



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper
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*"The pulse
of the
student
body."*

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May 29, 2003

To The Stuyvesant Community

Schmoozing with Mr. Schecter

By ELIZA HERSKOWITZ

Walking into a classroom to find a substitute sitting where your teacher should be can be an uplifting and wonderful experience in the midst of a stressful day. As fun as it is to have a sub though, not many students give much thought to these teachers, who arrive one day and are gone the next, never staying very long in one class.

One sub, who is here almost every day, rain or shine, is Jerry Schecter. Well known by many of the Stuyvesant students for his friendly nature, Schecter can be found subbing for various teachers throughout the school year.

An alumnus of Stuyvesant High School and a graduate of Brooklyn College, Schecter has seen things at Stuyvesant change over the years. He reminisced on his days as a student at the smaller, older Stuyvesant building on East 15th Street in Manhattan, remembering the students of his class running for class president.

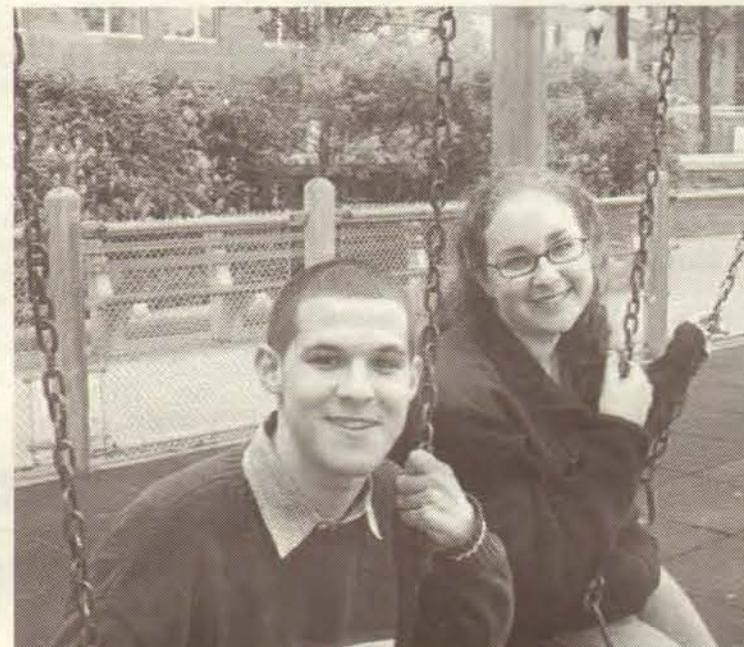
"One of the smooth politicians got up in the auditorium," Schecter started, "And he said, 'If you elect me class president, we're going to get a cafeteria in the school. Furthermore, we're going to have girls in the school, and finally, if you elect me class president, we're going to have a swimming pool.' Where are you going to put it?" came the cry. 'On the roof!' he said."

Another candidate promised to keep the bathrooms filled with paper towels and toilet paper. While neither candidate won, Schecter noted that, "Over the years, I've seen that first the cafeteria came, and then the girls came, and we even got, by this time, the swimming pool. But sometimes, we can't seem to get paper towels in the bathrooms. Some things change, and some things don't."

Although he has been a sub at Stuyvesant for about three years and has been a helpful and constant figure in the school, Schecter maintains a humble outlook on his life and work. "With all of the hardworking teachers that you have in this school. I feel both privileged and embarrassed that you're spending time interviewing someone like me, who just comes in as practically a guest in your school," he said.

Schecter has no intention of giving up his place as a substitute here at Stuyvesant. However, he also knows that going back to full-time teaching is no longer an option. Before beginning to sub, he taught for one term at Stuyvesant as a health education teacher. He also taught English at Harren High School

Primaries Bring Change and Controversy



Mike Litwack and Meredith Gringer are running for SU President and Vice President, respectively, on Friday, May 30. See our endorsements on page 6.

By SHANNON BLANEY

Though the primary elections for the junior and senior caucuses ran without a hitch on May 23, there has been a controversy over both a change in election policy and the disqualification of the ticket of junior Shahed Serajuddin and sophomore Aditya Tata for SU President and Vice President. The two were barred from the race by the Board of Elections due to allegations that Serajuddin broke into the e-mail account of his opponent, Mike Litwack.

According to the Student Union Web site, of the six tickets running for junior caucus, Taresh Batra and Maria Cheung, with 154 votes, and Nick Greenough and Nandini Banerjee, with 135 votes, were the two sets of candidates that will move on to general elections. The winners of the senior caucus primaries were Mike Cho and Sophia Mokotoff, with 178 votes, and Eugene Hu and Madeline Martinez, with 128 votes. Though Zach Rosenblatt and David Durso came in a close third with 125 votes, they will not be continuing onto the generals.

One factor that may have influenced the elections was the new regulations put in place.

According to senior and Board of Elections chair Jenny Mathews, a new set of campaigning policies were implemented by Principal Stanley Teitel this year. According to Mathews, Teitel now wants all campaign flyers to be approved by a faculty member. Therefore, all flyers must be marked with the official "BOE APPROVED" and Coordinator of Student Affairs Matt Polazzo's signature on the pamphlet as well.

These rules had immediate repercussions. First, at the start of the campaign, Robert Cecot and Leo Biselman, who were in the race for senior caucus, received a strike for illegal campaigning and were not allowed to campaign for a day. According to Mathews, for the past two years there has been a standing rule stating that campaign material may only be circulated on 8 by 11-inch paper. They broke this rule when they began circulating hats and other paraphernalia with their names on them. Cecot and Biselman were allowed back into the race, but they never recovered, coming in fourth overall.

Arguably, the most controversial facet of the elections was the disqualification of Serajuddin and Tata.

According to Mathews, "Shahed and Adit were disqualified because we had information that made us believe that

Shahed had illegally gotten the campaign literature of their opponents prior to the beginning of campaigning."

However, according to Serajuddin, the information of which Mathews speaks was due to a complaint SU Vice Presidential candidate Meredith Gringer lodged with the BOE accusing Serajuddin of having hacked into the e-mail account of her running mate, current SU Vice President Mike Litwack. Serajuddin believes that Gringer received her information from Gary He, who graduated with the class of 2002. Gringer, however, declined to tell *the Spectator* who had been her source as to Serajuddin's involvement in hacking into Litwack's e-mail.

Serajuddin said, "I brought it up with Mr. Polazzo, but I got nowhere with him." Serajuddin suspects that Polazzo was playing favorites. Hence, Serajuddin said he had "only one other place to go," and decided to bring up the matter with Teitel.

Polazzo said, however, that he has no direct involvement in the Board of Election's decision, and serves only as advisor. "Ultimately the Board of Elections met and decided [Serajuddin] had violated elections procedures."

Gringer said she brought the complaint to the BOE because she felt "compassionate" for her running mate who, she said, felt

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SLT Rejects Proposal to Shorten School Day; Diversity Issue Discussed

By EUGENE THEODORE

At the School Leadership Team (SLT) meeting on Tuesday, May 13, a proposal was put forth to cut Stuyvesant's current school day.

The most heated discussion was about the proposal by SU Vice President Mike Litwack and Assistant Principal of Social Studies Jennifer Suri to significantly shorten the school day from the current schedule. "It's much too long," Suri said. The idea was to cut the day by about 35 minutes, making tenth period end at 3:25 on the A, B and C schedules and by 2:45 on the E schedule.

When the proposal was put to a vote, it was rejected. Though the parents and students combined voted in favor of the proposal, the faculty voted overwhelmingly against it, swinging the overall count to rejection.

This plan also called for a new set of teaching periods in order to satisfy the stipulations set forth in the UFT contract passed earlier this year that added 20 minutes to each teacher's day. Instead of teachers having three possible types of schedules, which are either first period through eighth, second through ninth, or third through tenth, teachers would

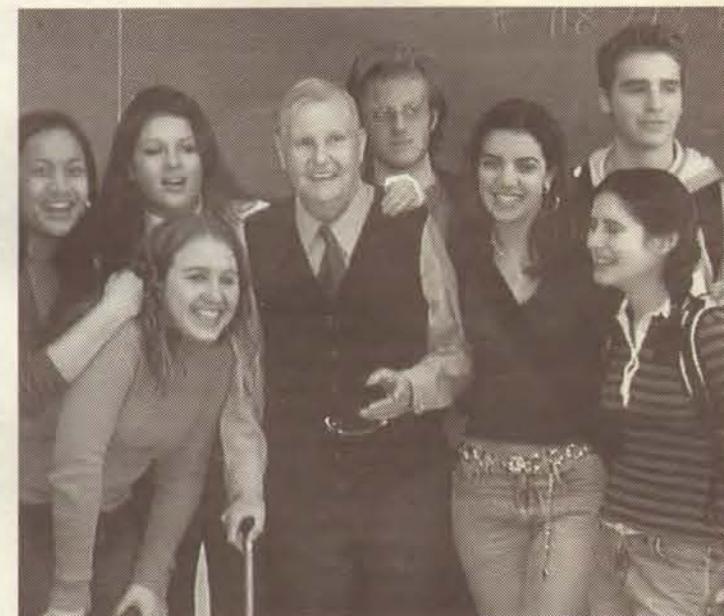
just either have first through ninth or second through tenth. Although teachers would be in the classrooms for six hours and 40 minutes in both scenarios, this proposal states that they would still have eight periods of instruction and would hold office hours during their last periods of the day.

"Will teachers accept formal tutoring periods?" asked biology teacher and SLT member Carol Ann Held at the meeting. "Teachers will be tutoring kids they don't know in a wide variety of topics, depending on how far each student has progressed in that certain topic, and we will be losing minutes from regular classes which we need to teach a thorough lesson."

Suri, however, said that the proposed tutoring period would "increase the teacher and student opportunities, because for those students who have a full schedule or who end after tenth, there are limited after-school tutoring programs that can by no means supply them with all the answers they need."

Sophomore SLT Representative Meredith Gringer also said, "If the school day is shortened then kids won't be falling asleep by tenth period, if they've managed to keep

Anacleto Tiseo: 1936-2003



The late Anacleto Tiseo smiling with his Italian students in January 2002.

By JOSH ROSS

Italian teacher Anacleto Tiseo, known for his dedication to student success and sense of humor, died on Friday, May 9 after a series of strokes, according to Assistant Principal of Foreign Languages Rolf Schwagermann. Tiseo was 66 years old and had taught at Stuy for 19 years.

Tiseo retired from teaching after Fall 2001 due to poor health, but, according to Schwagermann, "He would call me up in my office to tell me how much he hated it [at home], and how much he want-

ed to be back in school with the kids. That was his life; he dedicated his life to teaching kids."

Before Tiseo came to Stuyvesant, he taught Latin at Brooklyn Technical High School. He began having health problems within two years of coming to Stuyvesant, suffering his first heart attack in 1984. In 1996, Tiseo was forced to take a sabbatical from teaching due to illness, but, according to foreign language teacher Dr. Patrick Niglio, Tiseo still managed to come in to assist students with a foreign language contest they

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Schmoozing with Mr. Schecter

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in Manhattan, and at Sheepshead Bay High School in Brooklyn.

"I don't have the energy," he said. "Your teachers work very, very hard. I simply wouldn't have the energy to be able to sustain five or more teaching periods a day, and preparing lessons and grading papers. I've been retired for 10 years. I couldn't do that."

Schecter loves his job, although he has stressed several times that he doesn't consider subbing real teaching. "This is a very different thing. It requires different kinds of skills, and I find it fun, and that's the reason that I do it."

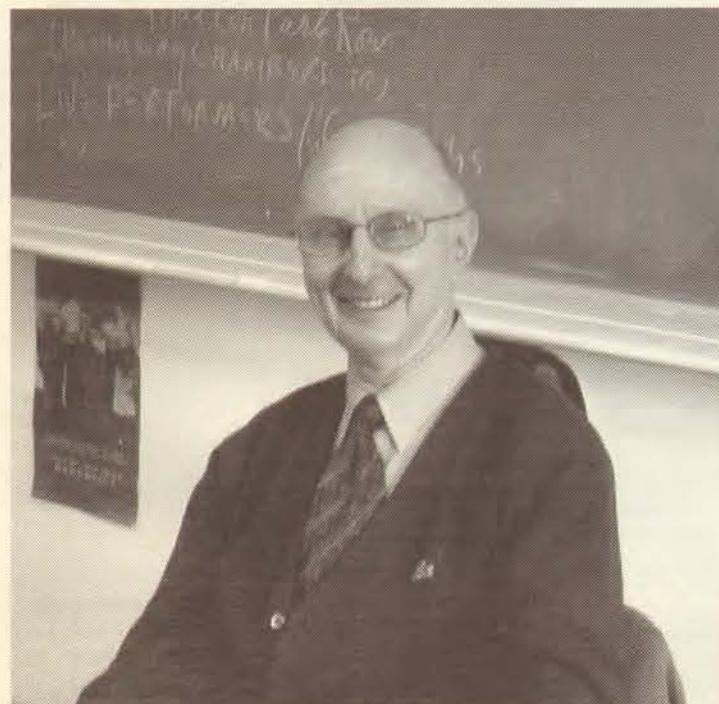
Of course, no job is perfect, and Schecter has one major gripe with substitute teaching: the New York City Transit System. Schecter said, "Is there anything that any student at Stuyvesant can say that is more frustrating than getting up at the crack of dawn and rushing like mad to try to make it to a class and finding that everything is broken down and you have to practically push the train to get it into the station? That's the killer," he explained.

Schecter can be found in just about any class over the course of a school year, although he enjoys substituting in literature classes the most.

"If I luck out and get a class that I'm competent in teaching, I'm very happy. But the teacher's own instructions always assume precedence. If she has left instructions, I try to follow them exactly. If I can add to them, so much the better," he said.

"I have very good times in the math and science classes. The students do the assignment, and then if there is time afterwards I can help them. It comes as a shock to them that I might know something, because I had to take the same classes they have to take," said Schecter.

Schecter mentioned that he knows that it is because of his position as a substitute teacher that he is able to have such a wonderful social interchange with many students and teachers here at Stuyvesant, an aspect of his job that he enjoys greatly.



Jerry Schecter says he finds substitute teaching "Fun."

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"That's the important thing," he said. He loves being involved in the lives of students.

Schecter's students enjoy his presence and involvement in classes.

Junior Adar Eisenbruch recalled an incident in which Schecter discussed a show he and his wife had attended. He told the class all about it and added at the end, "Be careful when you may get wet."

"Some people think that Mr. Schecter is a little weird because, unlike other subs, he actually interacts with the class, but in reality, he's a really smart guy and a great sub," Eisenbruch said.

"Mr. Schecter is really funny and random. One time he was subbing in my health class and he asked my friend for her autograph because he remembered her from when he subbed in her English class," said junior Daniele Hauptman.

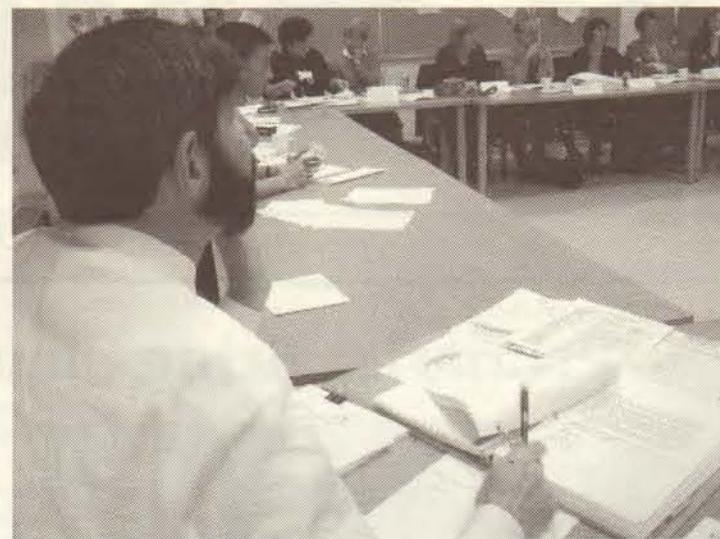
Sophomore Stefanie Demas remembered another incident unique to one of Schecter's classes. "He [Schecter] had a make-believe sword fight with a kid in our class because they wanted to go to the bathroom when he was taking attendance. And once, he acted out all of the characters in *Crime and Punishment* for us," she said.

Sophomore Rachael Scharf agreed to Schecter's distinctiveness. "Mr. Schecter would always come into my English class, even sometimes when the teacher was there. He always had things to say about the book we were reading, and he always had interesting little anecdotes about everything. He would come around and tell us books we might like on a certain subject."

Schecter has a strong and positive outlook on his life, as well as the lives of those he affects.

"I don't believe in retirement. I don't think it's a healthy thing. I've watched people my generation and younger retire, and I've watched them vegetate," Schecter said. "I think that everybody should be involved in life." He paused, and then added, "It's great fun to be involved in the lives of young people. This is very good for me, and I enjoy it."

SLT Rejects Proposal to Shorten School Day; Diversity Issue Discussed



Naomi Gordon / The Spectator

Principal Stanley Teitel chairs the SLT meeting on May 27.

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awake after first."

There will be a re-vote on this proposal at the next SLT meeting on Tuesday, May 27. Unless there is a dramatic turnaround in voting, however, Stuyvesant will stay with its old schedule.

"I have no intention of adopting this new time schedule before thorough discussions of

the pros and cons of this proposal," said Teitel.

In addition to the proposal, the other main topic was Stuyvesant's ethnic diversity issue, which is being addressed by the Diversity Committee, a sub-committee of the SLT. On May 12, the Diversity Committee brought in Dr. Bradley Scott, a representative of the Intercultural Department Research Association, to investi-

gate the various problems facing the Stuyvesant community. He toured the school for two days before flying back to his home in Texas. After talking to various students and staff, he taped a video which was shown at the SLT meeting. However, he was unable to attend the meeting.

Scott is assembling a full report that will be sent to Stuy by mid-June. His main observations have been that major ethnic groups, such as the Asian and Russian populations, form their own circles within the school that exclude the rest; and even between themselves they form factions. There are areas in the school such as the Asian and Senior bars which, although bring unity to these groups, separate them from Stuyvesant community as a whole.

Those students who do not or cannot fit into these cliques are excluded. To remedy this, Scott proposed several methods of dealing with these circumstances. One is to enforce the proper locker assignments instead of letting different groups dominate their own sections of the school.

Anacleto Tiseo: 1936-2003

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were entering. "He was just so dedicated, he enjoyed every minute of teaching even when he was on sabbatical," said Niglio. "He always had to make sure students were doing their best."

Niglio visited Tiseo at his home in Cassino, Italy, last summer, after Tiseo's retirement. "I got to know him best there," recalls Niglio. "He treated me like a king in his house, he was just so hospitable. Plus, it was the healthiest he had been in years. He insisted on climbing the hundreds of steps up to the Church of Monte Cassino, which I was tired after doing, and yelled at me for waking at 8:30 [A.M.] instead of 6:30. He was full of energy, full of happiness."

Tiseo's classes, though rigidly structured, were full of life, and Tiseo's love for the Italian language poured through his enthused dictations of both class literature and his personal anecdotes. "He really wanted us to enjoy Italian," said senior Tania Strauss. "He was always trying to capture our interest with little personal stories. Though our class was not always on its best behavior, he never

gave up on us and still took pleasure in our accomplishments."

Niglio describes Tiseo's role with his students as that of a "typical Italian father. Sometimes he was a little too reprimanding, but always [acted] with a lot of love."

Apart from his relationship with students, Tiseo had a great respect for Italy itself. According to Schwagermann, he lived in Italy through World War II, surviving raids on his hometown of

"He was a wonderful man. I feel I'm a better person for having known him."

—senior Thea Goldberg

Cassino, and moved to America shortly afterwards. Later, he built his own home in Cassino that he would continue to visit during summers and vacations. Tiseo will also be buried in Cassino.

With the death of French teacher Julio Celestin earlier this year, the Foreign Language Department has had what Schwagermann calls, "our fair share" of strife. "And [Tiseo and

Celestin] were not old," he said. "It makes you count your blessings. It's been a tough year, it really has."

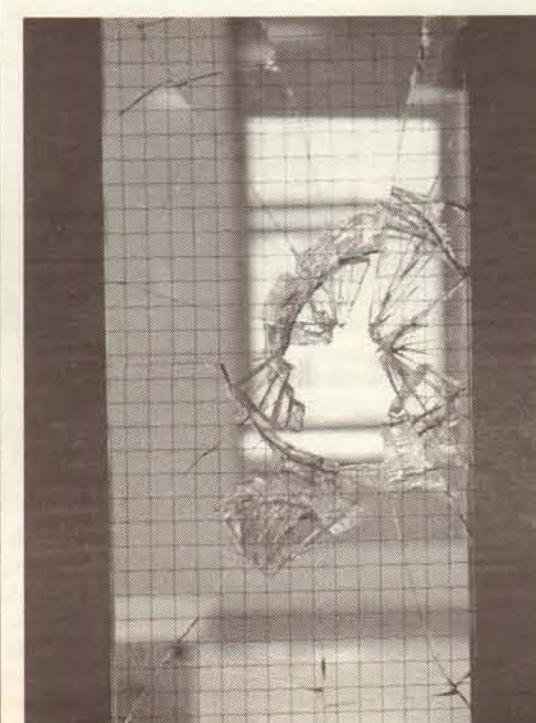
Since Tiseo left in 2001, Vito Recchia has taken over his Italian classes, and Recchia says Tiseo has been a tough act to follow. "Mr. Tiseo had been teaching for 19 years before I came here and he was very popular," Recchia said. "Plus he was teaching five different classes, all at different levels of Italian and that was tough. But Mr. Tiseo didn't complain about things, he just really liked teaching."

"He was a knowledgeable person, and you could approach him for advice on almost any topic," said junior Mike DiMeglio. "His age did not separate him from his students."

"He was a wonderful man," agreed senior Thea Goldberg. "I feel I'm a better person for having known him."

Though it's tough to sum up such a man in one word, Schwagermann believes he can. "A gentleman," he said. "That's really a good way to describe him. He was just such a nice man, and I mean that from the bottom of my heart."

Broken Glass to Locked Doors



On Wednesday, May 21, glue was splattered all throughout the outer Student Union lounge. The following day, a baseball was thrown through the left SU door, shattering the glass and leaving a gaping hole (left). In reaction to this recent wave of vandalism, COSA Matt Polazzo locked the SU on Thursday, May 22, and kept it locked through Tuesday, May 27. In anger, he initially told students that he would lock the SU for the remainder of the school year. However, he reconsidered. Polazzo said, "If there is another incident of that magnitude, I'll consider shutting it down." In addition, recent graffiti on the SU lounge walls has also led Building Coordinator Renee Levine to threaten to shut down the SU.

Jeremy Wooster / The Spectator

Stuyvesant Takes First in National Economics Competition

By JESSE ROSENTHAL

"We didn't prepare much; a couple of hours on the train before the regionals and even less before the nationals," junior Bram Sterling said.

Despite their lack of preparation, on Monday, May 19, four Stuy juniors gathered at St. John's University in Manhattan for the National Economics Non-AP Competition. According to their coach Ellen Schweitzer, the team participated in three rounds of written questions about economics and performed well enough to advance to the final round, which was a quiz bowl for the title of National Champions. Stuyvesant competed against Carmel High School from Indiana.

Stuy came out victorious, giving Schweitzer national title

in her first year as the school's coach. She had taken over for Kenneth Lewak, who had coached the team in previous years.

Most other teams competed after months of hard work and preparation, according to Schweitzer. Stuyvesant members Lisa Fleming, Joe Liu, Ji Zheng, and Sterling, however, went into the competition without much preparation or strategy, relying on their previous knowledge and expertise in the subject.

"It was a great experience and opportunity," said Fleming about participating in the national competition. "The nationals gave us a chance to meet other kids from all over the country."

The team appeared on the CNN show "The Flipside" on Thursday, May 22.

Touchdown for AA Touch Football Club

By AUDREY UONG

"I remember looking at the club/pub listings and it taking forever to get to the later alphabetical ones, while the earlier ones stood out. I wanted something to make us stick out with the earlier ones. What is better than two A's?" said junior Daniel Schonfeld, president of the AA (All American) Touch Football Club.

Sports teams at Stuyvesant are given extensive coverage while sports clubs tend to stay in the shadows. Schonfeld started this club last term after going to the park regularly in the spring to play frisbee and football.

I think some of the members of this club could give the football team a run for their money!
—junior Richard Ling

"We thought that we should probably make it more official, so we could expand, get more people, and get funding from the school," said Schonfeld.

The school's funding has allowed the club to buy new equipment, such as cones, flags, and footballs. "We need a lot of footballs," said junior Yang Chen, who helped start the club. "They wear out really quickly because we play on cement during the winter when the grass [in the park] is closed off."

Touch football has the same rules as regular football does, except that the players don't tackle one another. "You tackle by putting two hands on another player at the same time,

and then he's considered down," said Chen.

Because of the lack of tackling, there is a smaller chance of getting hurt playing touch football than there is in regular football, something that the members consider an advantage.

The fact that touch football is a club rather than a team is also a perk because it allows the members to play football without having to commit fully to a team that practices for hours every day. "It's a lot more fun, more relaxed and less stressful," said Schonfeld. The club usually meets to play games on Fridays, shortened school days, or days before a vacation begins.

According to Chen, there are about 30 members in the club and "three girls play from time to time."

When the weather becomes warmer, Schonfeld and the other members would like to organize a touch football tournament. The tournament would most likely not include other schools, but Schonfeld hopes to get more people from Stuyvesant to play.

"Anyone can just come and play with us," Schonfeld said. Even members from the football team have come to play football with the club. However, according to junior Richard Ling, "I think some of the members of this club could give the football team a run for their money!"

I WISH I MADE THE TOUCH-FOOTBALL CLUB



By Danny Schonfeld

Speech and Debate Team Lacks Chaperones and Money

By NANDITA GARUD

The Stuyvesant Speech and Debate team is suffering a debt of almost \$14,000 and currently has a shortage of chaperones to supervise its tournaments. If the team does not find more chaperones for next year's tournaments or receive more funding, the number of tournaments in which it participates may be few.

In previous years, Speech and Debate students were allowed to go to tournaments on their own over the weekends and holidays. However, the New York City Department of Education changed its policy on school trips this year, requiring that a licensed teacher from the school accompany the students. This was because in Fall 2002, a student from the Bronx Science High School died from a brain hemorrhage while on a college trip. This has complicated the Speech and Debate team's ability to travel to tournaments.

This year, two faculty members supervised the Speech and Debate team: faculty advisor Julie Sheinman, who worked with the Speech segment of the team, and English teacher Hugh Francis, who worked with the Debate segment of the team. Both Sheinman and Francis chaperoned tournaments, and Francis judged many of the Policy division's tournaments.

However, Francis may not be able to chaperone the Debate team next year because he may become The Spectator's faculty advisor. He said, "If I am going to be able to give the correct amount of attention to The Spectator, then I don't think I can advise the Speech and Debate team too." According to Francis, his commitment to the team meant that he had to devote 50 days to traveling with

the Debate team, of which 25 days were school days. Given this time commitment, Francis notified the Speech and Debate team in the fall that he planned to reduce his involvement for the upcoming year. Consequently, since Francis and Sheinman could not attend all the events this year, the Speech and Debate team was not able to compete in all of their scheduled tournaments.

According to junior Susan Lin, captain of the Lincoln Douglass division of the Debate team, "There are about 200 people on the Speech and Debate team. It is not unusual for the team to be at two different tournaments in the same weekend. On top of that, we compete almost every single weekend." Since the team was already having difficulty finding chaperones this year, the team may have even more difficulty going to tournaments next year due to Francis's possible departure.

The Assistant Principal of English, Eric Grossman, said, "There is an unfounded fear that Speech and Debate will not exist next year. Ms. Sheinman will not stop going to tournaments." Therefore, even if the team does not find any new chaperones for next year, Sheinman will at least be able to chaperone a few of both Debate's and Speech's tournaments.

In the meanwhile, efforts have been made to find chaperones for next year. Grossman said that he has talked to many department heads about possible volunteers. However, Senior Jeng-Tyng Hong, Administrative captain of the Speech and Debate team said that some teachers have wanted to be paid for more than the per session money that the Department of Education provides chaperones.

According to Hong, the

Speech and Debate team's debt amounted to \$13,942 and that the team needs to hire two coaches next year to help the students. According to Lin, the team will pay a few thousand dollars to hire the coaches. In the past, the team has paid the coaches through a grant that the Parents' Association gives the Speech and Debate team each year. Hong estimated this grant to be \$10,000. Money from this account is also used to defray the costs of attending the tournaments. Lin said that students have to pay anywhere up to \$200 for each tournament.

According to Hong, the team did not receive any grants this year. Lin said that the team probably did not receive the funding because the city budget has been low this year, and consequently, the PA budget was low.

To raise money, Hong said that the team is creating a "memory book" and is selling ads for the book. Lin said that the team is also having a Speech and Debate dinner for a suggested fee of \$40 per plate to raise money.

She said, "We're going to be very careful about how we spend this money next year."

Although there are many fears about the future of Speech and Debate, there are a few people who are optimistic. Stacy Endman, the assistant coach of the Speech team, said, "The Speech and Debate team has been around for 18 years. It is one of the best in the country and the kids are really dedicated. The chaperone and financial troubles are not going to stop the team next year."

Grossman also expressed optimism, saying, "My suspicion and my hope is that the situation is not going to be as bad as people fear."

Primaries Bring Change and Controversy

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very uncomfortable with the idea that his "privacy" had been invaded. Serajuddin maintains that he did not hack into Litwack's e-mail account and believes that an AOL Instant

Messenger conversation, which he believes was presented as evidence against him, was fabricated.

Regarding the matter, Mathews stated, "[The BOE] spent a lot of time listening to

group of blogs by people who have similar interests such as the ::[Stuy '06]:: blogging on Xanga, has 230 members. It was formed on August 19, 2002, almost a month before Stuyvesant Class of 2006 students ever attended Stuyvesant. In comparison, the ::Hunter College HS Prison 2006:: blog has only 15 members and was started in November 2002. Stuyvesant blog rings have even managed to outdo blog rings with such teen friendly appellations as ::school sucks::, which has only 15 members. What makes blogging so popular at Stuy?

The most obvious possible reason for the popularity of blogs in Stuyvesant is Stuyvesant's demographics. Said freshman Daniil Niyazov, "[Stuyvesant] has an exceptional amount of [teens], and blogging is especially popular with teens." However, Brooklyn Technical High School, a school with approximately 1,500 more students than Stuyvesant, has a blog ring on Xanga with only four members. In addition, Stuyvesant bloggers aren't just teens. The "Stuy Alum" blog ring, linking the Weblogs of Stuyvesant graduates, both young and old, has 301 Weblogs on it. Obviously, it is not just a large population of teens that has made blogging so popular at Stuyvesant.

While blogs have grown popular everywhere, they have become particularly trendy at Stuyvesant. Blog rings, a linked

both sides and talking amongst ourselves and with Mr. Polazzo before we made the decision to disqualify them. We believe that we did what was most fair to the integrity of the election and to our rules and charter."

Blogging Takes Off @ Stuy

More likely, blogging is popular at Stuyvesant because of the lifestyle Stuy students lead. Sophomore Inessa Gelfenboym said, "[Stuyvesant] is a commuter school that gives tons of homework. There's no time for anything sociable during the evening. Stuyvesant is filled with angsty people, so, often, we like to rant."

The commuter aspect of Stuyvesant also raises another explanation. "Stuy is a big place, and people don't get to talk to their friends a lot, so they can communicate with blogs. Also, because Stuy is so big, it's hard to get attention, and blogs are a way to do that," said junior Liz Alspector.

Niyazov has a different theory. "Stuyvesant students want a place to think, since a lot of them are pretty smart....It's a place to share their feelings with other smart people," he said, referring to blogs.

As always, however, there are dissenters, such as freshman Maisie Breit. "I think online journals are weird. I don't know why anyone would want to post stuff like that on the Internet," she said.

However, the unique conditions that Stuyvesant creates for its students have caused blogging's popularity to soar. It appears that Weblogs are here to stay.

HAND'IN OUT FLYERS by James Chan



The Matrix : Un-CUT by Barry Jin

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Editorials and Opinions

Spectator Endorsements

Mike Litwack and Meredith Gringer for SU President and Vice President

After an especially trying year for administration-student relations, it is essential that the Student Union president and vice president have a concrete vision and the will and know-how to see that vision through. Although Sang Haw Lee and Liya Eijvertinya are also confident that they can improve student life, we believe that Mike Litwack and Meredith Gringer have the ability to strengthen the SU and to answer the calls of the diverse population of Stuyvesant.

Litwack and Gringer's longstanding experience in the SU cannot be dismissed. Both are current members of the SLT, and their performance in that body's meetings shows that they have the heart, voice and dedication that their prospective positions demand. Unlike their opponents, Litwack and Gringer have known and worked closely with each other for two years. History has shown that problems that arise between candidates without a strong working relationship can direly impede the function of the SU.

Litwack and Gringer's vision of doing "little things to improve student life" is a refreshing departure from the broader visions of "changing the SU" pitched in the past. Unlike their opponents' lofty ideas for revitalizing the SU, Litwack and Gringer's more modest goals are likely to be fulfilled. Because of their experience, they are familiar with the workings of the SU and will not

hesitate to carry out their plans.

Earlier this year, Litwack and Gringer managed to pass the Senior Internship Proposal within the SLT. Given their record, it's likely that they will see to it that this proposal is enacted. Litwack and Gringer also recognize the perpetual need to diversify the SU. Their SU Advisory Council, which will include two students with no SU affiliation from each grade, would be a good step towards incorporating diverging opinions into the Student Union.

Litwack and Gringer's greatest strengths are their passion for and deep faith in the SU. Although many of their posters seemed to imply a confrontational stance toward the administration, their strategy this year has been based heavily on compromise. At the same time, Litwack and Gringer have proved themselves capable of standing up for student rights when necessary.

Litwack and Gringer's dedication to the SU is admirable. In the coming year, they will continue learning and working hard to create an SU that better serves students. Their baby-step approach and ability to work and compromise with the administration show great promise. If elected, they will help the SU become the effective governing body it ought to be. Naturally, this is a gradual process, but electing Litwack and Gringer is more than a baby-step in the right direction.

Eugene Hu and Madeline Martinez for Senior Caucus

One of the first things to look for in a candidate is experience; however, a candidate's experience can work for or against them. While an effective term in the SU is usually a reliable sign of future success, an ineffective term is just as indicative. Michael Cho, the current junior class president, has not been a capable leader and, if elected to senior caucus, would likely continue this trend.

After a term as junior president, Cho has only met with the Junior Advisory Council a handful of times. For a candidate who lists communication as a primary goal, this is not encouraging. Although Sophia Mokotoff is qualified, her credentials do not compensate for Cho's shortcomings.

Despite Cho and Mokotoff's experience, both tickets share the same basic vision, namely a less expensive senior prom and increased communica-

cation in the senior class. However, Eugene Hu and Madeline Martinez already have feasible and specific plans, while Cho and Mokotoff's are relatively vague. Although some of Hu and Martinez's goals are clearly unrealistic (it is unlikely that *The Spectator* will run a SU-related article every other week) they will quickly learn what they can and cannot accomplish.

Hu and Martinez, though inexperienced, are enthusiastic and ready to learn about the workings of the SU. Senior caucus is not as demanding a position as either SU President or Vice President. An intimate understanding of SU politics is not as essential for the goals that either ticket have in mind. Both described senior year as a time to have fun.

While neither ticket has any revolutionary plans, Hu and Martinez will be better able to accomplish their modest goals.

Tales of An Exchange Student

What kind of lucky guy gets to spend four months in Prague for free? Me. I'm one of those Lauder Exchange people, sent around the globe to test the waters in other countries.

In return for living in Prague, I hosted Michal Kolafa here in New York. Michal is my exchange partner, a true *Prahazan* (Prague-dweller) you may have seen prowling around Stuyvesant last term. Now, I am staying at Michal's house, prowling the corridors of his school, speaking bad Czech and teaching younger students English curse words.

Like those at Stuy, I took the APs several weeks ago. Who would have thought I'd end up taking AP American History in Prague, taught by an imported Texan teacher with a tendency to speed through material?

Actually, my Czech exchange experience has often been surprisingly American. The school where I took the AP, for instance, was an institution of mainly wealthy kids trying to preserve their "American-ness." *Guitar Player* and *The New Yorker* lay next to rows of iMacs, all operating in English, in the library.

At other times, however, I've encountered the bizarre in the Czech Republic. Some of these encounters are part of the usual culture shock, but most of them are my own fault. Hampered by

situations, such as getting my haircut, can become uncomfortable, strange, and often humorous.

A few weeks ago, exchange partner Michal walked into a barbershop and got a buzz.

"It's called a 9 millimeter haircut," he said as I gawked. "It's more convenient this way. I only have to get it twice a year."

I used to think a 9 millimeter haircut was when a 9 millimeter handgun sheared one's hair. Possibly, that would have been superior to the haircut Michal got. But in any case, I decided to get a haircut myself.

I set out for a building with a large sign on top reading *Barbarakan* (which is "barber-shop"). I came to the building, only to find that it was closed. "That's odd," I thought, "The sign says 'Open till 0300, and it's 2:30.' Then I noticed it opened at 5:00 P.M. I was at the Bar Barbarak, not a *barbarakan*.

Desperate times call for desperate measures. I took out my Czech phrase book. Before I continue, let me say a little bit about this book. It's from 1973, so some of the words are outdated. For instance, the word for police (*bezpečnost*) is actually the Soviet security force. There are other strange translations that have caused Michal to laugh. In addition, I have never been able to pronounce anything in this book correctly.

In the case I accidentally

cheesy tuna," instead of "Where is the barbershop?" I directed this question to a woman with a baby carriage, unlikely to cause me injury. She grabbed an old man and jabbered at him in Czech. Then they both proceeded to jabber at me, and I felt it would be quite rude to say, "*Nemluvím Česky*," ("I don't speak Czech"). I remember thinking, "This is too much effort for a haircut. I may as well grow my hair long and pretend to be homeless, or a girl."

They pointed me up a side street and I fled. The old man followed me, jabbered again, and then shoved me through a door.

I was in a beauty salon. "Muz?" ("Men?") I called out to the old man, fearing for my masculinity as he walked off. I think he shouted, "An!" ("Yes!").

To my great relief, there was another boy in the shop, having his hair reduced to 9 millimeters, Michal-style. I took a seat and requested what I hoped was "A light trim, please." I could just as well have said "My scrambled eggs need a battery," but I think the barber understood because she took out the scissors and began cutting. Ten minutes later, I walked out with enough hair left to show my face in public.

Final cost: 60 koruna (\$2). The lesson learned from this encounter? Improve my Czech!

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



*"The pulse
of the
student
body"*

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Yet to Fall in Love with College

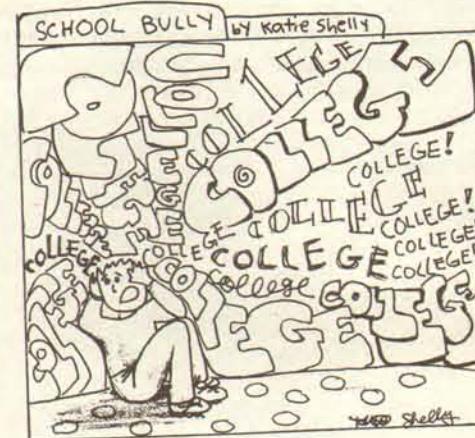
As this year comes to a close, a new wave of students starts to worry about college. Around every corner someone is talking about it. Sure, some days are worse than others. The week after college night, the response to "Hello" became "Yeah; but if I get another 20 points on verbal

Junior Ramblings

do you think Harvard will take me?" But, even on good days, it seems everyone's chatting about where he or she wants to go and what he or she wants to be.

That is, everyone but me.

I am a self-proclaimed college process dunce. Recently, however, in an attempt to mend my ways, I have been doing some research. It seems that colleges and universities are different things, although both are very expensive and are never in any shortage of mind-numbing, boring pamphlets about them-



Stuyvesant students do well in college acceptance. Last year, according to Stuyvesant's school report card, 97.5% of the graduating class went on to attend a four-year college. Then there's always the school of thought that says it isn't the school that matters; It's what you do when you get there.

College talk is a social phenomenon at Stuyvesant. Some love it, and some could stand to do less of it. But at most, it is just talk.

-Kareem Amin

CORRECTIONS

- The Day of Silence was held on April 9, not on April 14 as reported in last issue.
- Michael Borohovski is the webmaster of studentgov.stuy.edu, not stuy.gov.edu.
- Danny Goodman is a senior. His grade was incorrect in the chess team article.
- In last issue's Big Sib article, the current Big Sib Chairs were incorrectly referred to as former chairs. The five new chairs will take their positions when the current chairs graduate.

Opinions

Memories of Tiseo: Lessons in Language and Life

By JOSH ROSS

When I heard of former Stuy Italian teacher Anacleto Tiseo's passing last week, I recalled our relationship last year.

My most vivid memories of Tiseo's classes remain his reactions to the pranks my classmates and I pulled during his tenure. Perhaps most memorable was the time a kid brought in a universal remote control and turned the television on from the back of the classroom. Tiseo looked up, wondering what had happened. Then he beat the television with his multi-purpose cane until it shut off.

When Tiseo realized these television episodes were happening daily, he reached up and yanked the wires behind the television out of their sockets with that cane. As far as I know, the television in the Italian room is still broken.

One junior would saunter into Tiseo's class a few (or 25) minutes late. He'd then proceed to walk in sync with Tiseo, imitating his most obvious gestures. Eventually Tiseo registered the giggles, and realize what was going on. "Get in your seat, you big baloney!" he would say.

He personally had a nickname for me: "Skunk". He called me this if I used

the wrong tense, or if his suspicions were incurred by strange classroom events. But by his last term at Stuy, "Skunk" was more of an affectionate term than anything else.

Despite these cruel things we did to him, you got the feeling Tiseo genuinely loved his profession, the Italian language, and even our class. He loved to read Italian aloud to us with his deep accent. He wanted to share his love of his subject with us.

Tiseo maintained a unique sense of humor. He very kind to those who showed an interest in learning his subject. He respect for me increased many-fold when I began attending his 7:15 A.M. tutoring sessions.

Yet it was not until the last day of his teaching career that I truly appreciated Tiseo. The conventional student/teacher relationship was absent from our class. It was the last day of the term: we had no work. I struck up a conversation with Tiseo.

We discussed his reasons for leaving and what he planned to do in his retirement. And as we talked, I realized what a unique person he was.

I had taken him for granted for those last three terms.

By JACOB SMITH

Anacleto Tiseo was the best teacher to hit me with a cane and constantly put me down. He often sent me to the assistant principal's office, yet cared about me more than all my other teachers. He tried to forget I was part of his class, but knew more about me than any other faculty member.

Does this seem like a series of contradictions? It is. Tiseo had his quirks, and they were not always appreciated by his students. He was occasionally irrational, but everyone knew how deeply he cared about his students. He acted the way he did because of an uncommon passion for his subject, Italian.

Tiseo loved reading aloud to the class, and he loved joking with us. He made sure we knew the different conjugations for the verbs, and never failed to humorously reproach those who got these wrong. In what other class could I have had fun while reading Pinocchio in Italian? Or at least the first paragraph of it?

Tiseo did get upset sometimes, and my class was probably not extremely nice to him. We played

catch and mocked him behind his back. But, much as some kids may try to deny it, we did learn. Vito Recchia, the Italian teacher who replaced Tiseo after his retirement, was amazed by how much Italian we already knew.

In front of the class, Tiseo frequently appeared angry. But any student who talked to him individually knows that he was actually a very peaceful and pragmatic man. When I went for Italian tutoring, Tiseo would explain his reasons for responding to our class as he did. His insights were quite interesting. A man who never hesitated to make his views known, there was method to his madness.

Teitel called for a moment of silence for Tiseo on Tuesday, May 13, four days after his passing. I thought of him as I stood by my desk. I remembered all the hell we put him through. I realized again how unique and special his class was, and how amazing he himself was as a person.

We were jokesters and pranksters during his class, but we all left enlightened: we learned more about Italian, and about life.

Don't Let Stuy Go Speechless

Imagine a room where the walls are covered in awards. You are surrounded by a swarm—an ocean—of trophies. Where did they all come from?

Welcome to room 627, home of the Stuyvesant Speech and Debate Team.

Speech and Debate is one of the most prestigious and successful teams in the entire school. Started by Julie Sheinman 20 years ago, this team has brought pride and glory to Stuyvesant. It has won state championships and swept local tournaments. The team won Villager, a national tournament, for 11 consecutive years.

Yet after all this time, Speech and Debate may not exist next year. New rules from the Department of Education may overcome a team that time and time again has proven its worth to the Stuyvesant community.

Speech and Debate is constantly competing in tournaments. Every time its 200 members travel to a competition, it's considered a school trip and legal chaperones are needed. For national tournaments, this means at least one chaperone per bus, and Speech and Debate usually takes two buses.

Finding such people has become a problem, as the Department of Education recently tightened regulations on what constitutes a legal chaperone for student trips. Now, the adult must be a teacher employed at the school where they coach.

Two of the three coaches currently on the team, Sharahn McClung and Stacy Endman, are not employed at Stuyvesant. They are no longer considered legal chaperones. Without enough teachers to accompany students to tournaments, Speech will be unable to compete.

The situation may become even trickier if another Department of Education rule is implemented. This rule would require teams to meet at their own school before proceeding to the tournament. If it is passed, Speech and Debate will need more legal chaperones for local tournaments.

If some teachers were willing to volunteer weekends and accompany Speech and Debate on tournaments, the team could continue unimpeded. The time commitment is extensive, since the team competes almost every weekend. But if several teachers volunteered, the commitment could be split among them. By sacrificing some Saturdays, teachers can help keep Speech and Debate afloat.

This is more than a team. It's like a family, especially for the freshmen who are coached by seniors. The relationship between them becomes one like that of a brother and sister. Not only are these seniors a positive influence, the whole team helps provide support and stability for freshmen struggling through an often chaotic first year at Stuy.

As a member of the Speech team, I find it not only useful and supportive, but also relaxing. It's a place I can go to escape the pressures I face in school. Every day I look forward to unwinding in room 627, discussing current events with people my own age.

Speech and Debate is well supported by an enthusiastic host of students. These students walk around school each day with candy boxes, raising badly-needed funds for the team. In addition, they travel all over Manhattan asking stores for donations. The devotion of the team members has even prompted them to ask teachers to volunteer as tournament chaperones.

This incredible team needs help to keep going next year. Hopefully, teachers will find it in their hearts (and schedules) to step up and volunteer to aid Speech and Debate. Even more than their impressive record of winning, the hard work of the members deserves the recognition of continuation.

If the Speech and Debate team dies, a historic and unique piece of Stuyvesant will disappear.

-Tina Varghese

Tina Varghese is a one-year veteran of the Speech team.

The Weather Outside Is Frightful



Photo by Name

By SAM RUDYKOFF

In the past several weeks, with spring supposedly coming into bloom, I've noticed a specific trend in the weather: it rains on Fridays. The sun shines from Monday through Thursday, but without failure, it rains on Fridays.

"It seems like we've somehow been cursed," said junior Greg Longo, and I agree. It has been at least four weeks since I noticed and started counting the soggy weekends. There have been Thursdays when the weather was so idyllic that I looked up and said, "There is no possible way that it will rain tomorrow." But when Friday dawns, it's raining.

What are the odds of having such bad weather patterns? Perhaps someone should coerce a statistics student to look into it, so we can see just how unlucky we are. Maybe the odds are so small that we are not victims of overwhelming coincidence, but of a huge, anti-New

York universal weather plot. Constant rain completely contradicts the concept of Friday. Friday is an institution of sorts—a day when students are required to have good, carefree fun after school.

This is necessary to balance out

the four weekdays when we are forced to care.

Upset this balance and our eyes will glaze over, our hands will tremble, and our brains will shut down.

The weather is supposed to reflect and encourage this happy Friday mood. Why, then, is it so contrary? Even when the sun shines Friday morning, rain will be pounding the glass roof of the TriBeCa Bridge by the time I am dismissed from school. Water will be swirling down gutters. People will be running to train stations, with each puddle destroying their good cheer.

Friday rain gets old very quickly. Nobody likes it. Athletes hate it because it makes the park muddy and the courts slippery. Smokers don't like it because nothing lights when it's wet outside. To all those folks hoping to improve their tan, I simply offer my condolences. Weekend plans involving parks, walking, or anything outdoors wither and die when it rains.

The only group that thrives despite (or because of) the rain are the moviegoers. Their ranks have grown, swollen by the damp days. What else is there to do, besides eating and going home?

Due to the rain, I have found myself at movie theaters way too many Friday nights. This is an expensive habit and against my better judgment. For instance, I distinctly remember thinking "I believe I'll wait for the video on this one," when I first saw the X2 trailer. Yet I ended up seeing it opening night.

Blame the rain.

Perhaps the weather gods are hard of hearing and are mistaking "great" (the way the weather should be) for "gray." My greatest hope is that these weather gods will humor us with a warm and sunny Friday before this article comes out, just to spite me, and make it completely irrelevant.

**NOTES
FROM
THE
UNDER-
CLASS**

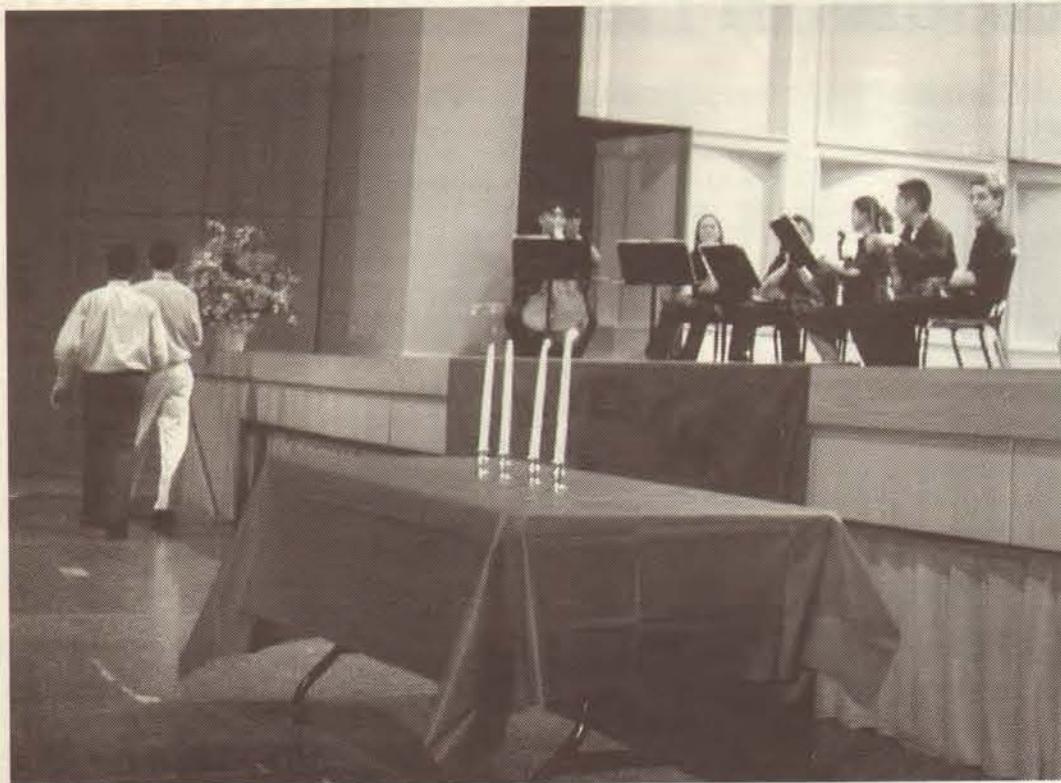
S U B M I S S I O N S

If you would like to write a letter or opinion piece for the *The Spectator*, please submit to

StuySpec@hotmail.com

with your name, grade, and phone number. We cannot guarantee publication and we reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.

94th Annual ARISTA Induction



The annual ARISTA induction ceremony was held on May 28 in the Murray Kahn Theater.



Hunter Pedersen / The Spectator

Hunter Pedersen / The Spectator

The Fire Alarm Syndrome

By CHRISTINE GUAN

On Friday, May 9, a fire alarm rang through the halls of Stuyvesant. A few minutes later, Principal Stanley Teitel came on the PA system to inform the Stuyvesant community that he was readily investigating the cause of the disturbance. He urged the members of the Stuyvesant community to stay in their classrooms for "two minutes" during this time. In the following minutes, most teachers continued to give their lessons and students continued to listen. Although the bells soon stopped ringing, the lights in the hallways kept flashing. The cause of the false alarm was never formally disclosed.

According to Teitel, the problem started on the fifth floor where a smoke head was knocked off the ceiling. He suspects that a hacky sack knocked it off. However, there is no solid evidence of this because upon the arrival of inspectors, the hallway was abandoned. "Certainly after 9/11, [dealing with the alarms] is a difficult problem for the school. They are sensitive alarms. I try to come on the public address as quickly as possible, but I have to physically make sure there is no fire. I need a visual sighting before I can do anything," Teitel said.

According to Teitel, during the AP European History Exam, the fire alarms could not be turned off after they rang. "We had to remove the smoke head from the ceiling for the bells to stop," he said. "Also, even after the bells stopped, the lights kept flashing."

Teitel then called the company that maintains the fire alarms, New York Merchants Protective Co., Inc., to come and stop the alarms. He tested the bells again on Wednesday to fix the problem and make sure that the school would be able to turn off the alarms.

False alarms have become common occurrences at Stuyvesant, so much so that many faculty members and students have grown accustomed to them and consequently ignore them.

Said Teitel, "The reason why we have so many false alarms is because the alarms don't work the way they should." Teitel also said that the fire alarms are supposed to be tested every day before stu-

dents come in.

However, physics teacher John Avallone does not take fire alarms for granted. "We shouldn't get in the habit of ignoring them. I don't think it's a good policy. When there's an alarm, leave the building. In fact, I stop my classes each time the alarms ring. I don't want to take any chances," he said.

On the other hand, english teacher Jennie Chan waits before allowing her students to heed the fire alarm. "I wait one minute for an announcement after I hear the fire alarm. If there isn't an announcement, I tell the kids to pack up, then wait another minute. Usually there's an announcement saying it's just a test."

After four years of attending Stuyvesant, senior Ming Cheung Po said that upon hearing the alarms ring, "My mind immediately disregards the alarms as another testing of the system."

Others claimed an overall attitude of indifference or mild annoyance regarding the bells. Sophomore Davina Jakobi said that the bells are "a pain because they go off so often. Usually when they go off and it's not a drill or maintenance, Teitel gets on the speakers two or three times telling us to disregard the bells, adding the loud noise of the speakers to the horrible ringing of the bells."

Sophomore Christian Ngo, who was taking the AP European History Exam during the false alarm, said, "It was distracting. It took away a couple of moments from my total test time, but it was not really that distracting."

According to Teitel, had the school need to be evacuated, the scores from that day's exam would be canceled and the test would be taken on the make up day the following week.

Such disregard for the bells can be dangerous should a real emergency arise. Said junior Vanessa Gopez, "If there is a real threat, it would be really bad because the teachers never let us out. We're never prepared to seriously move out."

According to Teitel, the whole fire alarms system will be reviewed and assessed by the maintenance company in the near future.

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IVY Essays

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IVY Verbal

Arts & Entertainment

Spring Comedians Hone Their Antics



Spring comedy slate members Caryn Morrow, Emma Herr, and Alex Pearlman.

By MAREK MERY

This year's spring comedy is Stuyvesant's own spin on Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's "You Can't Take It With You." Set in New York City in the 1930s, it brings the audience into the households of two families full of cheery eccentrics who showcase their quirky talents with every step across the stage.

The play traces the crazy antics of the Sycamore family members, who are uniquely eccentric, and the Kirby family members, who live in a lifeless and mundane house. Social differences separate the two families; the Sycamores care little about money, and the Kirbys are workaholics. The families interweave when the handsome Tony Kirby (junior Matt Russo) falls in love with the lively Alice Sycamore (senior Z Behl). Family and friends are divided in their feelings regarding the unlikely match, making the play a hectic, but hilarious, love

story.

"You Can't Take it With You" sports a diverse group of characters that keep the stage alive with energy. Essie (junior Zara Zuckerman) moves across the stage with dance steps, Ed (sophomore Alex Yu) bangs out tunes on the xylophone, and Rheba (senior Kate Petrova) belts out all her lines. With such a colorful list of characters, the audience is bound to be entertained. Petrova's understudy, freshman Kristen Ng, said, "The play has an amazingly witty script with a cast to match."

"There aren't any major or minor roles in the play. Everyone plays a crucial part, and with so much creative input on stage and off, we're sure this year's comedy will be true to its comical nature," said director and senior Caryn Morrow. She also explained, "Smaller roles are played by new students with less acting and high school experience and are given the chance to work on the show

while learning from more experienced, and often older, actors."

Producer and senior Alex Pearlman spoke about the camaraderie that quickly formed among the crew members. "After only ten days of rehearsals, we're already one big, crazy family ourselves."

"So far, we've been really pleased with the amount of dedication and hard work we've seen," said Morrow as she sat watching a rehearsal. "Actors are here four to five times a week, and we're expecting to have weekend rehearsals. The comedy is really, really, funny, and we have high hopes for our first performance." As opening night approaches, an anxious and exuberant cast and crew are sure to lead this year's spring comedy through successful and witty performances in the Murray Kahn Theater on June 6 and 7.

West Broadway's Cozy Café

By MAREK MERY

Finding the perfect Belgian dessert has never been so easy: walk two blocks up from Stuy to Starbucks, and make a left onto West Broadway. The famous Belgian waffle is recreated in Petite Abeille, a Belgian specialty café. The café boasts some of the tastiest (and sweetest) treats and desserts that could satisfy any sweet tooth.

The retro-style interior has a modern decor of steel tables and steel-rimmed chairs, cushioned maroon stools by a wooden kitchen counter, and dimly lit walls. The walls are dressed with framed comic strip excerpts, including Tin-Tin and Peanuts, and wide, long mirrors.

The variety of moderately-sized Belgian waffles and other dessert dishes, laced with many layers of toppings and sweet fruit sauce, range from \$3.50 to \$8. Pastries, like baguettes topped with chocolate sauce, cinnamon buns, cheesecakes, and cookies, start from \$2. The service is slow, however, so bring someone to talk to while you wait for your food. The somewhat absent-minded waiters float around aimlessly while you wait to be seated.

Even with the frustrating waiters, the desserts are still worth it. The dessert menu lists

sweets from the most expensive to the least expensive. At the top of the list is the La Dame Blanche Belgian waffle at \$7. The waffle is scooped with your favorite ice cream, drizzled with chocolate sauce, and topped with two inches of whipped cream.

Next on the list is the Aux Fraises waffle, which comes with fresh strawberries and sugar. The price varies from \$5 to \$8, depending on the strawberry season. The waffle, weighed down by almost two cups of strawberries, costs the least during spring. Other versions of this waffle are the Chantilly and Au Sucres. Both are soaked with the sweet fruit sauce coulis, a mixture of blended strawberries and peaches. The sauce is a bit too sweet—your tongue might begin to crawl. These waffles are decorated with whipped cream and dusted with powdered sugar.

Petite Abeille also has its own version of caramel flan (although it is small), Callebaut chocolate mousse, caramelized apple tarts, and homemade ice creams. A great dessert is La Crepe Mikado (\$6). The dessert is a mountain of the ice cream of your choice (vanilla, chocolate, caramel, coffee, strawberry), banana slices and chunks, and walnuts, wrapped in a bubbly

pancake cornucopia. Of course, it's topped with chocolate sauce.

A good complement to dessert is one of the many teas that the café offers. The café has both black tea and fruit tea menus.

Petite Abeille is a good choice for soups, salads, sandwiches, and entrees, if you're willing to spend some money. They have creative foods, but a simple order of soup, salad, or a sandwich will cost no less than \$6. As far as entrees go, it'd be a miracle to find anything on the menu that's under \$13.50. You might want to go elsewhere for an entree, because this café's moderate prices hold only for desserts.

The waffles and desserts served at Petite Abeille are simply irresistible. The cute Belgian café has four convenient Manhattan locations that house the café's delectable desserts. The desserts can satiate your sweet tooth—but they may leave you with a toothache.

Petite Abeille
107 W. 18th Street
400 W. 14th Street
466 Hudson
134 W. Broadway

Top Five Songs to Unwind a Mind

By DON JOHN

tears over report cards and cheers over the end of school.

The Strokes:
"Hard to Explain"

Since September, we've been soaking in pools of exams, quizzes, and projects. But as school starts to wind down and as we drain ourselves of the last few drops of work, why not dry ourselves in the sun with these tunes playing in the background?

I. June 1-14: There's a light at the end of the tunnel!

Red Hot Chili Peppers:
"Can't Stop"

You feel like the worst of it is over; your eyes are drifting toward the direction of the ocean and your thoughts are shifting towards your plans for two months of freedom. There's no medium more effective to vent through than the music of the Chili Peppers. With their mix of funk, rock, and sheer class, this California band will be sure to pump that little jolt back into your frazzled brain.

II. June 15-20: It's Regents time and a quick refresher is needed to jump start your mind.

Electric Light Orchestra:
"Mr. Blue Sky"

Although the name may sound like the name of a sing-a-long on Elmo's Happy Happy World, this song is filled with enough pizzazz and zest to pull you through the last leg of the school year. Even though you may be watching the sands of time slip by in the hourglass while waiting for the moment where you can let sand slip through your fingers at the beach, hang in there. This song will keep you focused in on reality long enough to get through the week.

III. June 21-26: The week of conflicting and clashing emotions;

IV. June 27-30: It's all over; put your feet up and savor the moment.

No Doubt: "Running"

The different musical styles of No Doubt have been on display since the release of their original self-titled debut album. This song offers a look into the softer tones of the group—it's a song of tranquil pleasures and mellow sounds. It runs on two things: soothing voices and background instrumentals that sound just as fresh. This is a song that is as lethally sweet as a bottle of Sunny Delight.

V. Summer 2003!

Counting Crows:
"American Girls"

If summer came with varying flavors, the Counting Crows' "American Girls" would have to be one of them. This is a song that is as rich in tone as it is colorful and as colorful as it is pleasing. Adam Duritz's deeply moving voice is enhanced to a fine degree with the backup vocals of Sheryl Crow. While listening to "American Girls," sip a chilled glass of iced tea as you take your slice of summer sun.

The SUVH Film Festival will take place tomorrow, May 30, during the twenty-minute homeroom. Make sure to vote for your favorite video after viewing each film.

Arts & Entertainment

Stuy Struts Its Stuff



Amanda Wallace models in fashion show.

By PATRICK MARTINEZ

Stuy's first fashion/talent show didn't exactly run on the smoothest track in the world. The fashion/talent Show, organized by the Student Union and the Fashion Club, was designed to be a blend of the fashion show and the annual talent show. The roughly 50 people at the Murray Kahn Theater watching the show on Friday, May 16, were entertained by models, solos, and music, but bored by long delays and technical problems.

The foremost problem with the show was the lack of people attending the event. The show was poorly advertised—few signs were posted before the show, and many people heard of it only by word of mouth. But those that attended were more than energetic, and communicated with the performers on stage with smiles and laughs.

The show also started roughly a half-hour later than planned, which may have agi-

tated audience members. Technical difficulties, confusion among the coordinators, and a band's faulty equipment also contributed to this delay.

It took some time to get the show off the ground, but as soon as the fashion/talent show started, it became very entertaining. The first act was a group of models showing off some revolutionary attire, which was all designed and made by Stuy students. Next came a band, called Violent Orange, a three-man metal group. After a four-song set that lasted 20 minutes, accompanied by a continuous drone of conversation from the audience, the band kindly reminded the audience to "take your Jesus pills" (in reference to Jesus Day, which was the day before) and left the stage.

Then, accompanied by junior John Luna on guitar, junior Karl Co sang a cover of John Mayer's "Why Georgia." Co then went on to sing a solo of Usher's "You Remind Me." Luna later sang an acoustic cover of Third Eye Blind's "Semi-Charmed Life." After some technical difficulties, the show's closing act, performed by The Hype, took to the stage. After performing some covers, including "Suck My Kiss" and "House of the Rising Sun," they ended with an original piece.

The entire show lasted a little over an hour. Afterwards, junior Adina David, president of the Fashion Club, noted the difference between last term's fashion show and the fashion/talent show. She explained that while the fashion show was run mostly by Elle Girl, the fashion/talent show was organized almost completely by the SU and the Fashion Club. Thus, after a bumpy start, the first annual fashion/talent show was an overall success for both the performers and the audience.

Chick Flick? Anything But.

By ALEX MENGLIDE

This season, the spring comedy will not be the only show on everyone's minds. Coming to the Murray Kahn Theater in early June is a play about girls, written by girls, performed by girls, and directed and produced by girls. "She Cuts Herself/She Likes to Write," a play written by singer, writer, and activist Gina Young, is going to be read at Stuyvesant as a rough reading before being performed at The Kraine Theater on East Fourth Street.

Directed by Naomi Gordon, with help from assistant director Mimi Lester, and produced by Senior SING! director Alex Rosenberg, "Cuts" deals with sensitive issues experienced by adolescent girls.

Instead of being put on under the Stuyvesant Theater Community (STC), "Cuts" is going to be a Renegade Theater Troupe production. STC financial producer Carla Kessler said about the Renegade Theater Troupe, "They [the Renegade Theater Troupe] are separate from STC...their point is to be different." In contrast to the majority of school shows, the performance at Stuy is going to be simply a reading.

The directors want the audience to be less absorbed by the actions taking place on stage, and more by the words and messages being spoken. "It's a really unique play, with spoken-word and slam poetry," revealed Gordon. Gordon feels that "progress doesn't come without a struggle," and those involved in the show feel that even 30 years after the feminist movement, the world is still molded for men. "Cuts" is "an opportunity to see the world through the eyes of women,"

said Gordon.

The story takes place in an all-girl Catholic school and involves merely four characters, all girls. The readings capture the fear, anxiety and tensions that exist in an all-girl society and traces various relationships among females. Each character is unique in their personalities and appearances, yet underneath their differences lie indisputable similarities. Young describes the girls as "androgynous, multiracial and ambiguously sexual," a description that many teenagers can relate to. Internal, as well as external problems arise throughout the play about identity, self-image, self-mutilation, depression, and homophobia—all of which are prevalent issues at Stuyvesant,

openly and honestly if they feel they aren't being judged."

Casting for the play ended mid-May. Gordon was searching for girls who were interested as well as interesting. "STC productions don't offer roles that can accommodate different kind types of people," commented Gordon. "We were looking for people who haven't been exposed by STC." Contrary to how it may seem, there is no hostility between STC and the production of "Cuts." "It wasn't like they came up to us and asked us if they could do it, and then we were like no, and they did it on their own. It was more like they just want to do their own thing," says STC production coordinator, Eddie Kaletta. Kessler, agreed and said, "I support them full on and I think that it's great that there are other theater venues now at Stuy."

The hardest of the four roles to cast, was a character named Lou, a multiracial tomboy. After hearing many girls audition for the part, Young recommended that Gordon play it. Although hesitant, Gordon finally stepped in and the script is now being modified to better fit Gordon who is white.

In dealing with issues that usually don't have the chance to surface in STC productions, "Cuts" may spark controversy. Lester believes that "people are either going to love it, or hate it. No neutral feelings. The characters are very real and if you can relate to them at all, you will relate entirely." Young agrees, and adds "if you have ever felt that it was hard to be yourself, this play is for you." Since much of the play revolves around homosexual relationships, it may not be well received by some. Gordon believes that "some people need to see it more than others," after observing a lack of awareness among her peers regarding feminism, homosexuality, racial and class issues, and body image. When asked if homophobia is a problem at Stuyvesant, Lester replied with a firm "definitely."

The tentative dates for the readings of Cuts at Stuyvesant are June 10 and 11, which have been scheduled to show in the Murray Kahn Theater. Since the production does not seek to raise money, but to educate, tickets will be inexpensive (possibly free). If it is successful, those involved plan to bring "more liberal plays such as this one to the Stuyvesant community," said Gordon, "and we hope this opens the door for more independent theater, and that people will start to use the stage as a chance to interact and express themselves." According to Young, "it's rare to see young people's experiences addressed in the arts in an authentic way," and Cuts seeks to do just that.

"She Cuts Herself/She Likes to Write" will be most likely be opening for another one of Gina Young's plays, "phone/sex/cancer," which star both Gordon and Lester (Kraine Theater, tickets \$10).

Locks of Love Gives Lots of Love

By JANE SUSSMAN

Short hair has never been so fashionable. Now, it is also charitable. With a program called Locks of Love, long hair can be cut and donated to make wigs for children who suffer from any type of hair loss condition and cannot afford to buy a hairpiece.

Recently, long-haired members of the Stuyvesant community donated their ponytails to the organization.

Locks of Love will use the long hair that is donated to create wigs for children usually sick with a disease which cannot be cured, like alopecia areata.

Locks For Love by Courtney Chin



that up to nine people are going to commit to shorten their locks, and that, "seniors are willing to do it, but they want to do it after Senior Prom."

Jaye, along with Levigion, is trying to get more Stuy students, faculty, and staff involved in Locks of Love.

"It's something so easy—it's nothing for you to cut off your hair and give it to them, it's not gone forever," said Jaye.

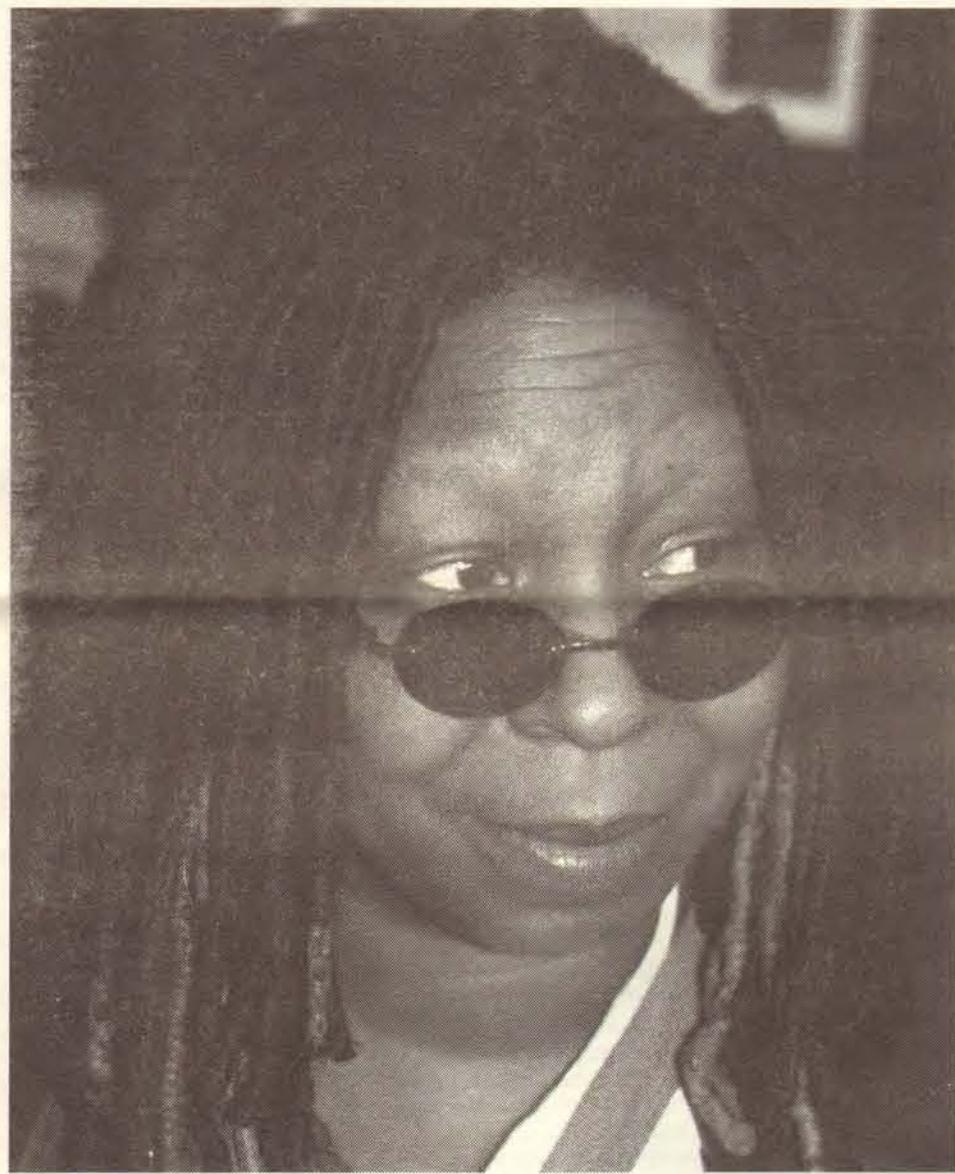
For more information and donation instructions, visit www.lockslove.org.



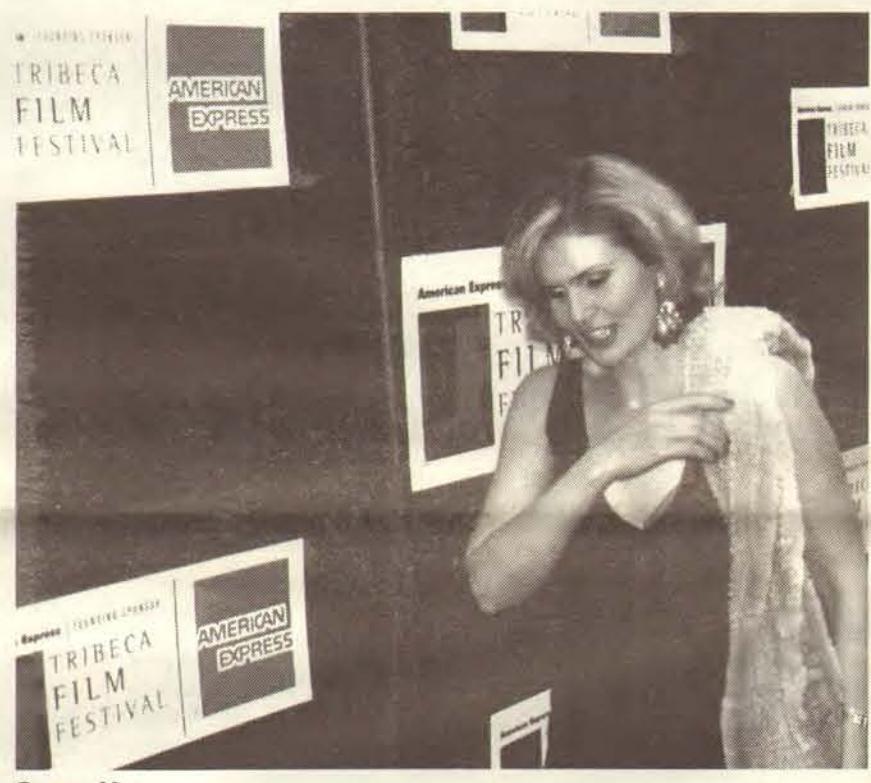
Parker Posey



Jane Seymour with daughter



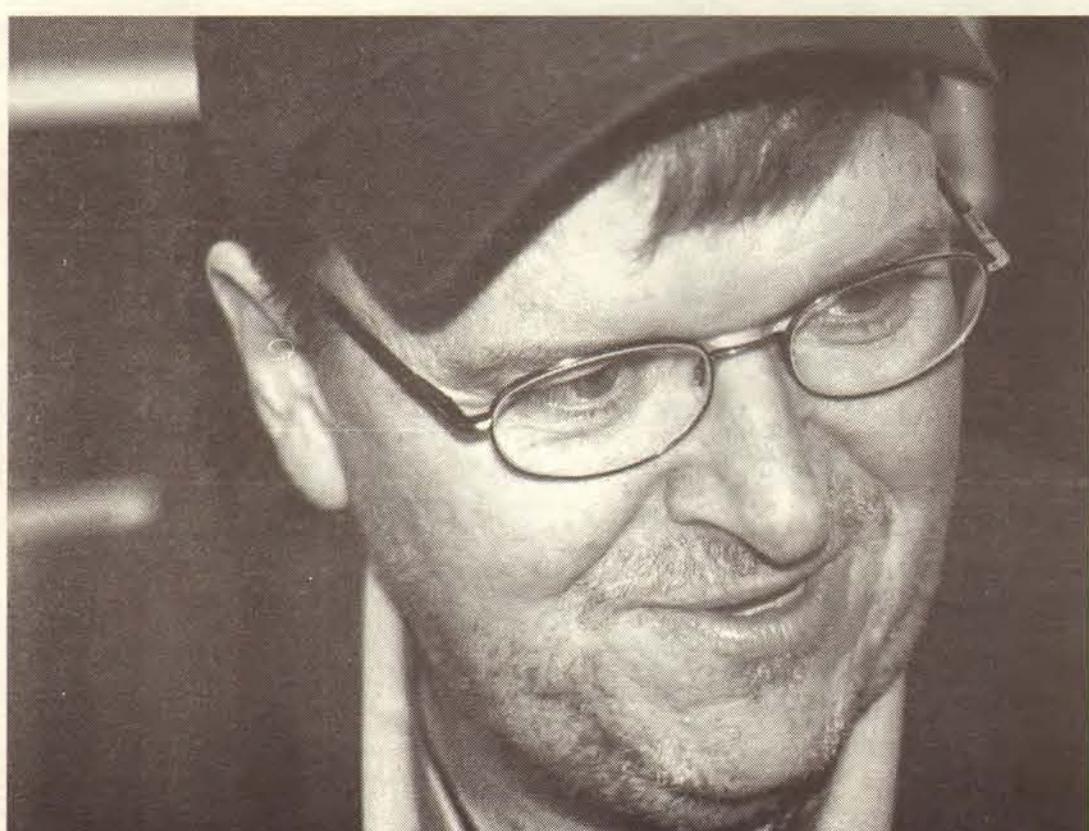
Whoopi Goldberg



Queen Noor

These photos are from the closing ceremony of the TriBeCa Film Festival which was held at Stuyvesant High School.

All photos by Naomi Gordon



Michael Moore



Jane Rosenthal

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SEQUENTIAL MATH III
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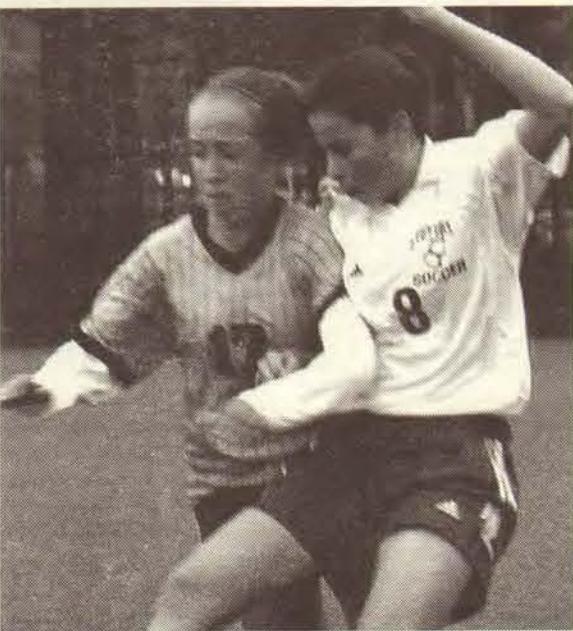
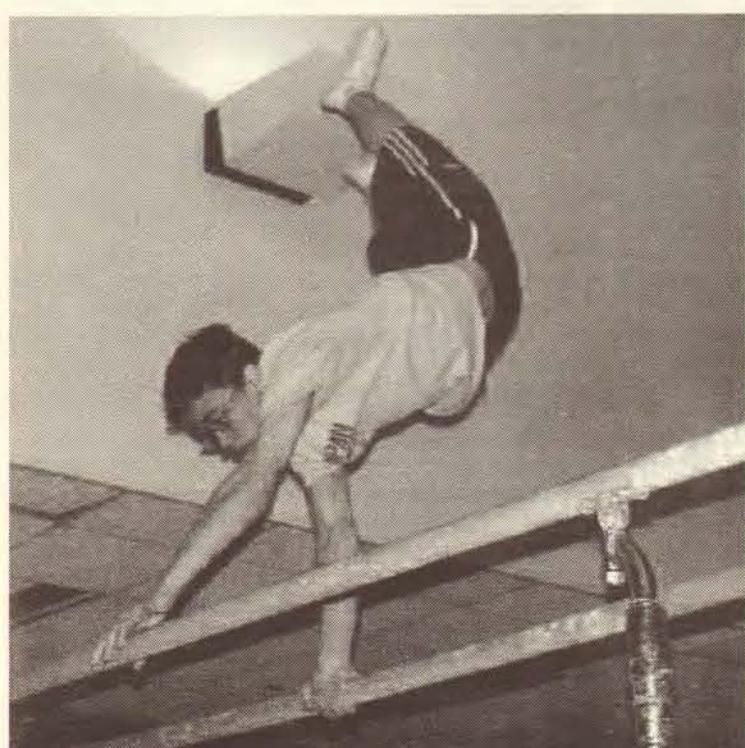
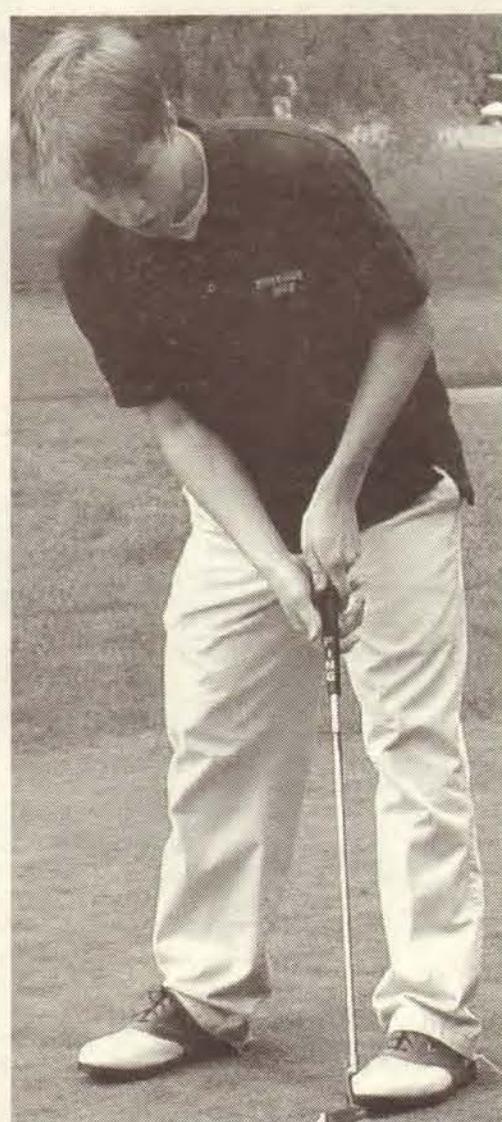
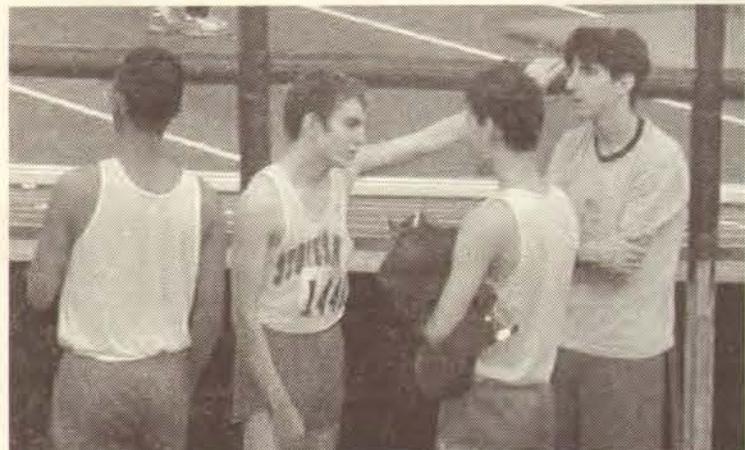
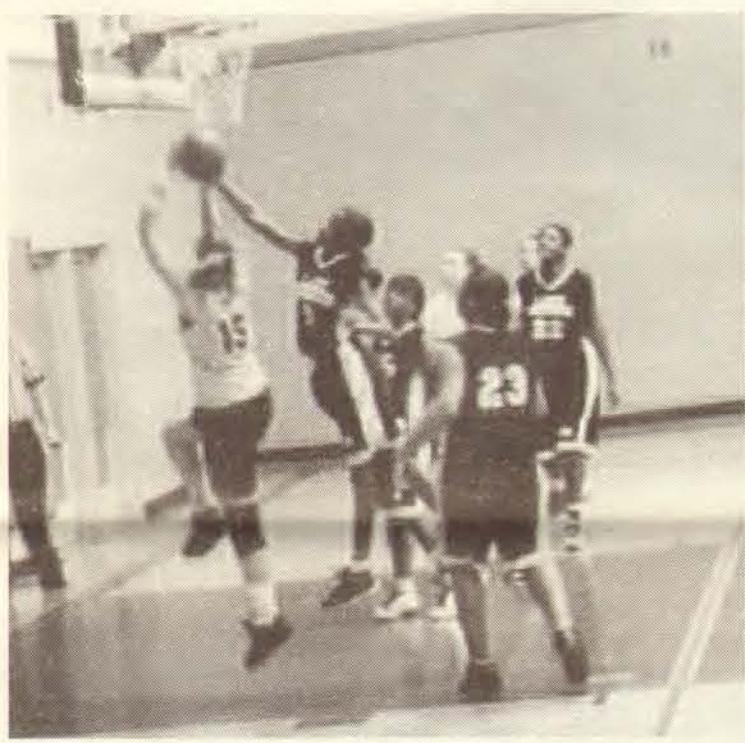
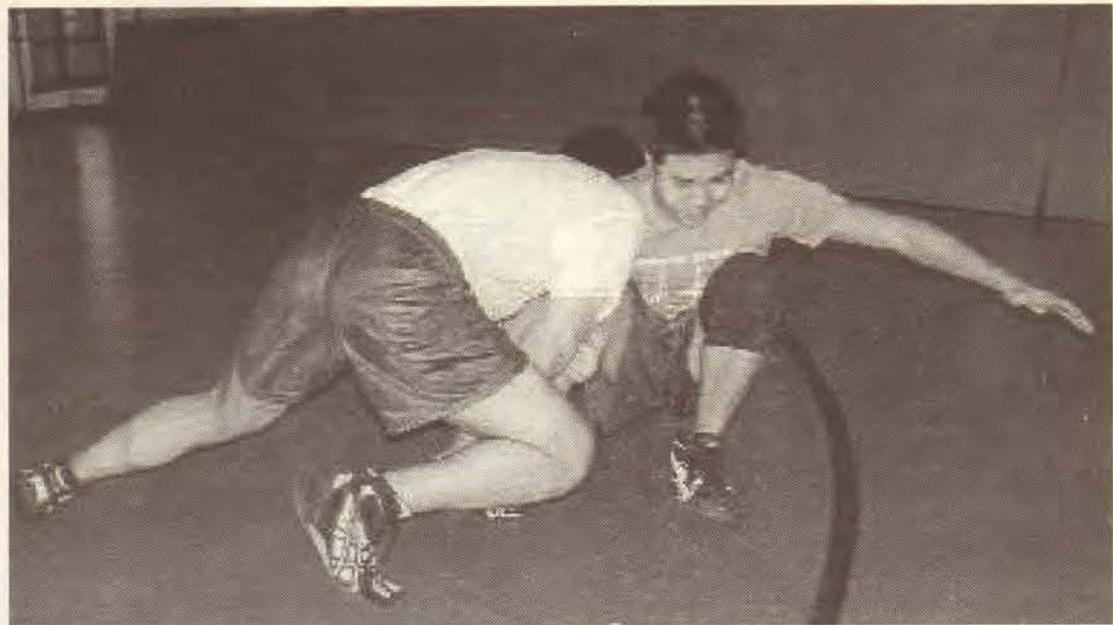
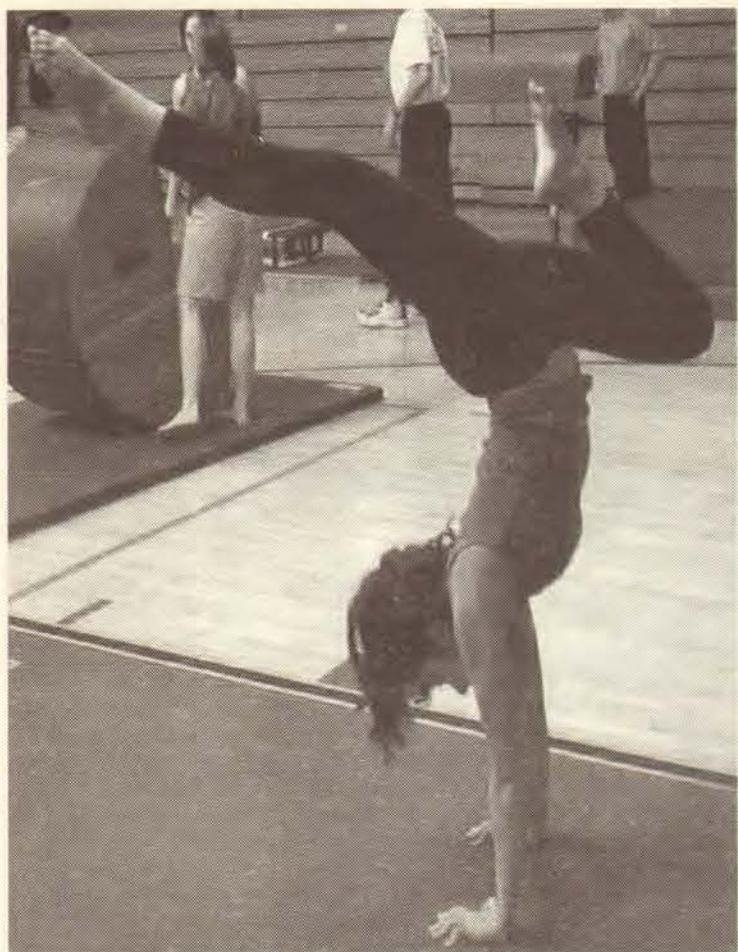
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SPORTS

Mimbas Move on to Quarterfinals



Co-captain Paige Fern defends the ball during the first round of playoffs on May 23.

By JOSH LIVINGSTONE

The Stuyvesant girls' soccer team has high hopes as they move on to the quarterfinals of the city playoffs. After winning their last two regular season games (4-0 versus Fiorello LaGuardia High School and 5-0 versus rival Hunter College High School), the Mimbas soundly defeated Townsend Harris High School 3-1 in the first round of the playoffs on Friday, May 23.

Their first playoff triumph was by no means simple. The rainy weather made the field difficult to maneuver on for the players. With freshman Julie Gaynor and junior Anna Teytelman, two Mimba starters,

out due to injuries, and junior captain Paige Fern still feeling the effects of a torn meniscus in her right knee, the rest of the team was forced to maximize their game. They did not disappoint.

Sophomore Miriam Goler scored the first goal off of an excellent assist from freshman Amy Labar. Later in the first half, a lapse in the Mimbas' defense allowed Townsend Harris to score a goal over freshman keeper Alix Schneider. Coach Phil Fisher, as quoted in a *Newsday* article on May 24, noted, "This is the first time that a team has come back on us and we've responded again. A lot of times when teams have come back on us this year, we've fold-

ed." The team did not fold on this particular Friday.

Fourteen minutes into the second half, senior captain Amalia della Paolera scored what would be the game-winning goal off an assist from Fern. Solid defense from sophomore Claire Hsu and fantastic performances from Goler, Labar, and sophomore Josie Pratt gave the Mimbas the vigor they needed to maintain their lead for the rest of the match.

A goal by junior Joanna Adamczak in the last 30 seconds of the game provided needed insurance and led the Mimbas to an impressive victory. "Our goals went in, finally," said a relieved Fern after the game.

The Mimbas were also helped on Friday by a boisterous group of fans. Among the parents, siblings, and friends in the crowd were two Stuyvesant teachers (Steven Rothenberg and Bill Kavanagh) and former captains Nina Townsend and Kristen Russo.

Wagner, the second seed in the draw, is certainly a formidable competitor for Stuy. Fisher has told the team that, even as a seventh seed, they stand an excellent chance of upsetting the Staten Island team that defeated last year's champions Tottenville High School earlier in the season.

Stuy's aspirations are even higher since a few of Wagner's better players are grappling with injuries. On top of that, Wagner struggled in its first-round playoff game against a

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Hitmen Positive with Playoffs on Horizon

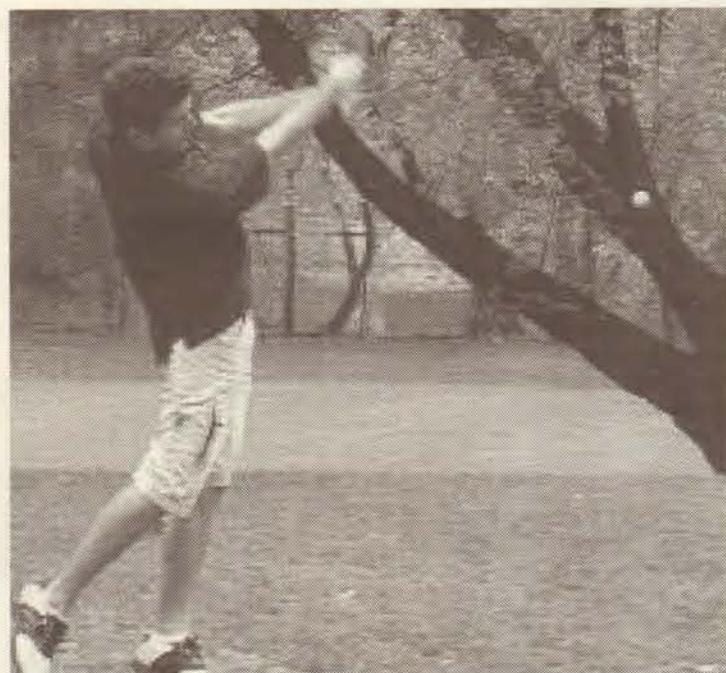
By WILLIAM AIBINDER

The best team Stuyvesant's baseball team, the Hitmen (12-3), has had in years was not able to get past their archrival and perennial powerhouse, the George Washington Trojans (14-0), as the Trojans completed the first two-game series sweep of the Hitmen this season.

In their first meeting on May 16, the Trojans, one of the top five teams in the city, rushed out to an early five-run first inning lead. The Hitmen replied with three runs in the second inning, and starting pitcher junior Billy Becker settled down, striking out eight batters and allowing only one more run in the second inning. However, this would prove to be the crucial and deciding run.

The Hitmen came out fired up in the top of the seventh inning, scoring two runs from Trojan starting pitcher Carlos Pichardo to cut the lead to 6-5 with no outs. The Trojans made a pitching change, bringing in Santiago Molina, who shut down the heart of the Hitmen lineup, picking up his first save of the season. Hitman and senior Derek Koscielok went 3-for-4 in the game with 2 RBI in the loss.

Golf Team, 8-0, Heading into Matchup with Bronx Science



Captain Oliver Horovitz tees off in a match with Christopher Columbus High School.

By DAVE EL HELOU

With seven wins and no losses, the golf team, the Stuyvesant Swingers, walked onto Pehlam Bay Park Golf Course with confidence and excitement. The Swingers were matched up against Christopher Columbus High School, the top team in the Bronx/Manhattan Division with eight wins and

just one loss. Stuyvesant entered with seven wins and no losses.

Led by their captain and top player, senior Oliver Horovitz, Stuyvesant came out with a 4-1 victory. This tied them with Bronx Science for the top position in the division, each with a record of 8-0. Christopher Columbus fell back

continued on page 15

Guns, Gangs, and Baseball: An Avoidable Mess

By EVAN MEYERSON

On Thursday, May 1, the Stuyvesant varsity baseball team, the Hitmen, faced not only Grover Cleveland High School, but an aspect of high school sports not often seen. In the middle of the sixth inning, a group of more than 10 teenage thugs rushed the field, forcing all players and spectators to flee for their lives.

The apparent leader of the gang wielded a large, silver handgun, while his accomplices picked up the bats left behind by the Cleveland baseball team. Chaos ensued, with Cleveland players climbing fences over 10 feet high, fans running away in a frenzy, and Stuyvesant players trying to escape unnoticed.

According to an article in the *Daily News*, "[Cleveland] centerfielder Ricky Perez, 17, said the shooting stemmed from a brawl he had with a former Cleveland student, Pedro Rodriguez, 15, in a grocery store that day."

Eventually the police arrived, but they came too late to prevent innocent children, parents, and coaches from suffering through a shocking experience. The saddest part is that most, if not all, of the events that took place on May 1 were avoidable on a number of different levels.

"We thought our security could handle it," was one of the only comments Grover Cleveland coach, Jack Ciano, had to offer after the on field melee desisted. According to Stuy coach David Velas, Ciano told him that "he had made the school administration aware of the problem beforehand."

If the Cleveland coach's statements are correct, this would point the finger at the Grover Cleveland principal, Dominick Scarola, and his staff, for not giving Stuyvesant the courtesy of a warning. Scarola did not return phone calls regarding the issue.

Stuyvesant Principal Stanley Teitel vehemently denied any previous knowledge of a possible fight. "If I had known that there was the remote possibility of a fight, I wouldn't have ever sent our boys to [Grover Cleveland]," said Teitel. He also stated that in a conversation with the Cleveland principal, Scarola plainly denied any previous knowledge of a problem as well.

However, Velas said, "[Ciano] told me he had made the administration aware of the security issues." It is clear that someone is trying to cover for his or her horrific mistake. Whether it is Ciano, Scarola, or another person, one thing is for sure: a Grover Cleveland employee knew that there was the likelihood, or even a possibility, of an attack.

According to Ciano, a plainclothes security officer was at the game to protect the players. But as the weapon-carrying hoodlums marched onto the field in that sixth inning, it was obvious that even with advance warning, Grover Cleveland was unable to provide sufficient protection for those attending the game.

Furthermore, there is no excuse for the negligence and disregard for moral protocol exhibited by someone at Grover Cleveland High School. By not cautioning Stuyvesant about the impending conflict, innocent lives could have been lost. Cleveland needs to bear responsibility for their laxity and apologize to those who were needlessly put in danger.

Nevertheless, all guilt does not lie with Grover Cleveland. To date, there is no existing policy stipulated by our Department of Education which would require a school to reveal any beforehand knowledge about a detrimental threat to a sporting game or intramural affair. Such a rule should already exist.

According to Assistant Director of Student Safety Gregory Thomas, "There is no actual policy that says a school must do that, but we encourage schools to do this, and it is our hope that they always will. Sometimes people don't always do what they should. We are still carrying on an investigation and trying to make this thing go away as quickly as we can."

In a city like New York, the events of May 1 should not be considered completely unusual. Animosity towards players and opposing teams or schools is prevalent in high school sports. The Department of Education must demand that all measures made to make sports games less vulnerable.

The Stuyvesant administration can consider itself fortunate that nothing too terrible happened at that game and that no one from our school was injured. The bottom line is that from now on, Stuyvesant needs to be more informed of whom they schedule for games.

There is no reason why any team from Stuy should be traveling to a school with a history of gang ties, violence, or other types of disturbances. "That was definitely one of the scariest experiences of my life," said junior Hitman Doug Gochfeld.

This is far from what any participant in Stuyvesant sports should ever experience. Obviously, it is impossible to prevent everything, but a higher state of awareness can only help the Stuy community, its players, and its administration.

If we move on from what happened at Grover Cleveland field without any resolution, the possibility of another attack becomes probable. Those who refused to notify Stuy about the possible clash must be dealt with harshly and reminded that their primary duty is to the children they educate.

Members of our baseball team could have gone to a hospital on that instead of college night, which was also May 1. If the Department of Education wants protect those they are paid to look after, a swift, direct response must be taken to secure the future of innocent competition and games in our city. We cannot afford to push one more pressing issue to the side because it is unpleasant to deal with.

Meyerson is a member of the varsity baseball team.