



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper
spectator.stuy.edu

*"The pulse
of the
student
body."*

Volume XCIV No. 2

September 25, 2003

To The Stuyvesant Community

Remembering September 11

Students Reflect on Second Anniversary

By CARLY GLAZER

"I was disappointed that a lot of people chose to forget it and not even think about it," said senior Christina Kozak. "Not just those students who weren't here when it happened, but those who were. I remember it vividly, the day, the running. None of my teachers even mentioned what day it was."

Kozak is referring to September 11, 2003, the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, and she is not alone in feeling that Stuyvesant did little to commemorate the anniversary.

Freshman Shanna Deen, though not yet enrolled at Stuyvesant at the time of the attacks and not directly affected by the events of September 11, said more should have been done.

"I don't really think the anniversary had much of an impact on me. I was in school on September 11 and everyone was in a panic, but after two years it doesn't affect me much. I do think the school should have done a bit more, like an assembly or something. I know it has been two years, but it was still a tragedy," Deen said.

Some students said that the lack of commemoration was due, in part, to the reduced number of students currently at Stuy who were present during the attacks.

"[The anniversary] affected me, but not as much as the students who were here. I couldn't get the firsthand feeling. It's sad knowing people died so close by and that Stuy alumni died. It's kind of an uncomfortable feeling," said sophomore Farrah Tan. "We didn't do as much as we should have as a school. The plaque was good but maybe we could have done something a little more unique for each alumnus who died."

Senior and Big Sib Wangui Maina had similar sentiments. "It affected me more than my freshmen. As New Yorkers, they were affected, but not as Stuyvesant students."

"The anniversary doesn't really make me think about the day that much because I wasn't really affected by September 11," said freshman Ming Fearom. "If I had been at Stuy then, I would have probably felt more effects."

Junior Vasilios Sterglov recalled his experience on September 11.

"I was at the base of the towers coming out of the train when it happened," he said.

"I'm sure the anniversary affected the freshmen because

continued on page 2

EPA Misleads Downtown Area Regarding Air Quality



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper
www.stuyspectator.org

*"The pulse
of the
student
body."*

Volume XCII No. 2

October 24, 2001

To The Stuyvesant Community

Amid Chaos, Custodians Lend Helping Hands

By JOHN LEE

Tuesday, September 11 started off as a normal day for Stuyvesant's custodial staff. The morning shift began at 6:00 A.M. It seemed that the only thing that would pose a major problem that day was a malfunctioning passenger elevator.

But when word got out that planes had struck the World Trade Center, that day became the beginning of a three-week restoration effort on the part of our school janitors.

From the day of the attacks until October 1, Stuyvesant's 30 custodians worked 24-hour shifts for the first week, fol-

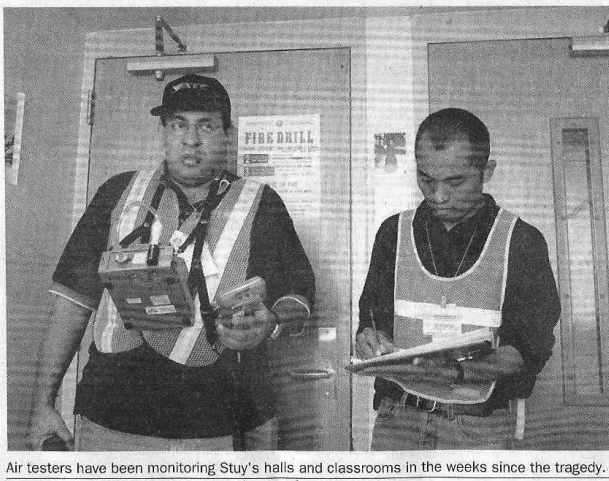
By LAURA KRUG
With additional reporting by
ABIGAIL DEUTSCH

Even if you've suffered from headaches, bloody noses or watery eyes, you have little to worry about, maintained Board of Education, city and private officials last week in spite of concerns that air quality is less than perfect.

"The tests so far have really scientifically proven that everything is all right," said Howard Bader of H.A. Bader Consultants, Inc., a firm of environmental consulting engineers. "It's good data. There really was minimal contamination of the school." The Parents' Association enlisted Bader Associates to review the test results compiled by ATC Associates, Inc., the air testing company hired by the Board of Education.

According to both Bader

An "A" for Air Quality



Air testers have been monitoring Stuy's halls and classrooms in the weeks since the tragedy.

On October 24, 2001, *The Spectator* ran a lead article on the positive results of the air-testing.

By NICK GREENOUGH

While the remnants of the World Trade Center lay in a burning mass of rubble, there were numerous discussions over when it would be safe for Stuy

students to return to the building. After the date was set for October 9, 2001, the Board of Education (presently the Department of Education) assured parents and students that the air quality was well

within Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. The Parents' Association (PA), led by President Marilena Christodoulou at that time, was unconvinced by the assurances.

Inside the building, the PA

wanted more tests done in places such as the library carpet and the upholstery of the auditorium seats. In hindsight, the PA was right to question the haste with which Stuy returned to lower Manhattan. However, the results of the tests done in the building were inconclusive at the time and did not result in further investigation.

The recent resurfacing of the topic is due to a report released by the office of the Inspector General concerning the various statements released by the EPA in the weeks following the attacks. The report stated that the EPA's September 18, 2001 claim of safe air quality was made before it had any data to back up the statement. The report also stated that the White House urged the EPA to add reassuring statements and delete cautionary ones.

Dr. Stephen Levin, co-director of the Mount Sinai-Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, was quoted in the report as saying, "For too many of these men and women, the EPA's false reassurances that the air quality in lower Manhattan was safe led to their being exposed much more than they otherwise would have been."

Joel Shufro, Executive

continued on page 3

Stuy Students Get with the Program

By RITU MOONDRA

Every year, hundreds of students line up, get sent to assigned classrooms, scramble to have their names first on the list, and then wait anxiously until their name is called. This isn't a lottery to get a ticket to SING!, it's people waiting to get their program changed.

"This is ridiculous," said junior Ilana Tsukernik, shortly after receiving her program card on the first day of school. "The programming Web site indicated that I got into rollerblading for physical education, so I practiced all summer and bought expensive rollerblades. Instead, I'm stuck in volleyball gym."

Every year, students like Tsukernik are unhappy with their schedules and are willing to wait hours just to get them changed.

"It was a pain to get my corrections executed," said sophomore Steven Teng. "I finally got it done with the help of my guidance counselor."

However, some students are calmer when it comes to dealing with their program.

"I always get an awful program, so I've learned to deal with it," said junior Li Ping Lin.

The long lines at the guidance office and the long wait in the classrooms are also a turnoff to most students who otherwise would like to get their program changed.

"I don't particularly want to

go through the whole hassle of waiting for hours just to get out of or into a class," said junior Christina Hsu.

But some students, like freshman Sami Yabroudi, found the system efficient.

"I needed some minor corrections, and I thought the process was really simple," said Yabroudi. "My program was changed right away."

Yabroudi was one of the lucky ones. This year, according to Program Chair and Assistant Principal of Technology Services Edward Wong, there were more problems for students seeking schedule changes.

"We had a six percent budget cut this year," said Wong. "Classes are very tight, with at least 33 or 34 students in each."

Junior Tamanna Haque's schedule is only one of the victims to this budget cut. Said Haque, "I waited for a whole period just to find out that all the classes were full," she said.

Even so, according to grade advisor Ben Lewak, the programming office was "no busier than any of the previous years." Lewak also says that there is a trend in the reasons for requested program changes.

"A lot of students don't want classes during first or second period because they say they can't concentrate in the morning. Some unusual requests I've had were for spe-

continued on page 2

Stuyvesant's First Annualized Classes

By SHANNON BLANEY

Starting in fall 2004, Stuyvesant will begin offering annualized classes. This means that students will have to select the courses they wish to take during both the fall and spring terms of the school year during course registration in the previous spring. Furthermore, most students will keep the same teacher for the entire year if their course is yearlong.

According to Principal Stanely Teitel, this change is a

result of the budget changes enacted after the reorganization of the Department of Education. "Before the reorganization of the Department of Education, the school received two budgets," said Teitel, "one in the fall and one in the spring. Now the school only receives one budget for the entire school year."

"I don't know what [classes] the student body wants to take when I make the budget

continued on page 3

Stuyvesant Opens the House



Anna Wiener / The Spectator

Senior and Big Sib Chair Elena Hecht talks with prospecting Stuy students at the Open House on September 23.

Freshman Rumors Meet Reality

By ERICA ANDERSON

“The most ridiculous rumor I’ve heard about Stuy is that there were ‘throw up sessions’ before tests because the stress was too much to bear,” said freshman Andrew Saviano.

Many freshmen find Stuyvesant intimidating as they prepare for their first year. The misinformation spread by word of mouth to incoming students does not do much to aid that apprehension.

“I heard that people throw chairs down the escalators,” said incoming sophomore Deep Parikh. “Maybe my friends were psyching me out.”

Some students were told horror stories pertaining to Freshman Friday.

Sophomore Amanda Wallace said that though she encountered no problems on Freshman Friday, she had heard about an incident that included a student sucking the yolk out of raw eggs.

Wallace also recalled mixed reactions to the news that she would be attending Stuyvesant.

“Some of my friends who knew people who went to the school said that because of all the pressure, people were jumping out the windows, so they nicknamed it ‘Sui-Stuy,’” she said.

“I heard a lot of negative things, but all from people who weren’t there,” said freshman Samantha Reiser. Although she was originally intimidated by the revered intelligence of Stuyvesant students, freshman orientation took care of her worries; she found people with shared interests and friendly faces.

Students Reflect on Second Anniversary

continued from page 1

it affected everyone but it’s not the same as the people who were watching it happened. I felt like we didn’t really do enough. Just putting up a plaque and a minute of silence wasn’t really enough,” he continued.

“Just putting up a plaque and a minute of silence wasn’t really enough.”
—Vailios Sterglov, junior

Fearom disagreed. “It was something really terrible but you shouldn’t get caught up in it. I thought what Stuy did was enough.”

Stuyvesant’s reputation for academic excellence seems to have caused some of the stereotypical rumors that greet incoming students.

“I thought you would literally have homework all night and just stay up all night studying for tests. The first week was okay, but I don’t think the real work has kicked in yet,” said freshman Jenny Huang.

Many freshmen were concerned that large amounts of homework would leave time for little else.

“A lot of people, when I told them I was going [to Stuy] would say things like ‘Oh, don’t you get like four hours of homework a night?’ It was a little scary, but it’s not as bad as everyone thinks it is,” said freshman Vassie Constantine.

Freshman Elise Combier Kapel heard similar things. “[I heard] the work is so hard that everyone turns to drugs,” she said.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, incoming sophomore

Brandon Franz was told that there was no homework at Stuyvesant.

Freshman Kate Mulhauser, already nervous about getting lost in the building, worried

“I heard that people throw chairs down the escalators.”
—Deep Parikh, sophomore

because she was told, “You were assigned a number in every class, and you were referred to as that number.”

It is unclear how many of these rumors got started and how many are based on truth. Still, it is early in the term. Much time remains for new freshmen to separate truth from falsehoods and churn out their own new set of misleading tales for next year’s newcomers.

Future Blackouts Will Not Leave Stuyvesant in the Dark

By THERESA LANGSCHULTZ

The blackout that affected most of the northeast United States on Thursday, August 14 shut down most of our city. Though many had lights within 24 hours of the blackout, what if the same had happened during the school year?

Students and parents can rest assured, according to Principal Stanley Teitel, as Stuyvesant would have enough resources to handle the situation.

According to Teitel, the school would be equipped to keep kids overnight if another blackout or something similar

were to happen, as part of the school’s safety plan. This includes use of the generator, which would restore necessary power to the building.

“Now, we’re not talking five course meals, but we would have at least water and granola bars for everyone,” Teitel said.

If students needed to stay the night, the sleeping arrangement of the school would tentatively be breaking up the grades by putting the females on the upper floors, and the males on the lower floors.

“Senior girls would be on the ninth floor, with senior boys on the second floor, and so on,” Teitel said.

Stuy Students Get with the Program

continued from page 1

cific lunch periods because of physical or stomach problems,” he said. “And many times, parents ask if their children, who are siblings, can have the same lunch period.”

According to Lewak, the latter accommodation is “usually made as long as the classes aren’t full.”

Another issue this year was that juniors were allowed to change their programs on the first day, while the seniors changed their programs on the second day. Traditionally, seniors have changed their programs first, so that they would get priority for seats in classes they may want to add or switch into.

“I don’t understand why the college meeting couldn’t have been switched to Tuesday. I think seniors should have first

priority. A lot of the AP classes were filled up because the juniors made their changes first,” said senior Julia Yang.

Wong supplied a simple reason for the change.

“There was a senior assembly this year concerning new changes in the SSR process that conflicted with the day that seniors usually get to have their programs corrected,” he said. “That was the only reason for the change.”

Wong said that he didn’t receive any complaints on behalf of the seniors about the adjustment.

Perhaps dissatisfied students will receive a more desirable schedule when they sign up for the spring term. Until then, they’ll just have to get used to the horrors of the earliest and latest lunch periods and volleyball gym.

New School Liaison Between Teachers, Students, and Parents

By EUGENE THEODORE

Stuyvesant parents and students now have someone to turn to when they have questions. Starting this year, Harvey Blumm will be responsible for enabling communication between teachers and parents as the school’s parent coordinator.

The position of a parent coordinator was appointed this year by the New York City Department of Education. It was first created to benefit those schools which, unlike Stuyvesant, do not have a working Parents’ Association (PA) to facilitate interaction between students’ parents and teachers. The role of the parent coordinator is to communicate with parents who have questions and refer them to the appropriate person.

“Suppose a student has a problem with a teacher and their parent calls up the school.

I can arrange for them to have a meeting with the teacher, the AP, or a guidance counselor,” Blumm said. “I can also advise students on which PA people to see if they want to ask about the PA for club funding or trips.”

Blumm sees himself mainly as an “advisor to the PA. I will observe SLT meetings, School Tone meetings, and anything else I need to so that I can have as much information as I can.” Blumm plans on working during the evenings and on weekends “in order to facilitate parents by being available to them when they aren’t working.”

This year, Blumm has two projects he will be working on. The first is the Stuyvesant Strut, which will take place Sunday, October 19. The other is to improve the system for college bus tours in order to give all senior students the possibility to visit colleges they are interested in.



Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm.

Physics and Math Regents Re-add Their Numbers

By CHUN-CHE PENG

Recently, the New York State Board of Regents created a new scoring chart for the June 2003 Math A Regents exam, which would allow more students to pass, stated Assistant Principal of Mathematics Danny Jaye. A committee is also meeting to discuss rescaling the June 2003 Physics Regents.

According to the State Education Department Web site (www.nysed.gov), as few as 37 percent of the students who took the Math A Regents passed. The Physics Regents had similar failure numbers to the math exam.

These statistics prompted State Education Commissioner Richard Mills to request that the Board of Regents create a 12-member investigative panel to review the construction, administration, and subsequent scoring of the Math A exam that was administered this past June. Based on the panel’s recommendation, Mills directed the State Education Department to create and issue a new scoring chart for the June 2003 Math A Regents Exam.

According to Jaye, who is on the investigative panel, the State Education Department canceled the Math A Regents as a graduation requirement for current juniors and seniors. As for freshmen and sophomores, their scores were rescaled. Local districts were given the option to substitute Math A scores of juniors and seniors with scores from tests given locally.

The new scoring chart allowed some students to increase their score by as many as 18 points, said Jaye. In accordance with the new chart, freshmen and sophomores who had previously received a 47 or

48 on the June 2003 Math A Regents would now receive a passing score of 65.

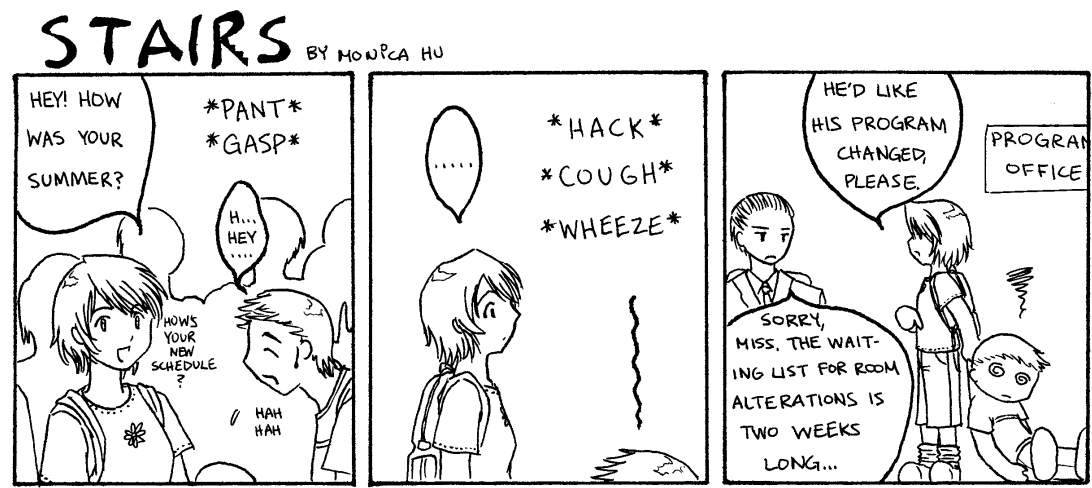
Despite the rescaling of the Math A Regents, failing scores from the June 2003 Physics Regents are not likely to be rescaled. According to Assistant Principal of Chemistry and Physics Dr. Olga Livanis, this is because a passing grade on the Physics Regents is not required to graduate from high school.

In order to pass the new Physics Regents, students need to get 67 or 68 percent of the questions right, explained Livanis. Since you only need a 65 to pass, the Physics Regents exhibits what is called a “negative curve.”

Senior Matthew Kim thought that the negative curve was inappropriate for a test this difficult. “If anything, the exam should have a positive curve, he said.

Livanis did not believe that the Physics Regents was difficult and emphasized that the new Physics Regents is testing whether you meet or exceed the standards. The new exam differed from the old exam in that the curriculum was shortened but students needed to understand the individual topics more comprehensively. Despite the results of the 2003 Physics Regents, Livanis hopes that the results for next year will be better now that teachers are more aware of what will be tested on the exam.

Jaye expressed similar optimism for the Math A Regents. As one of the members on the Math A Regents investigative panel, Jaye said that strong corrective measures will be recommended to Commissioner Mills that will prevent future assessment catastrophes.



Stuyvesant Opens its Doors to Prospective Students



Anna Wiener / The Spectator

For the first time, students were allowed to tour Stuyvesant prior to acceptance.

By LIREN ZHU

As high school seniors are spending weekends on college tours, New York City eighth graders had the opportunity to go on their own tours to see if they're interested in applying to Stuyvesant.

In an effort to try to ease post-acceptance decision making prospective students toured the building and received information about Stuy at an open house, which took place on September 23 and 24.

According to Assistant Principal of Pupil Personnel Services Eleanor Archie, the intent of the open house was for potential students to obtain insight as to how Stuyvesant runs. "It allows [prospective stu-

dents] to see if Stuy is really the right place for them," she said. At the open house, Stuyvesant's academic values and its extracurricular activities were discussed.

Many eighth graders and their parents believe this was a great way for them to find out more about Stuyvesant High School before they apply.

"When you're choosing a school, it's important to get a feel for it," said Lily Newman, an eighth grader at the City and Country School.

Through the open house, the school hopes to appeal to a larger number of students that will hopefully be interested in coming to Stuyvesant High School.

Stuyvesant's First Annualized Classes

continued from page 1

decisions," continued Teitel. "I will be in a better position if, in August, when I sit down to make the budget decision, I see the picture for the whole year." However, Teitel did warn that the change might limit the options students have regarding electives, as there will be less scheduling flexibility.

A committee has recently been created by Teitel to detect any currently unforeseen dilemmas within the plan to annualize classes. "[Assistant Principal of Mathematics] Mr. [Danny] Jaye is the chair of the committee," says Teitel. "Interested faculty members may join."

Faculty members expressed mixed emotions regarding the change. Coordinator of Student Affairs Matt Polazzo said it would have a positive effect at least on the structure of Advanced Placement courses.

Since AP exams take place in May, second term AP teachers have very little time to prepare their students for the exam.

Another positive result of the change, according to Teitel, will be the smooth transition into spring term, as the teacher knows exactly where students left off.

Assistant Principal of Chemistry and Physics Dr. Olga Livanis had a different opinion. With regard to her own experiences with classes, she said, "I hoped to keep some classes, sometimes."

However, Teitel, proposed a solution for this: If classes do become annualized next year, he will change programs for those students who need to change their teachers, such as students who fail the first term. "We will entertain a limited number of mid-year changes but we are not reprogramming the entire school," said Teitel.

Locker Traditions Clipped by New Policies

By AUDREY UONG

On the morning of September 8, 2003, Stuy students were crowded on the bridge a half-hour or more before homeroom began. It wasn't class they were eager to get back to—they were ready to fight for the best lockers in the school. Most coveted were lockers at the second and sixth floor bars or any locker on the second floor.

"I got to school around 7:15 and I waited for about 45 minutes until the doors opened. I had a lock, my friend had one, and I had a plastic thing for saving another locker. But when we got to [the hallway], Ms. Damesek was there and told us not to put our locks on any lockers or they would be clipped," said senior Stella Binkevich.

Sophomore Hye-Min Park had a similar story. "All of my friends and I got here at around eight, and we thought we could get in if we came early but we ended up having to wait. When the doors opened we ran in, and ran up the stairs to the sophomore bar. It was like a marathon. But when we got there, there was yellow tape across the lockers."

Traditionally, many Stuy students have put their locks on lockers that were convenient rather than complying with the rules and taking their assigned locker. If a student wanted to claim his or her assigned locker but found that someone else had already taken it, he or she would leave a note of warning stating that the lock would be clipped if it was not removed by the end of the day.

However a new policy cracking down on "locker theft" says locks can be clipped without warning and has led many students to claim their assigned locker or not to have a locker at all.

"Before, students would just take lockers and everyone was okay with it. But now the administration is cracking down hard, and I haven't even claimed my own locker yet," said senior Salma Siddique.

Binkevich said that the senior bar was a Stuy tradition that the administration shouldn't touch.

"I think that [having lockers at] the senior bar is a tradition, and it's worked out every year, so I don't know why the administration feels like it should butt in. Before, the students who wanted bar lockers had one, and the ones who didn't didn't have one. I think it's a real problem when even the SU president doesn't have a senior bar locker," she said.

If you were lucky enough to be assigned a senior bar locker, even claiming it was difficult. "I was walking with my friend to get her bar locker and they wouldn't even let me into the area. Basically, if your name wasn't on a list, you weren't even allowed to be in there," said senior Lisa Fleming.

However, Dean William Clemmons said that in the days before school started, the deans and the administration came together to decide to change the locker policy slightly.

"It was never our policy to have students come and pick out their own locker," said Clemmons, "But some students

came in the past and chose a locker that was near their class or a hangout. And when the assigned lockers came out, they didn't want to switch anymore. We figured that the students should know better now, so we decided that instead of putting a warning notice on a locker that's been taken by someone who wasn't assigned to it, we could just clip it right away. Those warnings were just a courtesy."

Clemmons went on to say that a notice was sent out to students informing them of the new policy and signs were posted up around the school stating it as well.

"It's just a waste of time and resources for these signs to be posted if everyone's just going to ignore them," said Clemmons, "and deans have more important things to concentrate on than clipping locks."

According to Clemmons, since the new policies have been enforced, more students have cooperated with the rules.

"Last year, we clipped twice as many locks as we have this year," he said.

Meanwhile, the students assigned to a senior bar locker—half of the students in homeroom 7M and half of the students in homeroom 7N—have been begged, wheedled, and pleaded to give up their locker.

"I've even been offered money for my locker," said senior Ethan Frisch.

But perhaps junior Aleksey Zozulya's philosophy is best when it comes to lockers.

"I always take my assigned locker," he said. "It's not that important. It's just a place to keep your books and stuff."

Eleventeen Period Day By Eric Lee



EPA Misled Stuyvesant Community

continued from page 1

Director of the NY Committee for Occupational Safety and Health was also quoted in the report. He said, "When the White House interfered with the EPA's assessment of the toxic nature of the dust that was released by the collapse of the WTC, it placed the health of Wall Street over the public's health. The action adversely affected the health of our democracy by denying our citizens the information they needed to make informed decisions."

The condition of Stuyvesant High School's air quality posed similar concern. When students first returned to lower

Manhattan, the PA held various protests near the entrance of Stuy. They successfully lobbied

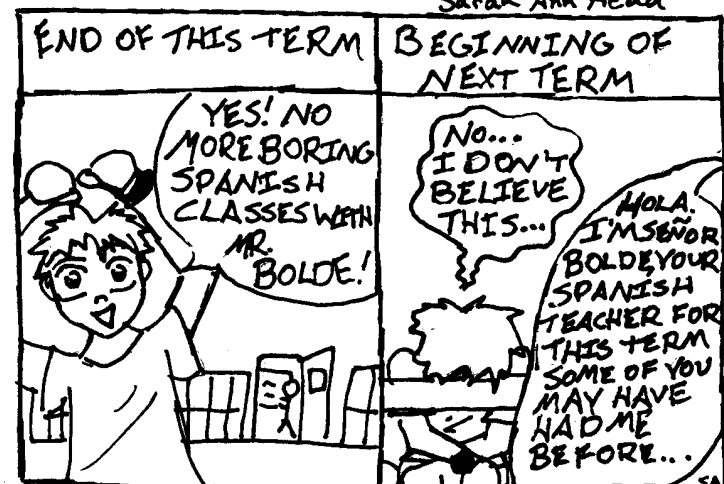
There are still many questions left unanswered from September 11.

for air-testers to monitor the school. During the remainder of the 2001-2002 school year, they obtained statistics on harmful particles that were well within EPA guidelines.

Even so, there are still many questions left unanswered from September 11. Though the school was cleaned after the attack, the fires from the wreckage that were burning for several weeks after the catastrophe now seem to have been much more dangerous than originally thought.

Head of Pediatrics at Mount Sinai Hospital Philip Landrikin was quoted at one point following the attacks as encouraging students to return to school in the area and that everything was okay. Later, he publicly apologized for the statement saying, "I never would have let my grandkid go back to school in lower Manhattan."

To BOLD(E)LY GO... Sarah Ann Head



Interested in writing for the *Spectator* Features section? Come to recruitments on Monday and Tuesday, September 29 and 30 in Lecture Hall A after 10th period.

Interested in joining
The Spectator?

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

The best kept secret at Stuy!



IVY Verbal



1300 Review



IVY Essays

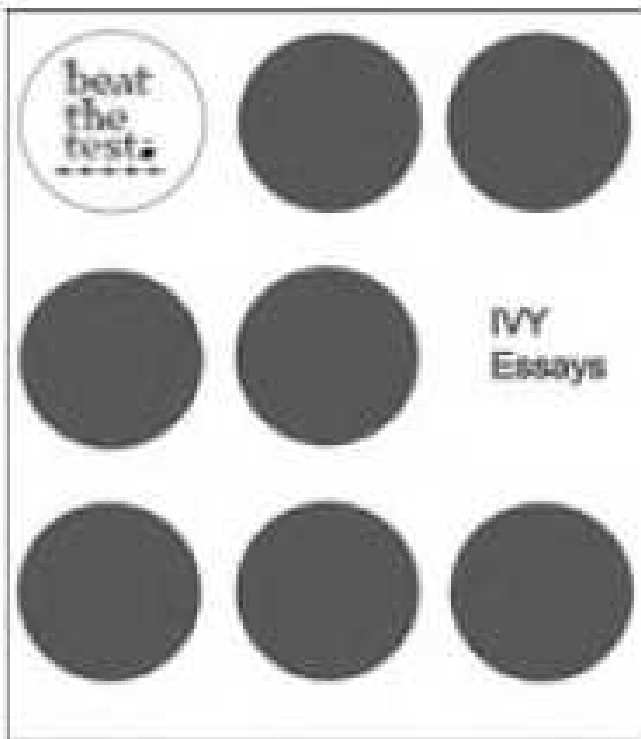


IVY Composition

(917) 734 -3884

Home of the Earth's Hardest Sentence Completions, Asian Test Taking Secrets, the Earth's Hardest Analogies, and the patent-pending Boolean Grid methodology.

Students are traveling from all over the United States to 5th Avenue and 21st Street in Manhattan for the Boolean Grid! It works!



IVY Essays \$20 (book only). 1200 Verbal Review \$10.
The above books are available directly from Trademark Universal.

Opinions

the diary of a mad senior

There are a lot of cliché reasons to love senior year: The lack of real classes, or lack of classes as a whole. Sitting on the senior bar. Random visits to the pier. But the current list is incomplete. After only a couple of weeks, it's clear that the teachers this year are an entirely different breed of teacher from those that grind us through sequential math and Regents chemistry.

I'm no longer just another kid teachers have to prep through a Regents exam or an SAT II, because, for the most part, there aren't any of those this year. I'm also no longer just another ID number to be entered into a master formula to determine my fate. No, my teachers this year have taken a radical new approach to the teacher-student relationship issue; they treat us like adults.

For example, in Mr. Gern's AP English class, for the first time I have the ability to choose when I want to read Homer's

Illiad, as long as I am up to a certain point two weeks from now. This is helpful, especially when there's a particular night when you'd much rather be watching the Giants lose to the Cowboys than reading pages 32-63.

In Mr. Donin's Prejudice and Persecution class, you watch videos that are actually interesting and relevant. His eccentric teaching method, brutal honesty, and maniac energy in the classroom make his class quite an experience. Kids will actually cut other classes or even miss lunch just to sit in his class.

Then there's government teacher Mr. Mirer. Mirer doesn't believe in tests, so we don't have them. Kids have walked out of his class with 95s despite getting a 0 on the departmental final. Students have been known to write the essay for their final in a foreign language, or an expanding spiral. However, Mirer says he does make an effort to read every essay that he's required to grade, even if it makes him dizzy in the process.

Ms. Nolen, who is teaching a new engineering class, my science elective, has decided to eliminate stress by making all the tests open notes. Though obviously not all teachers can adopt this method, it is effective with seniors because it forces us to show up on days other than the test day.

Lastly, there's calculus, the only class in which I get homework every day. Math is usually the least personal when it comes to student-teacher relationships, simply due to the rigid nature of the subject, and that probably won't change all that much this year. But honestly, 20 minutes of homework per night isn't all that much to handle...yet.

Having gym every day is another nice feature to a senior schedule, as you're guaranteed a chance to exercise your arms, your legs, jubilation, or most importantly, anger (Don't take kickboxing). Emotions are running high through the whole year, and gym is a temporary escape from the stress of the college application process.

I don't know how this system has evolved. Maybe departmental APs believed that this was the only way to entice seniors to come to class, or maybe these teachers, all of whom are quite atypical of the rest of Stuy's faculty, are attracted to the maturity level of senior classes. Regardless, it's a nice way to make that high school-to-college transition; for the first time, you have adults treating you as equals. Next year, though, I'll walk into a lecture hall with 350 students and a Nobel-prize winning Professor, and the cycle will start all over again.

—Josh Ross

Free the Halls or Free the Frees

By SAM RUDYKOFF

It's a new year, and yet another hall policy has been instituted at Stuy.

For freshmen unfamiliar with recent Stuy history, last year brought restrictions to students' wide hallway freedoms. Arguments flew back and forth, cumulating with a student protest, and this year, a slightly modified hall policy has been implemented. It has elicited lukewarm responses so far. In the words of junior and SU Vice President Meredith Gringer: "I'm not entirely happy, but I feel like this is progress."

Approximately half of the school's hallways are designated as off-limits for students. The third, fourth, and seventh through tenth floors, as well as the west wing of the school are now all "no loitering" zones. The densest cluster of classes on any floor is west of the fire doors; hence, the new west wing restriction.

All of this may be seen as an improvement on last year's sit-in eliciting policies.

The intention behind all this change has been to make the Stuy environment more "conducive to learning."

By discouraging talking in these areas, the administration hopes to minimize disturbances in the classroom, and keep disruptive students from inhibiting

the work of those inside. However, this hall policy, like so many others we have had, will not serve its purpose. It will impose meaningless regulations on students, yet again, while not solving the problem of classroom concentration.

There's more than noisy students out there disrupting classes. Classes are hardly taught in bubbles. Television sounds spill in from neighboring classrooms, desks are loudly moved in the rooms above. Teachers and security officers may inadvertently cause distractions. Occasionally, the fire alarm will go off without reason. Standard school announcements can have the same effect.

The fact is, in order for a student to be distracted by any of these noises, then he or she would have to be paying very little attention in the first place. The student who notices hallway noise is probably in the process of staring out the window, watching the clouds sail by. It would be a distraction from a distraction.

If the administration, exclusively holding students accountable, wanted to keep the hallways silent, they should allow us to leave the building during frees.

Just think of it. Students who aren't in the building can't cause disturbances in it.

Think of the impression this

would have on the students. Outside, we could study in the park or blow off steam, making us happier and more attentive when in actual classes. Spending frees inside a building on a beautiful, sunny day cannot be helping our spirits. And surely, any complications in organization presented by letting us out for frees would be outweighed by all the effort spent creating and enforcing hall policies.

Perhaps the recent chain of hall policies is not exclusively to cut down on hall noise. Perhaps it's angled at school tone as well. Stuyvesant will seem a more professional, dignified, and studious place if students aren't lying on the ground in every nook and cranny, reading and talking. The first and second floors have, after all, been designated "study areas," not "floors you can spend frees on."

But designating floors as "study areas" won't make us more prone to study during frees. Nothing really will. A student who wants to study will study anywhere, on any floor—regardless of where the fire doors are standing. And students who don't care to study are better off outside, where they won't interrupt students who do.

That, after all, is why we call those periods "free."

The Danger of Misinformation

By GEORGIANA POPA

"Of all nature's gifts to the human race, what is sweeter to a man than his children?" —Cicero

All parents want to see their children grow up happy, successful, and most of all, healthy. Special care is usually taken to assure children's safety. But two years ago, environmental problems resulting from the collapse of the World Trade Center imperiled Stuyvesant students' health, and many adults refused to recognize the possibility of risk.

Inhalation of asbestos, lead, plastic, or cement can increase the risk of cancer. Despite the presence of such fumes, on October 9, 2001, Stuyvesant students returned to their building, just a few blocks from Ground Zero.

Shortly after, Dr. Phillip Landrigan sent a letter to Stuyvesant parents describing the building as safe. However, the city had not properly cleaned Stuyvesant High School. Inspectors had tested the ventilation systems, but the carpets and auditorium seats had not been changed. Furthermore, the fires at Ground Zero burned for months after the attack, contaminating the nearby air with smoke and dust.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) put out a report saying that there was no need to worry. Yet according to Dr. Stephen Levin, co-director of the Mount Sinai-Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, the EPA has given us "false reassurances." In a press conference on September 15, Levin said, "This is a terrible public health consequence of the failure of the EPA to carry out its mission: To protect the health of the American people."

Then on August 22, 2003, the Office of the Inspector General released a statement: "Evidence gathered through government hearings, news reports, public polls, health studies, and our own interviews indicated that the public did not receive sufficient air quality information."

In light of this, it seems that the EPA gave incomplete information to the public. They had told people the downtown area was safe, as everyone recovered from shock and trauma. However, as George D. Thurston of NYU School of Medicine said, "People don't want to be reassured. They want facts" (NY Times).

Despite this controversy, there are many people—such as last year's Parents' Association co-president, Dale Bernstein—who think that there have been no environmental problems in our building. "Besides some residue on the old carpeting in the auditorium, there was no

evidence of asbestos in Stuy," said Bernstein. "Everybody wanted to get back to their lives. Everybody was pushing. However, knowing what we know now, I think it would have been more prudent to wait a bit longer before returning."

But our school's administration was never given the chance to decide for themselves.

On October 5, 2001, the chancellor instructed Principal Teitel to return to Stuyvesant the following Tuesday. "I received a phone call from [former] Chancellor Levy, informing me of his decision to return to our school ASAP. This choice was basically made for me," said Teitel.

We cannot change the fact that the EPA provided inaccurate reports and possibly withheld information. Whatever the justification for these actions, there is no way we can turn back time and repair all the damage. However, we can do something to help research and prevent diseases that might have resulted from the collapse of the WTC.

A health registry is being put together to address the issue. The registry's purpose is to connect the people whose health was affected by the environmental problems of September 11. A team is gathering data from inhabitants of downtown Manhattan and analyzing it, looking for illnesses potentially caused by the fumes and dust of September 11. Students in Stuyvesant High School, especially juniors and seniors, are encouraged to fill out forms regarding their health situation.

The discovery of certain sicknesses, health conditions, or patterns resulting from exposure could lead to problems for anyone involved. If everything is well documented, however, information and warnings would be readily available to us all. The registry could result in new developments and maybe even new cures.

It is obvious that we will never be able to compensate for the actions of the EPA or the Board of Education. However, we can help protect ourselves. By taking part in the health registry, we can help inform ourselves. We can learn from this.

In the wake of tragedy, at a time when it was essential to prevent further tragedy, the very institutions designed to protect us failed to do so. And at Stuyvesant the children for whom, by our social standards, the most care should be taken, were thrust in harm's way. By withholding, misconstruing and not searching for facts, the EPA and others endangered our health. We must take steps to repair the damage now, inform ourselves of the danger we faced, and prepare against future problems.

"NO TRESSPASSING" BY NICOLE SINGER



The Spectator will be starting a new advice column. Send questions you have about the school, or anything else, to SpecOpinions@hotmail.com.

Arts & Entertainment

West Side
(Highway) Story

By COURTNEY CHIN

Many consider the West Side Highway to be limited to angry motorists and perhaps the select few that depend on bicycles for daily exercise and transportation. However, with the addition of hip and fun activities sprinkled along the highway, this popular misconception might change. From batting cages to a trapeze school, the West Side Highway can entertain any Stuyvesant student in need of excitement and fun.

The closest activity to Stuyvesant is the beach volleyball courts at Pier 25 (on North Moore Street). Just a block away from Stuyvesant, the volleyball courts are a fun activity just a few steps away from school. The courts are maintained by the Manhattan Youth Recreation and Resources Organization, a non-profit agency that sponsors many activities in and around TriBeCa, Battery Park City, and Pier 25. Court space must be reserved in advance; contact Manhattan Youth at (212) 766-1104.

If volleyball is not your thing, a miniature golf course open from May to October is

also run on public funds by the Manhattan Youth. In addition, batting cages just south of Pier 25 are available on a weather-permitting basis from noon till dusk seven days a week. The price is \$2 for every 15 pitches. Cages are available for softball and baseball at both beginning and advanced levels (pitch speed varies accordingly). Helmets and bats are also available.

Two blocks from Stuyvesant is the Downtown Boathouse at Pier 26 (on Hubert Street). The boathouse is supported and run strictly by volunteer effort, so the canoes and kayaks can be borrowed free of charge. Many fun programs are available, such as the introductory kayaking class offered on Wednesday evenings or the Walk-up Kayak program that runs on weekends and holidays up through October 15.

Adjacent to the Downtown Boathouse between Pier 26 and Pier 32 (on Watts Street) is the Hudson River Park Skate Park complete with half pipe, street course, and bowl. Use of the facilities is free of charge to all rollerbladers and skateboarders. The park is open from 2 P.M.



The Trapeze School, located next to the West Side Highway, encourages people to “forget fear” and “worry about the addiction.”

until dusk on weekdays and 10 P.M. until dusk on the weekends.

The Hudson River Park Skate Park is dwarfed by the mammoth Chelsea Piers Extreme Park on Pier 62 (on 22nd Street), which has two inline skating rinks for rollerbladers, a skate park with a vent ramp and obstacles, and a river view area. However, the Hudson River Skate Park is gated off from the West Side Highway, and is a closer location to Stuyvesant for a convenient Friday afternoon activity.

Farther up the West Side Highway between Piers 26 and 34 (on Spring Street) is the up-

and-coming Trapeze School New York. Dedicated to providing a safe, rewarding, and fun learning experience for all people ages six to 60, the school offers classes usually ranging from \$45-\$65 that will both teach you the fundamentals of flying and expand your abilities. Updated equipment, safety belts and wires, organized spotting systems, and a big, plushy safety net all keep your fears in check despite throwing yourself from a 23-foot high platform. Anyone can participate in trapeze flying regardless of athletic ability and the trapeze school welcomes people with a sense for adven-

ture. While trapeze flying does have its drawbacks (a gut-squeezing safety belt, the element of fear, and classes only held weather permitting), staff and visitors both rave that the trapeze school is an upbeat way to discover something new. And with the supportive shouts from instructors, such as “You can do it!” and “Knees up!... Hands down!”, how could it not be?

So, if you have a bit of time before writing that essay, and want to develop a new interest, or just to try something different, you can stroll up the West Side Highway.

Double Negative
Turns Out a Definite Plus

By ATRISH BAGCHI

From the opening chords of “Set Free” to the riff-rocking “Meaning of Life,” the underground rock band Double Negative’s burgeoning palette showcases both considerable songwriting prowess and diverse arrangements. This relatively unknown band combines a fresh blend of metal, punk, and rock ‘n roll to forge a unique sound.

“Initially when the band started,” said senior Tim Crow, its lead guitarist and founder, “we were all strangers...but we played together and it just worked.”

Double Negative was founded in February 2002 with senior David Ferrantino on vocals, senior Josh Pelucci on rhythm guitar, senior Tim Crow on lead guitar, senior Steve Stein on bass guitar, and junior Emmanuel Bearman on drums.

Armed with four ambitious musicians, Double Negative made their debut at last year’s Band Showcase, appearing with Stuy bands Halo, The Violent Orange, and Mugwump. After their wonderful debut, Stein quit the band. Shortly afterwards, bassist Cody Pruitt joined.

Ferrantino was asked to leave the band, after the band “realized that there were three of us who could sing, so we had to let someone go,” said Crow.

Double Negative has a dark, sound, with songs like “Set Free,” which has a haunting acoustic intro that sets the

tone for the rest of the melancholic piece. Metallica is one of the band’s major influences, along with Creed, Incubus, and Staind.

“The first time I heard Metallica, I just knew I had to be in music,” says Pelluci.

“My [guitar] solos are definitely influenced by [them],” says Crow. “You can’t really get much better than that.”

Though the band’s sound was born of such metal legends, their individuality is not undermined. Even though their songs rely upon the conventional rock guitar/bass/drums frame, the pieces themselves still sound fresh.

Double Negative’s method of writing is to experiment until a song forms; essentially, the music forms the lyrics of the song. This approach works for them wonderfully because the end products are complete and mature songs, with the lyrics capturing the mood of the music.

Double Negative’s music provides an interesting contrast between Pruitt’s subtle bass work, Pelucci’s acoustic riffing, and Crow’s explosive guitar acrobatics, all backed by Bearman’s steady drumming.

Even though the band has no scheduled performances yet, Crow says that they are in the midst of recording new material, which will soon surface in future performances. Keep an eye out for Double Negative shows; this band is definitely worth listening to.

Movies for Dummies

By LILLIAN GAO

Dummy is a sweetly honest comedy that shows a soulless subculture of losers who need an outlet for their miserable lives. While this movie may sound like a downer, it is a funny, endearing film.

In *Dummy*, there is an entire ensemble of adults who have yet to chase away their inner insecurities. Adrien Brody stars as Steven, a shy young man, who, on the verge of his tenth high school reunion, still lives with his parents (Rob Leibman and Jessica Walter). His sister Heidi (Illeana Douglas) is an exasperated wedding planner who feels robbed of her own wedding and her once budding singing career. Heidi’s personality overwhelms Steven’s so much that he is forced to retreat to his room and pass the time watching old ventriloquist shows. It is not until he picks up his own ventriloquist’s dummy—hence the title—that he begins to find his

self-confidence.

Steven’s appeal is his childish naiveté. When he acquires his dummy, he carries it with him everywhere (including the bathroom) and does not speak when his more articulate companion is gone. While wooing his unemployment counselor, Lorena (Vera Farmiga), he plays marching tunes.

Other puerile characters are also introduced. Michael (Jared Harris) is Heidi’s alcoholic ex-fiancé who is still in love with Heidi. On the other hand, Fangora (Milla Jovitch) is a peevish adolescent who throws fits and picks at her sneakers throughout the entire movie. These infantile personalities lend the script a raw pleasantness that makes you root for them until the end.

This childishness is the heart and soul of *Dummy*’s gentle humor. It suggests that adults are impulsive and unrealistic, contradicting our belief that adults are the pinnacles of maturity and wisdom. Even so,

Dummy is not without fault. The filmmakers were wise to create a sense of alienation between Steven’s world and the rest of suburban civilization, but it is a dissonance that carries over into the dialogue. While the script illuminates the main characters’ dysfunctions, it also turns slightly clumsy during its one-too-many argument scenes.

For their part, the cast plays its role with deft authenticity. Jovitch steals the show from the rest of the supporting cast, with facial expressions that manage to convey her insecurities under the comic exterior. Brody, the silent-type actor, is at home in a role about a soft spoken man, delicately maneuvering Steven’s awkwardness with a mournful, shifty gaze and still body postures.

Dummy’s unrelenting indulgence of naiveté might irritate some cynics, but it is honest enough to make us remember why we love losers in movies so much.

If you would like to have your poem or short story published as a creative submission, e-mail it to CreativeSubmit@aol.com (paste it into the body of the e-mail; don’t attach it) or leave it in the Arts and Entertainment mailbox in the Student Union.

Arts & Entertainment

The Year in Preview: Stuy Theater

By HAITHAM JENDOUBI

The Stuyvesant Theater Community (STC) has hit the ground running with new slate members and new goals for the theater community. Following major organizational changes to the committee late last year, its four new senior slate members—Studio Theater Coordinator Ethan Frisch, Production Coordinator Eddie Kaletta, Financial Producer Carla Kessler, and Managing Director Lindsay Long-Waldor—aim for a smoother and more efficient year of Stuyvesant theater.

“We revised the STC charter at the end of last year to better suit the needs of the theater community,” said Kaletta. Specifically, the roles of each of the four STC slate members were clarified to avoid redundancies and increase efficiency. A production guide was also written, explaining the duties of directors and producers to avoid similar problems for individual shows.

Frisch was given a new slate position, studio theater coordinator, which allows him to read and select the plays for small, independent productions throughout the year. This addition came about to avoid repeating the dearth of small theater productions last year. Although gems like Sartre’s “No Exit” managed to do well despite little publicity and almost no funding, such instances were few and far between. Now, students interested in staging smaller or more experimental performances will have a voice in the STC, not to mention access to its resources.

The STC received about 20 submissions for its first production of the year, the One-Act Festival. Those selected were “The Actor’s Nightmare” (directed by seniors Zara Zuckerman and Jamie

Avallone), “Philadelphia” (directed by senior Tim Drinan), “The Academia Nuts” (written by senior Haitham Jendoubi and directed by senior Sophie Tintori), and “Some Fish” (directed by junior Sarah Outhwaite). Like last year, the Festival will take place in the library and with the support of faculty advisor Philip Mott.

Looking farther ahead, Kessler has said that “Kiss Me Kate” has already been chosen as the fall musical in a joint meeting between the STC and the heads of theater crews. Unlike previous years—in which the tech, costume, lighting, and sound crews and stage managers have had no input on the choice of the musical—this year the decision was made with more collaborators for the show represented.

Other firsts this year include a new faculty director, English teacher Christy Close, who assumes the role that former technology teacher Vincent Grasso filled before retiring last year. There is also a possibility of ticket sales at reduced prices for the final dress rehearsal of the musical.

The STC faces many potential pitfalls this year. Last year’s slate was unable to garner enough musical support for the musical, and had to resort to employing musicians from an outside agency; hopefully, this problem will be avoided this year. Also, the financial situation of Stuyvesant theater will be watched carefully.

The STC is hopeful for a strong year with substantial underclassmen involvement and a more professional, streamlined attitude toward shows. In reference to Stuyvesant’s centennial celebration, Kessler stated, “We want to make this a banner year for Stuy theater, and especially the musical.”

Top Five High School Movies

By GRACE DUGGAN

The Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is perhaps the most well known teen movie of the 80s. Directed by John Hughes (who also directed *Sixteen Candles* and *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*), it stars Molly Ringwald, Emilio Estevez, Anthony Michael Hall, Judd Nelson, and Ally Sheedy as five different high school clichés: the popular girl, the jock, the brain, the misfit, and the social outcast. Spending nine hours in detention together on a Saturday, they are forced to look past all of the stereotypes, and eventually realize that they aren’t all that different. Each of the five actors succeeds in giving his character depth with believable and touching performances. They tap into the raw emotions that plague teens who struggle to find their place and who might lose part of themselves along the way. Although a bit dated, the film remains entertaining and easy to relate to.

Ferris Bueller’s Day Off

Matthew Broderick plays the intelligent and conniving Ferris Bueller. He does whatever he wants, and gets away with it too. After four years of crazy stunts he decides the last thing he’ll do before graduating high school is cut an entire day of school. Faking an illness, he takes his hypochondriac best friend Cameron (Alan Ruck) and his girlfriend Sloane (Mia Sara) along for the ride.

Although there’s nothing remotely believable about the movie, it doesn’t try to be serious, and instead aims at having a good time. Broderick cuts loose and holds nothing back; he’s suave, smooth talking, and has the world wrapped around his little finger. He does an incredible job playing the care-

free teen, and justifies his amusing escapades by the mantra, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

10 Things I Hate About You

Loosely based on William Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew,” this romantic comedy became something of a cult classic when it was released in 1999. Cameron James (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) starts at a new school and is instantly smitten by Bianca Stratford (Larisa Oleynik). The downside is that

“Life moves pretty fast.
If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”
—*Ferris Bueller*

she isn’t allowed to date until her fiercely independent older sister Kat (Julia Stiles) goes on a date of her own.

Shakespeare references, teen angst, clashing personalities, and hilarity abound in this film. The best performance was delivered by Stiles. She does a superb job of mastering her character’s stand-off-don’t-touch-me air; you can practically see her breathe in the cold atmosphere she creates. Although very predictable, the excellent acting, good script and memorable scenes make this a really enjoyable movie.

Sixteen Candles

Sixteen Candles follows the life of Samantha Baker (Molly Ringwald) over the course of several days, including her sweet sixteen, which is forgotten

by her entire family as they prepare for her older sister’s wedding day. On top of that, the popular senior that she adores, Jake, doesn’t seem to know she’s alive. In addition, she is being chased by a hilarious geek played by Anthony Michael Hall. It’s the age-old tale of an average girl mentally screaming to be noticed.

Along with Hall’s role, other comical characters in the film include both sets of Sam’s grandparents and Jake’s girlfriend, the prom queen. Ringwald’s charming performance is the backbone of this believable look at life as a teenager.

American Pie

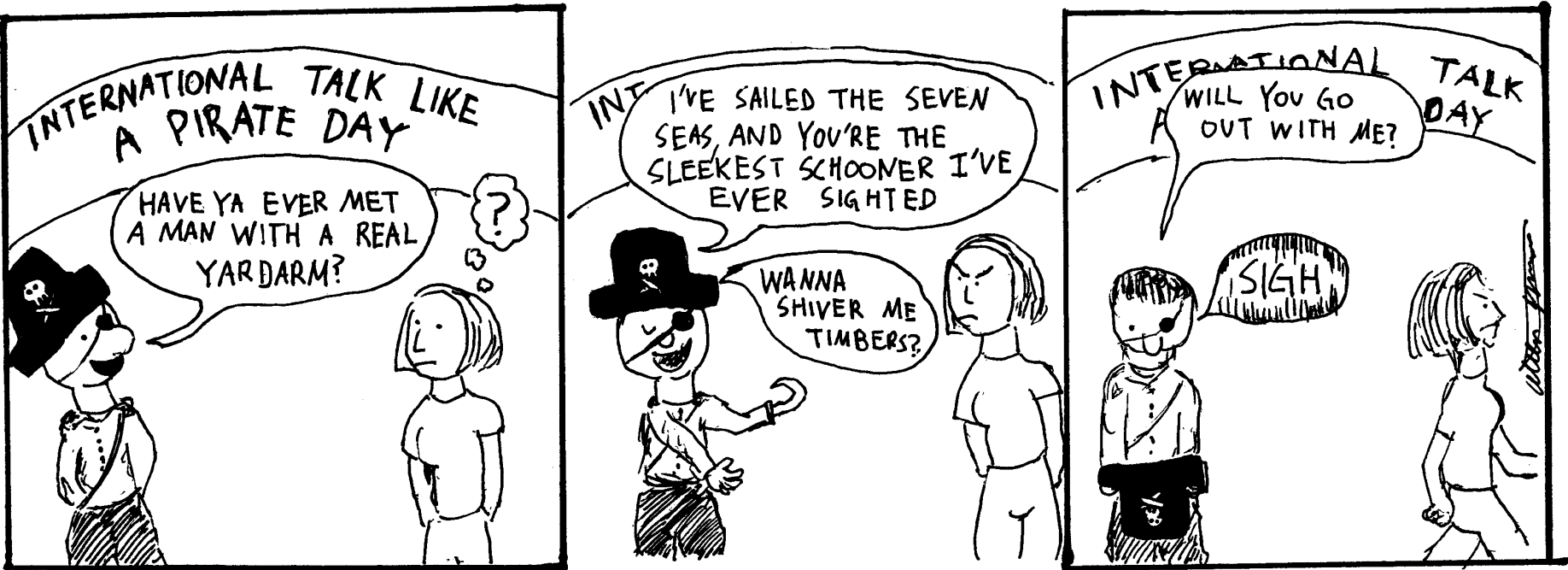
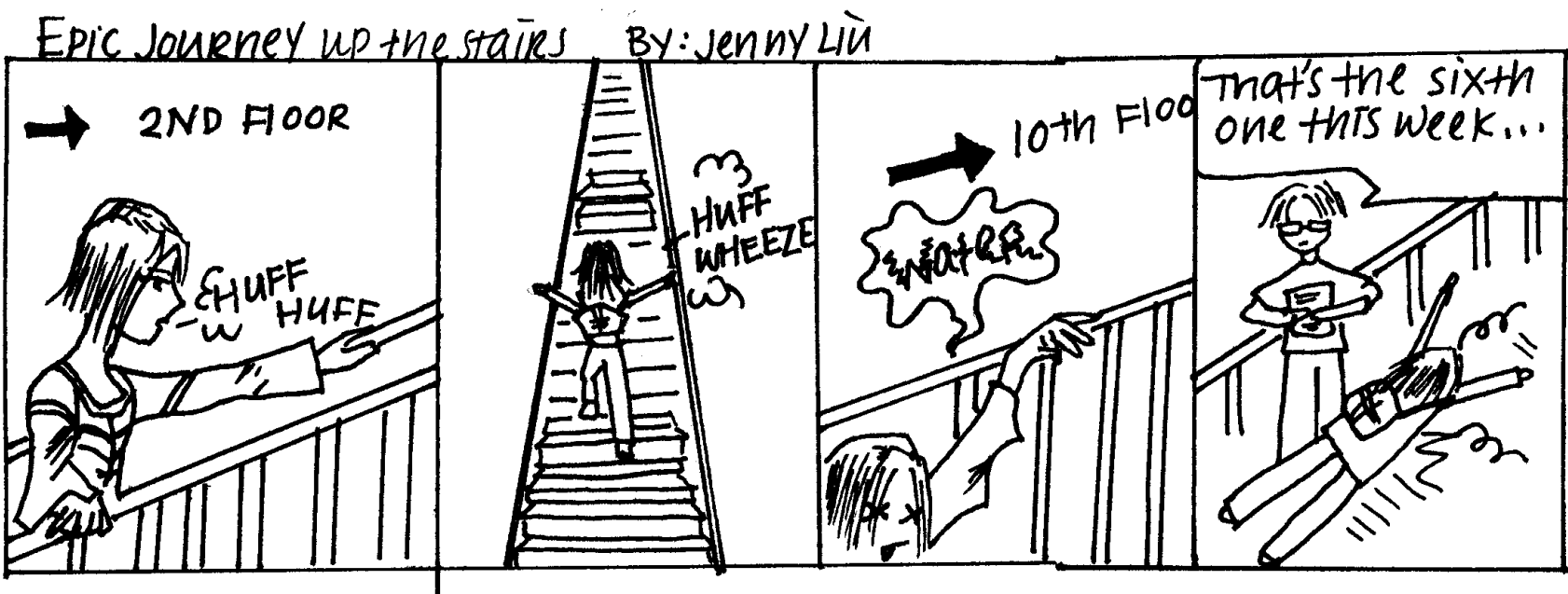
American Pie, released in 1999, found a niche in pop-culture and raised gross-out humor to a new level. Grossing over \$100 million and followed by two sequels, this crude movie was a genuine box-office hit. Although extremely funny, the movie has no taste whatsoever, and managed to disgust half its audience, while putting the other half in stitches.

The plot is simple enough: four high school seniors (played by Jason Biggs, Thomas Ian Nicholas, Chris Klein, and Eddie Kaye Thomas) agree to lose their virginity before prom night. Even though the film features an excellent cast of young actors and actresses (who include Tara Reid, Shannon Elizabeth, Mena Suvari, and Alyson Hannigan), the best performance is comedian Eugene Levy’s role as Jim’s (Bigg’s) father. Levy’s practical advice is delivered in his signature quirky and matter-of-fact manner, which makes the audience cringe as it guffaws. *American Pie* is raunchy and lewd; however, no one can overlook its wholesome values of friendship and fatherly love. But this Pie is a tart one, not syrupy sweet.

Interested in writing for *Spectator* Arts & Entertainment?

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

Cartoons



By Allen Zhang

Interested in drawing for *Spectator* Art?

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

Peglegs Undeclared, 3-0



Charles Mishan / The Spectator

Stuy Peglegs won their third straight game on September 19 against William C. Bryant H.S.



Charles Mishan / The Spectator

Vixens Eye Success Again

By JON LEHMAN

Stuyvesant's girls' varsity volleyball team, the Vixens, kicks off its season on October 1, fresh on the heels of its impressive run to the City Championships last season. With all six of last year's starters returning to the lineup, both coach and players hold high hopes for the season ahead.

The squad entered last season as an unproven unit, confident in their potential, but unsure of how their ability would translate into game results. Said senior co-captain Leandra Santos, "Last year our goal was to make the playoffs and just to have fun."

Last season was something Coach Phil Fisher could only describe as "a dream run." The team surged to the semi-finals, where they overcame a 24-23 deficit in the deciding set and pulled out a narrow victory, before losing to Kennedy High School in the city finals.

Based on these outstanding results, the team cannot help feeling energized and optimistic about their chances this year, but remains carefully guarded against the pitfall that is complacency.

"Hopefully this year we can get one more win, but I don't want the team to think that because we made the city championships last year, we have to do it again," said Santos.

Fisher, in his fifth year with

the team, added that their success will mean that the city's other elite programs will be gunning for them this year. "We are not going to surprise anybody," he said.

Nevertheless, the team is clearly excited for the upcoming campaign. Practices, which began a week before school started, are running longer than ever. The team enjoys being together and honing their skills.

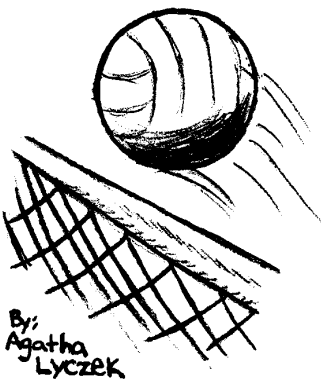
Fisher proclaims that his

current team is "the strongest [he has] ever had." All six starters—three seniors, one junior, and two sophomores—are veterans of post-season play, including Santos and fellow co-captain Emma Coultrap-Bagg. In particular, Fisher highlighted

strong play of junior Claire Hsu and sophomore Mimi Russler, whose unique talents and competitive experience have "elevated practice" and motivated her teammates.

The forecast for the team is a smooth sail through the regular season in their relatively easy Manhattan division, hoping only that another undefeated run will earn them a high seed for the playoffs. In the meantime, they are working on scheduling preseason scrimmages to test themselves against stiffer competition.

Santos had just one final word on behalf of the team: "Come and see our games. It's really cool to see friendly faces in the stands."



EDUCAID



EXPERT PRIVATE TUTORING AT YOUR HOME

- Knowledgeable, Gifted, Patient, Supportive Tutors
- All Subjects / Exams
- Math / Calculus
- Physics / Chemistry
- Biology / Earth Science
- Computers
- Economics / Statistics
- Foreign Languages
- English
- History
- SAT I / SAT II
- AP Exams (All)

7 Days

Year Round

(212) 766-5002

(718) 747-0173

www.EducaidTutoring.com

S P O R T S

Patroons Fall in Season Opener

By HUI WANG

Stuyvesant's boys' soccer team, the Patroons, had a rocky beginning to the season against Julia Richman Educational Center at East Bank Park on September 15. What started as a close game quickly turned disastrous for the Patroons during the second half. After battling fiercely for 80 minutes, the Patroons lost by a final score of 4-1.

"They played a tough game," said Coach Stanislaw Kaps. "They were up against one of the best teams in the city."

However, this bump on the road to a successful year did not shatter the high hopes of the team. The Patroons, with a roster that includes 11 seniors, are full of veterans and should have no problem with experience or lack of leadership.

Although they suffered the loss of last year's co-captains and numerous other major players, the Patroons have just four new players for this season, three freshmen and one senior. With the addition of this relief

party to the seasoned veterans on the team, there are high expectations for the Patroons, which is on a quest to avoid last year's drama.

The Patroons lost their spot in the playoffs for the 2002 season, as they had the same record (8-5-1) as the Beacon School. When Beacon's Blue Demons won the battle against the Patroons for the playoff berth, Kaps filed an appeal to the PSAL committee. Unfortunately for the Patroons, Beacon appeared to be the more competitive team to the PSAL committee and received the playoff spot.

This bitter memory has led the Patroons to vow to have a better season this year and be even fiercer. With the ability of promising stars and the experience of returning players, the Patroons are sure to shine.

"They are a good and tough team," said Kaps. "And I hope the boys will have a better season this year and have lots of fun."

Boys' Cross Country Ranked Third in PSAL Preseason Poll



Rachael Scharf / The Spectator

Junior Nick Greenough participating in a cross-country meet.

By DAVE EL HELOU

After a preseason full of running tirelessly through hills and flat terrain, the boys' cross-country track team is finally ready to start the PSAL regular season. They are excited and confident about this rapidly approaching season.

The team was ranked third in the city in the preseason poll on the PSAL Web site (www.psal.org), and according to Coach Mark Mendes, "We have more than an outside chance of winning [the] City's [Championship]."

Mendes is no stranger to championships. He has coached teams to two Indoor National Championships and several New York City Championships. He also has seven Borough Triple Crowns (championships

in cross-country, indoor track, and outdoor track in the same year). He has coached many notable track stars, such as Derrick Peynado, three Iron Horse Winners, and Olympian Roger Hunter. Mendes hopes to do the same for this year's cross country team as it works for a city title. He said, "We are looking forward to defending our Manhattan Championship for the fifth straight year."

The team's two strengths are experience and depth. The talent at the top of the team is superb. The captains, seniors Josh Livingstone, Victor Guaiquil, and Andrei Vallejo, are all likely to finish in the top 10 at the PSAL Championship. Other top contributors for the varsity team are juniors Nicholas Silverman, Nick Greenough, Steven Xian, and Michael Seo,

and seniors Eugene Epshteyn, Bram Sterling, Christopher Campbell, and Sam Lewallen.

The junior varsity team has a chance of finishing in the top three in the city as well. Juniors William Winkelman and Segey Morell should finish in the top seven. David Silberberg is currently the top freshman on the team. "David has great potential and could make varsity as early as sophomore year," said Mendes.

On Mondays, the team has a long run of eight to 10 miles at an easy pace. On Tuesdays, they have a tempo run of about 20 minutes at a harder pace. Wednesdays and Fridays host the recovery run at school, which is 30-40 minutes with striders on grass. Hill repeats, or intervals, which are hard runs followed by easy recovery jogs, are on Thursdays. In addition, there are warm-up jogs and cool-down jogs of about a mile each on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Saturday is race day, when freshmen run 1.5 miles. Others run 2.5 or 3.1 miles, depending on the meet. All races except for the State Championships are at Van Cortlandt Park. The course starts and ends as flat ground but has rolling and steep inclines in the middle. On Sundays, runners will carry out a recovery run at home.

The Manhattan Borough Championship will be held at Van Cortlandt Park on October 25. The PSAL Varsity/JV City Team Championships and the PSAL Individual City Championship will also be held at Van Cortlandt Park on November 8. However, before they get there, the Stuyvesant team will have to complete its regular season, which began on Saturday, September 20.

Penguins Waddling into Season with Confidence

By WILLIAM AIBINDER

Coming off an 8-2 record, a second place finish in the Bronx/Manhattan division, and an appearance in the PSAL championship meet last season, the Penguins, the Stuyvesant 's girls' swimming and diving team, are eager to get the 2003-2004 season underway. Included in the regular season schedule is a meet on October 30 against archrival and division champion Bronx High School of Science.

Both Stuy losses last year came at the hands of the Bronx Science Wolverines in close meets. Nevertheless, the Penguins breezed through the playoffs only to hit a roadblock in the championship in a third meet with the stout Wolverines.

Hoping to once again be champions of the Open, a city-wide competition arguably more important than the PSAL playoffs, the team still looks to avenge last season's disappointing loss in the city champi-

onship. "It's a new season," said junior Amanda Centor. "People's strengths and weaknesses change."

Losing the great depth last year's seniors provided, the team is hoping everyone will remain healthy this year, and, as Coach Silvana Choy said, "put up personal best times and scores in their specific events." Aspirations are high with many promising rookies and the return of last year's MVP, sophomore Vivian Healey.

Healey swam in almost every event last year and, according to her coach, is one of the most talented and versatile swimmers to ever compete at Stuyvesant. Still, Choy said, "depth this season will be the key," and she is counting on all her swimmers and divers to be prepared at any meet to step in and compete at the top of their game.

The Penguins see Bronx Science as the only real threat in their division. With new PSAL regulations though, regular sea-

son competition will extend beyond the Bronx/Manhattan division for Stuyvesant. The team is looking forward to their meet against powerhouse Townsend Harris High School, which is in Queens. "Bronx Science has traditionally been our biggest rival, but Townsend Harris has a great team this year too," said senior and co-captain Laura Paliani. "They'll definitely give us a run for our money."

To return to the city final this year, the success of the divers on the team will be essential. According to senior Viktoria Slavina, "diving should prove to be rather instrumental to the team's success as it did last year."

Another vital aspect of success this season will be the leadership from the squad's nine seniors, headed by co-captains Paliani, Beth Romano, and Helena Chan. With the season opener at Fort Hamilton on October 1, the Penguins are eager and waiting to get their season underway.



Charles Mishan / The Spectator

Aditya Tata, junior, and Jeremy Burns-Rupp, senior, at a soccer practice.



Charles Mishan / The Spectator