



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

*"The Pulse
of the
Student
Body"*

Volume XCIX No. 11

March 6, 2009

stuspectator.com

Introducing the '09-'10 Big Sib Chairs



Sarah Morgan Cohen-Smith / The Spectator

The new Big Sib Chairs, juniors Tara Anantharam, Avril Coley, John Connuck, Alex Genshaft and Adeline Yeo, are ready to pick up where the old ones left off.

By DANIELLE OBERDIER

In society, there is a constant shift of power. Politicians' terms expire and new leaders take over. Company owners retire and pass on their businesses to their chosen successors. At Stuyvesant, such transfer of power is seen when the graduating seniors pass on their leadership positions, knowledge

and experience to the juniors. The new Big Sib Chairs—juniors Tara Anantharam, Avril Coley, John Connuck, Alex Genshaft and Adeline Yeo—are prepared to implement their budding plans for the program and pick up the task where the former Big Sib Chairs—seniors Spiridoula Giannoulas, Lee Schleifer

continued on page 4

Beacon Theatre Chosen as Venue for Class of 2009 Graduation

By AMIT SAHA

The graduation ceremony for Stuyvesant's class of '09 will be held at the Beacon Theatre. The ceremony had initially been planned to take place in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, Stuyvesant's traditional graduation venue. Due to renovations, however, Avery Fisher Hall will not be available for use in time for the '09 graduation.

According to Principal Stanley Teitel, efforts are being made to limit the changes necessary to compensate for the change in venue. Thus, one of the main reasons the Beacon Theatre was chosen was its short distance from Avery Fisher Hall, located

on 63rd Street at Columbus Avenue, which is approximately ten blocks away from the Beacon Theatre, located at 2124 Broadway.

"We chose Beacon because it's about the same size as Avery Fisher Hall," Teitel said. However, he acknowledged that he has yet to see the interior firsthand.

A key issue is whether the Beacon Theatre's stage will be large enough to accommodate the orchestra and chorus. Although the Beacon Theatre seats 2800 people, more than Avery Fisher Hall, which seats 2738 people, the stage at Beacon Theatre, which measures 50 feet wide

continued on page 2



This year's graduation ceremony will be held at The Beacon Theater, located at 2124 Broadway.

Features

Article on page 3.

Alice Chartrand: A Girl Who Broke Barriers

The story of the first woman admitted to Stuyvesant High School.



Article on page 11.

Arts & Entertainment

Exotically 4th Street

Ever wondered what it is like to play the Nigerian shiko or the African kora? These stores can show you.

SING! Pushed Back a Week Because of SAT



Emily Koo / The Spectator

Because of concerns brought to the administration, SING! has been moved back a week.

By CHRIS LEE

Because of conflicts with the SAT which will be administered on Saturday, March 14, SING! will take place a week later than originally planned. The decision, made by Principal Stanley Teitel, changed the dates of SING! from Wednesday March 11, Friday March 13, and Saturday March 14 to Wednesday March 18, Friday March 20, and Saturday March 21.

Teitel did not make the decision on his own. He received e-mails from concerned parents and he discussed the issue with the juniors. According to Junior SING! Executive Producer Jenny Che, "Teitel [made the decision], but he held a vote during a junior assembly," she said.

According to Teitel, the administration knew that "SING! would be on the same day as the

SAT, but [we] did not think there would be any problems," he said. However, that was not the case. "I got a few e-mails from parents who were concerned that SING! was on the same day [as the SAT]," Teitel said.

"Teitel held a vote during the junior assembly," Che said. "However, the vote was not fair at all. I personally believe that the number of hands that went up for both keeping the date and changing it were very close, and he didn't count either."

Teitel did not discuss the decision with the seniors. "The seniors had no say in the decision. I wish that we had been consulted," Senior SING! Executive Producer Samantha Whitmore said.

"We get one extra week of rehearsal, which is beneficial," Whitmore said. "However, the first marking period ends that week, and anyone who receives

a U in any class will be banned from participating in SING!. Producers and directors will only be notified of this a few days before the first performance, leaving little time to find replacements." A U, or Unsatisfactory, is a failing grade.

In response to these types of complaints, Teitel said that the administration's main concern is "to make sure students are doing well," he said.

Teitel said the seniors did not get to vote because "the seniors aren't affected by the SAT," he said.

Students have mixed opinions about this decision. Some people believe the right choice was made. "I think it was the right thing to do," sophomore Wasi Ahmed said. "SING! is an extracurricular. The SATs, however, can greatly affect your future."

Other students disagree. "It's a little inconvenient since a lot of teams will start to begin going out around that time, like Ultimate," sophomore and Ultimate team member Jackson Sheng said. "Even one week's delay will affect us a lot."

Still others are undecided. "We will definitely be able to put much more into our work in the week that we have," Che said, after having previously questioned the decision.

"The other senior producers and I are all praying that Senioritis will wait to strike until after first marking period has ended," Whitmore said. "It would be very helpful if the administration could come up with some way to notify each grade's producers earlier if the one of the members of their SING! has failed a class."

Micah Lasher: Politician, Stuyvesant Student and Magic Kid

By REBECCA ELLIOTT

Micah Lasher ('99), politically active even during his days at Stuyvesant, is now pursuing his government aspirations as the Executive Director of Public Affairs for the Department of Education (DOE). At the start of his freshman year, Lasher had published a book on magic tricks and the history of magic. While at Stuyvesant, Lasher became interested in politics and was the Editor in Chief of The Spectator.

The Spectator spoke to him about both his goals as the DOE's chief lobbyist and his experience at Stuyvesant:

The Spectator: What is your position at the DOE?

Micah Lasher: I'm the Executive Director of Public Affairs for the Department of Education. I am responsible for the legislation for the New York City Public School System—everything from making sure we receive



Courtesy of Micah Lasher

As a Stuyvesant student, Micah Lasher became interested in politics.

adequate funding from the state and federal and city governments to legislation regarding how the school system is run to any issue relating to education that comes up really at any level of government.

TS: What are your priorities as the DOE's chief lobbyist?

ML: Two top priorities facing our school system for the next six months: one, make sure we receive adequate funding and we do not have to bear the burden of draconian budget cuts. And two: making sure that the system of governance that put the mayor in charge of the school system and ended the broken political system—making sure that mayoral control is renewed.

TS: What are we looking at in terms of budget cuts in the future?

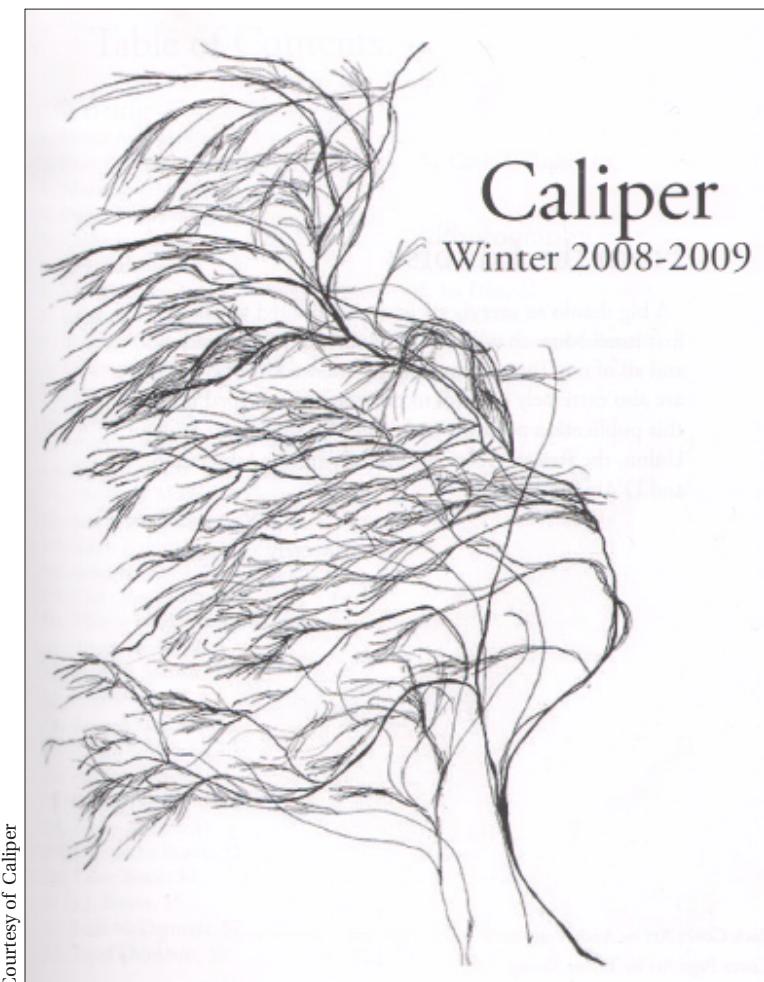
ML: Right now we're in a very difficult economic climate and that is taking its toll at every level of government—city, state and federal. So we are hopeful that a variety of measures, including the federal stimulus, can help make the cuts less severe.

TS: Are budget cuts a certainty?

continued on page 4

News

Caliper Raises Funds For Ava Hecht



Courtesy of Caliper

Caliper, which can be purchased for five dollars in the English office, is donating money to the North Shore Animal League America in memory of Ava Hecht.

By RUCHI JAIN

Caliper, Stuyvesant's official literary publication, is donating money to the North Shore Animal League America (NSALA) in memory of senior Ava Hecht, who passed away on Thursday, Janu-

ary 8. The NSALA, whose headquarters are located in Port Washington, NY, is the largest animal rescue and adoption organization in the world.

"We can remember her by helping animals, which Ava would have loved," senior and Caliper

co-editor Amy Crehore said.

Caliper's winter 2008-2009 issue is currently selling for five dollars each. One dollar from each payment will be donated to the NSALA in Ava's name.

"Ava Hecht was a really good friend of mine," said junior Jan Cornel, who submitted to Caliper. "Money's not only being donated to funds but Caliper publishing our works and allowing others to read inspires others to write poetry."

Students may purchase copies of Caliper from the English office, most English teachers, Crehore or senior and Caliper co-editor Jack McDermott. Approximately 50 of the 250 copies have been sold as of Saturday, February 7.

"Ava was really passionate about English and was an incredible writer," said Crehore, who took Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition: Great Books with Ava. "We believe that this is something she would have appreciated."

"Caliper has decided to donate to Ava Hecht's fund because of her active roles as a member of both the writing and art communities of Stuyvesant. Her poetry and paintings were inspiring and showed a huge amount of promise," McDermott said. "It seemed appropriate and imperative that a magazine dedicated to writing and the sharing of ideas somehow pay tribute to Ava."

"We have the power and ability to make this fund in Ava's name through the magazine's profits," Crehore said. "Jack and I want to do as much as we can for Ava."

"It was a really nice way to remember Ava," said junior Shoshanna Akabas, who also submitted to Caliper. "It's very meaningful."

Free Hugs Club Hosts Wheelchair Basketball Game Fundraiser

By NICOLE ZHAO

Stuyvesant High School's Free Hugs Club hosted its first ever wheelchair basketball game fundraiser on Thursday, February 12. Stuyvesant's varsity basketball team, the Runnin' Rebels, played the game in wheelchairs, which were provided by the Wheelchair Sports Federation, against the New York Nets, a professional wheelchair basketball team. Aided by a 30-point handicap at the start of the game and another 10-point handicap at the start of the third quarter, due to their inexperience playing in wheelchairs, the Rebels won the game by a final score of 60 to 58. Tickets to the event were five dollars each. All of the money raised will help fund the Wheelchair Sports Federation.

According to its website, the Wheelchair Sports Federation is a national, non-profit organization that hosts, sponsors and coordinates Adaptive Sports events, which allow those with physical or intellectual disabilities to play modified versions of existing sports. It also provides "adaptive athletes with the opportunity to participate in a multitude of Adaptive Sports" including Wheelchair Tennis, Football and Softball.

Stuyvesant's Free Hugs Club is a volunteer service club that was founded two years ago. According to its page on the Student Union Web site, it undertakes initiatives that "ultimately change both [their members'] own lives and the lives of those they are helping."

The wheelchair basketball game featured many attractions. Besides the opportunity

to watch Stuyvesant's basketball team play in wheelchairs, students also got to watch Principal Stanley Teitel make the opening shot. During the half-time show, audience members could line up for a chance to shoot a basketball from a wheelchair.

"One of our main goals was to spread awareness about wheelchair sports, allow people to understand that it's possible and that it's an amazing sport that people should watch, support and be interested in," senior and Free Hugs club president Katharine Chen said. "To

"I thought it was a great success."
— Phil Fisher, coach

achieve our goal, the easiest way was to let the players [and the audience] experience for themselves how amazing [the sport] is and how hard it is to play in a wheelchair."

"I think the game met our expectations in terms of spreading awareness, contributing money to the Federation, and hoping that it helps them," Chen said.

Chen thought of holding a wheelchair fundraiser after she met John Hamre, the president

of the Wheelchair Federation, while volunteering with the Free Hugs Club at the 2008 Mayor's Cup Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

The club hoped to raise 1000 dollars for the Wheelchair Federation, but according to sophomore and Free Hugs club treasurer Lipi Thaker, the event raised around 700 dollars. "We think events on that day, like SING! dues payments, SING! practices, and club interest meetings interfered with the number of people that could have come," Thaker said.

"We hope to have the event during the fall next year because we could've had better timing this year," sophomore and Secretary of the Free Hugs club Marsha Kononenko said. "We want to make this an annual event and get other teams involved, so we can bring more Adaptive Sports to our school other than basketball," Kononenko said. "We try to do events that no one has done before."

Attendees and participants in the event had positive reactions to the game.

"First I thought we'd probably get beat pretty badly, but with the extra points they gave us, it wasn't that bad. I was looking forward to it and it lived up to [my expectations]," senior and Runnin' Rebel Olumuyiwa Idowu said.

"I thought it was a great success," Rebels coach Phil Fisher said. "I wish the stands were packed and that would be the goal for next year."

"I thought it was a wonderful event," Teitel said. "I had a real good time putting up the first basket."

Teitel Suggests Writing Thank-You Notes to Teachers

By MEGAN HAREWOOD

At the junior assembly held on Tuesday, February 3, Principal Stanley Teitel suggested that students give thank-you notes to the teachers who write their teacher recommendations for college.

According to Teitel, teachers spend a lot of time writing these recommendations for the students and getting thank-you notes in return "would be nice," he said.

Because recommendations represent students in ways that other parts of a college application cannot, teachers work hard to write something unique about each student. "These letters are not Scantrons," biology teacher Dr. Maria Nedwidek said.

"We really try to write thoughtful letters," English teacher Annie Thoms said.

"Thanking people for something they've done for you is always in order," Guidance Counselor Dr. Marcy Viboch said. "It's a nice thing to do."

Students agreed with Principal Teitel's suggestion.

"The note is a real sign that you took the time to write them thank you. With the note, the teacher will see that the student truly appreciates their help," junior Hayward Leach said.

"Saying thank you is definitely important, and taking the time to write a thank you note shows the teacher that you really did appreciate what they did," senior Arta Perezic said.

According to Dr. Nedwidek, although teachers are not required to write recommendations, they do so anyway because "we love the kids. Students make me enjoy what I do," she said.

"It's just nice to know you are appreciated for doing something extra," Thoms said.

Some students said that in addition to writing thank-you notes, it is also important to thank teachers face-to-face.

"It's always nice to thank the teacher in person. Human contact is always important," Leach said.

Beacon Theatre Chosen as Venue for Class of 2009 Graduation

continued from page 1

and 43 deep is less wide than the stage at Avery Fisher Hall, which measures 68 feet wide and 40 feet deep.

Although he has been to the Beacon Theatre before, Assistant Principal Music and Fine Arts Raymond Wheeler said he needs to see the stage again firsthand before making any judgments regarding the orchestra.

"I haven't been there yet; I'm not sure whether I should be jumping for joy or if I should begin to sob," Wheeler said.

Traditionally, the stage is organized so that the school staff sits in front of the orchestra and chorus.

"It's crucial, the space for the stage," Wheeler said. "We also need to know what equipment we'll need to bring and what they'll provide us with."

Another issue is the space required for the graduation procession in and out of the theater.

Teitel asserted that one of his priorities is to scout out the Beacon Theatre with Wheeler, technology teacher James Lonardo, and Assistant Principal Guid-

ance Eleanor Archie in order to prepare for any necessary rearrangements that may be necessary in order to adapt to the new stage.

The extent of the renovations at Avery Fisher Hall is unknown. It is therefore uncertain whether subsequent graduations will also have a different venue. Should this be the case, Teitel has said he will consider the Beacon as an option.

"If we like [Beacon], we'll consider what we'll do for next year," Teitel said.

Students had different opinions. "I know some people are probably upset because it's breaking Stuy tradition, and there are probably some things at [Avery Fisher Hall] that Beacon won't have," senior Molly French said.

"I am a little disheartened that it won't happen at [Avery Fisher Hall], but the Beacon Theater is a great venue," senior Lee Schleifer-Katz said in an e-mail interview. "It's certainly big enough, so I'm not upset. Graduation is going to be a memorable experience no matter where it takes place."

School Closed Due to Inclement Weather

**By ALEXANDER SHIN
and KAITLYN KWAN
with additional reporting by
ANI SEFAJ
and WILSON LAI**

All New York City public schools were closed on Monday, March 2 due to inclement weather. Chancellor Joel Klein announced his decision at approximately 5:40 that morning. This was the first snow day since Wednesday, January 28, 2004.

The storm brought 10 inches of snow to the New York City area.

According to the Department of Education website, the storm's impact on the safety of students traveling to school, the safety of buses driving to and from school, conditions of parking lots and walkways and safety and supervision of students who will not

be in school are all taken into account when making the decision to close or delay schools.

The decision to close schools depends on "when [the storm] is actually hitting," Principal Stanley Teitel said. "By the time students had to go to school, there was already a lot of snow, making the commute difficult."

"The faculty would have had trouble coming to work and some students would have to come in late or maybe not at all," Teitel said.

Students enjoyed the day off. "I'm glad we finally had one because I was able to catch up on my sleep," sophomore Warren Wong said.

"We should have snow days more often. With how stressful Stuyvesant is, the snow day really helped a lot," sophomore Jonathan Wong said.

Features

Graphing Exploration



Jack Greisman / The Spectator

The Intel Science Talent Search provides seniors such as Adam Sealfon and Anissa Mak with the chance to compete at national levels.

By DANIELLE OBERDIER

Success can be measured at a variety of levels. Success in academics is something that most Stuyvesant students constantly strive to achieve. Success on a national level however, is more demanding and requires an amount of work that only a select group of Stuyvesant students are capable of doing. Fortunately, the Intel Science Talent Search is a yearly challenge that attracts the scientifically and mathematically geared population at Stuyvesant, giving such students the opportunity to compete at a national level. Stuyvesant students have consistently achieved victories and, this year, Stuyvesant produced two Intel finalists, seniors Adam Sealfon and Anissa Mak. Both projects were largely focused on graphs.

Sealfon's dealt with a particular type of graph known as a hypergraph while Mak's explored the applications offered in decomposing a graph. Sealfon described his project as "comparing the complexities of two types of algorithms for hypergraphs," which examines "the properties of a generalization of graphs called a hypergraph, in which connections are not between pairs of vertices but between larger groups of vertices," Sealfon said.

Sealfon not only examined the properties of hypergraphs, but also delved deeper to compare the efficiencies of two methods of studying hypergraphs' natures. Between these approaches, which are adaptive algorithms that take into consideration previous experiments, and nonadaptive algorithms, which do not, Sealfon proved that adaptive algorithms are more effective.

He used the familiar optimization strategies learned in Pre-Calculus and Calculus classes to determine this result. Sealfon used one of the adaptive algorithms he discovered to determine the structure of a hypergraph.

Sealfon contributes part of his success to his work over the summer with Massachusetts

Institute of Technology graduate student Victor Chen, who motivated Sealfon to choose this topic. Sealfon also found the Stuyvesant Mathematics department to be very helpful in his overall growth as both a mathematician and a researcher.

"I found out when the Intel people called my house in the afternoon to give me a head's up before the public announcement and I was just speechless. That whole night, I thought it was a prank call."
—Anissa Mak, Senior

Mak's project is titled "A Certifying Algorithm for the Modular Decomposition of Undirected Graphs." Each module, which Mak defines as "a nonempty subset X of a graph's vertex set such that for each vertex y not in X, y is either adjacent to all the vertices in X or none," is arranged in the tree-shaped representation of the modular decomposition. In other words, for all points that have y-coordinates that are not included in the subsets of their x-coordinates, the y coordinate is either adjacent to the subset or does not exist on the graph. Mak's findings could prove

useful while performing a number of familiar tasks such as solving optimization problems, drawing graphs, or sequencing DNA in molecular biology.

Though Mak put in a large amount of work into her project, she remains in awe of her victory. "I found out when the Intel people called my house in the afternoon to give me a head's up before the public announcement and I was just speechless. That whole night, I thought it was a prank call," Mak said.

Mak, like Sealfon, appreciates the support given by the Stuyvesant Mathematics department. She also worked with a mentor, Dr. Ross McConnell from Colorado State University, who was recommended to her by math teacher Gary Rubinstein. Mak feels fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Dr. McConnell. "Since he's in Colorado, we communicated through emails and the telephone, which was difficult because it's hard to talk about math on the phone, especially something as visual as graph theory," Mak said.

Both Mak and Sealfon are looking forward to the experiences following their victories. "I'm looking forward to going to Washington for the finals," Sealfon said. "I've heard that the finalists last year got to meet the President, so I'm really hoping to meet Obama."

"Being recognized is a great honor and I am excited to go to Washington D.C. to present my work," Mak said. "I am a bit nervous about being judged, since this is still a competition, but I think I am just looking forward to the experience itself."

For those who dream of following in Mak and Sealfon's footsteps, "Although it is frustrating sometimes, especially when you are doing a math project, when you think you are going nowhere, stick with it. It really does pay off in the end when you discover something—however small it might be—because it is something you can call your own," Mak said.

Alice Chartrand: A Girl Who Broke Barriers

By SHILPA AGRAWAL

Exactly 40 years ago, Stuyvesant eliminated its all-male policy and admitted the very first female students. This change occurred due to the ambitions of one girl: Alice Chartrand (née De Riviera). With a great deal of motivation and inspiration from her parents and a friend, whom, she said in an e-mail interview, had "given [her] the idea to challenge Stuyvesant," Chartrand became the first girl to be admitted to the then all-boys institution.

Chartrand had always been very ambitious. When she was growing up, her mother would read to her about women who broke barriers, such as Elizabeth Blackwell, the United States's first female doctor. A childhood friend had told her that doctors like Blackwell "would be necessary for [a feminist] revolution," Chartrand said in an e-mail interview, so she "identified with that career." With high hopes for the future, Chartrand looked up to such women, but their struggles also taught her that achieving her goals would not come easily. "Along with that image came the idea that I would have to break barriers," she said in reference to her aspirations.

Unfortunately, the local high school which Chartrand attended was not much help in achieving these goals. It "did not have high standard of teaching," Chartrand said. Instead, Chartrand wanted to attend one of New York's three specialized high schools: Brooklyn Technical High School, Bronx High School of Science, or Stuyvesant. Brooklyn Tech had an engineering focus, which did not interest Chartrand, and Bronx Science was too far from her home in Brooklyn, so Stuyvesant seemed a logical choice.

Stuyvesant, unfortunately, did not accept girls. Leonard J. Fleidner, the principal of Stuyvesant High School, rejected Chartrand's application on January 14, 1969 because of the school's all male policy. According to Abigail Scheck ('72), one of the first girls to graduate from Stuyvesant, "[Dr. Fleidner] was not thrilled with the idea to co-educate the school." Enraged by the school's discriminatory policy, Chartrand and her family, with the support of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Union, filed a lawsuit against the Board of Education. They argued that public schools should not be segregated according to sex, the same way they were not segregated according to race.

"I felt really good—part of me wanted to have a fight," Chartrand said of the trial.

Before the trial ended however, the Board of Education, somewhat aware that it would lose, agreed to eliminate Stuyvesant's all male policy and allow Chartrand to attend Stuyvesant if she could meet the qualifications of the city-wide test.

"I was young and both naive and probably somewhat arrogant, so I don't recall being nervous about the exam, since I was used to acing tests," Chartrand said in an e-mail interview. "There were definitely things on it that I didn't know, but I was intrigued with how I might be able to figure them out, and ended up doing very well."



Alice Chartrand was the first girl admitted to Stuyvesant High School.

Having scored in the 99th percentile on the exam, Chartrand was admitted to Stuyvesant. This earned her a great deal of attention from the media. For Chartrand, who describes herself as "a private person," this was a startling experience.

"I would receive phone calls from Stuy guys who offered me their support," Chartrand said. "I would also receive phone calls from the press, which was a little fulfilling, but invasive." The trial became so well known that, "[Stuyvesant students] temporarily nicknamed the

"If it weren't for [Chartrand's] heroism, I wouldn't be getting the education Stuy offers me."
—Caroyln Lehman ('11)

cafeteria 'Alice's Restaurant' after the popular antiwar song by Arlo Guthrie," Chartrand said in an e-mail interview.

However, soon after the trial Chartrand's parents decided to move out of the city and start a cooperative household as part of Chatrand's father's sabbatical from New York University. Although this move prevented Chartrand from attending Stuyvesant, Chartrand "grew to love [her] new suburban life."

"It was one of many experimental changes in my life," Chartrand said.

Even though Chartrand herself was not able to go to Stuyvesant, the outcome of her lawsuit made ensured that Stuyvesant would admit any girl who was eligible, and the following fall semester 14 girls attended Stuyvesant. "Everybody was welcoming and they wanted us [girls] to succeed," Scheck, one of the original 14 girls, said. Now girls make up 43 percent of Stuyvesant's student body.

"If it weren't for [Chartrand's] heroism," sophomore Carolyn Lehman said, "I wouldn't be getting the education Stuy offers me."

Features

Introducing the '09-'10 Big Sib Chairs

continued from page 1

Katz, Tina Khiani, J.J. Russo and Dylan Tramontin—left off.

Tara Anantharam

Anantharam, a major participant in the Stuyvesant Theater Community (STC) who was co-director of last year's Soph-Frosh SING! and is co-directing junior SING! this year, has always aspired to be a Big Sib Chair. "Becoming a Big Sib Chair is a dream I've had since freshman year when the '06 Chairs walked on stage during my first Camp Stuy and were the first to welcome all of the incoming students to the school," Anantharam said. Her goals for the program involve reaching out to Little Sibs and spreading awareness for the program to promote its inclusiveness. "Expanding and increasing awareness of Big Sib Tutoring as well as fun things like Big Sib Movie Night are somewhere at the top of the list," Anantharam said.

Anantharam believes the Big Sib program plays an important role in student life. It's "the sole reason so many people end up loving this school and finding great friends," she said. She is excited about the opportunity to contribute to the program that eased her own transition to Stuyvesant. "I truly feel that without each and every Big Sib, Stuyvesant wouldn't feel like a community, at least not as much as it does now. It's a support system that reaches out to so many people each year. I'm unbelievably excited to be given the opportunity to give back to a school that has defined a significant part of me," Anantharam said.

Avril Coley

Coley shares Anantharam's excitement and also hopes to increase the Big Sib program's presence in the Stuyvesant community by promoting involvement throughout the year. "We're involved in it so much toward the end of the year when the Big Sibs have just been selected and we have the first Camp Stuy. Then, at the beginning of the year, while we're helping our Little Sibs get adjusted to Stuy, we're also involved," Coley said. "At a certain point as the year continued though, the energy seemed to plateau off so I'd like to have more Big Sib events to keep everyone as involved as earlier in the year." Coley hopes that in working together with the other Chairs, she can help increase involvement in the program. "Hopefully by working really closely with my fellow Chairs and getting some input from the Big Sibs about some things everyone would enjoy or be interested in, I can help some of these things happen," Coley said. Coley is a cheerleader and is also part of Stuy Squad.

John Connuck

Connuck, a longstanding supporter of the Big Sib program, is very excited about getting the position. "I'm really excited for this opportunity because I'm such a big fan of the program, and being a chair means I get to give back," Connuck said. Connuck's hopes for the program include being more proactive about organizing more events. "I imagine working closely with other groups and clubs around

the Stuy community as well, to bring events that will appeal to a lot of students, not necessarily just freshman even," Connuck said. "There are so many directions we can take the program, and the other four chairs are also really creative, I look forward to their ideas. I'd expect big things. My number one goal though is to keep things running as successfully as they have this year," Connuck said. Connuck's devoted spirit lends itself beyond the Big Sib program. Connuck is also a serious swimmer and captain of Stuyvesant's varsity swim team, the Pirates.

Alex Genshaft

Genshaft also strives to be proactive about organizing more events and making them known to the Stuyvesant community. "I think we should make a website for the Big and Little Sibs to advertise events and make it easier for Little Sibs to get involved with clubs, pubs, and teams by posting their interest meetings on the site," Genshaft said. He hopes to maintain organization in the running of the program by planning in advance. "We just have to get things done, and that may sound obvious, but if we start working on our plans soon and don't let it wait, then we shouldn't have too many problems," Genshaft said. "And for dealing with those problems, the five of us have different strengths and, together, we will deal with any problems that may occur." Aside from his commitment to the Big Sib program, Genshaft is also an active member of the Stuyvesant boys' track team and the STC sound crew.

Adeline Yeo

Yeo has already come up with plenty of plans for expanding the Big Sib program. "I'm absolutely ecstatic and I cannot wait to start planning events for the next school year," Yeo said. She has several creative ideas in mind to make the time spent during homeroom more valuable. "As Big Sib Chair, I really want to improve the homeroom experience for freshmen more exciting. I would love to have holiday-themed or just random-themed homerooms where Big Sibs will bring in food and play games. I know homeroom is only 15 minutes, but I think that is exactly why we should make the most of it," Yeo said. Yeo hopes to add themed homerooms to the list of mandatory Big Sib activities. "I would love to have to make themed homerooms mandatory for everyone, so that the freshmen will look more forward to homeroom. We may also have spirit days for homerooms as a way to unite the entire freshmen class and their Big Sibs," Yeo said. "I really care about my Little Sibs. It's funny that I'm always looking forward to going to my Little Sibs' homeroom, instead of mine because I love listening to what they have to say," Yeo said. Yeo is very interested in music and is an accomplished pianist.

The former Big Sib Chairs are excited about their chosen successors' future leadership and hope that these candidates fulfill their plans for the program.

"In general, we were looking for dedication and at the way people would deal with their

"I really care about my little sibs. It's funny that I'm always looking forward to going to my little sibs' homeroom, instead of mine because I love listening to what they have to say."

—Adeline Yeo,
junior and Big Sib
Chair

peers and the administration but that left so many people who were qualified," Tramontin said. "So we looked at the group dynamic, which is less tangible but the people we chose are doing a really good job so far."

"We were looking for people with innovative ideas who care about the program and have the ability to make it run well. We are confident that the people we chose have the ability to help the program really grow," Schleifer-Katz said.

"We needed someone who could get the job done and do it well but wouldn't treat it as a job," Giannoulas said. "Also we needed a group of individuals who could have a good group dynamic amongst themselves and all the individuals we chose were great and everyone has something different to bring to the table."

Micah Lasher: Politician, Stuyvesant Student and Magic Kid

continued from page 1

ML: I think it's fairly safe to say there will be cuts.

TS: How do you think the cuts are going to affect the public school system? What do you think is going to happen in the next few months or years?

ML: What you want to try to avoid at all costs is making cuts to core and structural services. Right now, with the cuts we're facing, the mayor has said we may not be able to hold the core and structural services harmless

TS: What's your opinion on the current state of New York City's education system?

ML: With 1.1 million kids and 1,500 schools, it's a massive, massive system. So there's nothing in America that even really compares to it in terms of its scale and scope. But even given that, the progress that we've made under this mayor and this chancellor—the successes that we produce are pretty incredible. [...] That doesn't mean there aren't big problems in a system this big. But I think when you consider its scale and you look at what other large urban school districts have done or are trying to do, New York is way ahead of the curve.

TS: As a side note, I know you published a magic book when you were younger. What exactly made you interested in magic?

ML: That was a childhood hobby that I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to write about it and publish a book about it.

TS: What did you talk about in the magic book?

ML: It's a mix of a history of the field and instruction and how to: The Magic of Micah Lasher. It was, as I like to say, that was a past life. There was a print run of about 15,000.

TS: Okay, getting back to your life as a politician. What made you want to get involved in politics?

ML: It began in Mr. Abramsky's AP Government class. I was seated next to a guy named David Gringer and a guy named David Meadvin and we were all seated in the front row. We all became very close friends and I went on to become editor of The Spectator. Both Davids went on to become presidents of the Student Government. And then we all went into politics after high school.

TS: Can you talk about your experience at Stuyvesant and what shaped your time there?

ML: I think one of the great parts of my experience at Stuyvesant was that I was able to play a role in some of the real issues that were affecting the school and, to a lesser extent, the school system, at the time. There were a lot of questions in terms of student empowerment within the school. I was really glad to have been able to advocate for what I viewed as important student rights.

TS: While you were Editor in Chief, The Spectator was shut down. Can you talk about the shutdown and the events leading up to it?

ML: We were pushing the envelope in a host of ways and there was a lot of pressure that had been building up as a result, that

was a lot of pressure that had been building up as a result, that

"It was a four year time that shaped who I am."
—Micah Lasher ('99)

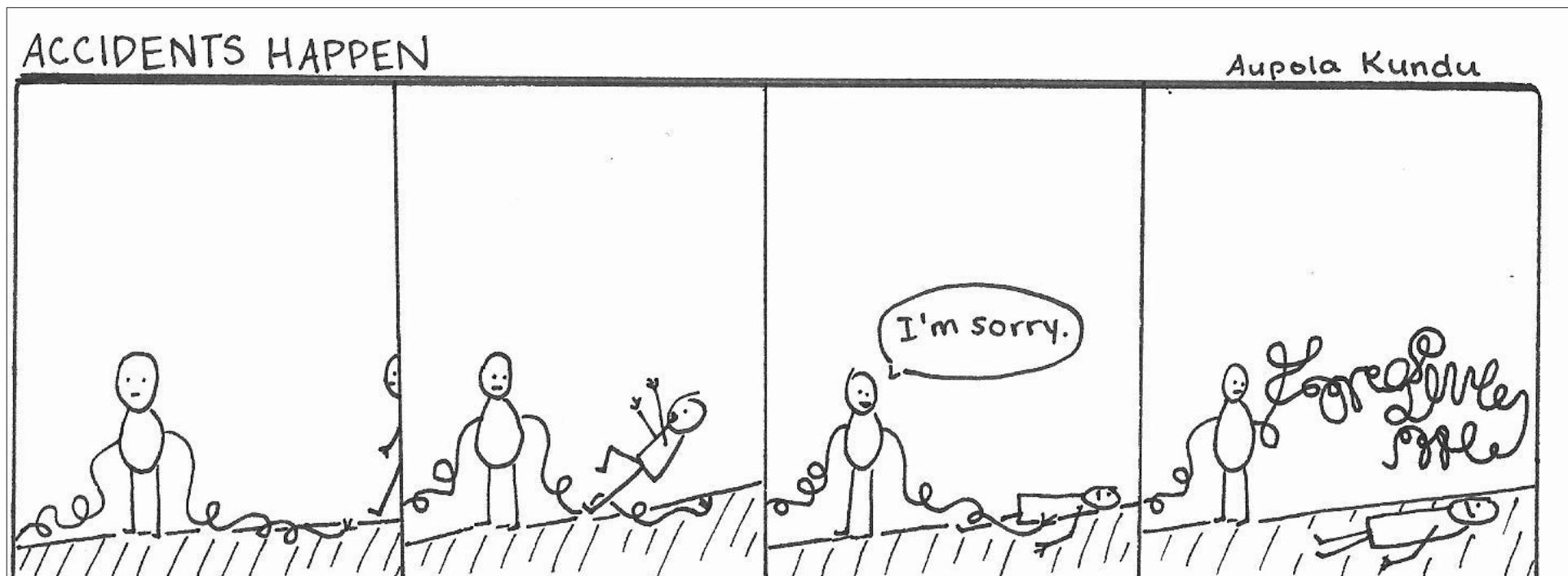
finally took shape in a decision by the principal to shut down the newspaper on the Friday before spring break. And through a short but pretty broad campaign, I reunited the newspaper within and outside of the school. We were able to get it reopened a few days after we got back from spring break. It was a very tough experience to go through, but one that was formative for me and one where ultimately the freedom that we viewed as incredibly important for students and for a student newspaper prevailed. And the time I spent as editor of the newspaper following that experience was very different as a result in that we had pretty firmly established a freedom and independence to report and publish unfettered by censorship or prior review.

TS: Do you have any other thoughts about your time at Stuyvesant?

ML: It was a four year time that really shaped who I am and that I look back on with fondness and nostalgia and gives me a real sense of purpose now as I set to work advocating for the entire New York City school system and for the goal of giving every kid the same opportunities that I was fortunate enough to have.

"I was able to play a role in some of the real issues that were affecting the school."
—Micah Lasher ('99)

from the cuts. Should the federal government come through with a stimulus package that is substantial in the state education, that will make a difference. But everything is on the table right now.

Cartoons

Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

Not Just Another High School Production

From the extravagant costumes to the multi-cultural dances to the creative stage set-up, SING! is one of the most anticipated activities at Stuyvesant. This once-a-year opportunity allows students to immerse themselves in a production that unites not only the individual grades, but the entire school.

SING! allows for more student participation than many other Stuyvesant Theater Community (STC) productions. Many of the crews, such as tech and props, do not even require prior experience for students who wish to join. While there are auditions for crews such as band and chorus, SING! still allows students to break into the theater community. In turn, after honing their skills, they can open doors for themselves to begin joining more STC productions.

But with only six weeks to complete everything, we sometimes practice for up to six hours on weekends and three hours after school. This makes it difficult to keep up with time commitments, such as completing our schoolwork and being on sports teams. On top of it all, the administration has instituted a policy that makes a student's

involvement in SING! tentative until the very day of the show. Since grades this year will come out on the same day as the first performance of SING!, students who fail any of their classes will be removed from the production on its opening night.

In addition, communication between the students and the administration has been faltering. When this year's SING! performance dates were decided upon, juniors realized that the March SAT test was scheduled for the same weekend as SING!. Due to the lack of communication between the administration and the student body in deciding on the SING! dates, most of the coordinators, producers and directors had to take time out of working on SING! to resolve the issue. A majority vote was held during the junior assembly on Tuesday, February 3, and SING! was moved back a week as a result, but many more students remain displeased.

If students and administrators were to work more closely with the coordinators on more aspects of SING!—such as deciding on the date—it would be run more effectively.

One way to improve communication would be to have

two stages for planning SING!. One step would be for choosing coordinators, and the other step for the actual development of the performances. This way, coordinators could be chosen towards the end of the fall term and thus be given more time to speak on behalf of the student body and finalize all decisions with the administration. By having these two stages, the problems that occurred this year are not likely to happen again.

We can lessen the pressure that other commitments put on participating in SING! by making SING!'s time obligations far less demanding. By extending the amount of time we have to work on SING!, we would have to hold fewer all-days and be able to shorten the amount of time we spend after school, thus freeing more time to focus on school-work, as well as our other activities.

In the end, SING! should be important to both the administration and student body. It's our one chance to get most of the 3000-plus students at Stuyvesant to interact with each other in a forum that allows for creative expression. Let's not waste it.

Refreshing the System

The times, they are a-changin'. New things are happening behind the scenes for our newspaper. You may not have noticed it yet, but a new editorial board is running The Spectator. With members of the previous editorial board and newly appointed editors working together, the paper is intent on retaining the high standards of the past while improving for the future.

As always, reader input is appreciated. Letters to the Editor are important; they often show a point of view that we have not considered. If you drop a letter in our mailbox or send an e-mail to letters@stuyspectator.com, we will do our best to print it. Communication is essential to solving problems. We're not just talking about communication between The Spectator and its readers—we need to increase communication between the students and the faculty of Stuyvesant. The Spectator strives to increase

school-wide communication by acting as a forum that reports on ideas of both the students and the administration.

To ensure that information is spread as clearly as possible, we will print the best paper we possibly can. A newspaper is only as good as its writers and we promise to maintain our strict standards when recruiting staff. With new training manuals and lessons planned, we are going to teach our staff how to produce the best journalism possible.

Besides printing news, we're also enhancing our web department. Our Web site, www.stuyspectator.com, has more than just all the articles from our paper; we've recently started uploading High Definition videos of sports games and student events, which stream at high quality. These videos are very accessible and it's easy to catch up on any important events you may have missed.

We've also realized that by

having a regulated, two-week printing cycle, our news can be outdated. With that in mind, we are going to start posting articles on our Web site immediately after news happens rather than waiting until after the print edition has come out. This is to avoid news lag.

To accommodate student interests and make it easier to access the news, we have created a Facebook page. If you become a fan, we will notify you when we've posted new articles and videos on our Web site. Facebook will provide another outlet to reach out to the student body. We will also be continuing with our newsletter which you can sign up for on www.stuyspectator.com.

By blending old and new, we hope to refresh The Spectator while keeping the best of what's already here. As we say goodbye to the old editorial board, we promise to continue our tradition of excellence.

Re: Just a Math and Science School?

In response to concerns voiced by some members of the faculty and administration, we would like to reiterate that the point of last issue's staff editorial was not to challenge Stuyvesant's reputation as a strong math and science school. We did not intend to devalue the admirable accomplishments of Stuyvesant alumni and current students in math and science. The editorial was merely suggesting that students be given more of a say in what courses are offered and how funds are allocated. There are a significant number of humanities-oriented students, and they should not see their educational opportunities limited due to a decades-old label.

—The Editors

**Thanks to Sam Gerstenzang and Melissa Chan,
Editor in Chief and Managing Editor ('08-'09)**
**—Luc Cohen and Rebecca Elliott,
Editors in Chief ('09-'10)**

**Thanks to The Spectator's 2008-2009 Editorial Board
—The Spectator's 2009-2010 Editorial Board**

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



"The Pulse
of the
Student
Body"

SPORTS EDITORS
Scott Chiusano
Eddie Cytryn

PHOTOGRAPHY
EDITORS
Christina Bogdan
Anna Menkova

EDITORS IN CHIEF
Luc Cohen*
Rebecca Elliott*

NEWS EDITORS
Kaitlyn Kwan
Ani Sefaj
Alexander Shin

FEATURES EDITORS
Sarah Kaplan
Danielle Oberdier

OPINIONS EDITORS
Emma Dries
Gavin Huang
Kiran Sury

ARTS &
ENTERTAINMENT
EDITORS
Leili Saber
Alan Sage*

ART DIRECTORS
Yun Cho
Singha Hon

LAYOUT EDITORS
Lodoe Sangmo
Vivian Sze
Laura Ye*

COPY EDITORS
Divya Dayal
Jonathan Lerner

BUSINESS MANAGERS
Grace Lee
Jamie Yu

WEB EDITORS
Victor Ma*
Marcin Skok

FACULTY ADVISOR
Kerry Garfinkel

Please address all letters to:
345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282
(212) 312-4800 ext. 2601
letters@stuyspectator.com

We reserve the right to edit letters
for clarity and length.
© 2008 The Spectator
All rights reserved by the creators.
* Managing Board Members

The Spectator

We are compiling an archive of
past issues.

We are looking for issues
published before 1995.

Please send any
newspapers to:

The Stuyvesant Spectator
345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282

If you have any questions,
e-mail us at:
archives@stuyspectator.com

**Do you want to reflect
on an article?
Or speak your mind?**

Write a letter to the editor and e-mail it to
letters@stuyspectator.com or
drop it in The Spectator box
in the second-floor mail room.

FOR THE RECORD

- In Issue 9, the date of the blood drive was incorrectly stated in "Many Donate for SU Blood Drive." The blood drive took place on Thursday, January 8.
- In "Many Donate for SU Blood Drive," the total amount of blood collected was incorrectly stated.
- In "David Axelrod: From Stuyvesant to the White House," the first paragraph was left out. For the complete article, visit stuyspectator.com
- In "Administration Takes Strict Measures to Combat Cheating During Finals Week," Assistant Principal Organization Randi Damesek's surname was misspelled.
- In "Starving At Stuy," the name of Bach's First Brandenburg Concerto was incorrectly stated.

Opinions

Point

Fixing February



By EMMA ZIEGELLAUB EICHLER

During the first two weeks of February, I found myself getting to school at 7:45, going to the guidance office only to be met with darkened windows and locked doors, returning at lunch to wait 35 minutes, leaving me with only five to actually talk to my guidance counselor, and coming back yet again after school to be turned away at four because the office was closing. All this was interspersed with frequent treks up to the sixth and seventh floors to visit the English and biology departments and even included missing a class for three consecutive days.

Unlike most other high schools in the city like Brooklyn Technical High School, High School of American Studies at Lehman College and LaGuardia High School, Stuyvesant annualizes only some English classes and select Advanced Placement (AP) classes, instead of annualizing all its year-long courses. Second-semester programming often entails students storming into the guidance, programming and assistant principals' offices and yelling, even as classes are already in full swing. Most guidance counselors are meanwhile trying to deal with other work like Secondary School Reports and assistant principals are tearing their hair out, overwhelmed by the extreme chaos and large number of complaints. The programming nightmare in September may be unavoidable, but there is no reason why we have to repeat it midway through the year.

As a result of this mid-year nightmare, there are going to be four categories of students: those who had the teacher the previous term and are exactly where they expect to be; those who had one that went through the material faster and will thus spend the next month in a state of vegetation; those who had one that moved more slowly through the mate-

rial and are utterly lost and unprepared; and those who had one that approached the material in a different order and are stuck in a hopeless situation all semester. Teachers then face a difficult dilemma. They can forge ahead with their own syllabus and let the students deal with the teaching disparities on their own, or they can change the speed and risk not covering all the material completely or deeply, leaving some of the class bored stiff with review. Changing classes halfway through a year-long course interrupts the flow and sense of continuity that should come with it and detracts from the time that can be spent on the material.

These academic problems can also lead to personal ones. In a large school like Stuyvesant, it's hard to get to know a teacher well, and when one switches teachers after just five months, it can be almost impossible. When students and teachers know each other better, it is easier for students to do well because they understand what the expectations are and can relax more. Teachers would be able to grade and assess students' progress better because they understand their strengths and weaknesses. Favors like teacher recommendations are easier to ask for and more effective with closer student-teacher relations.

If Stuyvesant annualized classes like its fellow specialized high schools, the only programming changes to be made in February would be for single-semester classes and in cases where there is a serious issue between a student and teacher. Mandatory single-semester classes could easily be dealt with. Classes like drafting and Introduction to Computer Science for sophomores and Music and Art Appreciation for freshmen would be offered the same period so the switch would not disrupt other classes. For upperclassmen, as more electives and electives are available, more changes would be required, but for underclassmen, virtually no changes would be needed, thus halving the work of programming. This leaves only some single-term electives as potential disruptions to students' programs. To account for these, students could make all programming requests for the year in the spring so that both semesters could be programmed at once.

I was discussing my second-semester schedule to a friend at another specialized high school, when she said, "You mean you get a different schedule halfway through the year?" I confirmed this, and she replied, "But that's so stressful! I couldn't deal with that." It is stressful for students, teachers, and administrators alike, and there doesn't appear to be any good way to deal with it other than eliminating the problem altogether and annualizing classes.

Counterpoint

Change We Can Believe In



By KIRAN SURY

Life isn't always fair. At Stuyvesant, this saying often takes the form of an imperfect schedule. Classes are cut, teachers are switched, and more often than not, you are rejected from electives you're qualified for. So you get stuck with a crappy schedule full of teachers you don't like and trips from the first to 10th floors and back again. Despite your pleading attempts with your guidance counselor, you're stuck with your schedule. There is absolutely nothing you can do.

Sound like the end of the world? Well, for students who are put in this situation, it sure seems like it. However, they at least have the hope that next term—there's a chance that things will be better. When we switch classes halfway through the year, it's like someone has clicked Stuyvesant's refresh button. Everything is new again. You have new subjects with new teachers, and the change is a relief from the daily routine you've gotten used to. Even for Advanced Placement (AP) courses, there's really no problem with changing teachers. As a specialized class, usually only one or two highly qualified teachers can teach an AP, so you're either going to continue with the one you have or have someone else just as skilled. You might not like all of your classes, but you deal with it. You're only stuck with these teachers for another five months. After that, there's change: change that we can believe in, and change that annualizing classes would take away.

Some may say that annualizing classes would simplify programming, but that isn't really the case. Suppose core classes were locked down into your schedule during your fall term. What would you do about spring-term electives? Electives cannot be offered every period, and you would be shoehorned into taking the electives that were only available during your free periods. This effectively removes all choice from the system, because choosing from a limited selection is like having no choice at all. Sure, the programming might be a little easier, but is it really worth it when annualizing classes would

eliminate our free will and the opportunity to take different courses?

Even more important than the new classes and teachers are the new people you meet. A friend of mine who goes to LaGuardia, junior Joseph Cocciarella, recently remarked on how much he hated going back to school at the start of a new term. I was excited about the possibilities that come with new classes, so I asked him what he meant. He then told me that classes at his school were annualized. With nothing but the same classes to look forward to, school just drags on.

Stuyvesant students don't have this problem. Each new cycle ensures that you'll meet new people and socialize with students from all the different cliques,

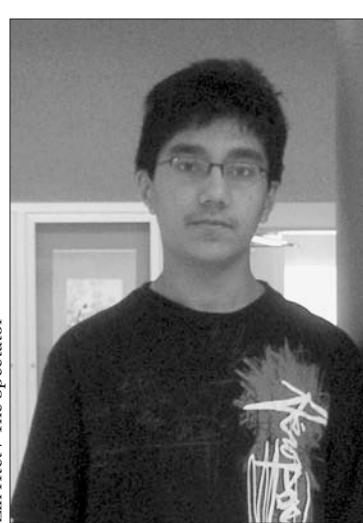
**There's change:
change that we can
believe in, and
change that
annualizing classes
would take away.**

even if it's only in a classroom setting. Stuyvesant is so large, that without meeting new students each semester, I would only know a fraction of the population. Even in my junior year, there are usually five to 10 people I have never met in each of my classes. While this may say more about my lack of popularity than the benefits of the current system, it's still something to consider. Without the ability to completely revamp my schedule twice a year, I'd have far fewer friends at Stuyvesant. Although I may not get to see my old friends during school as much, it's a worthwhile trade-off since I'm making new ones and can connect with old ones outside of school.

When people complain about switching classes, it's mostly about having to deal with new teachers and unfamiliar faces. However, when you're in the real world, everything isn't going to stay the same for your convenience. People will come and go, and life can change in an instant. In a way, changing classes is further training in preparing you for adulthood.

It all comes down to change. Some people are afraid of it or just don't want to deal with the hassle that comes with it. With a new schedule can come new problems, but also new opportunities. It's these opportunities that make the current system worth it.

Can't Stop the Beat



By VARUN SHARMA

"This is so hard for me... to find the words to say. My thoughts are standing still. Captive inside of me, all emotions start to hide and nothing's getting through." These were the

words going through my mind during an Advanced Placement Spanish final exam. Instead of writing a powerful essay on international commerce and economy, I was stuck reciting the words to a song by progressive metal/hard rock band Dream Theater. Unfortunately, the same song served as the background music to every one of my finals for the rest of the week.

The reason the song was stuck in my head was that I can't stand the oppressive silence that comes when I have nothing interesting to do. I'm sure other students feel the same way. That's why so many of them walk to school with black or white headphones plugged into their ears, trying to fight the boredom that can come from a simple walk to school. In fact, Stuyvesant students are so reliant on their favorite songs

**Allowing people
to access thou-
sands of songs
in the subway,
at home and
even at school,
iPods never al-
low for a dull
moment.**

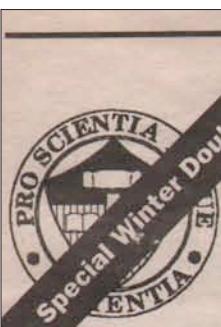
that some dare to walk around school with a lone earbud snaking its way through the neck of a hoodie and into their ear.

Because students can distract themselves and others with their music during the school day, countless schools across the nation have implemented policies against the possession of mp3 players while on school grounds. But these intolerant policies are attempting to stop the inevitable, as students cannot be separated from their desire for music.

The ever-evolving technology of mp3 players such as Apple's ubiquitous iPod—now more popular than ever—effectively makes the ban useless. Allowing people to access thousands of songs in the subway, at home, in the library, and even at school, iPods never allow for a dull moment. Due to mp3 players going nano and nano-er, all the while increasing in music capacity, our daily dose of music is readily available and easily taken for granted.

If mp3 players and music were allowed into school once more, the atmosphere would become much livelier. Teachers could confiscate them from students who use them during class, as they do now. However, for students with free periods and nothing to do, music can provide a useful diversion. It eliminates the need to roam the halls, which can interrupt classes. Headphones ensure that the music will not disturb others, and a ban on speakers is understandable. The ban on loud music players makes sense; the ban on music altogether does not. As music can now become an individualized experience, with no effect on others, it should be allowed back into Stuyvesant. Sometimes we are preoccupied by it at inopportune times, such as when writing an essay, but the distraction is worth it; music is here to stay.

From The Archives:



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

*"The pulse
of the
student
body."*

Volume LXXXIX No. 7

December 21, 1998

To the Stuyvesant Community



Students Aren't Just Saying "No"

By MICHELLE WILSON

From religious and cultural ceremonies to advertisements in a train car, alcohol can be found everywhere. As one of the few legalized drugs, the regulation and use of alcohol is a topic that is heatedly debated across America. This holds true at Stuyvesant as well. Simply uttering the word "alcohol" is sure to draw an emotional and opinionated response from many Stuyvesant students. Whether they are fervently against alcohol, or in complete support of its use, they all agree on alcohol's importance and relevance in the Stuyvesant community.

Among the students who approve the use of alcohol, the largest percentage comes from those for whom alcohol is an accepted part of their culture.

"I actually drink alcohol at home," says junior Andrew Doro. "It's part of our family tradition that we drink wine

Bye, Bye Birdie Says Bye-Bye After Four Performances

By NANCY TING

This year, Stuyvesant's fall musical was "Bye, Bye Birdie." This was the first year that a school production had four shows, with performances on December 11, 12, 18 and 19.

Dance choreographer Sara Lewkowicz thought that the show turned out a lot better than expected. She was especially happy with the per-



Sasha Andreev as Conrad Birdie

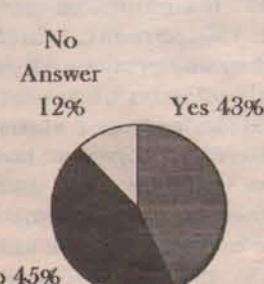
formance of senior Emily Young, who played the part of Rosie Alvarez.

"[She] was one of the strongest dancers, and a greater actor and singer, especially in her solo performance of 'Spanish Rose,'" said Lewkowicz.

The sets and costumes were creatively and effectively portrayed, as girls in knee-length skirts and cardigans fawned over Conrad Birdie in

*continued on page 9**continued on page 10*

Do you use drugs or alcohol?



By SUSAN MARSHALL

"I was standing on the subway platform, thinking 'Oh my God' . . . I thought my mom might have gotten the letter already, so I called her right there. She picked up the phone and she started crying and screaming, 'You got in! You got in!' I couldn't believe it. I was shocked and I started screaming on the subway and

CLOSE SHAVE, DAVE

Chief Financial Officer David Gringer Avoids Impeachment by Student Union Executive Council

By MIKE KWON
and JANE CHO

Packed into room 615A, the Student Union Executive Council held its first-ever impeachment hearing on Monday, December 14. After two hours of questioning, chief financial officer David Gringer was cleared of all charges of misconduct.

At the Executive Council meeting held on December 7, junior caucus president Daniel Grinberg brought up seven charges against Gringer. These charges included intimidating the elections co-chair Sam Jacobson as to the questions of the caucus debate, not respecting campaigning boundaries during the voting, bribing voters, publishing false campaign literature, and intimidating freshmen to vote for the candidates he was endorsing. Two other charges regarded the unethical selling of tickets for the theater show Bye-Bye Birdie. Senior caucus president Nick Vlku motioned to schedule an interrogation of Gringer for "possible reasons for impeachment." The executive council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

"These charges are unsubstantiated, and were brought out of nowhere," said Gringer prior to the hearing.

But Grinberg stated at the December 7 meeting that all seven charges were legitimate.

"All charges were substantiated by at least two people."

The executive council began the questioning with the issue of reserving tickets for Bye-Bye Birdie. Gringer noted that, although he did reserve tickets for people, these tickets were paid for,



SU Chief Financial Officer David Gringer was questioned Monday by the Executive Council, but not impeached.

and were given to the stars of the show. In fact, at the December 7 meeting, Coordinator of Student Affairs John Lapolla noted that this charge was rather trivial, and should be recast or rescinded.

"As far as I know, every student budget director has done that in the past," said Lapolla.

The questioning then progressed to issues regarding Gringer's conduct during the elections. Gringer publicly

supported Scott Burr and Annie Chen for the freshman caucus election. When asked if he violated elections charter regulations by campaigning for Burr and Chen within 30 feet of the voting table, Gringer replied that he did on rare occasions.

He added, "However, frequently what was going on was that I would be walking through the [30-foot] box car

continued on page 6

Early Admissions Produce Pain and Pride

everyone was looking at me, but I didn't care," says Rachel Smith, a senior who was accepted early to Princeton University.

For seniors, it is the year that may contain one of the happiest moments in a Stuyvesant student's life. For those who applied early to college, one day in the second week of December is either a day that crushes one's lifelong dream or one that compensates for every one of those

million trials and tribulations of 17 years.

Early decision to a college is binding. The applications are sent to the schools and reviewed earlier. Students find out in the second week of December if they were accepted, rejected or deferred, meaning that they will compete for a seat in the college again in March, with the regular-admission students.

continued on page 17

INSIDE

Page 2:
Time for Perullo to Back Off

Page 9:
Admins, Teachers Talk of Annual Scheduling

Page 18:
Psycho: Then and Now

Page 20:
Rebels Off and Running

Arts and Entertainment

The Forgotten Film Reel: The Station Agent

By SARA HASSAN

As Finbar McBride sets his sparse grocery items down at the checkout counter, the big-haired, gum-popping cashier continues to read her magazine. After a few throat clearings, she looks up—or rather, down, at the four-foot five man, saying, "Sorry, I didn't see you."

And thus one of the opening scenes of Thomas McCarthy's *The Station Agent* dictates the mantra of Fin's life. A dwarf and lover of railroads, Fin (Peter Dinklage) works at a model train hobby shop overlooking a New Jersey Transit rail yard until the owner suddenly dies and mysteriously leaves him the half-acre of land and abandoned train depot. Hoping to escape the people who either do not notice him or gawk at

silence about their inner emotions does not detract from the strength with which these emotions are depicted; Dinklage's portrait of an angry, yet helplessly introverted man serves as a unique complement to the awkward Harris, and desperately friendly Cannavale. Thomas McCarthy also directs Cleo (Raven Goodwin), a young girl who plays alone among Fin's trains, extremely well. He manages to use her as encouragement to get Fin to face his fears by speaking at a public school, but also gives her a curious personality of her own so she is not disregarded as a mere plot device. The local librarian, Emily (Michelle Williams), unfortunately fails in being an intriguing character; one sees right through her predictable lines that promise her abusive boyfriend is "really a good



him openly, Fin walks the miles of railroads of his new home. Here, he can finally be alone with his own life-size trains.

Alone, that is, until distract ed artist Olivia Harris (Patricia Clarkson) nearly runs him over, and Joe Oramas (Bobby Cannavale), an overly talkative snack truck operator, knocks on his door with some café con leche. While it is inevitable

guy." Though she delivers these banalities with little conviction, Dinklage's deadpan reception of her teary confessions ultimately saves the scenes.

The Station Agent's overarching theme of a broken, depressed trio coming together in a tentative friendship is expertly written and acted. The backdrop of the abandoned New Jersey wilderness coupled with short guitar and harmonica melodies acts as a simple frame that greatly enhances the characters' stories. Watching Fin overcome his antisocial barriers and Olivia finally confront the memories of her son—aided by the continually upbeat Joe—this film challenges notions of traditional plot with a meandering storyline and an ending that leaves the audience truly wondering how the three became friends. A masterpiece in its simplicity, *The Station Agent*, which won the Sundance Film Festival's Audience Award for Drama, has certainly earned the attention of those who have tired of the false, overeager quirkiness of similar films about unusual friendships.

The Station Agent
Directed by Thomas McCarthy
Miramax Films
2003

for such a movie to follow the three lonely neighbors as they become friends, it avoids all the sentimental traps it could have fallen into. Olivia, Fin, and Joe remain platonic, Fin never verbalizes the suffering he has endured as a dwarf, and Olivia never articulates the grief she feels for her recently dead son. However, the characters'

"Sorry.
I didn't see
you."
... dictates
the mantra
of Fin's life.

The Laramie Project Finds Justice

By CLIO CONTOGENIS
and ERICA SANDS

When Jonas Sloanker, a gay man played by senior Alexander Palmer, cried "I want to know what actual good is going to come out of this!" towards the end of the show, he voiced one of the play's central themes: Will some good arise from Matthew's death?

"The Laramie Project," directed by seniors Gemma Breit and Robert Stevenson and sophomore Abie Sidell, centers on the true story of how Matthew Shepard, a gay college student in Laramie, Wyoming, was murdered. "Laramie," this year's winter drama, was produced by senior Allegra Flamm, sophomore Michael Silverblatt and freshman Ashley McQuiller.

"The Laramie Project" consists of real (albeit edited) interviews conducted by the Tectonic Theater Group, the theater group that crafted the play, with the townspeople of Laramie. Although the sometimes-dry dialogue and lack of plot give "The Laramie Project" the potential to drag—and it did lag at some points—the directors solved this problem with a visually engaging set and fast-paced blocking.

The set, designed under the guidance of tech directors Eunju Namkung and Andrew Labunka, was divided into sections: a bar and a desk at opposite ends of the stage, an open space in between and a staircase and podium in the back. The 20 or so actors moved from place to place well, playing the roles of close to 60 characters by becoming different characters in each separate space. In general, the actors continually provided clear character shifts despite minimal costume changes by taking on different postures, accents and gestures.

As shadows crossed the

show began with a description of Laramie by the inhabitants themselves. They asked the audience not to condemn their town because of what had happened there. The cast did an excellent job of fairly presenting the townspeople's view of the murder. Although the audience was initially inclined to distrust the townspeople, by the end of the show many were no longer sure.

One of the characters, Jedidiah Schultz, also played by Palmer, tried to explain his values' transformation after Shepard's death. Jedidiah's parents are against his acting as a gay character in "Angels in America," a play by Tony Kushner about homosexuality and AIDS.

Although the audience was initially inclined to distrust the townspeople, by the end of the show we were no longer sure.

Palmer portrayed his character vividly, and we immediately understood his conflict with his parents. After striding onto the stage with an energized "Ugh, my parents!" Palmer delivered a comical, yet powerful speech about convincing his parents to let him play the role.

Senior Shaker Islam played a limousine driver living in



"The Laramie Project" was directed by seniors Gemma Breit and Robert Stevenson and sophomore Abie Sidell.

stage, a spotlight shone on senior Grace Klein, the show's first narrator. Each scene had a different narrator, a member of the Tectonic Theater Group telling his or her part of the story. Though these narrators made it easier to grasp the plot, their often flat, almost robotic delivery of their lines hurt the show's mood. The exception was senior Ray Hicks, who managed to bring some charisma to his narration.

Laramie. Islam was candid, often adding comic relief to the production with perfectly timed delivery of humorous lines. Also noteworthy were performances by sophomore Yana Azova and senior Amy Crehore. Crehore played a cop who helped take Matthew Shepard to the hospital and Azova played the cop's mother. Their chemistry was realistic and moving. Senior Taylor Shung skillfully portrayed Romaine Patterson, one of Mat-

thew's closest friends. She talked about Matt as if she had really known him and accurately depicted the emotions accompanying the loss of a friend.

Matthew's funeral was the show's most powerful scene. The majority of the cast sat solemnly in the background singing "Amazing Grace" as Reverend Fred Phelps, played by senior Ray Hicks, offered a vicious protest against homosexuality. When a furious Romaine decided to take action, she equipped fellow cast members with angel wings and they stood in front of Phelps and his entourage in a formation that resembled the figurehead of a ship. The staging of this scene was striking.

The theater crews performed well, if not as well as the cast. Senior and lighting director Simon Szybist made many innovative choices. During one scene, when reporters visit Laramie, the four reporters came to the front and spoke over each other while different colored lights flashed all over the stage. The costumes, designed by seniors Helen and Julia Cabot, were simple but effective. The decision to put cast members in all black when reading journal entries from the original company that put on the show exemplified this creative simplicity. These all-black costumes contrasted with the more every-day wear seen during the rest of the show.

At two and a half hours, the production would have benefitted from more cuts. Some scenes, such as a scene in a restaurant involving a theater company member and a waitress, seemed out-of-place and unnecessary. In addition, the lighting crew had difficulties hitting their cues in both performances, which detracted from the overall effect.

At a high school in Acton, Massachusetts, church groups

Arts and Entertainment

Fish Soup and Blueburger: A Well-Balanced Festival

By SERENA BERRY

Commercial films geared toward children and teens are rarely thought-provoking and are often, well, juvenile. The New York International Children's Film Festival (NYICFF), however, has been offering a much more stimulating film repertoire for children and teens since 1997. The 2009 festival includes 11 features and six series of short films. The festival began on Friday, February 27 and runs until Sunday, March 15.

Shorts for Teens, which will take place on Saturday, March 7, features 10 unique shorts which employ a variety of visual media. "Operator," a short and quirky animated piece by Matthew Walker, takes place in a dismal apartment on a rainy day. A taciturn man calls the operator and asks for God's number. After being connected, he asks why he cannot lick his elbow and appears satisfied at the answer he receives. This very philosophical piece is short—less than two minutes long—and sweet.

Another mysterious piece in the Shorts for Teens series is "Fish Soup," a Mexican film directed by Nuria Ibanez. A family's dinner is interrupted when a strange bird appears out of nowhere. A little girl believes the bird is her dead grandmother and the mother subsequently tries to shoot the bird, but accidentally shoots her son. "Fish Soup" presents a dark and mysterious image of family life.

"I Met the Walrus," a short directed by Josh Raskin includes a real recording of then 14-year-old Jerry Levitan interviewing John Lennon. It is a patchwork of sound and animation. The images, which are mostly in black,

white and pink, show literal interpretations of John Lennon's words as he speaks. When he calls those who disdain his lifestyle "squares," the image of a boy is squashed into a box.

Also intriguing among the Shorts for Teens is "Orgesticulismus," a collage of animation and still photographs with sparse narration about being handicapped. Director Matthieu Labaye made the short as a tribute to his father, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. The short shows animated puppets repeating mundane tasks, like standing up from a chair. Suddenly, one figure begins to dance and escapes from his puppet strings. The figure soon transforms into a dancing skeleton and then into an abstract blob. The crazy and breathtaking short praises the possibility of motion within one's soul.

Another part of the festival Heebie Jeebies, will take place on Sunday, March 8 and consists of short films, and includes "Little Girl Waiting," another Mexican short. The film opens with the image of a little girl dressed in bright pink and clutching her teddy bear in a drab airport. After she runs up to man and tells him that she can't find her mom, she spots a woman who is supposedly her mother. When the woman denies this, the girl claims the man is her father and the woman is her mother. The girl continues to trick the man and woman—an airport security guard believes the man and woman are trying to abandon their daughter—and trips the woman with her teddy bear. While the girl runs away across a bridge, the man tends to the injured woman. The film's last shot shows the woman giving birth to the man's child. The

short is at times difficult to understand, but is enjoyable and beautifully subtle.

"West of Pluto," which will

names and eventually deciding on "Wet Dreams." The movie attempts to show real life teen situations and does at times, but

is a coming-of-age story about Esther Blueburger, an awkward Jewish girl who lives in Australia. The film's cinematography is beautiful, showing the perfect, popular girls who shun Esther sit together in perfect circles and perform cartwheels, all the while dressed in vibrant colors.

Esther soon meets Sunni, played by Keisha Castle-Hughes from "Whale Rider," a rebellious public school girl. Esther becomes attracted to Sunni's way of life and Esther learns to reject her classmates' values and her overbearing mother's idea of "normal." Teens may appreciate "Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger" more than "West of Pluto" since the film offers a less cliché presentation of teenage life.

The NYICFF offers a wide spectrum of cinematic works. From unusual, artistic shorts to fun features, NYICFF films offer far more to the audience than typical children's and teens' films do. The festival also provides a great forum for artists to express their ideas to the open and understanding, yet often underestimated, minds of the younger generation.

Tickets can be purchased and venue locations can be found at www.gkids.com. All films play at one of the following venues:

Cantor Film Center
36 East 8 Street (at University Place)
(212) 998-4100

IFC Center
323 6 Avenue (at West 3 Street)
(212) 924-7771

Symphony Space
2537 Broadway (at 95 Street)
(212) 864-5400



play on Saturday, March 7, is a feature film directed by Myriam Verreault and Henry Bernadet that portrays the daily lives of a group of Quebec teenagers, whose activities include going to school, skateboarding, smoking, and partying. "West of Pluto" is filled with touching and realistic scenes, such as the one when one girl's get-together escalates into a crazy party—during which her house is ransacked—and she seeks comfort from her dog. Another great scene involves two boys discussing potential band

also veers into the cliché during the second half of the film after the party scene. The film tries to develop on a lot of story lines and it often seems like too much plot for a 95-minute film. However, the quirky and relatable teenage characters of the film, like the enamored yet shy Jerome, make it a worthwhile watch.

The Australian feature, "Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger," which will show on Saturday, March 7, is more lighthearted than many of the other films and offers a nice contrast. The movie

Exotically 4th Street

By DIANA HOU

Nowadays, the guitar dominates the world of popular instruments. For anyone looking to expand his or her horizons beyond the common guitar, they might find two unique instrument stores, Music Inn World Instruments and N.Y. Woodwind & Brass Music Corp., specialize in rare and exotic instruments from around the globe.

Located conveniently at 169 West 4th Street, Music Inn—one of Bob Dylan's old haunts—maintains a homely ambiance. The exotic instruments hang from the ceiling and every available wall space, while still more instruments are scattered throughout the store in gigantic haphazard piles that don't leave much room for walking.

Music Inn sells instruments from all over the world. There are vast quantities of African drums and Indian sitars—plucked string instruments with hollow necks and gourd chambers. About half of the store is devoted to intriguing African percussion instruments, such as the Nigerian shiko and the West African dundun, often made from cow skin. Other unique instruments include the African kora, a cross between a harp and a traditional string instrument, and the Zimbabwean mbira, a wooden board with metal keys. "If anyone is looking for anything even remotely exotic, this is definitely the place to come," said Oliver Duncan, a shopkeeper at Music Inn.

It takes time to build up such an eclectic assortment of instruments. "Over time you become familiar with the different world instruments, and then it's a mat-

ter of knowing the right people," Duncan said. According to Duncan, Music Inn's vast collection results from a gradual buildup of experience and worldwide contacts since its founding in 1958. The passage of 50 or so years has given the store a folksy appearance, complete with rough floorboard and a dusty register on the brink of collapse.

Many types of people frequent the Music Inn for various purposes. "We get a lot of enthusiasts, but there are also the natives who are looking for instruments from their country that they can't get anywhere else," Duncan said. The store receives tourists, aficionados and curious musicians.

"I like to visit and savor the scent of all the skins," said Audrey, a Music Inn customer who declined to give her last name.

Outside of the Village, you'll find a large conglomerate of instrument shops on 48th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. Rudy's Music Shop, Alex Accordions, Manny's Music and four different Sam Ash stores all lie on the same block. But if you're looking for exotic instruments, you'll want to stop at N.Y. Woodwind & Brass Music Corp.

The store contains row after row of shiny brass instruments enclosed in glass cases. However, Woodwind & Brass also hosts two separate glass cases dedicated to exotic instruments. Unlike the homier Music Inn, Woodwind & Brass neatly arranges and labels all of its exotic instruments. One case contains Native American, Filipino, Chinese and Latin American flutes. The Native American flute consists of a wooden duct with a block whistle mechanism—you may have heard the



Woodwind & Brass, located at 168 West 48 Street, hosts two glass cases dedicated to exotic instruments

flute's mysterious timbre in New Age music recordings. Next to the flutes are conch shells, which can be used as wind instruments by blowing into a small hole in the spire.

Contained in the second glass case are even more peculiar foreign instruments. The store offers Egyptian instruments such as the mizmar reed and the ney, an ancient flute that is prominent in Persian, Turkish and Arabic music. The ney is made of a hollow cane with five or six finger holes and one thumb hole. Also offered are bagpipe reeds, susato Irish whistles, and Indonesian sulungs, which are essentially long

tubes of bamboo. The bagpipe is similar to a flute, but uses a bag as an air reservoir. Since the bag must be airtight, it's usually made of strong material like goatskin, sheepskin, or cowhide.

Although the Woodwind and Brass Music Corp. offers many exotic instruments, it mainly focuses on brass instruments. "The exotic instruments are really something to look at, but I've never given a thought to actually buying one," said Martha Williams, a customer who was buying a trumpet for her son.

Music Inn places guitars and sitars on the same shelf. Although this arrangement is probably ac-

idental in the often-disorganized Music Inn, it reminds one that most exotic instruments were popular and hip at some point in their native cultures' histories. Perhaps the guitar too will be considered an "exotic instrument" in the future.

Music Inn World Instruments
169 West 4th Street (between Jones St and Cornelia St)
(212) 243-5715

N.Y. Woodwind and Brass Music Corp.
168 West 48 Street (between 6 Avenue and 7 Avenue)
(212) 302-5893

ADVERTISEMENTS

OLYMPIAD

188-16 Northern Blvd. 2FL, Flushing, NY 11358
(718) 762-6364 · olyacademia2008@gmail.com

National Olympiad Competitions
Biology Olympiad (including AP Biology)
September 14 ~ mid-February
20 sessions. Sunday 3-6pm.
Chemistry Olympiad (including AP Chemistry)
September 14 ~ late February
20 sessions. Sunday 3-6pm.
Physics Olympiad (including AP Physics B & C)
September 14 ~ late February
20 sessions. Sunday 3-6pm.
AMC 10 & AMC 12

Class begins the second week of September.
SAT II – Preparation for the June 2009 SAT II exams
SAT II Biology Starts October 4. Saturday 4-6pm.
SAT II Chemistry Starts October 4. Saturday 2-4pm.
SAT II Math IIC (including Pre-Calculus)
Starts October 4. Saturday 12-2pm.

SAT II Physics, U.S. History, World History, Spanish, and English Literature
Individual tutoring sessions can be scheduled. Recommended frequency and length is 1 hour per week

SAT I – Saturday classes

SAT I students may come in to take a diagnostic exam any Sunday between 10 A.M. and 3 P.M. They must arrive at the academy between these hours in order to finish the exam – which takes 3 hours and 45 minutes – before the academy closes. Students must bring their own calculator.

9th-10th: September 13 ~ late January (20 weeks)

11th: Will prepare for the Jan 2009 exam. September 13 ~ late January (20 weeks)

12th: Will prepare for the Dec 2008 exam. September 13 ~ late November (13 weeks)

Saturday Morning – Reading, Writing, and Math

9am-1:30pm. 5 levels (5 classes).

Saturday Evening – Reading, Writing, and Math

3pm-7:30pm. 2 levels (2 classes).

SAT I – Weekday classes

English

Reading and Writing: 6-8 pm

Tuesday/Thursday Group Starts September 16.

Wednesday and Friday Group Starts September 17.

Mathematics

Math A: Starts September 17

Wednesday 4:30-6pm.

Math B: Starts September 17

Friday 4:30-6pm.

SAT I Math: Starts September 17

Friday 8-9:30pm.

SAT/PSAT Prep.

Raise SAT Score by 350 Points!

"I went into C2 with a 1790 on my SAT. After 27 classes with C2, I scored 2180. My essay score also improved from a 3 to a 5. I think that all of my tutors were great! They really paid attention to my needs, and accommodated my schedule perfectly." -Francesca Y.



"My daughter Lily recently took the SAT. Her scores were 800 in both math and verbal and 740 in writing. We were so glad for the results of her SATs. She would not have been able to achieve them without your help. We are very grateful for the personalized instruction and assessments."

-Catherine L.

* SAT / SAT II / ACT etc.
* Algebra / Calculus / Trigonometry
* Biology / Chemistry / Stuyvesant
Physics with Mike Ternaney
* AP Subjects / IB Courses
* Reading Comprehension / Essay
Writing
* Vocabulary / Composition

TEACHERS

· David Kim, A.B., Harvard University
· Sophia Huang, A.B., U of Chicago
· Jason Keller, B.A., Cornell University
· Yakov Brukhman, B.S., NYU
· Jim Narangajavana, A.B., Harvard University

· Peter Lukacs, B.S., M.I.T.
· Wendy Hsiao, B.A., Cornell University
· Brigitte Radigan, B.A., U of Penn
· Esther Greer, B.A., Yale University



Education Centers
1-800-777-7000

\$50 OFF
Diagnostic Test
With Coupon
New students Only

Mahattan

1461 3rd Ave. 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10028
(Between 82nd and 83rd St)

www.c2educate.com

CHINA QUEST

2009
summer in china

info@chinaquest.org
www.chinaquest.org

The SAT is coming...Don't Panic!

WilsonDailyPrep
Affordable. Convenient.
Online.

Just 6 Questions,
6 Minutes a Day
to a Higher SAT Score -
200 points, Guaranteed.

Only \$139 for 3 Months!

www.WilsonDailyPrep.com
1-800-888-0692

Ace the Final
SAT
ACT
Geller Test

Ace the Final,
the specialized tutoring company
designed and staffed by
Stuyvesant Alumni

For more information about one-on-one tutoring or group classes,
please call, email, or visit us at

212 283 5670 | contact@acethefinal.com | acethefinal.com

Sports

Boys' Basketball

Rebels Hit the Court On Wheels

By SAMUEL RABKIN

As David Deas, a member of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, flies down the court, he quickly pulls up in front of the three point line and effortlessly throws up a shot. The ball hits nothing but net. On the next inbound pass, Deas motors down the court, easily weaving through Stuyvesant varsity basketball players, before confidently hitting another three pointer.

Deas is a wheelchair basketball player on the New York Nets, a Division III team in the league. Although the players in this league are all physically impaired in some way, they do not let that stop them from playing the game. This determination was showcased on the court of Stuyvesant's third floor gym when the Nets faced off against Stuyvesant's boys' varsity basketball team, the Runnin' Rebels, in a fundraising event organized by Stuyvesant's Free Hugs Club.

The excitement in the gym on Thursday, February 12 was evident from the very beginning of the game, as the bleachers filled up almost completely with students. The fact that the Stuyvesant players also played in wheelchairs only added to the fun. The Rebels, who have played well all season and secured a 13-4 record as well as a playoff spot, did not have their usual grace or speed on the court. Often beaten by the speedy Nets on fast breaks and occasionally flipping over in their wheelchairs, the Rebels had to get used to a very different style of basketball. "Playing in a wheelchair was a lot of fun because it was new and challenging," senior and captain Nolan Becker said. "But we're used to playing against teams that are a



Emily Koo / The Spectator

Stuyvesant's Free Hugs Club organized the wheelchair basketball game with the National Wheelchair Basketball Association.

lot faster than us so that wasn't so new."

Because of how unaccustomed the Rebels were to the wheelchairs, they were given a 30 point handicap before the game started. The Nets, however, proved to be too much to handle, and they regained the lead by the end of the third quarter. To make the game more interesting, Stuyvesant was given 10 additional points to start the fourth quarter and managed to barely hold on, winning the game 60-58.

The score, however, was less important than performance of the wheelchair basketball players, whose display of courage and resolve inspired the Stuyvesant crowd. "The Nets are amazing at what they do," sophomore Nicole Brzezinski said. "The fact they have overcome being in a wheelchair and still play a sport they obviously love is amazing."

For many of these players, basketball is more than a game. The sport provides them with

an escape, a chance to get away from the worries of life. "Overall, you know, just being involved in it, it just keeps me sane," Deas said. "Don't let me think about any other problems. Basketball is like, it just frees me."

The Nets' coach, John Hamre, is also the president of the Wheelchair Sports Federation and coaches other wheelchair sports such as tennis, football, and softball. Hamre not only puts in a great deal of time and effort in what he does, but he loves doing it as well. "I like it a lot, it's like coaching any other sport, it's very competitive," he said with a smile. "It's very rewarding."

Stuyvesant students can expect to see more of these events in the future. "We're going to try to do other sports as well if it's possible," sophomore and Free Hugs Club treasurer Lipi Thaker said. "We're considering football and baseball because we think those would be awesome games and the tickets would definitely sell."

Girls' Basketball

After Successful Season, Phoenix Lose In First Round of Playoffs

continued from page 16

very far in the playoffs. But the Phoenix showed determination throughout the game and fought hard against a talented team. Senior Whitney Ko's steal and fast break to start the second quarter was just one example of the hustle they displayed.

The Phoenix had made the playoffs just once in the previous four years before this season and decided at the beginning of the year that their goal was simply to make the first round. With the majority of last year's key players returning, including two of the three captains, Stuyvesant was hopeful. "Team chemistry was much better this year," junior Imelda Ko said. After starting the season with a 1-4 record, Stuyvesant quickly climbed up to 8-6.

"The second half of the season we rose to the occasion and won the games we needed to win," Nicholls said. "Just getting into the flow of the season takes a little time, too."

There were several reasons for Stuyvesant's success this season. The strong leadership of senior captains Katherine O'Dowd and Khiani brought the team together. Yet the captains attribute much of their success to their coach. "I think she [Nicholls] would primarily be the reason for our success this season, because she's been working with us for so long, and we haven't lost any players," Khiani said. "We have fun all the time, and I think chemistry is something that helps the team bond and

also you can see it on the court."

With several key players departing after this season next year "is going to be a rebuilding year," Nicholls said. "Not only are we losing starters but we're losing captains and more vocal players that help run the team."

"We all feel great knowing we reached our goal, and I think even though we didn't win, all of us are happy that we made it this far."

—Tina Khiani, senior and captain

Nonetheless, Nicholls is confident for the future and has high expectations for next season. "I think they [the underclassmen] have a lot of potential," Nicholls said. "I bet they'll be able to handle it."

Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track

Looking Towards Boroughs

By WHITNEY KO

The boys' and girls' indoor track teams trained hard for the Manhattan Borough Championships which took place on Thursday, February 19, 2009. Senior and co-captain Molly French called it, "the meet that we work towards all season." However, both teams lost a lot of talented

"I believe we are the favorites to win the meet and should score in 12 of the 15 events."
—Mark Mendes, coach

athletes who carried them to success in previous borough championships. Last year, city championship qualifiers Mark Chiusano, Theodore Westling and Samuel Frizzell led the boys' indoor track team to first place in the borough championship. Similarly,

the girls' team won third place in the borough championships thanks in part to city champions Eva Sadej and Nina Yang in the 1500m run and 1500m racewalk, respectively. "Since they've all graduated, we need to step up a lot to earn those points," French said.

"A lot of us, like me, [senior] Cary Abma, [junior and co-captain] Daniel Hyman Cohen and [junior] Elvis Mitropoulos will be doubling or tripling events, so we should be able to get enough points to win this year again," senior and co-captain Eleazar Jacobs said. Jacobs' prediction was correct, as the doubling and tripling of events for some athletes paid off, leading them to another borough championship title. Hyman Cohen placed first in both the 1600 and 3200 meter run, with Jacobs right behind him in the 1600, and Abma next in the 3200. Hyman Cohen also led the 4 by 800 meter relay team to first place, with three other Stuyvesant teams right behind.

The boys' and girls' teams each had different objectives for boroughs. For the girls' team, "the competition has grown a lot stronger in the last couple of years and it is going to be a big challenge for us to do as well as we have in the past," French said. However, French was able to secure an impressive third place finish in the 1000 meter run at boroughs. "Boroughs will be a chance for [the freshmen] to



push themselves and learn what they are capable of." The underclassmen also stepped up to the challenge posed by their captain, with freshman Yan Lin placing 13th in the 1000 and sophomore Samantha Chiu placing eighth in the 600 meter run.

Meanwhile, "although [the boys' team] is significantly weaker this year, I still think we can win boroughs because a lot of the upperclassmen guys are more superior than any of the other distance runners in the borough,"

Jacobs said.

At the same time, the underclassmen have been performing exceptionally well too. "At the MLK relays, the freshman team of Yorkbell Jaramillo, Jacky Ng, Ghengis Chau and Konrad Surkont won the Frosh Distance Medley Relay," coach Mark Mendes said. "Jamie Oliver replaced Jacky at the Hispanic games where our Frosh 4X800M relay ran the fastest time of any NYC team." At boroughs, Surkont once again ran well, placing fourth in the

varsity 1600 meter race, only one second behind Abma, as well as fourth in the 3200. Chau was not far behind his classmate, placing ninth in the 1600.

The Manhattan borough championship was significant because "it is the last chance for individuals to qualify for city championships," French said. Thus far, only two seniors on the girls' team, Dan Ping He and Connie Cheng have qualified, both for the 1500 meter racewalk. Senior and co-captain Rachel Kim was less than three seconds away from qualifying for the 1500 meter run. On the boys' team, "the only runner that has qualified for cities so far is Hyman Cohen in the 1600 meter run but we are hoping to qualify at least two more guys individually and possibly a relay team," Jacobs said. They were able to do just that at boroughs, as junior Pace Lee qualified for the 600 meter run, and junior Elvis Mitropoulos qualified for the 1000. The team also qualified for the 4 by 400 meter relay race, just as Jacobs had predicted. The coach and his runners were wholly optimistic about the outcome of the race going into it, and showed that they had good reason to be with a landslide win over second place AP Randolph and the title of Borough Champions once again. "I believe we are the favorites to win the meet and should score in 12 of the 15 events," Mendes said.

Sports

Sam Rosen: Hall of Fame Announcer and Stuyvesant Alumnus

continued from page 16

SR: Well baseball was really my number one thing. I remember wanting to go out for football, but my father wouldn't approve it so baseball was really the activity that kept me most involved. But you know what? I was involved in the athletics. There was one year where I ran track to stay in shape. There was another year I remember, in 1963, we had a lot of friends on the basketball team. We followed the basketball team around [the city].

TS: What is your fondest high school memory?

SR: Fondest memory of high school, boy. That's a tough question. I just think it's the overall experience—the experience of being involved with, as I mentioned before, people who were very bright. It was like you pushed each other. But it was just the opportunity at Stuyvesant to meet people from all over the city who weren't limited to your own neighborhood. It was a chance to kind of expand your horizons, and as I mentioned, I made friendships all around.

TS: What were your biggest dreams and aspirations coming out of high school?

SR: Well, deep down I always wanted to be a baseball player. So even though the academics were great, my parents probably wanted me to be something like a lawyer. But my aspirations, I loved sports. So even coming out of high school, though it was

probably a pipe dream, I always wanted to play baseball. And I went to City College over all the other city university schools because they had a better baseball team. We played a very tough schedule. My first thought was always: what would enhance my sports activities, you know? Where could I get a better athletic climate? And City College was what I chose at the time coming out of high school, and I went on to be captain of the freshmen team at City, and captain of the varsity team as well.

TS: At what point did you realize that sports broadcasting was the right choice for your career?

SR: As you start to get older, even though I still have the baseball dream of wanting to play baseball, you have to have some alternative. And I started in the end of my sophomore year to look at a broadcasting career, and getting involved. And I started to work part time at WINS radio. I got a job there working in the newsroom, and I really started to learn the broadcasting business while I was there, and as I went on in school, I started to take classes that were geared towards broadcasting and broadcast journalism—I would take journalism classes, public speaking classes, acting classes. When you finally realize that, "Hey you know what? I'm not going to make it as a baseball player," that was the next best thing.

TS: Is the WINS radio station you mention the same as today's 1010 WINS?

SR: Yup. They became an all news station in 1964, and I went to work for them in December of 1966 in the newsroom as kind of a jack-of-all-trades type thing. It was called the "desk assistant," where you helped out the editor, helped out with copy, did some occasional writing. They quickly knew that I knew everything there was to know about sports. And I would basically put together the sportscast for the newscasters. And they relished that because that took the pressure off of them. I would basically put together their three minutes of sports copy, and they'd go on with whatever they needed. That was the basic foundation of my broadcasting career. Later on down the road when I came back to New York after being out of town for a few years, I worked part time at WINS as a news man. So it was kind of a full circle, I grew up from a desk assistant to becoming a news man on the air.

TS: While at Stuyvesant, did you ever imagine yourself as a sportscaster?

SR: Yeah. I think so. I mean we'd fool around in the cafeteria, and I'd announce different things—I'd take the horse racing chart from the Daily News and announce the races. We'd have fun with that, we'd go up to basketball games, as I told you, and I'd sit off on the side and do play-by-play for the guys, and we'd fool around with that. I guess I always had that. That was something that even when I was younger and growing up and listening to the announcers in

the city, that I loved very much. Because of my involvement in sports, whether it was listening to Mel Allen do baseball for the Yankees, or Marty Glickman do football for the Giants, Jim Gordon doing hockey, there was something that drew me to listening to the games. I guess you can say that was what started me on the road.

TS: What is the most rewarding part of your job?

SR: The most rewarding thing is probably the people you get to meet and the places you get to go. For example, we opened this season in Prague. I mean, its one of the greatest cities in the world, and we were able to be there because I was there broadcasting for the Rangers. We've gone to London with the Rangers, and I've been to Germany doing Fox football when they had the NFL Europe League. Places that I've gone to do events, the people that you meet from all over the world, and the hockey community made up of people from the various countries in Europe, they bring just a different perspective on life and getting to know them and getting to learn about their life experiences are tremendous. I think all of that just enriches me as a person, because I'm able to go places, and meet people that I otherwise would never have had the opportunity to meet.

TS: If you could trade your job for any other, what would it be?

SR: President of the United—no. I guess if I could trade this job for one other job, I'd probably want

to play for the New York Yankees. Yeah, I want to be either catcher, shortstop, or center fielder on the Yankees. Maybe first base also.

TS: There are so many sports fans who know your voice distinctly. Your quotes and phrases live in the hearts of many New Yorkers and Rangers fans. How does it feel to be such a significant piece of New York sports? How much does this define you, and mean to you?

SR: I am very flattered when people go out of their way to come over and say something encouraging, say something complimentary, say something positive about the work I've done, or the way I've impacted the way they watch sports, or the fact that I brought enjoyment into their homes. I feel very good about it because when you meet people, they don't have to say anything. They don't have to acknowledge anything other than saying hello. But when they go out of their way to be complimentary like that, it makes me feel particularly good because it makes me know—it reassures me that the efforts I put into my work are having an effect on people and they're reaching people. I like people, I love sports. It just all fits together. And it's a very rewarding experience. I'm very lucky to be in the position I'm in and to have been there for as long as I've been there. It's a special business that we're in. What I love about sports is you don't know from one day to the next when you're going to see the next great play, or meet the next great player.

Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse

Peglegs and Huskies Face Division Changes

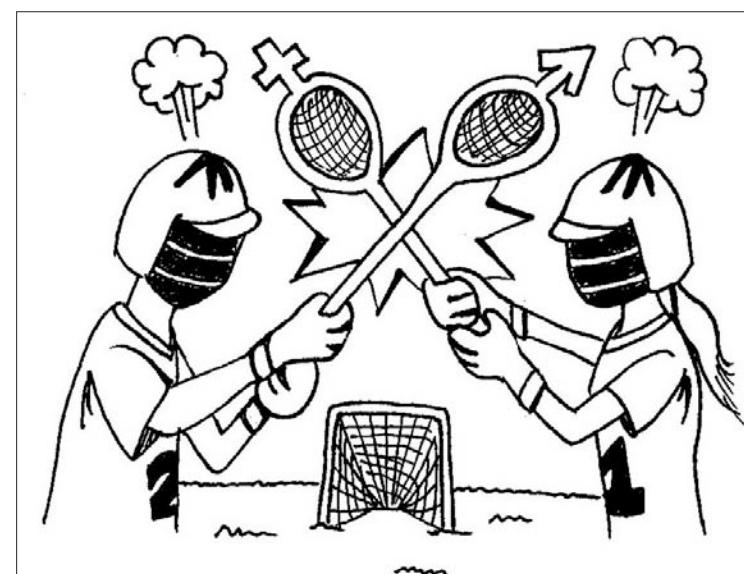
By ALAN TSE

As spring nears, Stuyvesant's boys' and girls' lacrosse teams pick up their sticks and begin preparing for the upcoming season. However, a lot has changed this year for both teams. The Peglegs and Huskies, Stuyvesant's boys' and girls' varsity lacrosse teams, respectively, participated in the Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) for the first time last year, bringing lacrosse to Stuyvesant for the first time ever.

After a season encumbered by administrative proceedings, relative unfamiliarity with the new sport and excitement over their commendable milestone, the Peglegs and the Huskies hope to pick up where they left off and continue sharpening their skills.

But along with this drive to succeed, the teams have been confronted with recent changes in their schedules that have forced them to adjust accordingly. Both teams were removed from the developmental league and are now playing in larger divisions with tougher teams. The boys' lacrosse team, which played in a two-team division along with Albert Tuitt Educational Campus last year, will be playing in a seven-team division this spring with schools such as Lehman High School and Madison High School.

The Peglegs played sparingly last year, participating in only four non-league games and the annual citywide Mayor's Cup tournament. Their only league game against Tuitt was cancelled. This year, however, the



Peglegs are guaranteed at least twelve league games in their new division and also intend to play in non-league games and the Mayor's Cup once again.

Many of the players believe that the division change will be an exciting test of their abilities. "[The division change] pits us against teams that were in the upper division last year," senior and co-captain Joshua Levitt said. "It'll be an interesting challenge to see how we do against them."

While the players are thrilled about their eventful schedule, the Peglegs are still aware that they will need to work hard in order to be successful. "If we are going to win games this year, we're going to have to work much harder than last year. Winning the division isn't impossible—it just requires a lot of effort," senior co-

captain Zakhar Shtulberg said.

In light of the new division, coach Shawn Mullen and seniors and co-captains Levitt, Shtulberg and Christopher Zhao have also taken on a more stringent mindset with the team. Players have been requested to attend regularly scheduled lacrosse clinics at Frederick Douglass Academy, where they have the opportunity to practice with more experienced players and coaches. With pre-season conditioning also starting earlier, Shtulberg is already aware of how much the players have grown and is excited to see how they will fare in the new division. "It'll be nice to have a chance to show that we have come a long way in only our second year," he said.

The upcoming season also poses a new challenge for the Huskies and coach Holly Youn-

glove. Like the Peglegs, the girls' lacrosse team played infrequently with other teams in the city last year. This season, however, the Huskies have also been removed from the developmental league and are now placed in an 11-team division that guarantees much more playing time. For a lot of the players, the new division offers the perfect opportunity to showcase their skills. "[The division change] is good because it gives us the chance to earn the respect we deserve," senior and co-captain Anna Zhang said.

Although many of the players are excited about the new transition, many are also cognizant of the additional pressure placed on them. "Last year we played with the intent of learning the different skills of the game," sophomore and co-captain Nicole Brzezinski said. "But this year every win or loss will affect whether or not the team goes to the playoffs."

Furthermore, with players who have yet to play in an official game, the Huskies are still a fairly inexperienced team. "[The new division] is a little bit intimidating because we're going against schools with girls who have been playing for a long time," Zhang said. Still, Zhang has seen a lot of potential in her returning and new players and hopes to capitalize on their talent.

Hoping to prepare the players for the upcoming season, co-captains Zhang and Brzezinski have started a lacrosse club that meets weekly to help new players develop their skills and condi-

tions earlier. While Brzezinski is undoubtedly anxious that the transition into the new division will be tough, she is steadfast in

"If we are going to win games this year, we're going to have to work much harder than last year. Winning the division isn't impossible – it just requires a lot of effort."

—Zakhar Shtulberg, senior and co-captain

her positive expectations for the team. "I know this year the team is going to be stronger because we're having tryouts and doing all the necessary training," Brzezinski said.

My Legacy

continued from page 16

startling. For many of the earlier games it seemed as if all the members of the crowd were sitting on their hands. No clapping, no yelling, no whooping, no hollering. By the end of the game against Beacon this year, not a soul was sitting. It truly brought a tear to my eye.

Experiences like these with Woo-Peg-Sooie also played a role in my college application process. I learned that, as a fan, you ought to try to take an active role in the game. That led me to only apply to schools with Division I athletics. I intend to use the techniques I developed from Woo-Peg-Sooie at the next level.

While I have shared my fondest memories of Stuyvesant, it is now the part of the column where I will shamelessly thank everyone who has helped me. First off, I want to thank the entire football team; you have been like brothers to me. Then I would like to thank all the members of Woo-Peg-

Sooie. All my editors: James Kim, Sam Cytryn, Dave DeGuzman, Luc Cohen and my boy Chris Zhao. I want to wish luck upon the next set of editors, Eddie Cytryn and Scott Chuisano—but if you butcher this column I will kill you. I want to thank Mark Chuisano ('08), whose column got me to read The Spectator in the first place. I would also like to thank a lot of other people, although I will not list them now.

The first column I printed spoke of my frustrations with the atmosphere of fandom at Stuy. I am glad to say that little over a year later, there's more interest in sports. Most home basketball games have full crowds, and it seems as if you hear more people in the hallways talking about our teams. Of course, everything isn't perfect. My dream of an inter-grade athletic competition has not yet been fulfilled and our teams are still not united under a single moniker. But their fans are united under one club: Woo-Peg-Sooie.

Boys' Swimming

Championship Dreams Drowned for the Previously Undefeated Pirates

By PHILLIP GODZIN

Last season, Stuyvesant's boys' varsity swimming team, the Pirates, held a perfect record of 9-0 through the regular season and the playoffs before losing in the semifinals to Brooklyn Technical High School. This year, they also remained undefeated in the regular season, but unlike last year, they brought a number one seed into the city championship match against Fort Hamilton on Friday, February 13, 2009.

"Going in, my expectations were to win," physical education teacher and coach Peter Bologna said. "But putting my lineup against his [the Fort Hamilton coach's] lineup, I knew it was going to be slightly an uphill battle, but not impossible." It was in fact an uphill battle, but the Pirates managed to make an extremely

close match out of it. They came in first place in four events and second in seven out of 23 total events, compared to Fort Hamilton's eight first-place finishes and six second-place finished.

"Everything was won by a few milliseconds," senior and co-captain Albert Chang said. This was the case in the very first event, the 200 yard Medley Relay where Stuyvesant finished in second with a time of one minute and 44.91 seconds as opposed to Fort Hamilton's one minute 44.49 winning time. This tiny margin of victory gave Fort Hamilton six points for first rather than Stuyvesant's three points for second. This gave Hamilton a quick three point lead to begin the meet, which eventually led to a 57-45 win and the title of city champions.

One factor which could have

contributed to the loss for the Pirates might have been the lack of any outstanding times. "Our team is made of depth," Chang said. "Our strategy was to win two or three or tie in some events and then try to edge them out." Aside from the 500 yard freestyle event, in which both Stuyvesant swimmers, sophomore Stefan Garcia and junior Igor Shtefanko, won first and second, respectively, by a minute each, Stuyvesant failed to garner more cumulative points than Hamilton in all but two events.

"Their talent was a bit better than our talent," Bologna said. There was no sense of disappointment however. "We would love to be first in the city, but it's not the only way we equate our success," Bologna said. "I am very proud of each and every swimmer."

Boys' and Girls' Gymnastics

Felines' Take Fourth Place at Team Championships

By MOIN SATTAR

Sophomore Chloe Hirschowitz stood in the corner of the floor exercise mat. Then, leaping forward, she began a complicated series of twists and flips, carrying herself through the air to the opposite corner, where her feet finally landed in a confident finish.

Hirschowitz chose a good time to have her best performance of the season for the Felines, Stuyvesant's girls' varsity gymnastics team. She had an all around score of 33.00, out of a possible 40.00, in the girls' gymnastics Team Championships at Aviator Sports and Recreation Gymnastics Center in Brooklyn on Wednesday, February 11. "[Hirschowitz] really helped the team get critical points we needed," coach Vasken Choubaralian said.

"We did very well. We received our highest score ever."
—Ksenia Timachova, senior and co-captain

The Felines needed every one of Hirschowitz's points to secure their fourth place finish. They finished with a score of 116.00, only 2.15 points ahead of the fifth place team, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School. The Felines also finished 2.25 behind the Bronx High School of Science, which finished third, and 6.50 points behind first place Benjamin Cardozo High School. Nevertheless, the Felines are satisfied with their performance. "We did very well," senior and co-captain Ksenia Timachova said. "We received our highest score ever."

Junior Molly Balsam, who stumbled on the balance beam while warming up, performed the turns and jumps on the four inch beam flawlessly during the event. She helped the Felines receive a score of 31.30 out of a possible 40, a season-high, on the balance beam.

The team carried their momentum from the balance beam to their next event, the floor exercise, in which they received a score of 30.40, also a season high for the team. The team performed well in the other two events, the uneven bars and the vault. "My mouth dropped on several occasions," Choubaralian said.

Before the meet began, two members of the Felines, senior and co-captain Mariah Levy and junior Alexandra Greenberg, suffered injuries. Levy sustained an ankle injury a few weeks before the meet during one of her routines that kept her out of competition altogether. According to Choubaralian, Levy was scheduled to be one of the five girls competing in the vault for the Felines. Her spot was taken by Timachova.

Greenberg bruised the side of her leg during balance beam warm-ups. Unlike Levy, however, Greenberg was able to compete in the finals. "I was in pain," Greenberg said. "But I knew that I could make it through the rest of the meet and I gritted my teeth and bared it." Greenberg competed in all four events and had an all around score of 28.10.

Several other gymnasts made important contributions for the Felines. Balsam competed in all four events and had an all around score of 30.20. Both junior Emma Rosenbluth and freshman Shelby Hochberg competed in three events. Rosenbluth received a 6.50 out of 10.00 in the floor exercise, a career high. Hochberg received a 7.10 on the vault as well as a career high 6.60 on the balance beam.

After not competing in all of her events during the Team Championships last year due to an injured ankle, Hirschowitz scored 8.30 in the vault, 7.00 in the uneven bars, 8.70 in the balance beam, and 9.00 in the floor exercise. "I was only 90% of my usual," Hirschowitz said. "But I'm still happy with my performance." All of these scores were the highest on the team.

Hirschowitz was invited to perform in the Individual Championships three days earlier. At this meet she placed first in the vault with a score of 8.2 and sixth in the uneven bars with a score of 7.0, qualifying for the Public Schools Athletic League State team.

While Choubaralian was pleased with the team's fourth place finish, he admitted that his personal goals of finishing third and beating Bronx Science were not achieved. Still, the team's performance this year with only three seniors on the roster demonstrates their potential for next season. "We're slowly inching our way up," Choubaralian said.

Lemurs Remain Optimistic Amidst a Tough Season

By NORMAN YU

The Lemurs, Stuyvesant's boys' varsity gymnastics team, finished the year on a high note with their first and only win of the season against Tottenville High School on Friday, February 13. The Lemurs opened the season with meets against the top two teams in the division, John F. Kennedy High School and Long Island City High School. "We [had] gone against the best teams," senior and captain Eli Bierman said. "The meets that we are most likely to win [were] coming up." The Lemurs finished the season with a 1-5 record.

Although the Lemurs lost two of the last three meets by a combined total of 1.8 points to Alfred E. Smith High School and the Bronx High School of Science, they still found solace in their improvements from earlier defeats. "The newcomers have been progressing well and a few have made great strides in their respective apparatus," senior and captain Andrew Sang said.

One of the biggest problems the Lemurs faced this year was scheduling. Multiple meets had to be rescheduled due to a lack of judges, as well as scheduling conflicts with the varsity basketball and wrestling teams, which also use the third floor gym for games and matches.

These results can be attributed to a tougher practice regimen and the fact that the team has 22 members, compared to last year's nine, which was barely enough to compete in all six events—the floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vaulting, parallel bars, and high bar—that make up the meets.

The Lemurs practiced six times a week for two and



The Lemurs finished last in the division with a 1-5 record, but remain optimistic about future seasons.

a half hours after school and four hours on Sundays during the season. "We have more committed guys this year," coach Naim Kozi said. "The new guys and the sophomores are doing much better, they are more disciplined and I think they are going to carry the team next year." The abundance of new members allowed each individual to specialize in their own event. "Many of [the team members in the past] have had to train for new events so that we have enough people competing for each one," Bierman said. "This year we [had] enough."

In a season marred with defeat, the Lemurs still qualified four members for the individuals' championships meet on March 4. Senior and captain Carl Zhang qualified for parallel bars and vault, Bierman qualified for the all-around competition, Sang qualified for vault and floor exercise and new member, sophomore Kenny Ng, qualified for rings.

In his first year, Ng qualified for the individual meet by scoring a 5.0 or higher at each meet. "I'm just looking to improve and do my best [at the individuals' championship]," Ng said.

Although the Lemurs finished last in the division, they remain optimistic about the future with hopefully more successful seasons to come. "The underclassmen are definitely going to need to step it up a notch next year, but they are definitely on the right track," Bierman said.

Emily Koo / The Spectator

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

My Legacy



Sadman Islam / The Spectator

By AARON GHITELMAN

On Tuesday, February 10, I got home at nine p.m. No, I wasn't working on SING!. I didn't go to calculus tutoring—though I probably should have. And I certainly didn't go to lacrosse practice. I was at Wadleigh High School, on West 114th St. in Harlem, rooting our Rebels on. The Runnin' Rebels, Stuyvesant's boys' varsity basketball team was playing Wadleigh, the top public school team in Manhattan. About 30 Stuyvesant fans made the trek uptown into the opponents' territory. While this was a large showing for an away game, a crowd of 30 unfortunately was routine at home games most of last season. But that was prior to the creation of Woo-Peg-Sooie: The Official Booster Club of Stuyvesant Athletics.

When I convinced seniors Nick Goldin, Mike Goman, and Nick Wheatley-Schaller

to paint letters on their chests along with me last November, I had no clue that it would lead to anything. We then started painting our entire upper bodies for basketball games. Miraculously, for our final home basketball game last season, we managed to get enough people to paint their chests to spell "Stuyvesant" in its entirety. From this, Woo-Peg-Sooie: The Official Booster Club of Stuyvesant Athletics was born.

Our achievements this year have dwarfed what we managed to do last year. Woo-Peg-Sooie sold over 100 t-shirts. Woo-Peg-Sooie cheered at the City Title Meet for Girls' Swimming, in which the Penguins avenged their previous defeat to Townsend Harris. Woo-Peg-Sooie bought and distributed almost 1000 noise-making inflatable tubes known as "Thunderstix." The Runnin' Rebels beat Beacon High School, 38-36 on Friday, January 23 while Woo-Peg-Sooie coordinated the distracting chants of the Beacon players' girlfriends' names. I would like to thank both the fans and the players, specifically senior Brian Choi of the Runnin' Rebels, who designed our incredible shirts but never got the credit he deserved.

The transformation that the fans have gone through is

continued on page 15

Boys' Basketball

A Rough End for the Runnin' Rebels

By JACK GREISMAN

The buzzer sounded, signaling the end of the third quarter, and the score was tied at 47. The fourth quarter began with several quick transition baskets by Alfred E. Smith and the Runnin' Rebels, Stuyvesant's boys' varsity basketball team, found itself down six points. Due to several turnovers and missed opportunities, Stuyvesant would not overcome this deficit, losing the game 68-58 and putting an end to their '09 season.

The Rebels played this first round playoff game against the Warriors of Alfred E. Smith High School on Thursday, February 26. The Rebels had finished the regular season with a 13-4 record, clinching their Manhattan A Southwest division title and earning them the 16th seed in the playoff draw. After finishing the regular season with a 15-4 record, good for second place in the Bronx A East Division, the Warriors earned the 17th seed in the playoffs.

Stuyvesant came out flat in the first quarter, missing several scoring opportunities and many rebounds on the defensive end. The Warriors, on the other hand, grabbed every offensive rebound they could get their hands on and ended the quarter with a three point lead. However, the Rebels returned reinvigorated in the second quarter, opening with a 6-0 run. Stuyvesant went into the half up 30-25. But the second half of play was marked by sloppy passing and missed lay-ups, and Smith's defense kept the Rebels

to only 28 points in the second half, eventually causing Alfred E. Smith to pull away for good.

Stuyvesant, however, had approached the playoffs with confidence. "We were probably more nervous for our first scrimmage than we were for this game. We were very ready for this game," junior Zachary Weiner said. The Rebels practiced intensively over the mid-Winter break in order to be prepared for the playoff game.

"On Monday, we had a scrimmage and went out against a decent [Murphy] Bergtraum team 51-9 in one half, but that was Monday and this is Thursday," Rebels coach Phil Fisher said before the game.

The Rebels' play in Thursday's game was marked by inconsistent ball handling. For the previous three weeks, Stuyvesant's starting point guard, In Bae Choi, had been on the inactive list. For this reason, Stuyvesant had been working hard to fill his spot. Choi had a total of 59 points on the season and averaged 5.6 assists a game. His consistent ball handling was much needed during Thursday's game.

"Petros [Skaliarinis] and Sammy [Sussman] stepped in and did a good job, and we were able to work around it. But we didn't value the possession of the ball enough," senior and captain Nolan Becker said. Becker led his team in scoring on Thursday and averaged 25 points and 17 rebounds a game during the regular season.

"It's tough when you lose your starting point guard, but we

played around it. Unfortunately they [Alfred E. Smith] had a little too much quickness in the back-court for our guards to adapt," Fisher said.

Besides Becker, another standout player this season has been senior Alan Tse, who averaged 17 points a game and had 33 three-point shots in the regular season. In Thursday's game, Tse impressed the Stuyvesant fans with several no-look passes to the forwards for easy lay-ups.

What has set this season apart from the previous ones for the Rebels has been increased home attendance. In part due to the enthusiasm initiated by Stuyvesant's official booster club, WooPegSooie, home games have been lively and energetic. This enthusiasm and support has been a great source of motivation for the Stuyvesant team.

"Everyone coming out really makes a difference. It's been great for the school, and is something that I've felt we have been lacking," Weiner said.

"The school was behind us, which means a lot. It made us feel like everything was meaningful," Becker said.

While the Runnin' Rebels did not accomplish their goal of winning a playoff game, they did take the division title and managed to spur a lot of enthusiasm within the school. "I would like to thank the crowd and all the kids that put this together. I've been here sixteen years, and this is the first time we've ever had something like this. It has been a wonderful experience," Fisher said.

Girls' Basketball

After Successful Season, Phoenix Lose In First Round of Playoffs



Emily Koo / The Spectator

By CORY BEHROOZI

As the noise died down on Wednesday, February 25 at Christopher Columbus High School after the first round of the girls' basketball playoffs, the home team walked off the court proud and triumphant. Columbus had beaten the Phoenix, Stuyvesant's varsity girls' basketball team, by a score of 62-33. The score might suggest a one-sided game and perhaps a disappointment for the visiting team, but the smiles on the faces of the Stuyvesant players told a very different story.

"We all feel great knowing

we reached our goal, and I think even though we didn't win, all of us are happy that we made it this far," senior and captain Tina Khiani said after the game. In a post-game speech to her players, Coach Michelle Nicholls told them how proud she was of their hard work. While they may have lost the game, she told them they certainly played tough and gave it their best effort.

Lined up as the 26th seed out of 27 teams, and playing against the number seven seed, Stuyvesant was not expecting to go

continued on page 13

Sam Rosen: Hall of Fame Announcer and Stuyvesant Alumnus

By CHRIS ZHAO

There are very few people in the world whose voices are recognized by millions of others. Sam Rosen's trademark lines and phrases lie in the hearts of New Yorkers, sports fans, Rangers' fans, and hockey mavens alike.

A Stuyvesant alumnus, Rosen ('64) is currently a play-by-play announcer for the New York Rangers hockey team on the Madison Square Garden Network, where he has been working since 1977. In addition, he calls play-by-play for Fox's coverage of the National Football League (NFL). He was recently inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

After immigrating to Brooklyn from Germany at the age of two, Rosen attended Stuyvesant High School when it was still an all-boys' school on 15th Street. During his time at Stuyvesant, he was captain of the varsity baseball team, which was then known as the Peglegs.

Rosen met with The Spectator to discuss his Stuyvesant experience:

The Spectator: What comes to mind when you think back upon your experiences at Stuyvesant?

Sam Rosen: Well, we were in the building on 15th Street just off of First Avenue. It was an old facility but it was like we had this great bond. I guess, as I think back now, I made friends and know people that I still have



Chris Zhao / The Spectator

Rosen ('64) is a play-by-play announcer for the New York Rangers hockey team on the Madison Square Garden Network.

some contact with—Len Berman of Channel Four (NBC) is in that class. I have a couple of other people I'm still in touch with, so we go back a long way but it was an interesting experience. It was one of those—there's more inside than outside. The look of the building was almost nondescript, the gray building tucked in on a side street of Manhattan, but you knew when you walked inside the doors, you were amongst the brightest and well-educated, and people with great potential that you'd find anywhere in New York and anywhere in the country.

an interview with Len Berman last year, are there any fond memories you could share?

SR: Len Berman signed my book, the graduation book. And this was 1964, June of '64, and he wrote, "Sam, Mets number one in five years." And he was right. In '69 they won. So whenever I see him I always remind him that he was on the money with that pick, and I was a Yankee fan so it was just... eh.

TS: Outside of the classroom, what were your main passions and interests?

continued on page 14