer viruses. A Stuyvesant student to the core, Kayserian was anxious about some unsaved work that he had done.

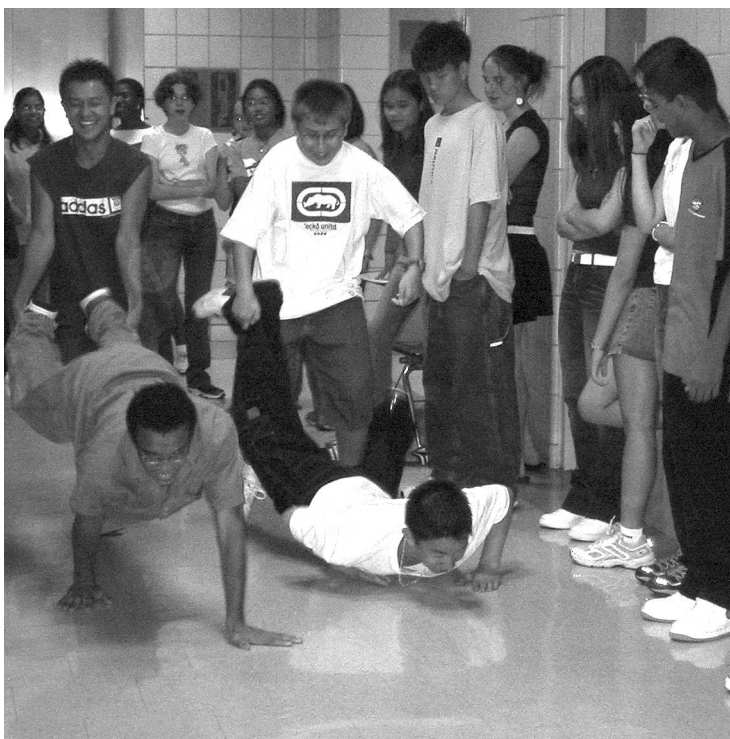
"I lost about two hours of work. Right after the blackout, all the changes were wiped away. I couldn't even put in the command to reboot [the computer]," said Kayserian. Despite his worries, Kayserian said that his business did not suffer too much from the power outage after all.

"The blackout was sort of bittersweet because I did have fun partying with my friends," Kayserian continued.

Senior Roman Goldin was about to board a train a block from his house when the lights went out. Goldin had little choice but to walk back home. Soon after, he met with a group of his friends in his neighborhood and they played board games throughout the night.

continued on page 2

Freshman Fun @ Camp Stuy



Anna Wiener / The Spectator

Freshmen and their Big Sibs engaged in a number of icebreakers on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 26 and 27 at Camp Stuy. In addition, the freshmen were given tours of the school, attended an introductory assembly, took their swim and language tests, and had their ID pictures taken. **See page 10 for photo essay.**

Stuy's Hidden Administrators

By JON EDELMAN

"I have no clue who they are and what they do," said sophomore Amy Yee.

Yee is referring to Assistant Principal of Pupil Services Eleanor Archie and Assistant Principal of Organization Randi Damesek, who are found in rooms 103 and 207 respectively. Although the two organize many activities, from student social events to fire drills, most students have only a vague idea about their duties.

"I never even heard the names before," said sophomore Katherin Verestoun.

Archie is Stuyvesant's Assistant Principal of Administration and Pupil Personnel.

"Last year I did Camp Stuy, and the family orientation. We did the open house in March for kids who made Stuy. I brought in the speakers for staff development. I supervised the guidance department. I was the site supervisor for summer school. I supervise the deans, program office, and college office. I work with the Big Sibs," Archie said.

According to Archie, she also conducts guidance hearings for suspensions, and works to improve the guidance, college, and program offices.

"I'm the 'umbrella of the departments,'" she said.

Said senior Ariel Gros-Werter, "I love [Archie]! She listened to me when I was in a difficult situation with a class."

Senior Bernadette Zielinski has also benefitted from Archie's guidance.

"She told me where to go when I told her I needed work-

ing papers."

Archie can also help you if you lose something.

"My MP3 player got stolen, so I reported it to Ms. Archie," said sophomore Shelly Njoo.

Archie is not alone in her anonymity. Many students are also unaware of the duties of her fellow AP, Damesek.

"The only impression I have of Ms. Damesek is through the SING! impersonation last year. I've never seen her," said senior Pakeeza Alam.

Damesek is Stuyvesant's Assistant Principal of Organization. According to her job description, her responsibilities include supervising secretaries, school aides, and civil service employees, being a liaison to school safety agents, the police and fire departments, and the superintendent's office. She also oversees the school budget and Department of Education spending, along with overseeing building supplies, the program office, the faculty payroll, the weekly and term calendars, and exam schedules. She's also responsible for hiring daily substitutes and organizing monthly fire drills.

Damesek declined to comment for this article.

"Ms. Damesek was instrumental in creating the new time schedule, which is a win-win situation for students, teachers, parents, and the administration. She created the school Safety Plan. The AP of Organization is responsible for all of the things students don't see, and benefit greatly from," said Assistant Principal of Mathematics Danny Jaye.

continued on page 2

New Regulations Greet New Faces

By THERESA LANGSCHULTZ

When students returned to school on September 8, they were faced with numerous new regulations, according to Principal Stanley Teitel. This follows a year in which regulations such as new hallway restrictions and a longer school day were imposed on students.

School Day Shortened

This year, the school day has been cut 40 minutes, with an A schedule day beginning at 8 A.M. and ending 3:20 P.M., according to Teitel. The day would include 10 periods of instruction with four minutes for passing. This comes after a year in which the normal 8 A.M. to 3:40 P.M. day was elongated by 20 minutes.

According to Teitel, the change comes after parents and students voiced their concerns over staying late for extracurricular activities, as well as other problems which arose from the extended day.

"The day was long, kids were tired. Unless something jumps out at me, we'll try this schedule for a year," said Teitel. Concerns about the old schedule had been voiced as early as February, but the administration decided to finish the year with the old schedule, citing concern over changing the schedule twice in one year.

For many students, the shorter day comes as a welcomed surprise.

"I get to go home earlier, do more college stuff, get more sleep. Also, it will work better

for me since I will have track," said senior Yang Chen. Typically, for many sports teams such as track, practices last for at least an hour and meet several times a week.

For junior Brett Forrest, the shorter school day means that he can leave school earlier after club meetings, and sports practice.

"It's a lot easier now because instead of missing class to go to soccer games, I can just go after school now," Forrest said.

In addition to the change in the length of the school day, the normal C schedule—including the 20 minute homeroom—has been eliminated.

"That schedule was usually for seniors to get information, and to hand out flowers or other items. Mr. Lonardo told me that he didn't need that many 20 minute homerooms this year, so I told him when it was necessary, we would just make a special schedule," Teitel said.

The change means that both the regular A schedule, as well as the 10 minute homeroom B schedule are shortened forty minutes, while the old D and E schedule days will become C and D schedule days, respectively.

Eliminating Long Lines At the College Office

Starting this year, seniors will no longer need to wait in line to speak to a college guidance counselor at the college office, as each student will

continued on page 2

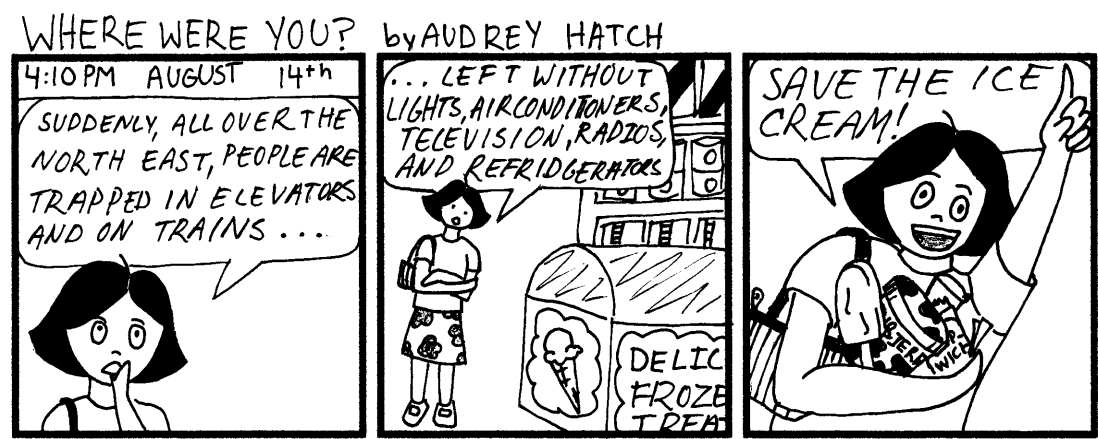
Stuyvesant Bids Farewell to Veteran Staff

By EUGENE THEODORE

As 155 Stuyvesant teachers sat in the theater Tuesday, September 2, Principal Stanley Teitel introduced the new staff and took a moment to remember those who had left. The departments most affected were Chemistry/Physics, having lost four of their own to retirement. The Technology Department was also greatly affected, losing three of its veteran staff-members and raising questions of whether certain classes, like wood-working, would be available for the 2003-2004 school year.

For the full list of teachers who have left for the fall term, see page 2.

Spectator Recruitments
will be on Monday and
Tuesday, September 29
and 30 in Lecture Hall A
after 10th period.



Battling the Blackout

continued from page 1

“Actually, I thought it was kind of nice having a dark quiet street for once,” said Goldin. However, he was still relieved to finally have electricity back again at 7P.M. on Friday night.

Stuyvesant students outside of the city felt the effects of the blackout as well. Junior Marlaina Lee was at Lake Placid when she first heard about the power outage from her grandmother in Queens. Although Lake Placid itself was not affected, a neighboring town, Saranac Lake, did lose its power.

“I was watching TV up there, and saw officers rescuing people from the subways, and I was hoping that nobody I knew was stuck in that situation,” said Lee. When Lee returned to the city she learned that a friend had been trapped in a subway car for over an hour on the day of the blackout.

Junior Nilam Wadhvania was also trapped—in an airport in Boston. Wadhvania had just completed a tour of Europe with her entire family. Wadhvania said that she was not delighted with her cot and airline pillows in the airport after her luxurious trip. All the local hotels had

already been booked. She was trapped with two other groups of passengers from flights heading to New York City.

“I didn’t sleep because there were all these news reporters videotaping people sleeping. My family surrounded our cots with our luggage, but a CBS reporter still managed to get us on tape,” reported Wadhvania. Souvenir shops full of t-shirts and mugs with “Trapped in Boston” written on them didn’t help lift her spirits. Although assured that her family would be able to get a flight home the following day, Wadhvania’s family bought tickets for a Greyhound bus instead, and arrived home on Saturday at 1 A.M.

Some members of the Stuyvesant community were present in the building to bear witness to the blackout. Although Principal Stanley Teitel was absent, he said that the back-up generator was effective; the public address system, however, which would be essential in any emergency, was not placed on the generator.

“I am in the process of writing a letter to get [the public address system] placed on the generator before the next emergency,” said Teitel.

Program Coordinator of Computer Science Mike Zamansky said that the school’s network of computers remained in good condition.

“When power came back on, most of the machines came back up with no problem. Some of them required some manual intervention due to hardware issues,” said Zamansky. He was able to fix most of the problems within a day.

Nicholas Mortensen, Stuyvesant’s Custodial Engineer, said that immediately following the onset of the blackout, “the power went out, and the emergency generator was turned on, so the elevators and the fire system were running.”

Mortensen, along with Assistant Principal of Pupil Services Ms. Archie and several other teachers who had been grading their Regents, were all in the building at the time.

Although Stuyvesant operated at its normal pace, the rest of the city did not. Mortensen remained in the building for 32 hours straight because there was no way he could return home. He and fellow custodian Kyle Hogan stayed overnight that Thursday to keep watch over the school.

Stuyvesant Bids Farewall to Veteran Staff

The Spectator would like honor those teachers who will no longer be with us but made students’ experience at Stuyvesant more fruitful:

Social Studies

- Stephen Abramsky: Retired
- Brad Badgley: Leave for continuing studies in China
- William Bernstein: Retired
- Chris Davila: Transfer for assistant principal position
- Osei Kwame: Transfer

English

- Gary Dukofsky: Retired
- David Kastin: Retired
- Holly Ojalvo: On leave
- Ashley Massie: Maternity leave

Foreign Language

- Rosa Silverio: Maternity leave
- Maria Munyampeta: Transfer

Technology

- Alphonse Scotti: Retired
- Alan Becker: Retired
- Vincent Grasso: Retired

Math

- Tina Mathias: Transfer
- Rosemarie Jahoda: On leave
- Shawkat Eskander: Transfer

Science

- Suigene Aukim: Terminal leave
- Dr. Robert Browning: Transfer
- Donald Bucher: Resigned
- Daisy Furth: Retired
- Nicole Leifer: Resigned to get masters degree at Hunter College
- Li-Feng Liang: Transfer
- David McMullen: Transfer
- Anton Perzy: Transfer
- Robert Rodney: Retired

Spectator Receives New Mural



Hunter Pedersen / The Spectator

The Working of a Mind was started over the summer and will include quotes from several famous thinkers. The mural was the work of Stuy alumnae Christina Ward and Vicky Yuan, and junior Avery Singer. Singer wishes to work on similar projects and is willing to paint a mural for anyone in the school who would like one.

New Regulations Greet New Faces

continued from page 1

receive an appointment, according to Teitel.

“Each student needs some time to talk about their college choices,” Teitel said. “In the past, students would have to wait on long lines, either during their lunch period or a free period, and they may or may not get to see anyone.”

The college office decided to change this by instituting a new policy. As of this year, each student must fill out a college information sheet online. From the online form, appointments will be made, with students who are applying early decision or early action going first. Most appointments will be scheduled for a free or lunch period.

The goal of the appointments would not only be to check in with the students, but to use the information sheet to make sure each senior’s choices are appropriate.

“Each kid must have a safety. I want Ms. Cleary to be able to say that there is one school each student is going to get in to,” Teitel explained. “The last thing I need is to have a parents sitting with me in May with seven rejection letters.”

All forms were due by Tuesday, September 9, the day after a college meeting for seniors and nearly a month after seniors were mailed notice of the change.

For some students, though the policy will mean shorter lines, filling out the online form is a daunting task.

“It feels really impersonal now. The questionnaire reminds me of those online searches that give you this general list of colleges,” senior Bernadette Zielinski said.

Senior Ann Lin agrees.

“I think it is unnecessary because many students are not even sure of where to apply,” Lin said.

Stuy’s Hidden Administrators

continued from page 1

Damesek is also responsible for enforcing school policies. “[Damesek] was yelling at somebody at the senior bar for not having their ID,” said junior Soliel Ho.

Senior Daniel Bogdanov said that Damesek’s attitude is often misinterpreted by stu-

dents.

“She’s very official. She’s a very busy woman, and I think that sometimes people perceive it as rudeness. But she’s actually nice, she arranged for my ping pong tables to be stored away over the summer,” said senior Daniel Bogdanov. “She told me not to worry about it.”

Stuyvesant Welcomes New Recruits and Returning Staff

By EUGENE THEODORE

As Stuyvesant High School prepares for its centennial birthday, it will do so with a change in staff, the biggest anyone can remember. Of the 155 or so members of the school’s teaching staff, this past summer twenty-six have left or retired. Five teachers have returned from their leaves or sabbaticals; an additional 23 were initiated into the Stuyvesant family last Tuesday, September 2.

New and returning teachers include:



Gabriela Dehn-Knight.



Brian Dibbs.

Social Studies

Ragnar Bloom
Clarissa Bushman
Josina Dunkel
Fred Mirer: Return from
Sabbatical

English

Colette Brown
Albert Colón
Julie Sheinman: Return from
Sabbatical
Elli Dukofsky

Foreign Language

Susan Barrow
Gabriela Dehn-Knight
Victor Liang

Technology

Leslie Bernstein
Hayley Malin
Beth Anne Rominiecki
Margaret Schepp

Math

Gary Rubenstein
Michael D’Alleva: Return from Sabbatical

Science

Jerry Cintron: Return from Leave
Flora Huang: Return from Leave
Dr. Carlos Cheng
Samantha Daves
Brian Dibbs
Maria John-Lewis
Christopher Smith
Apparao Sunkara



Apparao Sunkara.

Physical Education

Howard Barbin

Organization

Pauline Hagler: College Office
Secretary

The Spectator welcomes the new
teaching staff into the Stuyvesant
family.



Josina Dunkel.



Samantha Daves.



Mary Guidice.

All photos by Anna Wiener.

Strutting into Stuyvesant’s Centennial

By CAITLIN RODRIGUEZ

Founded in 1903, Stuyvesant High School will begin its yearlong centennial celebration on Sunday, October 19. Events open to the entire Stuyvesant community (students, alumni, current and former teachers, administration, and parents) will be included in the centennial celebration. In June, an all-class reunion is scheduled to wrap-up the year’s special events.

On October 19, the Stuyvesant Strut will kick off the centennial celebration. The Strut is a five-kilometer walk from Stuyvesant High School’s old home, 345 East 15th Street, to its current home, 345 Chambers Street. Participants will meet at Stuyvesant Park, which is adjacent to the old building. Assistant Principal of Pupil Personnel Eleanor Archie said that senior citizens who are a part of the Stuyvesant community will be able to take a special taxi from the old site to the new one, instead of walking the distance.

Freshman Hannah Freiman said, “I’m eagerly anticipating the Strut because it sounds like fun and a nice way to meet people at my new

**On October 19, the
Stuyvesant Strut will
kick off the centenni-
al celebration.
Oversize birthday
cake included.**

school.” The Stuyvesant marching band will be alongside the strutters during the whole event. When they finally reach Stuyvesant’s current building, they will be able to regain some of the calories they burned with refreshments and a oversized birthday cake. Lastly, participants will be invited into the school to learn about Stuy’s current events and achievements.

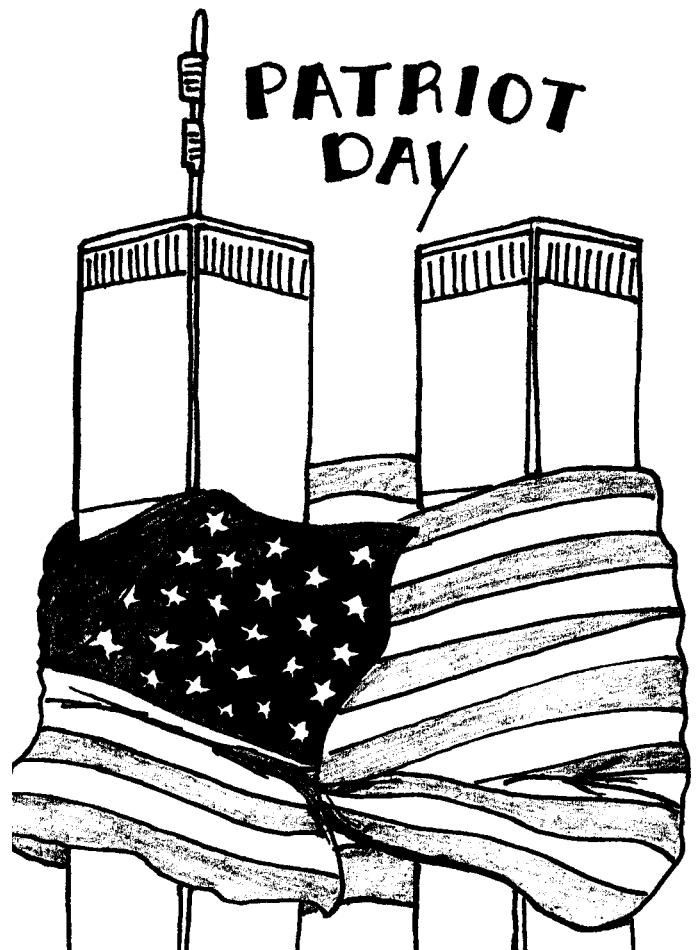
According to *www.stuy100.org*, a Web site created specifically for centennial information, there are many purposes of the centennial celebration. The first is to commemorate the origins and history of Stuyvesant High School. Next is to position Stuyvesant locally, nationally, and internationally as the model school for science, mathematics, and technology in the 21st century. Another goal of the events planned is to inspire alumni to revitalize and strengthen their commitment to Stuyvesant. Lastly, the celebration should enhance Stuyvesant’s fundraising capabilities, which in turn would strengthen the public/private partnership that has contributed to its 100-year tradition of excellence.

Cartoons

By Courtney Chin

Advice to Freshman

DO'S	DON'T'S
DO GET TO CLASS ON TIME. 	DON'T USE THE ELEVATORS.
DO FIND A SPOT TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK. 	DON'T USE CLASS TIME.
DO JOIN A SPORTS TEAM 	DON'T IF YOU HAVE NO ATHLETIC ABILITY.

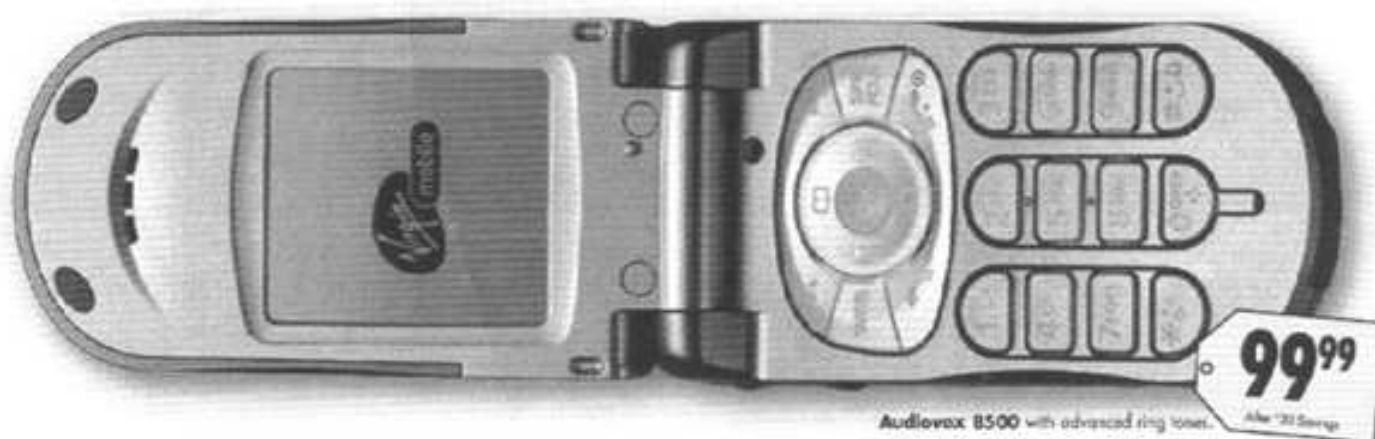


COURTNEY CHIN AND SAMAN HASAN

Stuy Guys: ON THE FIELD by Alia

--	--	--	--

Freshman Year by John Liu



Audiovox 8500 with advanced ring tones.

You may live under *their* roof, but this is *your* phone.

With pay-as-you-go wireless there are no age restrictions, no contracts, no monthly bills—no need for Mom and Dad. You get all the features you want and pay only for the minutes you use. You set the limits, you control the cost. Get into Best Buy, your pay-as-you-go headquarters.



Receive a
\$15 Best Buy Gift Card
by mail, when you buy any pay-as-you-go phone!
Good toward future in-store purchases. Excludes iPods®.

Customize your phone with these features.

	Downloadable Ringtones	Text Messages	Games
Virgin Mobile	✓	✓	✓
AT&T Wireless Service	✓	✓	✓
Boost Mobile	✓	✓	✓
T-Mobile	✓	✓	✓
TRACFONE		✓	



Pay-as-you-go carriers not available in all markets. See store for details. Features may not be available on all models.



GET YOURS™

Thousands of Possibilities

Editorials and Opinions

Two Years Later

After September 11, Stuyvesant students received praise for their resilience and ability to perform and move on after tragedy had hit so close to home. True to the image of the tough New Yorker, Stuyvesant students completed successful Intel projects, maintained their GPAs, and earned perfect scores on their SATs, even after the trauma of September 11. Still, it’s difficult to talk or even think about the attacks. Many students have yet to try.

Two years ago, the school, mayor, and president gave us a message: move on. Many of us stuck to this statement. During the immediate aftermath of a traumatic event, “moving on” is often the best way to cope. There is a certain comfort in a familiar routine. Then, once routines have been reestablished, talking with friends and, sometimes, a counselor is the next step. But a lot of us just

kept moving. We plunged back into normalcy immediately, and we’ve kept a brisk pace ever since.

At some point, we all need to slow down and sort things out. About half of us bore witness to the attacks heralded as the most tragic event in United States history, and dismissing them is not a viable solution. The two-year anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks is a fine time to think hard about what you saw and, beyond that, what it means. Talk to other students. Find out how they feel and how they are dealing with these feelings. Draw conclusions. Write things down. Do what you need to come to terms with your experience.

But don’t rush.

Rushing to confront this is just as bad as blindly moving on.

NOTE "TO" THE UNDERCLASS

By ALICE TAO

Hello, freshies! Greetings from a fellow Stuyvie—a senior, actually. At the risk of sounding preachy, I’m going to attempt a how-to-survive-Stuy guide. But don’t turn the page yet! You might see something your parents and Big Sibs haven’t told you.

Although an old topic, the issue of grades needs some revisiting. I’m bringing up this terribly hackneyed subject because I think you should be prepared. Most teachers don’t hand out incredibly inflated denominations like in junior high school. And by the time you’re a junior, looking over your cumulative transcript, you start regretting all the times when you could have put in some effort but didn’t. It could mean the difference between a 90 and a 95 average.

What this entails is actual studying with as little procrastination as possible. Make sure you understand the material

covered in each class—don’t mechanically commit everything to memory. (By the way, skimming notes on the subway the morning of the test does not work, trust me.) Finally, do everything you can to avoid all-nighters. All you end up with is a headache and a project/test that could have been better had you spread the work out over several days. Bottom line: Time management skills are a must-have.

Still, don’t spend your entire high school career buried in books. By not getting involved in extracurricular activities, not only will you be missing an integral (and fun) part of high school, you will also leave yourself with many big blanks on your college applications.

This is not a good thing.

So join something! Join a club, pub, or team and volunteer—it doesn’t matter what you do, as long as it’s something you genuinely enjoy. Your first year is a good time to experiment with various activities. Then settle down. You don’t need to have 20 club memberships down by the time you graduate—you just need to show an active commitment to a few.

It’s a delicate balancing job—taking a reasonably chal-

lenging course load while participating in a handful of other activities. Just don’t go overboard on extracurricular activities at the expense of grades.

If there’s one thing you should remember from this article, it’s this: Never hold yourself back. Sometimes you’ll see something you want to try but hesitate because you haven’t done it before. Whatever it is, go for it! Don’t say, “I’ll join Spectator...next year.” “I’ll participate in SING!...next year.” “I’ll start taking challenging classes...next term.” You may find some things out about yourself that you didn’t know and discover abilities you didn’t know you had. You’ll even have a chance to make new friends along the way. If you let each opportunity pass, that’s a lot of wasted potential—and many regrets. Keep an open mind.

One last note. Don’t obsess over college yet. Maybe don’t obsess over it at all. If you want to, leave it for junior year. Stop thinking of high school as a mere stepping-stone to college. High school is an entity by itself, too. Remember—it’s your four years. Make them worthwhile. Best of luck!

The Biggest Sib of All

By NICK GREENOUGH

A few weeks ago, I found myself once again at freshman orientation. But this time round, I wasn’t a freshman. I was a junior and finally a Big Sib.

I left home that morning with some fellow Big Sibs and entered the theater 20 minutes late, only to hear everyone screaming out the names of their respective homerooms, trying to bring their new freshman home to roost.

Homeroom leader Laura Paliani quickly asked me to take over the yelling as all the other Big Sibs had already lost their voices. I began yelling “1P! 1P!”, but after a few moments, I realized that I was yelling louder than anyone else was and had already rendered several of my Little Sibs catatonic. I adjusted my volume accordingly.

My homeroom has a variety of students. One Little Sib kept interrupting the other freshmen siblings as they went around the room introducing themselves.

Eventually we were making so little progress that another Big Sib took out his CD player, walked over to the kid, and put the headphones on his head. Big explained to Little that he should listen quietly so that the others could introduce themselves uninterrupted.

Introductions brought out some interesting facts. It turns out that some of our Little Sibs are the actual little sibs of seniors from last year and that one of my Little Sibs “compulsively urinates.”

The day had many laughs, not all of them directed at freshmen. As I was giving some of my Little Sibs a tour, we came across the ninth floor chemistry classrooms. Noticing their tired shuffle and bored faces, I decided to show them a magic trick. So I opened one of the cabinets underneath the chalkboard and announced that I would crawl in and disappear. Smiling smugly, I crawled inside and climbed into the hollow wall behind the black

board. Once I did this, I heard the noise of a yardstick placed through the cabinet doors, effectively locking me in.

My Little Sibs left the room, came back about two minutes later, unlocked the cabinet and looked inside, shocked to see that I was indeed not there. I then dropped down, forced my way out and was blasted by a rubber hose. My Little Sibs had focused all the water on my groin, making me appear to be the compulsive urinator.

A little banged-up, I took my little sibs to see Ms. Hall to try out for chorus. Starting this year, this tryout had become a mandatory orientation activity for all incoming freshmen. As I sat near the piano, I remembered my own music appreciation class with Ms. Hall. Throughout the tryouts I was frequently told to “shut my yap,” and rightly so.

At the end of the freshmen’s auditions, I auditioned for Mrs. Hall for the fourth time. She confirmed that my voice has finally settled, after more unsteady days as a freshman and sophomore.

I guess I really have gotten older.

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



“The pulse of the student body”

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Jenny Lin*

MANAGING EDITOR
Emily Cooperman*

NEWS
Theresa Langschultz*
Josh Ross

FEATURES
Carly Glazer
Audrey Uong

OPINIONS
Sarah Outhwaite
Alex Tilitz*

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Jane Sussman
Yvette Wojciechowski

PHOTOGRAPHY
Naomi Gordon*
Hunter Pedersen
Anna Wiener

SPORTS
Evan Meyerson
Jacob Smith

LAYOUT
Cynthia Koo
Jeremy Wooster

ART
Barry Jin
Nicole Singer

COPY
Sal Bonaccorso*
In Ho Lee

BUSINESS MANAGERS
Sam Yoo

SPECTATOR ONLINE
Christopher Pak

FACULTY ADVISOR
Hugh Francis

Please address all letters to:
345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282
(212) 312-4800 ext. 2601
StuySpec@hotmail.com
We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and length.

spectator.stuy.edu
©2003 The Spectator
All rights reserved by the creators.
* Managing Board Members

Stuy “Struts” Its Stuff, But More Than Enough

By CHANDA WONG
with additional reporting by ALICE TAO

The commencement to the centennial celebration of our school, the “Stuy Strut,” is a five-kilometer walk from the old Stuyvesant to the new one. With all the hoopla surrounding the event, we must ask ourselves, are we going over the top?

The name “Stuy Strut” is not a wise choice for our walk. The word “strut” is conceited. Strutting our way through the city implies more than a leisurely gathering of the community; it implies a pompous, self-important gait. “Stuy Strut” portrays us parading our school pride like models showing off on a runway.

The Centennial Committee’s birthday bash for Stuyvesant is a huge, unprecedented event, one that deserves merit for creativity and grandeur. However, through this, we are setting an example for the city high schools still coming of age and their impending birthday celebrations. The impression we give must not be too arrogant, especially since many already see Stuyvesant as an elitist school.

The Strut links our past to our future, in the words of Principal Stanley Teitel, and Stuyvesant’s history is certainly long and glorious. Teitel hopes that everyone connected to Stuyvesant, from oldest alumni to brand-new freshmen and their families will participate.

According to Teitel, the Strut bears its name because it makes the distance of the walk seem less daunting. He doesn’t want to discourage possible participants. In that case, ‘stroll’ would be equally appropriate.

Beth Martin, Development

Director of Friends of Stuyvesant, states that our school will “strut with pride” and that “strut” implies school spirit. Indeed, it does, but there are many healthier expressions which would make us seem less arrogant. Call it a walk, a march, or a parade if you want, but a strut? A “Stuy March” could just as easily convey school pride. “Stuy Strut” does not just display school pride—it flaunts it.

The primary goals of the Strut and other centennial events is to strengthen our image as one of the top science high schools and boost funding for Stuy. The duly designed Centennial Committee’s Web site, www.Stuy100.org, is part of this plan. However, the Stuyvesant represented by the site is embellished and glorified. “Stuyvesant stands ready to lead,” reads the site, “To continue this country’s leadership in a fast-changing world, it is vital that the future of this unique, specialized high school be secured.”

Are we that important?

The “Stuy Strut” and all of its publicity are fitting for Stuyvesant’s 100th birthday, for we are a thriving school with some wonderful attributes. But the way the centennial is stylized, we seem to be tooting our own horn a bit too loudly. We have a right to be proud of good old Pegleg, but let’s please keep that delight down to a dull roar.

Others may attribute this negative hype to Stuy students, as well. Recent Stuy graduate Elise Ng said, “[The Strut] might be all in good humor to us, but I’m worried it may give people a negative impression of the attitudes of Stuyvesant students.”

The Stuyvesant Strut is scheduled for Sunday, October 19, 2003.

Requiem for a Nuisance

By SARAH OUTHWAITE

Unnecessary. Pointless. Essentially useless.

Last year, we trudged through extra class time at the end of every day. With last year's teaching contract, teachers were required to work an extra 100 minutes each week.

The Stuyvesant administration chose to split these minutes evenly, not only between the days of the week, but also between periods. Each period increased by approximately two minutes.

Two minutes may not have seemed like much, but the sting lay in the concept rather than the reality. Rather than putting the teachers' new requirements

to good use, this schedule squandered their time. The two minute increase added little insight to our lessons.

The extra 20 minutes added to our schedules every afternoon didn't exactly blot out the sun. But it darkened the day with a shadow of annoyance and thoughts of "I ought to be out of here by now!" in the back of your head around 3:45 P.M.

Highlighting the needlessness of the new schedule was the fact that the administration initially tried to make something useful out of the situation. The additional 20 minutes originated as a mandatory tutoring session every teacher offered after his or her last class. Which was good. Which was wise. Teachers are

often too busy to tutor.

Why didn't the system persevere? Nobody came for help.

So much for students taking the school up on advantageous offers. In place of tutoring, we were saddled with longer days.

Of course, the administration should not have written us off so quickly. It was the beginning of the fall term. Questions, like flowers, take time to germinate and grow. They must form in our minds before we seek answers and assistance.

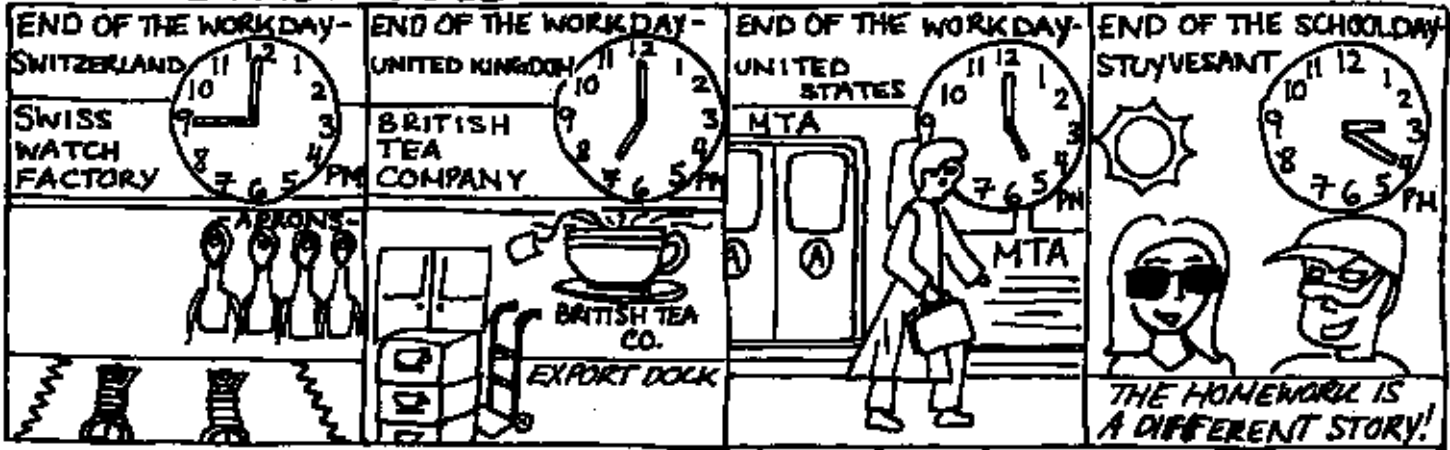
A full year has now come around, and the fall term starts again—time to pollinate our fertile brains once more. Only this September, the future looks a little bit brighter. The 20 minutes of nuisance have magically dis-

appeared. Evaporated. Poof! Furthermore, joy upon joy, the school day is shorter than ever, with dismissal occurring at 3:20 in the afternoon instead of 3:40 or 4:00.

A hearty thank you to the whole administration is in order. After certain glitches in student-faculty relations last year, the Stuyvesant community may have looked to September with foreboding. Now it looks like we are getting a fresh start, without lingering animosity.

The shorter schedule has given the student body a gift of time: useful, longed for, and essentially ours. This is a wonderful way to begin the school year, and I hope it proves a good omen for the months to come.

The Final Bell By Courtney Chin



Zero Period by Barry Jin



Summer of the SAT

By DEREK YUNG

I feel I have wasted my summer. I stayed in Brooklyn, didn't go hiking once, and never even thought about fishing. However, not all was lost.

I did manage to take an SAT prep course.

As exciting as it sounds, this did little to enrich my life. It taught me neither prose nor poetry nor calculus. What the course did do was multiply my repertoire of archaic words two- or three-fold and bring my MQ1 skills up to muster, all in the name of standardized testing.

These prep courses exist, for the most part, because many parents believe their progeny's best is not good enough. And they are not parsimonious when it comes to preparation, often shelling out hundreds or even thousands of dollars to get their children prepped. It's no wonder that so many people have risen to answer this call for preparation.

While this system works out very well for those prepping,

those prepped get a much rawer deal. When we look back on our summers, can we say that this cycle of inconclusive tactics, lexicon of words, and cache of numbers was the best possible or even a good summer experience?

The meaning of education has been lost in the sea of standardized testing.

For as long as I can remember, I have not had a summer where I was not shuffled into some dank room at nine in the morning. I would like to believe that I wanted to attend these programs on my own free will, but the not-so-subtle pressure of my parents definitely played a part: "Hey, rather than sleeping a few hours, why not take a

class?" "Big party? Why not do a couple of pages of math before it?" In my search for possible retorts to these interjections, the best I've come up with is a question: Are these extra preparatory classes actually helpful?

Even if you get credit for the classes you take, what have you achieved? In the case of college-level summer classes, you may be able to graduate from college early, thus saving money. But many students choose to take on a second major or go for a master degree instead of graduating early.

Well, you figure, even if it doesn't save money or glean credit, it at least prepared you for the real college thing, come fall. But has this made the prep course worthwhile? Sure, you'll probably get high grades, but at the cost of your summer. And wouldn't it be safe to assume that if you were willing to spend your summer learning material, you would be equally devoted during the school year?

Parents pressure us to attend these classes to get ready

for these tests. The meaning of education and pursuit of knowledge has been lost in the sea of standardized testing. It's rare that you find someone who wants to learn for the sake of learning. The only reason we cram numbers, equations, and obscure words such as "philanderer" and "sycophant" into our minds is the jeweled 1600 on the SAT, one of several holy grails in our high school careers.

It is ironic how even at Stuyvesant, the supposed home of the meticulous scholar, that even our best is sometimes not enough. "So, you did well in your class?" "Why didn't you take an AP? Why not Intel?" "You should do more extracurricular activities!"

I suppose it isn't surprising that we have such a fervid devotion to preparatory classes in Stuyvesant. After all, I'm sure that many of us took classes to pass the Stuy test. Nevertheless, I don't want to look back on my summer and realize the only thing I accomplished was learning the meaning of erudite.

the diary of a mad senior

How many of us can truthfully say that we haven't daydreamed once or twice about walking into Stuy as an honest-to-God senior? After gazing wistfully at the self-confident strides of seniors for three years, I must confess that I, at least, am guilty of just such thoughts.

Senior year. No, SENIOR year. It means finally perching atop the senior bar and racing through the final days of our lives as minors. Not to mention we get to end that hellish four-year marathon, the college application process. Oh, and most importantly, as everybody knows (or at least sitcoms do), seniors rule the school.

But perks aside, now that the final year is upon me, I do not know if the excitement of being a senior has worn away with time or if it were simply never there. When asked over the summer by some new friends what year I would be going into this fall, my reply, "Senior year," didn't elicit the thrills I had imagined it would. Instead, the words rang ominously—while I am starting the mythically wonderful senior year, I am concluding the chapters of my high school career.

So, I hate to break it to you non-seniors: I'm not exactly excited. Rather, I find myself frantically recalling every fun-filled Stuy experience I have had since my first year. Moreover, this mind-wringing reminds me that I only have another 180 more days at Stuyvesant. While senior year is definitely a time to ask those oh-so-clichéd questions "Who am I anyway?" "What do I want in life?" "Where are my purple socks?" there is more to it. It's a wake-up call, one that screams, "APPRECIATE WHAT'S LEFT!"

I gave my Little Sibs at Camp Stuy a lot of advice, but my favorite bit has to be, "Enjoy this school." Have I followed my own advice? I have tried, but gruesome recollections of AP exams, finals, and last-minute essays scar an otherwise happy experience. Yet I am now unabashedly proud of these scars. Much as I used to point to marks on my back and proudly say, "From hiking," I can now gesture to my corner of dusty papers and Starbucks coffee cups and say, "From hard work." This year, I greet the promise of an onslaught of new scars with less distaste than in the past.

Urban legend says that seniors rule the school and get a kick out of their last year. I will raise a toast to this latter declaration. However, while other seniors may rule the school, I assure you that this "scrawny" 5'3" senior does not.

—Adeline Lo

Arts & Entertainment

Fallen Angel

By PERRI OSATTIN

Oral sex, drinking, cursing, shoplifting, drugs, and piercings are all in a day's work for Tracey (Evan Rachel Wood) and Evie (Nikki Reed) in *Thirteen*, an independent film co-written by and inspired by the real-life experiences of Nikki Reed during her first year as a teenager. Tracey is initially a sweet straight-A student, while Evie is the sexy, sassy, and promiscuous ringleader of the popular clique at their Los Angeles junior high school. When Tracey is eventually accepted as one of the "in" girls—after suavely stealing a wealthy woman's wallet—she steadily begins her downward spiral.

The grainy, grayish quality of the film adds to its realism, making us believe that we're watching our 13 year old friend, daughter, or sister on hidden camera. The most powerful aspect of this movie, though, is the acting. Wood's acting abilities shine—the sullen, angry expression of troubled adolescence on her face, or her defiant attitude, or her cold steely eyes when she berates her mother as if it were sport. It's also very difficult to tear your eyes away from the screen when Tracey cuts her arms with a razor in the bathroom, despite the horror of what she is doing; Wood has that much power and hold over the audience.

The most surprising character in this movie is not one of the teenagers, but Tracey's mother Mel, an ex-alcoholic, played by Holly Hunter. She is refreshing in that she religiously attends AA meetings and speaks to her sponsor, loves her children, provides for them by cutting hair, and does not once go on a desperate drinking binge, which is practically mandated in movies involving recovering alcoholics.

Unfortunately, the activities that Tracey and Evie engage in in *Thirteen* are not as shocking and earth-shattering as they should be in theory. By the time the incoming Stuyvesant freshmen, many of them 13 years old, begin attending classes at 345 Chambers Street each year, a good portion of them might have been pressured to shoplift or experiment with drugs, or at least know someone who has taken part in these destructive deeds. *Thirteen* injects some reality into the movies by showing how early self-destruction can begin.

Ultimately, *Thirteen* is a powerful and, for the most part, depressing movie that is utterly worth seeing. The performances, the cinematography, and the writing that realistically reflects the way teenagers talk, bring an eerily familiar layer to the movie that Stuy kids would enjoy and relate to.

Thirteen is Rated R.



Courtesy of www.allposters.com

Camp Ovation Deserves One

By GRACE DUGGAN

Comedy, the drama of coming of age, musical numbers, and talented youth abound in this vibrant film about a summer camp for youth in the performing arts. Written and directed by Todd Graff, *Camp* is a film about the drama surrounding the teenage years and the productions the campers work on all summer.

Based on Stagedoor Manor, an actual camp for young performers established in 1977, *Camp* is a hilarious, moving, and refreshing look at what it's like to be a teenager. Back home, no one fits in with the crowd, but Camp Ovation becomes a haven for all the oddballs, the misfits, and the misunderstood. The young actors, singers, and dancers at Camp Ovation are all unique individuals, all searching for acceptance and a place to belong.

The characters include Ellen (Joanna Chilcoat), the talented girl who doesn't think much of herself, Michael (Robin de Jesus), the gay male who gets beat up for attending his high

school prom in drag, Jill (Alana Allen), the resident prima donna, and Jenna (Tiffany Taylor), whose weight problem has her jaw wired shut to avoid a summer at weight-loss camp. The movie also features Vlad (Daniel Letterle), arguably the most complex character in the

Camp is a hilarious, moving, and refreshing look at what it's like to be a teenager.

movie. The only straight boy in camp, Vlad learns a lot about himself after spending most of the summer trying to please all the girls and guys vying for his affections.

With songs by legends like Steven Sondheim and the Rolling Stones, the movie's selling point is its musical numbers. Performed by the kids of Camp Ovation for their annual post-

summer benefit performance, these selections are bubbly, entertaining, and provide welcome light hearted interruptions in a film that's focus is coming of age in an often exclusive and harsh world.

Graff avoids clichés, keeping *Camp* from becoming a shallow, mediocre film. The lives and struggles of the campers—as well as those of the alcoholic has-been counselor Bert Hanley (Don Dixon)—are not sugarcoated at all. The problems these characters face are not artificially obliterated to leave the audience with a feel good, happy ending finish. After the success of the benefit performance at the end of the summer, Hanley is seen sneaking liquor and Michael will still have to go back to a school full of intolerant peers and parents who refuse to accept his homosexuality. The movie's underlying focus is on the struggles of being young and having to grow up feeling like it's you versus the world, something everyone can relate to.

Fashion for the Fall

By JANE SUSSMAN

Pack up the bathing suits, put the white clothes in the back of the closet, and lock the beach bags in storage—with September comes the end of summer, and the beginning of fall and a new school year. If back-to-school blues plague you, the best remedy is to invest in some of the fun fashion that this season brings.

Taking over the runways and pages of fashion magazines everywhere has been a retro turned glam phenomenon. Leg warmers are heating up the fashion scene—a '70s resurrection of comfort and style, they are coming back with a vengeance. Bright colors are best (I recommend blues, pinks, and yellows) but this trend works with conservative colors as well. Leg warmers can be found in many stores including Urban Outfitters, whose prices

generally range from \$15 to \$25. My favorite place for leg warmers is the Sock Shop on St. Marks between 2nd and 3rd Avenue, where they start at about \$7, depending on colors and patterns.

If back to school blues plague you, the best remedy is to dive into some fun fall fashion.

Another retro-glam style hitting the fashion world this season is large, colorful, plastic jewelry. Big neon earrings with matching bangles are cheap, colorful, fun accessories for this season. This kind of jewelry can

be found almost anywhere from the cheap stands on the streets of SoHo, to affordable stores like Claire's, up to the pricey new jewelry line from Chanel.

Perhaps not the sexiest or chicest style of fall, but probably the most comfortable, is the Ugg. Ugg is an Australian boot company that makes a flat sheepskin boot with wool lining, by far the most comfortable shoes in the world. These come in a variety of colors and styles and have been seen covering the feet of celebrities—Kate Hudson is a proud Ugg wearer. While these boots are decidedly Ugg-ly—flat, plain and practical looking—and more than a little expensive (about \$160 for a pair, though the price differs according to style), they are unbelievably comfy and durable.

All in all, this fall brings some funky old looks and some comfortable new ones. So, for fall, keep it cool, but keep warm!

Interested in writing for the
Spectator A&E section?

Come to the *Spectator* recruitments on Monday and Tuesday, September 29 and 30, in Lecture Hall A after 10th period.

Arts & Entertainment

Top Five Painful Picks from Summer Flicks

By DON JOHN

If there's one thing that's certain about summer movies, it's this: Summer is the trash dump for movies and we have to rummage for the good ones. In this kind of search, anyone who lays claim to the best really knows it is only more or less an elevated stinker. So here are the top five of those elevated stinkers.

I. Sequels: Continue to Disappoint.

Dumb and Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd.

The title appears to be written by a five-year-old, and sadly, so does the screenplay. With an original that was moderately successful, the Farrelly brothers should have realized the limits of their creative flair. The movie sets new standards for the word "dumberer"—a word used to describe a movie that's more awful than a local rodeo show. But at least it made its predecessor look Oscar-worthy. Best Review: "The cinematic equivalent of an overeager, block-headed puppy chasing its tail." —Megan Lehmann, *New York Post*

II. An Old Formula That Doesn't Cut It

Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle

Even today's movie-going audience is not willing to sacrifice plot for scantily clad women who have the ability to leap hundreds of feet into the air. Not only does this movie defy the conventions of filmmaking (in the bad way, not the good way), it also defies all principles of physics. While these girls try to fight evil in style, going

undercover as strippers does not serve any purpose other than to sell more tickets to males. *Charlie's Angels*: our eye candy twenty-first century superheroes.

Best Review: "Watching Full Throttle is like being pummeled for two hours with a feather duster. It leaves no scars, but you do feel the pain." —Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

III. Titles That Should Never Exist

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen

First came the title, then we found out it starred Sean Connery, then came the storyline, and if that wasn't enough, we heard the title again. Some movies fail because they are bad, others (i.e., this one) fail because they are about as exciting as their title. To the infrequent moviegoer who hears this name, this movie could just be about a group of senior citizens who discuss monopoly over alka seltzer at a gentlemen's club. And perhaps, that would have been the better movie. It seems this movie was based on an unpopular and abandoned comic book that no child has read and which no parent has heard of.

Best Review: "...scores a Bad Cinema Trifecta—ugly, boring, AND stupid." —Margaret A. McGurk, *Cincinnati Enquirer*

IV. Ehh...It's Just a Bad Film

Grind

Summer movies cannot be complete without the teen movie that has to flop and *Grind*

has accepted the role for this summer. The film is the typical, wholly predictable, and overdone film—a couple of guys who like to skate go on a search for discovery, and find a whole bunch of underdressed girls on the way. The film goes wrong where many other teen movies do as well: too much potty humor. And in this movie that type of bad comedy is taken to a sickening length: There is just as much excrement, vomit, and other bodily emissions in this movie as there is skating.

Best Review: "Far too much of the movie's energy is devoted to rampaging hormones and irritable bowels." —Stephen Holden, *New York Times*

V. A Movie So Bad It's Become a Classic

Gigli

If you take the wit of *Dumb and Dumberer*, the storyline of *League*, the characters of *Grind*, the acting of *Charlie's Angels*, bottle it up and pass it on to some unsuspecting director, *Gigli* is what you'll get. A movie that goes beyond the limits of sarcasm, *Gigli* only leaves room to squirm and squeal at the horrible acting, terrible story, and awful jokes. The onscreen romance between Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez is more painful than enjoyable to watch. *Gigli* is a test of endurance and mental capability—to stay in the theater before the film is over is a feat in itself. If you feel that something was missing from the movie, you would be right, for there was no plot.

Best Review: "So bad, it verges on the legendary." —Eleanor Ringel Gillespie, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Last Wind



Courtesy of www.rhino.com

By ATRISH BAGCHI

During August 2003, VH1 aired a feature called "Inside/Out" about terminally ill rock legend Warren Zevon. In 2002, Zevon was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. The show documented his fight against cancer, and the recording of his farewell album, *The Wind*, which was recorded after his diagnosis. In the 1970s, Warren

Zevon's genius left behind several classic rock albums, such as his 1976 self-titled release, and his 1978 album *Excitable Boy* (which featured the rock radio staple "Werewolves of London"). His music is known for both its simplistic Southern Californian sound (boasting influence for contemporaries, such as the Eagles) and Zevon's poetic witticisms. Released August 26, *The Wind* has been hyped by both

the VH1 show, and a host of star collaborators including Eagles Don Henley and Joe Walsh, Bruce Springsteen, Jackson Browne, and Tom Petty. The *Wind*, unlike his classic albums, is stripped of almost all of Zevon's signature lyrical creativity. Instead, it serves up straightforward songs filled with trite clichés about love and life. When he does decide to be witty, it seems uninspired and lacks energy. *The Wind* is not a strong album, overall. The instrumentations often fail to provide a full kaleidoscope of sound, making songs drone on. This is particularly evident in "Disorder in the House." Other than Bruce Springsteen's stunning guitar solos, there is nothing fulfilling about the arrangement. In addition, Springsteen's banshee-like backing vocals often drown out Zevon's breathy, aged voice. The union of the two vocals sounds messy and disjointed. Like other greats of rock that have attempted comebacks, Zevon's songwriting prowess is not what it used to be. Some of the songs on *The Wind* lack punch and Zevon's fragile health shows through on his extremely faint vocals. His voice clashes

Hungary for Music

By LILI PACH

The Sziget is a place which many only dream about—a world of illusions and perfect harmony. An ideal society brought to life for just a week, but that one mere week is enough to give people back their faith in humanity.

Sziget is a yearly music festival, the biggest one in Europe. The atmosphere of it is a mix between Woodstock and Ozzfest—full of hippies and metalheads (lots of peace, love, and happiness, with some serious mosh pits thrown in).

It is held the first week of August in Budapest, Hungary, on a little island right next to the capital. For that one week, the island (which is "sziget" in Hungarian) is transformed into a music haven with about 50 concert tents, hundreds of food shacks, store outlets, theater areas, and an insane amount of plain grass so that people can set up tents to live in for the week.

The whole thing is surprisingly safe—there have never been any serious injuries or crimes as there have been at large shows in the United States. The people at the festival vary in age from 12 to 50 and there are children's programs during the morning hours. Since most people go for the concerts—and the concerts vary from jazz and metal to punk and classical—you can imagine the mix of people that can be found at the Sziget. People from different backgrounds, countries, ethnicities, ages, and genders are there, all in the name of music.

And the concerts are incredible—it is almost impossible to find so many good musicians in the same place, at the same time. The musicians are from all over Europe and the United States and are grouped into concert tents based on the genre of music they play. This makes it easy to browse from tent to tent, hearing music you have probably never heard before from either big name artists (Shaggy, Patti Smith, and the like) or tiny, local European bands singing words in languages you don't understand but enjoy hearing

anyway. This year, the highlights were Buena Vista Social Club with Ibrahim Ferrer, Patti Smith, The Skatalites (the group Bob Marley started with), Shaggy, Dub Pistols, David Krakauer's Klezmer Madness, My Dying Bride, Dreadzone, Morcheeba, and Slayer. Out of these, Buena Vista Social Club stood out the most—the mood was incredibly upbeat, and the audience loved the whole performance, dancing and clapping their hands along with the music. Patti Smith was great, as she is one of the most talented musicians, and has been since she started singing over 30 years ago. But Slayer really blew me away with its loud sound and energetic vibe. Even though Slayer was almost painfully loud, the mosh pit at the performance was awesome and the crowd was really helpful (meaning when these huge guys trampled over you, they actually helped you up afterwards). It was a very positive surprise, especially if you could understand the lyrics, which was difficult to do most of the time.

But its not just the concerts and food that are special about the festival; it's the whole experience. You can make so many friends during the week, and since you live together, the friendships tend to last even after the festival is over. And everyone feels united the whole time, because its just relaxing to be with a bunch of people you like and listen to great bands at the same time.

So if anyone is in Europe the first week of August next year, I recommend going to the Sziget festival—it's definitely an experience you'll never forget. For more information, check out www.sziget.hu for exact dates of performances and ticket prices (usually quite cheap). This is my favorite week of every year, and it's so sad that New Yorkers don't get to experience this festival—so now I'm sharin' the love and telling all you people out there to go to the Sziget if you have the chance!

with the harmonies of the backing vocals, ruining the intended effect of the edgier tracks. Despite its overall blandness, the album does have its merits. Zevon's vocals on many of the heartfelt acoustic ballads are utterly sincere. When he sings, on the album's closing track, "Shadows are falling and I'm running out of breath," he is, in fact, on the verge of his last breath. The album shines on these acoustic tracks. Zevon's heartfelt cover of Bob Dylan's "Knockin' On Heaven's Door" is a gem. However, it is the acoustical "Keep Me In Your Heart" that is the most stirring track. The lyrics sound genuine, and the fluttery guitar riff is poignant. Some of the straightforwardness, if not innovative, is enjoyable. Rock 'n' roll tracks like "Numb As A Statue" don't

fail to please. The slide guitar work on some of the tracks, like the Fleetwood Mac-esque "Prison Grove" is incredible. And the album is eclectic, ranging from the hushed tones of "She's Too Good For Me" to the raw, rollicking blues of "Rub Me Raw." Credit must be given to Zevon, because it would have been very easy for this album to be filled with excessive self-pity. His illness is a central theme in the album that pulls all of the tracks together, but it does not take over the album and turn it into a weepy melodrama. When he must "party the rest of the night," it has such desperation in its delivery as if it were his last night. This isn't rock music at its best. This isn't even Warren Zevon at his best. However, it is a genuine attempt by a man to give music his last words.



Freshman Orientation

Photos by Anna Wiener and Sasha von Olderhausen



Fall Sports Schedules

Girls' JV Volleyball

10/14/2003	Washington Irving	[Away]
10/22/2003	Murry Bergtraum	[Home]
10/28/2003	HS Of Humanities	[TBA]
11/6/2003	Washington Irving	[Away]
11/14/2003	Murry Bergtraum	[Away]
11/17/2003	HS Of Humanities	[Home]

Girls' Swimming

10/1/2003	Fort Hamilton	[Away]
10/3/2003	James Monroe Campus	[Away]
10/10/2003	Dewitt Clinton	[Away]
10/15/2003	Townsend Harris	[Home]
10/17/2003	Hunter College HS	[Away]
10/22/2003	Brooklyn Technical	[Home]
10/22/2003	Midwood	[Home]
10/24/2003	Fiorello H Laguardia	[Away]
10/28/2003	Benjamin Cardozo	[Home]
10/30/2003	Bronx HS Of Science	[Home]

Co-Ed Fencing

10/3/2003	Beacon School	[Away]
10/15/2003	HS Of Art & Design	[Away]
10/15/2003	Fiorello H Laguardia	[Away]
10/17/2003	Hunter College HS	[Away]
10/17/2003	HS Of Art & Design	[Home]
10/24/2003	Fiorello H Laguardia	[Home]
10/24/2003	Beacon School	[Home]
10/29/2003	Hunter College HS	[Home]

JV Football

9/21/2003	Bayside	[Away]
9/29/2003	John F. Kennedy	[Away]
10/4/2003	Evander Childs	[Home]
10/11/2003	Dewitt Clinton	[Away]
10/19/2003	George Washington	[Home]
10/26/2003	Adlai Stevenson	[Home]
11/1/2003	South Bronx	[Away]
11/9/2003	Christopher Columbus	[Away]
11/16/2003	Herbert H. Lehman	[Home]

Boys' Wrestling

12/3/2003	Springfield Gardens	[Away]
12/5/2003	Harry S. Truman	[Home]
12/10/2003	Herbert H. Lehman	[Home]
12/13/2003	Sheepshead Bay	[Home]
12/17/2003	William C. Bryant	[Home]
12/19/2003	Long Island City	[Away]
1/9/2004	Newtown	[Home]
1/15/2004	Far Rockaway	[Home]
1/17/2004	Abraham Lincoln	[Away]
1/23/2004	Dewitt Clinton	[Home]
2/4/2004	Alfred E. Smith	[Away]
2/6/2004	Francis Lewis	[Away]

Boys' Soccer

9/15/2003	Julia Richman Educational Center	[Away]
9/17/2003	HS Of Art & Design	[Home]
9/19/2003	HS Of Humanities	[Home]
9/22/2003	Beacon School	[Home]
9/24/2003	Martin L. King Jr	[Away]
9/29/2003	Park West	[Away]
10/1/2003	Hunter College HS	[Home]
10/8/2003	Julia Richman Educational Center	[Home]
10/10/2003	HS Of Art & Design	[Away]
10/14/2003	HS Of Humanities	[Away]
10/17/2003	Beacon School	[Away]
10/20/2003	Martin L. King Jr	[Home]
10/22/2003	Park West	[Home]
10/23/2003	Hunter College HS	[Away]

Schedules courtesy of
<http://www.psal.org>

Interested in writing for the *Spectator*
Sports section?

Come to the *Spectator* recruitments on Monday and
Tuesday, September 29 and 30, in Lecture Hall A
after 10th period.

S P O R T S

Peglegs Undefeated, for Now



Anna Wiener / The Spectator

Seniors and varsity football team captains Justin Rose and Ricky Hudson.

By EVAN MEYERSON

There is only room for improvement for the 2003-04 Peglegs, Stuy’s football team. Last year’s squad achieved an embarrassing low in recent Stuy football, winning just one regular season game for a final record of 1-7. No other team in the division had more than four losses in the season, making Stuyvesant a lock to finish last in the Bronx/Manhattan standings. However, this year’s team truly holds the possibility of reversing

the Peglegs’ recent misfortunes and putting Stuyvesant back on the map of New York City football. This season’s Peglegs apparently have the will, urgency, and desire necessary to outdo last year’s disappointment. The team will be much more than just a walkthrough for opponents for the first time since 1996, when the A and B divisions in Manhattan and the Bronx were combined into one. This year’s varsity team has been aided immeasurably by the

addition of more than 10 juniors. Headlining this new class of players are defensive back/kicker Simon Lee, linebacker Jordan Mirrer, and tight end/defensive lineman Alex Zedlovich. They represent a group of junior varsity players who “are coming off a winning season last year [6-2] and are hungry to play,” according to junior starting quarterback Brian Newman. These new players have added a new element to the Peglegs, a talented depth chart not seen in last year’s team. Furthermore,

the possibility of starting jobs being taken by the incoming juniors has lead to more competition among the players themselves, which can hopefully help the team improve at a more rapid pace. Optimism for the 2003-04 season does not come unwarranted. The Peglegs displayed their strengths and talent when they trampled Thomas Jefferson High School, 25-14, in the September 6 preseason opener. Their high-spirited performance was highlighted by senior running backs Elliot Herman (121 yards) and Theodore Hernandez (95 yards). Senior co-captain Ricky Hudson also had a big game, making solid hits on defense and impressive grabs at the receiver position on offense. “The keys to winning our season opener was a balanced attack and a tenacious defense. We rushed for almost 250 yards behind great blocking from our offensive line and that opened up the play action passes. The defense only gave up two first downs the entire game and Jefferson’s points came off of two big plays. Both sides of the ball played fiercely all game,” said Newman on the team’s victory over Jefferson. Nonetheless, “this was one of the easier games we have this season, and I think it will only get harder,” said senior co-captain Justin Rose. Yet, as long as we can minimize the mistakes we make and continue to play physically, I believe we will stay at the top of our game.” The team’s early and immediate focus has seemingly been placed on defense. “Doing the

little things on defense especially will help us move through this year successfully,” said junior defensive back Will Aibinder. Hard hitting and the elimination of thoughtless errors on defense should allow the offense more opportunities to capitalize on low scoring games. Finally, these Peglegs are, as they have proclaimed themselves, much more united early in the season than last year’s team. Not to be underestimated is the heart and leadership provided by the more than 10 veteran players. Also helping the developing Peglegs is the returning coaching staff, specifically head coach David Velkas. From the players’ side, Captains Hudson and Rose hope to mold this year’s group into a serious contender. More than anything else, this year’s Peglegs seem to be fighting for pride and respect, among themselves, the Stuyvesant student body, and the opposition. This attitude is exemplified in Rose’s comments. “I’m confident that we will finally prove to the school that we can beat these other teams.” For those on the team, their high aspirations include not just a sudden rise from the cellar-dwellers, but the possibility of Stuyvesant’s first playoff birth in more than five years. In spite of this, hype and hope can only take a team so far. The rest of the job must simply be accomplished by a determined work ethic and resiliency. It remains to be seen if these Peglegs will finally salvage the tarnished name of Stuyvesant

Fall Sports Schedules

Varsity Football

9/6/2003 NL	Thomas Jefferson	[Away]
9/13/2003	McKee/Staten Island Tech	[Home]
9/20/2003	William C. Bryant	[Away]
9/26/2003	Lafayette	[Home]
10/4/2003	Long Island City	[Home]
10/12/2003	Boys & Girls	[Away]
10/18/2003	Evander Childs	[Away]
10/25/2003	Harry S. Truman	[Away]
11/2/2003	George Washington	[Home]

Girls’ Varsity Volleyball

10/1/2003	HS Health Profession/Human services	[Away]
10/2/2003	Murry Bergtraum	[Home]
10/7/2003	Chelsea	[Home]
10/9/2003	Seward Park	[Home]
10/14/2003	Washington Irving	[Home]
10/15/2003	HS Health Profession/Human services	[Away]
10/22/2003	Murry Bergtraum	[Away]
10/24/2003	Chelsea	[Away]
10/27/2003	Seward Park	[Away]
10/29/2003	Washington Irving	[Away]

Bowling

9/30/2003	HS Of Humanities	[Away]
10/1/2003	HS Of Art & Design	[Home]
10/2/2003	Seward Park	[Away]
10/7/2003	Beacon School	[Home]
10/8/2003	Chelsea	[Away]
10/9/2003	Norman Thomas	[Home]
10/14/2003	HS Economics & Finance	[Away]
10/15/2003	HS Of Humanities	[Home]
10/16/2003	HS Of Art & Design	[Away]
10/20/2003	Seward Park	[Home]
10/22/2003	Beacon School	[Away]
10/23/2003	Chelsea	[Home]
10/27/2003	Norman Thomas	[Away]
10/29/2003	HS Economics & Finance	[Home]