



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

"The pulse
of the
student
body"

Volume XCVI No. 8

January 19, 2006

To The Stuyvesant Community

ID Scanners to Be Installed by New Term

SLT Sponsors Resolution Against Scanners

By **ROBIN LIPP**
with additional reporting by
NAOMI SOSNER
and **SARAH SOFFES**

Stuyvesant will have three ID scanners in the bridge entranceway by next term. Students will be required to scan in when they enter or exit the building. The plan, mandated by the Department of Education (DOE), only became definite recently. The administration spoke about the plan for the first time at the School Leadership Team (SLT) meeting on Tuesday, January 17.

The DOE is paying for the installation of the scanners in all New York City public schools at a cost of about \$60,000 per school. Although Stuyvesant is only installing three scanners, the school will receive seven scanners, a server to process information from the scanners and machines to print temporary ID replacements for a small charge.

"Every school is going to

get these. Out of the 1,400 schools, I believe they've installed them in 400. We're lucky. We're on top of the list," said Assistant Principal of Technology Edward Wong.

"When anyone scans in, their picture pops up and their attendance is taken at the same time," said Wong. According to Wong, the system the DOE gave to Stuyvesant is programmed to record the times students enter school at the beginning of the day and leave for lunch. But Wong would modify the program to record each time students enter or leave.

The scanning issue was first on the agenda at the SLT meeting. Student Union (SU) President Kristen Ng opened the meeting by asking the administration to discuss the new system and how it would benefit students. Principal Stanley Teitel and Wong fielded questions from students, parents and faculty.

continued on page 5



Student Union President senior Kristen Ng, far right, articulated the SU's position against the administration's impending ID checking policy.

Dennis Nazarov / The Spectator

Sleeping Man Walking:

A Survey on Sleep Habits of Students

By **HELEN DWORK**,
CHRISTINA LI and
NATALIE ZYCH

"Coffee is the sole means of my survival right now," said Junior Jenny Huang as she pulled a steaming paper cup out of her bag. According to the results of a Spectator survey given out to four homerooms (one of each grade), about 27% of Stuyvesant students say that

they use caffeine as a means to stay awake during the day. Others, such as freshman Rebecca Steinberg, resort to more creative measures to fight drowsiness: "Hold eyes open with fingers and eat food with sugar." Sophomore Saher Khan says she attributes her alertness to "pure skill."

Not all students employ these techniques of staying awake during the school day—

73% of Stuyvesant students said that they never or very rarely fall asleep in class. Nor do Stuyvesant students think that their individual sleep patterns are abnormal - about 45% said they think that they get the same amount of sleep as their peers, with 32% stating they felt that they slept less and 35% stating that they thought

continued on page 4

Into the Unknown By Choice

By **AGATA KANTOROWSKA**
and **BENJAMIN LEE**

Dean and chemistry teacher David Bank will be leaving Stuyvesant High School starting next term. After teaching at Stuyvesant for five and a half years, Bank will be leaving to "jump feet first into the unknown by choice," he said.

When asked why he came to this decision, Bank said, "Because I can. I had to leave teaching when I am totally, completely happy with it."

Bank, who also taught for 21 years at Brooklyn Tech and five years at Newdorp High School, has also been a massage therapist.

Leaving teaching is an emotional decision for Bank. "There are days I walk out of class and I start crying, but I know it's the right time for now," he said. "I'll feel disoriented some days, I'm used to waking up at five to five, it's going to be a whole other day ahead of me, every day." With his extra time, Bank plans to "throw pots, have time to practice [massage therapy], and maybe work part time at a col-

lege, if I miss teaching."

Bank will miss a lot of things about Stuyvesant including "day to day interaction with everyone, 'good mornings,' the morning swim clubs, having classes to share views on current events, to make them aware that these things matter and impact their lives."

The morning swim clubs that Bank commented on take place from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. at the pool. Mr. Dibbs of the Chemistry department, is also a part of this club. "We're colleagues and friends," said Dibbs. "I'm sorry I couldn't get to know him better. You don't find too many old timers like us."

Bank will be missed by students both past and present. "He's an awesome teacher, he tries hard to make classes enjoyable and he really gets his point across," said sophomore Benjamin Kwok.

"His style is very simplistic. He also has great analogies," said sophomore Mubashir Billah.

"What really stands out is

continued on page 3

LIBRARY COMPS: From Four Old, to 15 New

By **ZEESHAN RIZWAN**

As students made their way to the library on Tuesday January 3, they found themselves looking at 15 brand new Dell desktop computers. According to librarian Chris Asch, these new computers were possible as a result of a \$13,000 grant from Richard A. Chase of the Chase Charitable Foundation.

"I brought [Richard A. Chase] down and he was interested in the library, so he decided to donate. He is interested in education for gifted students. Before we had only four working computers, now we have 15," said Asch. The new computers have complete Internet access and a variety of programs for student use.

According to Librarian Susan Kalish, the new computers greatly benefit the students. "Our mission here is to get kids educated. These new computers help [students] to do their



New computers in the library give students much-needed access to the Internet and word processing.

work," she said.

When asked about the new computers, sophomore Rachael Dekhter said, "These computers are faster, there are more of them, and they actually work."

Other students, such as Senior Joe Kim, had different opinions. "[The new computers] don't really make much of a differ-

continued on page 3

Arts & Entertainment

Article on page 10.

Editors' Picks for '06

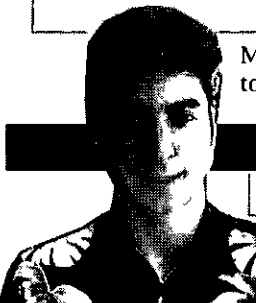
Music, movies, books and fashion
to look out for in 2006

Opinions

Article on page 6.

Translation

Decoding that most painful of purgatories:
The deferral letter



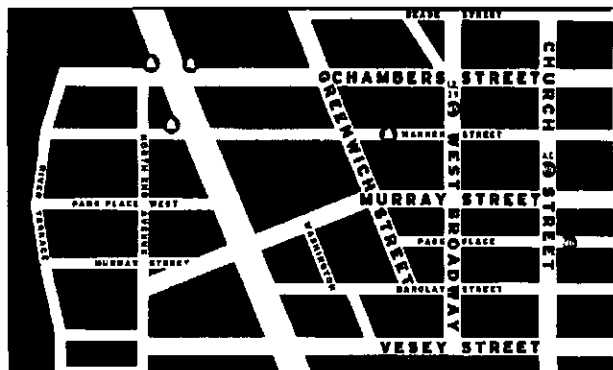


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STUYVESANT STUDENT PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST

{ Deadline January 23, 2006 }

The Stuyvesant PA invites all Stuy students to submit their photographs. The photo should represent 'A Slice of Life at Stuy'. Suggestions: First day of school, Halloween, Holidays, Stuy events (Camp Stuy, SING!, sports...).

Twelve photographs will be selected to be printed in a July 2006-June 2007 desktop calendar presented in a CD case. The calendar will be used for Parent Association Fundraising.

**YOU
WIN!**

Winners will be invited to the Lunar Feast Fundraising Dinner on March 3, 2006. You will also receive a thank you certificate from the PA for your winning submission to add to your portfolio.

The calendars will be \$10 and sold at the Lunar Feast Fundraising Dinner and at PA meetings.

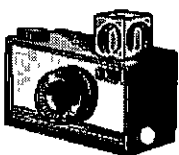
The deadline for all submissions is 12:01AM Monday morning on January 23, 2006. One photo entry per student.

The photographs will be judged by members of the PA Silent Auction Committee on January 28, 2006. The decision made by the judges is final. Photo release forms will be required to be signed if your photo is selected for the calendar.

Please email your submissions to Hannah Li hli57@yahoo.com. Include your name, email, phone # and class (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior).

All submissions should be:

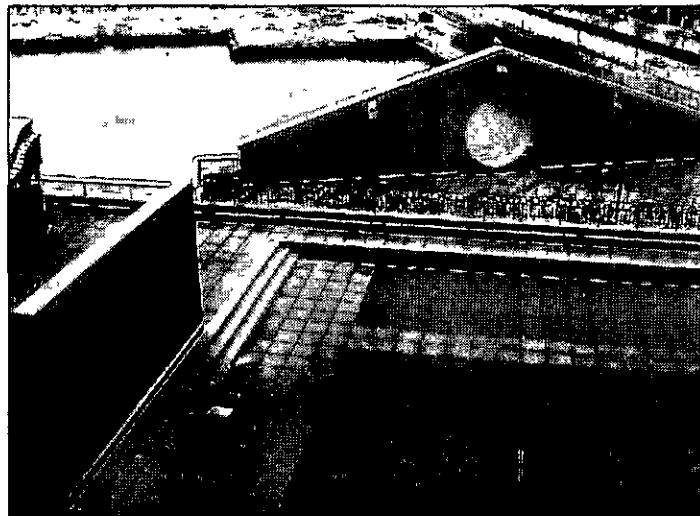
- emailed
- Jpg file
- at least 1 meg
- untouched
- taken from a digital camera or camera phone
- color photo is preferred



If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Li.

Nooks & Crannies

Stuyvesant can seem tremendous to some, with its hidden nooks and crannies that not many students know about. The patio is the third of a series of features that will shed some light on these unknown places.



Lisa Song / The Spectator

The rooftop patio on the fifth floor is off-limits to students despite its aesthetic possibilities.

The Rooftop Patio

By SAMANTHA SGUEGLIA

The story goes like this: a long time ago a student, fed up with multivariable calculus tests and his rejection from Yale, stood on the ledge of the rooftop patio next to the cafeteria, said his last prayers and did a swan dive into the Hudson River. After his suicide, the administration decided to close the patio, and it remains closed to students today.

Is this story the truth or an urban legend from the annals of the New York City public school system?

English teacher Annie Thoms was a member of the first graduating class of the new building. She said that the roof was never open to begin with. "One of my freshmen told me that they heard in junior high school that someone jumped off or had tried to jump off," Thoms said. "The first time I heard that rumor was this year. I'm sure it's an urban legend. As far as I know nothing horrible ever happened."

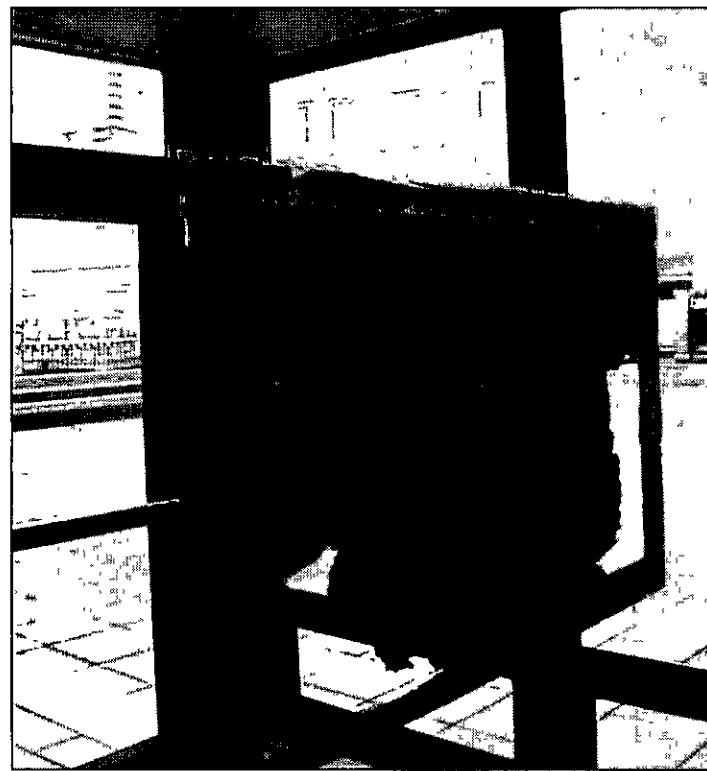
Despite the gruesome and theatrical rumors floating around, the real explanation for the patio being closed is a fairly mundane one. According to school technician, Kern Levignon, the roof is not open due to legality issues. "The reason we don't use it is because we don't have a certificate of occupancy. There needs to be a seven-foot-high fence to prevent people from falling or getting

injured. We can't use it because of safety reasons," he said. "The way it was built, the tiles are on top of rock, so when you walk on it, the tiles crack," which poses a risk not only to the students, but to the structural integrity of the building as well. "They [the tiles] have already caused damage to the theater ceiling," he said.

The regulations were known during the time the new building was being constructed, yet the roof was not built accordingly. "The President of Battery Park at the time thought that the seven-foot-high fence would 'ruin the esthetic beauty of the facade,' which is why, in the middle of construction, they decided not to build the fence," said Levignon.

Though the patio is officially closed, there have been occasions when it had been used for a special event, such as an alumni dinner. When asked about this, Kern momentarily hesitated, and then cited "extenuating circumstances" as the reason why alumni were allowed on the roof despite the strict policy and potential legal ramifications.

Most Stuyvesant students are not overwhelmingly concerned about not being allowed on the patio, but some agreed that it would be a welcome change to the cafeteria. Junior Arun Selvaratnam said if the railing was fixed, "It would be cool to sit out there. That would give me an incentive to go to the lunchroom."



Christina Lee / The Spectator

Due to the possible risk of falling or getting injured, the patio is off-limits to students.

LIBRARY COMPS: From Four Old, to 15 New

continued from page 1

ence, but I guess they don't crash as much," said Kim. Freshman Mahmudur Miah had a more critical view. Miah said, "The computers are faster but more people are playing games now, so others have to wait for the computers."

Although there are benefits from the new computers, there are also unforeseen problems. "Students frequently print out many pages of information through the computers and don't pick them up. With four working computers, that was not a problem, but with many computers, this problem is compounded," said Kalish.

The librarians also cited student maltreatment of the computers as a cause for concern. As a result of these concerns, the library is strictly enforcing new and old rules for computer usage. These rules include limiting printing to 20 pages at a

time, only allowing students to use computers for research purposes, and prohibiting students from reconfiguring computer settings.

Assistant Principal of Technology Edward Wong was in charge of initiating an array of security measures in the new computers to prevent students from meddling with the settings. On Wednesday, January 4, three students broke through the firewall security measures of three of the new computers and reconfigured basic settings. As a result, these students have been suspended from the library for the rest of the term.

Stuyvesant computer technician Sydney Lindsay said, "Kids are basically going in and changing the settings. These computers are user friendly. If we have to put in more security measures they will be less flexible [to use]." Asch is thinking of new security measures such as making students swipe ID's before using the computers.

"Our mission here is to get kids educated. These new computers help [students] to do their work."
—Susan Kalish, Librarian

This would allow the library to know which student was using a computer at a certain time.

Wong was disappointed that students had already broken through the firewall to change settings. He said, "These are brand new machines and already three of them are down. I am not pleased. We should not have to put any restrictions on these computers. These are Stuyvesant students. We want



The new computers are possible as a result of a grant from the Chase Charitable Foundation

them to treat the computers with respect. The librarians should keep them under constant watch."

Seekers 101

By SHAREL ITZKOVICH

What comes to mind when you think of the Seekers? "You mean the guys from Harry Potter?" said senior Julie Gaynin. Although they too in fact are called Seekers, the Stuyvesant Seekers are a very different organization from the Quidditch-playing wizards.

"Some people think we're a cult," said Seeker and freshman William Poon. "Some people think we're some crazy people."

"We are a cult in the sense that we can talk to each other," said senior and Seekers co-president Regina Chan, "not a cult in the sense that we only talk to each other."

But that doesn't begin to cover it. The Seekers Fellowship is Stuyvesant's chapter of the city-wide Christian organization, and though it is a fairly large group of about 30 members, many Stuyvesant students do not know much about them.

"We are a cult in the sense that we can talk to each other, not a cult in the sense that we only talk to each other."

—Regina Chan, Seekers co-president

According to Chan, the Seekers are a "group of people who come together to worship one God." However, this isn't the whole story. "Although people might think so, we don't just pray and worship," said Chan, "There are a lot of misconceptions."

One of the biggest misconceptions about the Seekers has to do with its membership. "All I know about the Seekers are that they're all Asian," said junior Charlotte Austin.

This belief is common because of the overwhelming majority of Asian students in the club, although it is open to anyone. The truth is that the club is open to anyone, including non-Christians. Although the Seekers welcome people of every race, they also understand why non-Asians might not consider being a part of the

continued on page 5

Into the Unknown by Choice

continued from page 1

that he's always so happy. He totally loves chemistry, it's his divine passion," said sophomore Sara Yoon.

Kwok, Billah and Yoon are all currently in Bank's Chemistry classes.

Senior Merron Taddesse, who had Mr. Bank in the spring of 2004, said, "Mr. Bank knows

"[Bank] totally loves chemistry, it's his divine passion."
—Sarah Yoon, sophomore

his stuff; he's rigorous, but informed. He was strict, but it paid off."

Mr. Bank will be leaving behind "two wonderful, loving classes," he said. His classes will be taken over by Dr. O'Malley, who has been placed on the faculty specifically to take them over. "I couldn't be happier, he's a perfect fit for Stuyvesant," said Bank of O'Malley.

O'Malley has gotten to

know the students of Stuyvesant in his first term here through substituting for various classes. "I've known I was going to be coming to this school since the summer. I love getting to know students through substituting," he said.

O'Malley has been substituting for a variety of subject classes, including "Chemistry, Physics, Math, History, Foreign Language, anything and everything. I'm a man of many trades," he said. Although O'Malley has taught graduate courses for three years before coming to Stuyvesant, he is witnessing high school life through a teacher's eyes for the first time. "If anything, the biggest transition will be teaching just Chemistry," said O'Malley of switching to his new job. O'Malley looks forward to his full-time teaching, which starts next term after Bank leaves. "I'm honored to be able to be the one to replace him, but no one can really replace him. I've learned a lot from him and I wish he could stay," he said of Bank.

"Chemistry was the hardest subject I ever fought to learn, and it has been meaningful to me all my life," said Bank as a leaving note to his classes.



Dean and chemistry teacher David Bank has decided to leave Stuyvesant after over 30 years of teaching, and looks back fondly on his career

Serge Lobatch / The Spectator

Stuy Will Play Brooklyn Tech at MSG... If 500 Tickets Are Sold

By GLENN KIM

In a collaboration between Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Technical High School, the Stuyvesant Student Union (SU) will sell discounted tickets to a New York Knicks v. Orlando Magic game. If all tickets are sold, Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Tech will play against each other at Madison Square Garden before the Knicks game.

Madison Square Garden will provide 500 tickets to be divided amongst the two schools. "Instead of them [Brooklyn Tech] having to sell 500 tickets, we get to split 250-250," said Coordinator of Student Affairs Matthew Polazzo.

According to SU Budget Director senior Nathan Buch, if all 500 tickets are sold, Madison

Square Garden will give an hour of court time to Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Tech. This court time would be used for a game between the Stuyvesant and BTHS Varsity Basketball teams. "We will be able to sit at court-side and watch them play," Buch said.

\$25 tickets will provide admission to the Knicks game at 7:30pm and the possible Stuyvesant v. Brooklyn Tech game at 2:30pm on January 27, the last day of finals. Tickets will come with vouchers for discounts on food sold at Madison Square Garden.

Some students will be eligible to win free tickets. The SU will host an in-school 3-on-3 basketball tournament on January 11 with a \$5 entrance fee. Each team will be limited to

two Junior Varsity or Varsity Basketball Team members. The winning team will be awarded tickets to the January 27 game.

The money from the sale of tickets to the Knicks game will not go towards the school. Buch said, "This is specifically that Madison Square Garden wants to sell a section of seats. We're not making any money off of it...but Madison Square Garden is taking a discount in order to guarantee filling up the seats."

SU Executive Council Assistant senior Eli Mlyn said, "It's usually the night games that cost \$50. The cheaper games are in the afternoon when no one's going to go. But for a night game, \$25 is good."

"It's a win-win situation," said Buch, "And a good way to celebrate the last day of finals."

Stuy After Hours

By SILVIA CHEN and VICTOR ZAPANA

A typical Stuyvesant school day lasts from 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. But what happens to Stuyvesant during the other 17 hours of the day? Though there are clubs and sports teams roaming the halls, most leave before 6:00 p.m., and rarely do any come to the school during the weekends.

So is Stuyvesant a lonely, abandoned place during those "other" hours—a forgotten place where no one wants to go during the nights and weekends? Not at all.

In fact, The Spectator has uncovered some events that happen in the Stuyvesant building when students aren't around.

The Murray Kahn Theater has been used as a mini-movie theater for premieres and screenings of large and small films alike.

STUY, THE NEXT BIG YMCA

Want to play some basketball?

Well, you don't have to look far. That same gymnasium you use for your physical education class in the morning is a public basketball court at night.

continued on page 4

Sleeping Man Walking: A Survey on Sleep Habits of Students

continued from page 1

they slept more.

All four homerooms surveyed had nearly identical results, showing that grade isn't a factor in amount of sleep. A majority of students (60%) sleep between five and six hours a night and wake up between six and seven a.m. (64%).

According to a study performed by the College of the Holy Cross, "teenagers need at least 9.25 hours of shut-eye to function properly in school, compared to the 8 hours of snoozing needed by adults." This recommended amount is nearly four hours more than most students receive.

Despite the unhealthy

amount of sleep most students get, 73% say that they never wake up early to finish homework and a combined 80% say that they never or very rarely go without any sleep at all.

The students polled agree that the same things prevent them from getting more sleep each night. For an overwhelming 85%, not working (procrastination, watching TV, going on AIM) is a factor in their loss of sleep and 50% agree that these activities are their biggest impediment in getting to sleep. 70% said that homework prevented them from getting enough sleep, 40% said extracurricular activities were a factor, 37% said spending time with friends and 36% cited club/pub activities. Sports and

hobbies did not seem to interfere with students' sleep schedules much, with only 20% attributing sleep loss to either.

Though only 40% of the students felt that sleep had a significant effect on their performance in school, over 50% think that teachers do not appreciate how little they sleep or are not sure what teachers think on the subject.

Sleep deprivation is no minor matter—studies have shown that sleep deprivation is associated with memory deficits, impaired performance and alertness and delayed responses.

When asked if they sleep on the train, bus, or ferry, 75% of students replied either that they did sometimes or always. This

isn't surprising since from a biological and psychological perspective, teenagers tend to function best in the afternoon, which explains why some high schools start their classes at 9 a.m. rather than eight or earlier.

According to studies by the National Sleep Foundation, a teenager's natural time to fall asleep at night is 11 p.m. or later. "We should start later and end later. Teens will go to sleep late no matter what. If we wake up later we will feel better throughout the week," said senior Elliot Shriner-Cahn.

However, when it came to actually altering the bell schedule to help alleviate sleep woes, students were split on the matter. Some agreed that they would like extra sleep but not at

the cost of ending school later in the afternoon. "I don't mind school starting this early because if it started later, then we would get out of school later, giving us less time to finish our hw," said freshman Myra Alonso.

Others felt that it would be better to start school later. Senior Stephanie Chow said, "I would like school to start at a time that isn't rush hour for trains, etc. because it takes a lot of energy to go on crowded transportation."

Some just wanted school to be shorter. When asked when he thought school should begin and end, senior Eric Gervay said, "Later ... at 12 o'clock, and ending at 12:01."



Ashik Siddique / The Spectator



Ashik Siddique / The Spectator

SING! has begun! Left, Eleonora Bershadskaya, senior SING!'s girls' hip-hop director, leads auditions for her crew. Right, hip-hop hopefuls show their stuff in a tryout routine.

SING! Dates and Scoring Change

By DAVID JOSEPH

Recently, the administration decided to change the SING! dates from April 5, 7 and 8 to March 22, 24 and 25. Also different will be the scoring system for SING!.

CHANGE OF DATES

The change of dates has many benefits. "We originally thought that we would fight for the April dates, but we realized that there were a lot of benefits to the March dates," said Coordinator of Student Affairs Matthew Polazzo. "We were getting more rehearsal time. If we got the March dates, they were going to let us start rehearsing on February 1."

"We also had this problem where the administration had started booting people off of SING! for academic reasons," said Polazzo. "The criteria they were using was the first marking period letter grades for the second term. It's common for students to get letter grades that are bad, but the teachers will give them warnings, and the students will eventually do fine in the class. But on that basis alone there were students who were kicked out of SING!, which was traumatic for the students. The grades also came out so close to the time of SING! that it was really destructive to the show as well."

The solution was a change of dates. "So what we did by moving the dates earlier was now the criteria for whether or not a student can participate in SING! is not the first marking period grade of the second term,

but rather the last marking period grade of the first term, which is actually a grade that students care about," said Polazzo.

"There are still students who will be kicked out but it should be a much smaller number, and we'll also know well in advance of the performance who would be kicked out for academic reasons," said Polazzo.

"Everybody in SING! is embracing this because ultimately everybody's getting more practice time, and there's no chance of star players being kicked out because of the old rule. For once, one of the administration's change is actually for the better," said George Zisiadis.

The new dates also solved the problem of proximity to Advanced Placement (AP) exams. "The administration wanted to move the dates further away from AP [examinations]," said Polazzo. Between the original dates and the AP exams in mid-May, students participating in SING! would only have three or so weeks to prepare.

With the dates moved to March, students will have both more rehearsal time and more time to study for AP exams, killing two birds with one stone.

CHANGE IN SCORING

This year, the system that alumni judges will use to score SING! will be different as well. Instead of being rated on a scale of 1 to 3, each SING! will be scored on a scale of 1 to 10.

The changes were added to the SING! charter this year. They

were introduced by SING! coordinators senior Amanda Wallace and junior Charlie Damga and were voted on by the full executive council of the Student Union.

"The problem with that old ranking system was that you could not score SING! until you've seen all of them. This gave a huge advantage to the SING! that went last, because the crowd is fired up, they're in a better mood. What we found is that Junior SING! almost always wins Friday night and Senior SING! almost always wins Saturday night," said Polazzo.

The 1 to 10 point system will hopefully make judging SING! a more fair process. "[With the old system] there was no room for subtlety or gradation. ... Additionally in order to keep there from being judges who score all 10s or all 1s, we're going to throw out the high and low scores from each area, and we're going to tell them that; that way, they are going to be careful not to be that outside score that's thrown out. So that's to create fairness," he said.

The new system is similar to a system that was used in the past. Polazzo said, "Victor Danau ['05], last years SING! coordinator, and I discovered that while we were researching who had won the SING!s of past years past, and we found that there were a lot more upsets at that time and we tend to think that's related to the scoring system so we think it will just make SING! more competitive and interesting and fun."

Stuy After Hours

continued from page 1

When Stuyvesant moved to its Chambers Street location in 1992, the administration signed a lease contract with the Battery Park City Authority, a New York State Legislature-created company that owns the land on which the building is located. In the contract, the company had rights to use any athletic facility—gymnasiums, swimming pool, and dance studio—in a community center program from 7 to 10 p.m. on the weekdays and for eight hours in the weekends.

Thus, for a fee, any member of the Battery Park City community can use the athletic facilities provided in the building. If a student should ever want to use these amenities, he or she can easily enter the premises without membership and not be caught. When The Spectator tried to enter after hours into the various facilities, the staff and security failed to ask for proof of membership.

STUY ON THE BIG SCREEN

According to Building Coordinator emeritus Renee Levine, almost 10 years ago, Stuyvesant High School was the set for the 1995 blockbuster bomb, "Hackers," directed by Iain Softley.

The cast and crew filmed at Stuyvesant High School during weekends in November of 1994. In the movie, actor Jonny Lee Miller and his first wife, the then-fledgling actress Angelina Jolie, played teenagers who discovered and tried to stop a secret plan to unleash a computer virus onto the world. In the high school scenes, the actors went to Stuyvesant High School, dubbed Stanton High School for the movie.

At the time, hundreds of students flocked to get positions as coveted extra roles for the movie, but only a few high school seniors actually made it to the end.

"All of them went to the first weekend of shooting," said Levine, "but basically none of them showed up for the second weekend—it was just so boring. I remember seeing this teenage actress and I thought she was just so bad at acting. Turns out, it was Angelina."

THE FILM BUFF'S PARADISE: THE TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

During spring break, screenings for the Tribeca Film

Festival are held in the auditorium.

According to school technician Kern Levignon, the Murray Kahn Auditorium has been used as a mini-movie theater for premieres and screenings of large and small films alike during the month of April.

Some students, especially those involved in the Stuyvesant Theater Community, even receive internships with the technical coordinators who handle the showing of the movies. The students learn firsthand the skills needed to host a movie premiere and receive free tickets to the showings for participating in the internship.

WHEN STUY COMES FIRST

On December 4, the New York City chapter of the For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology (F.I.R.S.T.) held a Lego League competition for middle school students. Students build Lego robots which complete certain tasks. According to Robotics Team Vice President Yonathan Zloof, the Stuyvesant robotics team mostly helped out the competition by setting up the arenas for competition.

THE ACADEMIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD: MATH AND SCIENCE ASSEMBLIES AT STUY

Stuyvesant has been host to many citywide Science Olympiads and New York State Math Team sessions and awards ceremonies as well. It also held the SCONYC convention, a major science meeting. In addition, the Board of Education sometimes has its own chancellor's meeting within Murray Kahn Auditorium.

The most important academic meeting, though, occurs every so often in Stuyvesant's halls. The National Consortium of Specialized Secondary Schools of Math, Science, and Technology (NCSSSMST) is an annual national convention with representatives from 87 schools spanning 29 states. They engage in workshops, listen to guess speakers, have a large luncheon, and discuss matters involving effective ways of teaching math, science and technology in specialized high schools. The last time the NCSSSMST was held in Stuyvesant, in 2004, the students were given a day off, in exchange for having to go to school on Election Day.

Seekers 101

continued from page 1

group.

"I understand that non-Asian people might not feel as comfortable," said Seeker and senior Joyce Lee. Said freshman Peter Valdez, who is Dominican, "I tend to feel pretty unique but I never feel uncomfortable. Everybody is really friendly."

The Seekers meet every Thursday for a number of different activities, including prayer, body worships, which are hand movements to a song, biblical skits, games and sometimes speakers on faith and Christianity. "We'll try anything that might be fun. We're open for new ideas," said Chan.

"We dedicate every day in the morning to pray together [because] it's a chance to show the school who we are. It's a time to share what we believe and who we're living for," said junior Kathie Chang.

In addition to having meetings after school the Seekers also meet every day at 7.40 in the morning on the "half-floor" to do their morning worship. "I see them every morning playing the guitar and praying," said junior Lauren Amira, "people say that



The Seekers meet on Thursdays for a variety of activities, like prayer, biblical skits, games and speakers on faith and Christianity. Here, musically inclined members jam for Jesus.



Senior and Seeker co-president Regina Chan seeks greater understanding "there are a lot of misconceptions" about the club.

they're praying for good Physics grades."

The biggest event for the Seekers every year is Jesus Day, held in May. For the Seekers Jesus Day is an "outreach day," said Chan. To advertise, in the weeks the Seekers hold "Random Acts of Kindness Week," during which they distribute carnations, and "Carry Your Own Bible Week," in which they do just that, as well as wearing T-shirts around school. In fact these shirts are one of the

few things that many Stuy students do know about. "They have really cool shirts on Jesus Day," said Gaynin.

Every year's Jesus Day has a theme. The themes of the past few years include "Jesus is absolute," "Jesus more than enough" and a "Matrix" theme which dealt with a bigger question of "are you living in a fake world, what is real?" said Chan. On Jesus Day, which is held in the cafeteria, the Seekers are joined by many more participants,

including non-Seekers, and do some of the same activities that they do at their weekly meetings. The skits for Jesus day all revolve around the chosen theme. "The turnout is usually pretty good," said Chan.

"Overall we have 70-80 [Seekers members] and 200 other people," said senior and Seekers co-president David Seok.

Although the Seekers believe it is a successful event, they do admit that people attend

for varied reasons. "Because we offer food more people come," said Chan. The Seekers have also experienced unkind acts during Jesus Day.

"One year we had balloons all over and people kept popping them," said Lee.

Some of the misconceptions about the Seekers has led to tension between the them and the rest of the Stuyvesant Community. "I wish people would be more open-minded and not make assumptions."

ID Scanners to Be Installed by New Term



The Parents' Association was also well represented at the meeting. Stuyvesant parent Sue Schneider, second from right, proposed a resolution against the impending plan, fellow parent Robert Chung, right, and Edward Wong, AP of Technology, second from left, listen on.



The major groups responsible to students were present at the January 17 SLT meeting, where the primary issue was the Department of Education's impending plan to install ID scanners at the school's entrance.



Principal Stanley Teitel, far left, spoke of the new system's benefits at the SLT meeting on January 17. From right, SLT student alternate senior Josh Siegel, SLT student representative senior Eleonora Bershadskaya, and SU Chief Financial Officer junior Mike Zaytsev were among the vocal student opponents of the plan present at the meeting.

SLT Sponsors Resolution Against Scanners

continued from page 1

The administration said the new system would increase school security and eventually make taking attendance easier. "I'm responsible for 3,200 lives. Safety is something I am ultimately held responsible for by every single student," said Teitel. According to Teitel, knowing exactly who is in the building at a given time would make the school safer. Wong agreed. He said, "There are many benefits. Number one, and most importantly, is to know who's in the building and if they're in the building. That's a safety issue, that's a security issue."

Teitel said, "Once the system gets put in place in every school and the DOE can rely on it, I think it will eventually eliminate the need for attendance sheets. It's just a matter of what the law says at the moment." Currently, public schools are required to keep a paper record of official attendance.

But the SLT and the SU oppose the ID scanning system. They believe the new system is unnecessary and will create an uncomfortable environment in the school. "People talk about Stuy treating people like numbers, but when you walk in school and you're scanned in, you're being made into a number...that's not a concrete objection, but it's underlying a lot of this," said senior and SLT student-alternate Joshua Siegel. "What is it like when students come into school and the first thing they come into contact with is something hostile, something that tracks them?" said Siegel.

"The system becomes incredibly redundant. We already have attendance for third period and we have class attendance as well. Teachers are keeping track of that information. I think we have to ask ourselves at what cost are we gaining these advantages,

We would all live in an extremely safe society if we had cameras everywhere and we monitored where everyone is, but we choose not to have that extreme level of security because we value a greater virtue, which is freedom," said Coordinator of Student Affairs (CoSA) Matthew Polazzo.

"There's no conspiracy in school. It's not an infringement because it's just scanning your card to take attendance. It's no infringement on rights or freedoms," said Wong.

Sophomore parent SLT representative Robert Chung said, "I think the students should

"I agree that there's an infringement and a loss to our rights...but I think you're going to understand that you have to weigh your freedoms against your personal safety."

**—Stanley Teitel,
Principal**

remember...the technology is there not to abuse our privacy, but to enhance our safety."

The SLT passed a resolution against the system by an 8 to 2 vote, with one voting member absent. The SU plans to fight the installation of the scanners, arguing that Stuyvesant has successfully fought DOE policies such as advanced placement weighting, curriculum requirements and cellphone restrictions.

The administration has not announced the new system to the faculty, parents or students outside the SLT meeting. According to Teitel, the faculty will be aware of the new system because a provision in the new UFT contract, known as Circular Six, allows the administration to

assign faculty members the task of watching-the-ID scanners on the second floor. 42 teachers will be on scanning duty.

Some teachers feel their time could be better spent. "Teachers are actually going to be assigned to monitor you coming in through the kiosk to make sure that you're using the right ID. Instead of grading your papers or writing your college rec's that's what we're going to be doing," said United Federation of Teachers (UFT) Representative Ellen Schweitzer.

When asked what plans he has to announce the new system to students, Teitel said, "We haven't really gotten that far. I don't want to get ahead of myself...I'm certainly not going to make noise about a system that's not even in the building yet."

According to Teitel, he first learned about the DOE's plan to install scanners in Stuyvesant sometime in October. Teitel did not want to communicate the plan before he was sure it would be implemented. According to Wong, he first heard of the system at a meeting in November at which he was informed that "we were probably going to get it down the line." In December, an inspector came to the school. Wong began wiring the new system before winter recess and the machines arrived on January 12.

"We all know the DOE. So there was no sense in going public with something we had no knowledge about. It was only recently, about two weeks ago, we actually knew...I came in one morning, and [Wong was] up in the ladder, installing them...and that's how I found out," said Teitel.

The SU is still planning the details of its response to the policy. Ng said, "As of now, we're still in stages of making everyone aware. We have to see what we can and can't do before we decide what we need to do."

Editorials and Opinions

STAFF EDITORIALS

Why Make Us Beg?

You may have heard that Stuy is being put under lockdown. Or that ID card scanners are going to be put outside every classroom. Or maybe you did not hear anything, as the administration has made no effort to inform the rest of the Stuy community on what is going on. It is no wonder, then – especially with the mysterious installations occurring at the second floor entrance – that people would start to suspect that the administration is trying to keep something from us that they do not want us to know.

But sometimes the truth is even more bizarre than the rumors. It did not even occur to the principal of the school to tell the students about the new policy. Or the faculty, for that matter. Aside from a subtle reference to it in their UFT contract, they too were left in the dark.

Since nobody was officially notified about the ID card scanning policy, it is no wonder that rumors began to circulate, some using such dramatic words as “lockdown.” But the facts are not so harsh. Stuy has been selected by the DOE as a model school, to test if this scanning policy would work on a broader scale.

When Mr. Teitel was approached by The Spectator, it was clear that his reasons for instituting the system were linked to protecting the security of the students. But because of his absolute indifference to communicating with the Stuy community, every move he made seemed shadowed with malicious, even conspiratorial intent to students. He said, “The issue for me is safety. If I really wanted to cut down on cutting, I wouldn’t need the scanning.” That would have been nice to know.

SING! Scoring System: Almost Perfect

It’s that time again! SING! is back, carrying with it the inevitable inter-grade competition.

The Student Union’s decision this year to revamp SING!’s scoring system was a much needed one. The previous system had cast a shadow of doubt over the fairness of the judging process. Judges had to rank each grade’s performance in various categories on a 1 to 3 scale. This forced them to directly compare the grades, often leading to favoritism and cutthroat competition between the grades.

Now, the judges will rank each grade’s performance in the various categories on a 1 to 10 scale. While this is a step in the right direction, this system still leaves too much room for arbitrariness. There are no guidelines to base any conclusive rankings on – what standards can the judges use to base their rating of the performances they see,

especially with such a broad scale to choose from?

There must be a general scoring rubric for judges to follow, and viewable by the public, so that decisions are more tangible instead of being based solely on the judges’ personal perceptions of rankings. Another possibility would be for judges to write a comment justifying each ranking, to be reviewed by SING! coordinators. Additionally, a 1 to 5 scoring system would be more ideal than the new 1 to 10 system. It would still prevent the forced favoritism of the previous system, without being as hair-splitting as the broader 1 to 10 scale.

Competition is a major part of the SING! tradition, and by no means should be eliminated. But it’s equally important that the scoring system is kept as fair as possible, ensuring honest victories and healthy competition.

Translation

By MIKE GSOVSKI

Dear Mr. Gsovski,

The Committee on Admissions has just completed its Early Action meetings during which your application for admission was reviewed. After very careful consideration, we were unable to take a definite action on your candidacy at this time and therefore have deferred our decision until the regular spring meetings ...

(Dear Applicant UG224847764A, A few people have just finished taking a good look at the last four years of your life. After laughing heartily at your ‘accomplishments’, we decided to reject you, but like a cat toying with a wounded mouse, we would enjoy watching you squirm as you continue your futile efforts for a little while longer.)

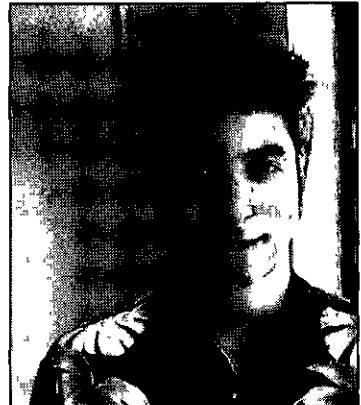
... We hope you will write to us if you have new information to add to your application materials. Recent grades or test results, activities, honors, or other accomplishments would be of interest to the Committee as it reviews your application again in the spring meetings.

(We would really like you to squirm for us. It makes things that much more fun.)

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance. You have our best wishes for a rewarding and productive year.

(Although you no longer matter, you have our best wishes that you do not come to the point where you become mentally unstable and hunt us down with a crossbow.)

Sincerely,
Nameomitted For
MacPrivacyconcerns,
Dean of Admissions and



Gun Bessa / The Spectator

Who, reading this now, would willingly present ‘themselves’ to a group of complete strangers without even a little varnishing and whitewashing?

Financial Aid
(Grand Marshall of the
Exalted Gates and Lord of the
Trustees’ Vault.)

To all who got into any of their first choice colleges (including mine) early, I offer you my most sincere congratulations. My frustrations with this decision have nothing to do with you or for that matter the admissions committee that deferred me. I just think many admissions offices could be a little more honest about a couple things about the process that governs the admissions process, and perhaps not couch their thoughts in jargon and double-speak.

How so? In total, there were four paragraphs in this beautiful product of Ivy League wit, the gist of which was, “You’ve been deferred, not rejected. Send us more stuff. Goodbye.” Nothing was mentioned about what process was used or why exactly I was rejected.

Something could be said for keeping practices secret. After all, if the committee said they wanted horticulturalists, everyone’s middle name would be “Appleseed.”

Since they do not wish to tell us, one cannot rule out any scenario. Theoretically, they could be using a strange voodoo ritual which involves the killing of chickens on top of a pile of applications. Presumably in

such a ritual, the applications that absorb the most blood and therefore the life-force of the chicken, are predestined for success and are therefore chosen for admission.

This is not necessarily an isolated instance in the admissions process. Since we are only really given the blank form put in front of us, we are left to guess a thousand times over what everyone at the admissions office wants from us. Of course, the stock answer that common wisdom gives us is, “Be yourself. They’ll love you for who you are.”

Of course, we know ourselves very well. Who, reading this now, would willingly present ‘themselves’ to a group of complete strangers without even a little varnishing and whitewashing? Don’t lie to yourself, when the interviewer asked about any weaknesses you had, you didn’t mention that thing you did at 2 a.m. that night that you know you shouldn’t have done and have regretted ever since. You weren’t honest.

But they don’t tell us anything and we stumble around in the dark like mole rats. I have long accepted my deferment, and now am preparing a new set of materials to submit to the school that is still looking at me funny. I’ll start by submitting this article. I hope it’s of “interest to the Committee.”

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High
School Newspaper



“The pulse
of the
student
body.”

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Re: “More Work, Less Play”

Dear freshmen and incoming sophomores,

In Issue 7 of The Spectator, an issue was brought to the attention of Big Sibs ‘05-’06 regarding the results of the most recent Camp Stuy. As chairs of The Big Sibling Program, we believe it is necessary that we address the various concerns posed in that critique.

First, our reason for taking Camp Stuy’s traditional focus off of college, and moving the Stuyvesant Community beneath the spotlight: while Stuyvesant is in fact an academically rigorous institution, the high school experience in essence is seldom recognized and consequently forgotten by many, if not most, Stuyvesant attendees.

However, we wanted you to fall in love with Stuy and to indulge yourselves in all of the opportunities from which numerous remarkable intellectual revelations could and will arise. We are well aware of the type of students that annually contribute to the body of Stuyvesant scholars: headstrong, ambitious, competitive, brilliant. We therefore deemed you well informed of the difficulties of achieving academic excellence in Stuy.

We did not mean to misinform you about Stuyvesant, but to show you what you may not have recognized had it not been the focus of your welcome to high school. We wanted your first two days at Stuyvesant to reveal the fun features of your school and peers so that when you do become burdened by the expected heavy workload, you do not feel helpless and alone.

We did not stress college

We wanted you to fall in love with Stuy and to indulge yourselves in all of the opportunities from which numerous remarkable intellectual revelations could and will arise.

because come junior year you will have heard so much about it (from expertly informed and trained sources, we might add) that it will be virtually impossible for you to feel under-equipped for the incredibly strenuous process. We did not stress the blight of AIM and Sconex because, well, we’ll leave that up to your fanciful imaginations ... And ultimately, we serve as surrogate siblings to incoming students because our goal is to be honest with you, and not euphemistic.

But we’re happy with what you did get out of Camp Stuy: an approachable group of trustworthy upperclassmen and some sense of an unequivocally unique intellectual community. Furthermore, we hope that if and when you do consider yourselves ill-prepared for the Stuyvesant experience, you will feel welcome to come to your Big Sibs for help and advice. We hope that we didn’t send you the wrong message. Yes, Stuyvesant is tough. But, as always, we are here to help.

– Big Sib Chairs ‘05-’06

FOR THE RECORD

- In Issue 7, the photo for “Improv at Stuy” on page 10 misspelled Molly Campbell’s surname.
- In the photos of the Winter Drama: The unidentified photo was of junior Arun Selvatnan; the bottom photo mislabeled as David Gonzalez with Ian Murphy, was of freshman Robert Stevenson with Murphy. Also, Sharel Itzkovich’s surname was misspelled.
- In “Spartans Set Off on Odyssey,” assistant coaches Mike Fizzell and Joe Maoachowski’s surnames were omitted.

Opinions



Wyndam Makowsky / The Spectator

the diary of a mad senior

New Year's Resolutions:

- 1) Work harder in my classes and extracurriculars
- 2) Do morning announcements at least once
- 3) Finally force myself to write a Diary of a Mad Senior

After a couple of scribbled cross-outs, I have finally gotten used to writing "2006" instead of "2005" at the top of my papers. For me, this milestone has always been the official inauguration of the New Year. As part of my resolutions, I promised myself that I would sit down and not get up again until I'd written a Diary of a Mad Senior. After all, 2006 is the last year I'll ever be able to.

I know it's been said many times before, but I'm starting to feel old. With the start of 2006, first term of senior year is beginning to wind down, and through the haze of college applications, I'm noticing the first of my lasts. I dressed up for my last Halloween in the halls of Stuy. I competed in my last opening tournament of the Speech and Debate season. I did online programming for the last time. And in February, I will complete my last issue as the Managing Editor of The Spectator.

But even now, it's time to enjoy the firsts. The first time I've actually been assigned to a locker on the second floor. Sitting on the senior bar for the first time in complete comfort. The senior traditions of the year—Pajama Day, Cut Day, and Crushlists—are down the road.

In classic Stuy fashion, I've procrastinated for too long, and I've let some of these events go by without enough recognition. To the freshman (who shouldn't be thinking about senior year yet), the sophomores (who also shouldn't be thinking about senior year yet, but probably are), and the juniors (who most certainly are thinking about it): when it's your turn, remember to enjoy the firsts, the lasts, and everything in between. Whether it's the first time you don't change for gym in a five month stretch, or the last time you try out for SING!, senior year is about all of it.

So meet new people in your senior classes, but don't leave the old ones. Try new clubs, but stick with the ones you've loved from the beginning. Go to The Soda Shop, but remember that Terry's has been here from the start.

- 4) Enjoy the rest of senior year

—Sammi Krug

A Walking Tour (Jokes Included)

By YASHA MAGARIK

When I woke up late Wednesday morning, December 28, and took the train to Chambers St., it was with the intention of meeting my brother, Ben, a Stuy alum, and interviewing the Nuts4Nuts street vendor near Stuyvesant, in order to (no joke) write an article about him. But he wasn't there that day. So we embarked upon an odyssey on the streets of lower Manhattan, a journey through post-Christmas New York all the way to Union Square, where we finally finished our walking tour.

We essentially started in the neighborhood immediately surrounding Stuyvesant and walked north. For freshmen who haven't done this sort of thing yet, it's a great chance to get lost in Manhattan and just keep walking around—that's how you discover things. But I'm sure there are many people at Stuy who haven't had too many experiences like these, either for lack of time or lack of motivation. I highly suggest it; it's good for you—exercise, fresh air, interesting people and a whole bunch of weird incidents. At least, that's if

you do it right.

Our voyage started after the disappointment of the Nuts4Nuts interview. We began to walk north, to get to a spa to buy a gift for my mother. As we walked across Canal to Broadway, keeping our hands close to our pockets, wading through swarms of tourists, I remembered what my mom thinks about Canal. "Canal," she

New York City is larger than itself. As a matter of fact, the same goes for Stuyvesant.

remarks, having worked nearby for years, "has got to be the dirtiest street in the world."

We finally reached Crosby St., and Mezzanine Spa, our destination. Inscribed in neat white chalk on an adjacent French Restaurant was "THE FRENCH

ARE HYPER COOL—AD III." Right. Anyway, once I flirted with the spa women and got the gift certificate, we moved on to J. Crew, where we had to return a pair of blue chinos with an orange stain.

We've been going to J. Crew for a couple of years, but certainly not 10 years as Ben indicated to the manager. We swiftly became loyal customers, ardent friends of the salespeople and I believe I was dubbed a fashion critic. Yeah, right. The real con, though, came when the manager asked us why my brother didn't simply return the pants when the stain appeared. "I would have," said Ben, "But I was in Peru at the time, and J. Crew doesn't have Peruvian outlets yet." As a matter of fact, Ben's never been to South America, but who cares? It worked. We do it in class every day.

On a more serious note, on this trip I began to understand something that I've long felt about New York and Stuyvesant: New York City is not just these stores, these products and this food. It's larger than the buildings and larger than the lights. Larger than the ships or the trains or the aggressive cab



Gabe Paley / The Spectator

drivers. Larger than the setting sun over the rivers and larger than the dropping ball at Times Square. New York City is larger than itself.

So too, Stuyvesant reaches beyond its physical manifestation. By being outside of Stuyvesant, by being immersed in New York culture, I saw how similar the two are, and how unique. It was quite a revelation. Now back to the corny jokes.

We overshot the Apple Store, and while walking back, Ben noticed a trinket seller with rare coins. My brother used to collect coins, so he was probably

continued on page 8

Junior Ramblings

My Indecency

If there is one thing that I have learned from my Stuyvesant experience, it is this: I am an indecent teenager.

I wasn't always lewd. In middle school, I was a nice boy, always polite, holding doors for others, never talking in class without raising my hand—you know, the annoying nice kid. It was not until high school years that I became such a rude person.

My road to vulgarity began November of freshman year. It was my lunch period and I had just eaten one of those crusty celery sticks the cafeteria salad bar provides when I felt an uncontrollable lurching in my bladder. I shifted in my seat, trying to suppress the uncomfortable feeling below my stomach, but it was no avail. I needed to go, and I needed to go at that moment.

I ran to the alcove of the fifth floor hallway where the health classes met and leapt onto the door of the boy's bathroom. And that's when I came crashing down to the floor—the bathroom door was locked.

I was facing a dilemma. The girl's bathroom was right there, only a couple of steps away, and I was about to wet my pants. So I did what I had to—I held my breath, opened the girl's bathroom door, and ran into a stall.

When I was done, I zipped up my pants, turned around, and put my ear to the stall. I listened for any movement, any sign that a girl would come out and start screaming. When I heard silence, I gently opened the stall, and started to creep toward door. But there was a girl at the sink, applying make-up. She screamed, "Pervert! What the... are you doing in the girl's bathroom? Get the... out of here!" And so I did. I ran out of the bathroom, up the stairs to the sixth floor, and into the back of the library, laughing with every step.

That's how my road to rudeness started. Since then, I have grown progressively more



David Liu / The Spectator

Now you might be thinking, wow, what a jerk. But before you start pointing fingers at other people, think about what you do on a daily basis.

offensive and more open about it. I talk in my classes, I burp aloud in the lunchroom without excusing myself, and I chew orange-flavored gum and stick them beneath the wooden chairs of my classes. During math classes, I scribble down formulas and do work on the desks and cabinets. During Spanish classes, I use my Sharpie marker and make little comics on the desks. I wear my pants so low that while walking down the halls, you might see my orange-and-banana-print boxers or even the top of my back end at times.

My most recent licentious act was on Halloween. Halloween is a perfect time to make a fool out of yourself or to be scandalous and outrageous, so I decided to go all out this year. What was my costume, you ask? It was a pregnant nun. Yes, I wore a second-rate nun uniform and an inflatable latex balloon around my stomach.

Now you might be thinking, wow, what a jerk. But before

continued on page 8

Desk Graffiti: Art?

By NIKHITA KAMATH

In class, when I'm bored, I stare at the desk. Hidden among the multicolored rainbows of mass-produced bubblegum forever imprinted with Stuy students' saliva and the wrong answers to this week's Humanities pop quiz lies a viable pastime to amuse all of our sleep-deprived brains.

While we drown out the sound of our teacher's voices, we transport ourselves into a whole new fixation known to some as the "Graffitiville, Stuyland." All it takes to access this interesting new portal is to look down at your desk, to dig a little deeper than just a cursory glance.

These desks contain an insight into the personal mind-frames and lifestyles of the brave souls who attended this school before us. Their revelations about seemingly random subjects might allow people to relate to something in their own lives, to look at things through a whole new perspective.

Although many teachers argue that it is vandalism of the desks, this nonsensical writing and sketchy doodling is actually a new style of art that is accessible to anyone. While it is true that the desks are property of the school, those who are to benefit from education are the students themselves. As long as the art is done in an appropriate fashion—without vulgarity or nastiness—graffiti will, in fact, produce beautiful works for the entire school to admire and value. They could be masterpieces just waiting to be discovered by a new student's thirsty eyes.

Everyone has the potential to incorporate some of themselves into these short conversations and witty bantering. It has become a form of communication between dozens of students. Many conversations, both important and stupid, have taken place on those sacred desks. It has touched and tickled the hearts of so many, causing different reactions, some sour and bitter, others

lively and witty. Sometimes you might just happen to come across your friend's scrawls by chance, a stroke of luck on an especially dreary day. In this way, not only can you talk to those you know, but also have sometimes deep, sometimes enlightening, and sometimes just plain zestful back-and-forths with total strangers.

Furthermore, to erase the desk-art as if it has no value is similar to scraping away a huge chunk of Stuyvesant's past. Many students' dreams and hopes, artwork and literature, hearts and souls, have been poured onto these desks. Is it really right to take it away as if it never meant anything? Every day, a new word is written, a new part of history is created on those desks. Erasing the graffiti would be destroying artistic

Be it a scribble on a desk, initials of the ones they've loved, or a simple sketch, it's history, and it's there for all to see.

freedom, because everyone has the right to their own opinions and the ability to express these opinions is one of our basic human rights.

We should allow future vandalism, in controlled environments, without profanity, while preserving the old. Since teachers consider this unique style of art a potential threat to the attention span of their students, there should be a special classroom for the sole purpose of expressing yourself, where graffiti is allowed and even encouraged. It could be the ultimate time capsule, a merging of the thoughts of millions of individuals, past and present, to form one final tribute to Stuy

continued on page 8

Opinions

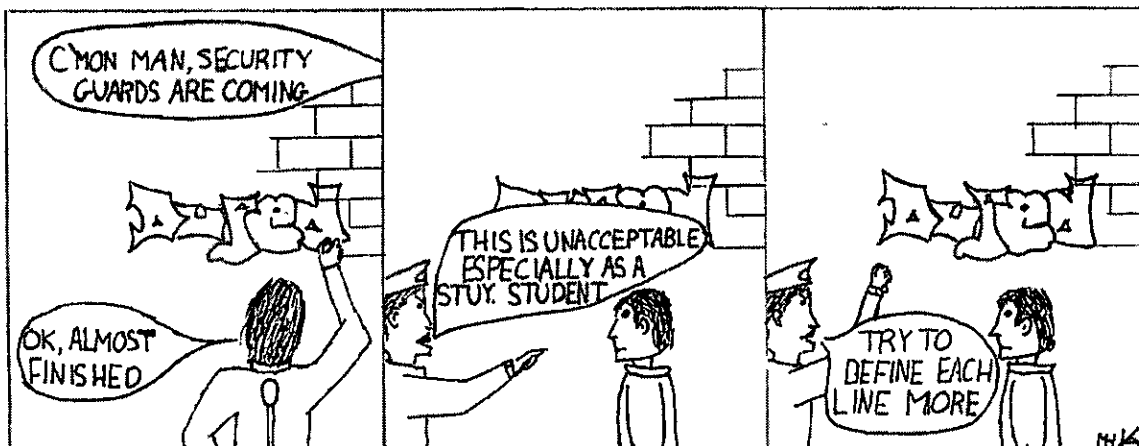
Desk Graffiti: Art?

continued from page 7

students everywhere. It's also an intelligent idea to have a new desk graffiti class/club corresponding to this classroom, where a group of students meet every day to write or draw, and add little tidbits of their own life into this huge mural so that piece by piece a whole museum is formed.

So take another glance at

those desks you see every day. Look at them through the eyes of the thousands of students just like you that simply happened to be bored one day in their classes, and began to create their own little memorial. Something they captured a part of themselves in. Be it a scribble on a desk, initials of the ones they loved, or a simple sketch, it's history, and it's there for all to see



A Walking Tour

continued from page 7

thinking he could pull a fast one on this guy quite easily—this seller had some rare items. Ben casually asked the price of a particular coin. Suddenly, the coin seller whipped out a 2002 Coin Seller's Guide, looked it up, and pronounced the price to be at \$10.

So much for that one. It turned out that the Apple Store was too crowded, so we left after only a cursory glance at the new iPod Nano. And no, there is no product placement in this article at all. I just think you should go out and buy cool gadgets.

Then there was Marc Jacobs, where we learned that this classy but non-branded line had adopted as a brand logo, of all things, a

rat. Who buys clothing with a rat? Afterwards, we dined at Chipotle, the sort of Mexican fast food that forced Burritoville out of business. A moment of silence for Burritoville, and several minor incidents (one sales clerk referring to my brother as my dad, and another sales clerk singing vivaciously) later, we finally reached Union Square.

Passing through Union Square, I turned to hear a Nuts4Nuts seller singing Christmas carols, rubbing in my lack of an article. As we approached the subway, a man forcefully pushed magazines into our hands. "Take one," he says to me. "He [my brother] won't share with you." I smiled and took it.

"Happy New Year's!" I said, and descended into the subway.

Junior Ramblings

continued from page 7

you start pointing fingers, think about what you do on a daily basis. We've all done something rude in our own lives. Just last week, I saw you burp without saying "excuse me." Yep, that's right, you vulgar teenager, I caught you in the act.

But the thing is, you see: I can't fix your manners, nor should I. Who cares if you burp in the middle of class without excusing yourself? Who cares if I color my desks with different color markers depending on my mood? Is it because it is not "ordinary"?

Yes, there is social normality, but who is to say that to not follow it is to be wrong? Does anyone really have the right to limit someone else's views to the boundaries of decency? I don't think so.

My Indecency

What I do think is that there are too many people trying to be polite because society tells them to be polite. The conformity has to stop. Without those who defy borders and stray from the crowd, we would all be mindless zombies. Without the rude people of the world, civilization would be a one-dimensional, boring place.

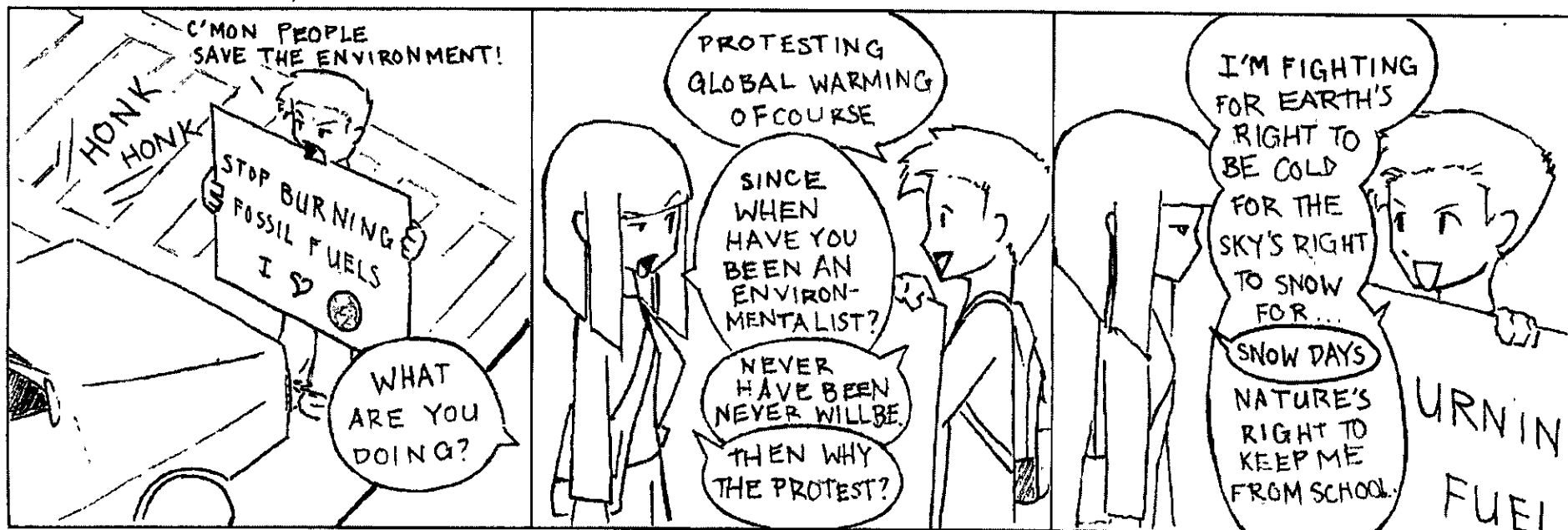
So I'm going to be that uncouth loud-mouth in class who picks his nose and writes little notes on his desks. I'm going to be that foolish, tactless little boy who runs into girl's bathrooms and sticks pieces of gum under chairs. I'm going to be that indecent jerk who dons a habit and latex belly to be a pregnant nun for Halloween. And do you know why? Because I can.

And because I should.

— Victor Zapana

Cartoons

A NOBLE CAUSE by Winnie Chen



GLASS HALF EMPTY: "NOTHING TO SEE HERE"

by DANIEL MARKOWITZ



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“Tutors Hold Key to Higher Test Scores...”

The New York Times, June, 1, 2005, page B10

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“Achievement Doesn't Take The Summers Off...”

New York Magazine, August 15, 2005, page 14

Arts & Entertainment

Editors' Picks for '06

By LILLIAN GAO,
MICHAEL LIPKIN
and PERRI OSSATIN

Fashion:

"Hall"marks of '05, Looking Ahead to '06



Serge Lobatch / The Spectator



Samam Hasan / The Spectator

Stuyvesant fashion has been marked by bohemian chic this year for girls - our reporters provide a glimpse of what's been hot this year, with an eye to the next

Boho (or bohemian) chic was wild in 2005. Its signature psychedelic tie-dye patterns were made feminine and splashed all over racks from the most high-end boutiques to the lowest common denominator of fashion retail. As the dominant trend of this past year, the look flaunted its camisoles, prairie skirts, large bangles, and layers upon layers of purposely contradicting patterns and shapes, all to underscore a golden principal of fashion: working a "studied laid-back" style. As all trends do, the faux bohemian craze is thankfully already fading.

However, one welcome byproduct of boho chic is the explosion of cowboy boots. They came in so many styles that any girl can find an almost customized match. The bottom line is: cowboy boots are sexy, vintage-y, and, when worn by urbanites in New York and London, seem so appealingly out-of-place with their Wild West motif that they give every wearer that alluring element of mystery and boldness.

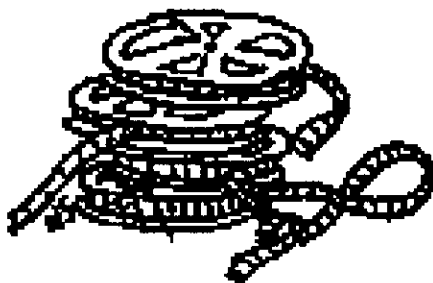
Boho Chic also brought with

it a few other more minor motifs. There were the down-to-the-necklaces, the scarves fashionably embedded in women's hair, and wearing items in unconventional places (for example, the skirt-cum-dress, tube top-cum-miniskirt, and yes, the scarves in the hair).

Shrugs and capelets, in styles crocheted, sequined, and laced, embodied the boho craze's philosophy of asymmetry, adding instant sophistication to any outfit. And accessory-wise, the wide-waisted belts that could wrap around any dress or long shirt were the only consistent feature that anchored the flowing fabrics of 2005.

As some of these trends carry into the New Year, the word that looks like it will be defining 2006 in fashion is "bigger." Expect to see even longer necklaces and broader, waist-cinching belts, with bigger buckles. Expect chunky heels to wrest the spotlight from strappy stilettos and Birkenstocks. And expect the little clutches of yesteryear to be replaced by oversized handbags that will serve as both purse and tote

Hidden Gems at the Movies



crooks in an ambush that proves to be more difficult than expected. Hong Kong has truly become a cinematic force to be reckoned with, especially in terms of fast-paced but thought-provoking and tense crime thrillers. (Not Rated)

3. "A Good Woman," directed by Mike Barker (Lions Gate Films, 2/13/06, PG-13)

Oscar Wilde's play "Lady Windermere's Fan" is transplanted first to 1930s New York and then to Italy, where the widow Mrs. Erlynne wants to find more monied suitors. Meanwhile, in true Wildean fashion, a chain of attempted indiscretions follows and Tuppy fights to prove his true love for Mrs. Erlynne, unaware of an interesting secret.

4. "Imagine You and Me," directed by Ol Parker (Fox Searchlight, 1/27/06, Rated R)

Rachel is about to marry her childhood sweetheart in this romantic dramedy when she is stunned by the beauty of a woman named Luce, who is in charge of the ceremony's floral arrangements and who she later discovers is, in fact, a lesbian. After the wedding, the two women begin a friendship that inevitably becomes something more.

1. "On the Outs," directed by Michael Skolnik and Lori Silverbush (Fader Films, 1/18/06, Rated R)

Inspired by real events, this indie film delves into the tough, urban lives of three teenage girls in New Jersey, dealing with drug addiction, pregnancy and motherhood, and mentally challenged siblings along the way.

2. "Breaking News," directed by Johnny To (Palm Pictures, 1/27/06, NR)

Director Johnny To takes on the media and its influence on current events in this action flick. The Hong Kong police force is embarrassed by its failed, televised attempt to stop a major robbery and aims to similarly shame the

How Will 2006 Go Down in Cinematic History?

The Year in (Potential) Blockbusters

After a bumpy ride at the box office this past year, with few anticipated blockbusters and many more sleeper hits, 2006 is offering up a dream roster of big-budget cinema artistry

For the sequel fans, Johnny Depp reprises his role as the campy Captain Jack Sparrow in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," upstaging heart-throb Orlando Bloom once more; the ensemble cast (except Bruce Willis) that made up last year's comic-book-film-noir thriller "Sin City" comes back for some gory seconds; and mutants will prove their mettle yet again in "X-Men 3."

New and familiar faces will take over some of cinematic history's most popular franchises: Brandon Routh as the Man of Steel in "Superman Returns;" Daniel Craig ("Lara Croft: Tomb Raider") as James Bond in the twenty-first 007 movie, and Steve Martin as Inspector Clouseau in "The Pink Panther."

Best-selling books, hit television shows, and the latest from M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense") will also hit the big screen.

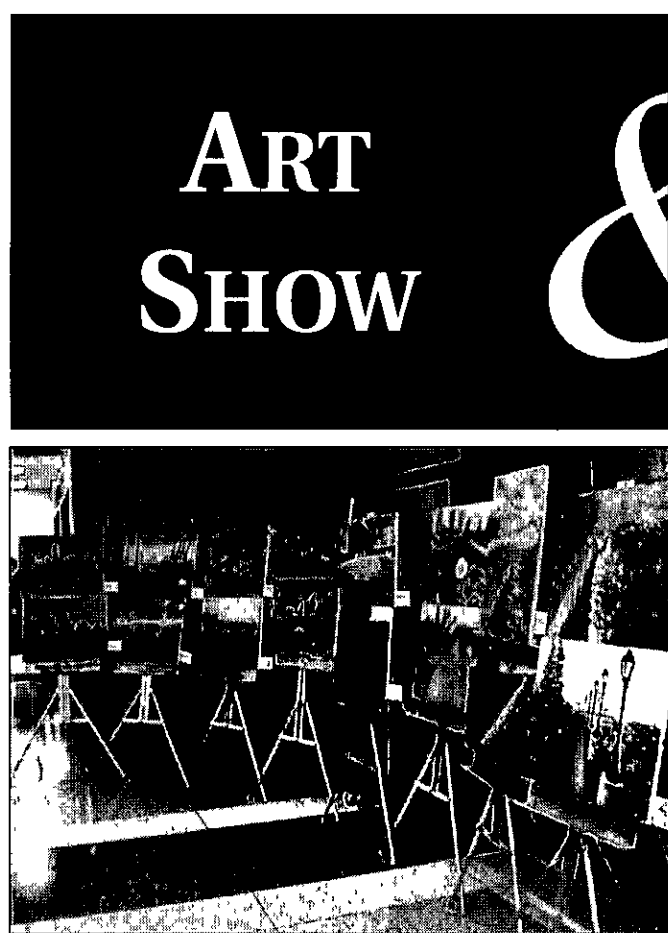
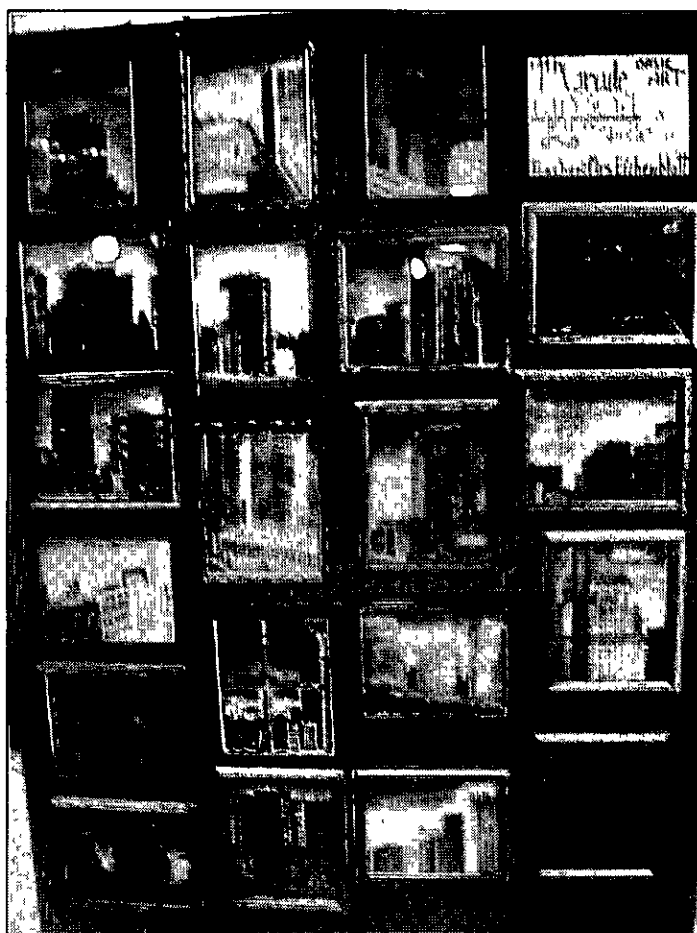
In other words, get those Hamiltons ready for the box office.

Tristan & Isolde (Fox, 1/13/06, PG-13)
The Pink Panther (MGM/UA, 2/10/06, NA)
V For Vendetta (Warner Bros., 3/17/06, R)
American Dreamz (Universal, 4/14/06, PG-13)
The Sentinel (Fox, 4/21/06, NA)
Mission: Impossible III (Paramount, 5/5/06, NR)
The Da Vinci Code (Sony, 5/19/06, NA)
X-Men 3 (Fox, 5/26/06, NA)
Superman Returns (Warner Bros., 6/30/06, NA)
Lady in the Water (Warner Bros., 7/21/06, NA)
Miami Vice (Universal, 7/28/06, NA)
Marie Antoinette (Sony, 10/13/06, NA)
Casino Royale [007] (MGM/UA, 11/17/06, NA)
Sin City 2 (Weinstein Company, 12/31/06, NA)



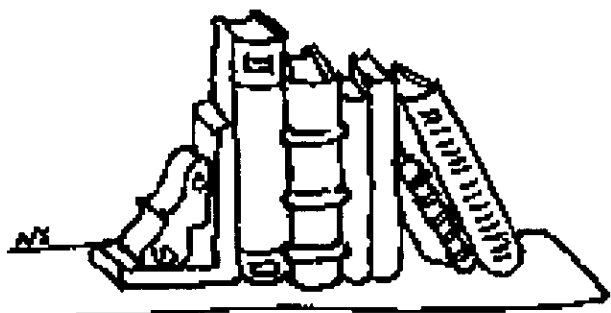
Photos by David Liu and Lisa Song

The Music and Arts Department's annual Winter Concert and Art Show took place on the evening of Friday, January 13. Works by art, architecture, and photography classes were displayed all over the first floor lobby, and performances were held by the Symphonic Band, Chamber Choir, Concert Chorus, and Symphonic Orchestra



Arts & Entertainment

Editors' Picks for '06



Some Light Reading

"Letters to a Young Artist: Straight-Up Advice on-Making a Life in the Arts—for Actors, Performers, Writers, and Artists of Every Kind," by Anna Devere Smith (Knopf Publishing Group, 1/24/06, \$13)

As a thespian and playwright herself, Smith provides insights and tips for budding artists (the term applies to bull riders, boxers and dentists), discussing her own personal and professional experiences and the relationship between the two, as well as those adventures outside her realm.

"The Yiddish Policeman's Union: A Novel," by Michael Chabon (HarperCollins Publishers, 4/11/06, \$26.95)

From the author of Pulitzer Prize-winner "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay" comes another World War II-era novel dealing with the Jewish experience, again from a unique angle. Detective Meyer Landsman is called to investigate the murder of a former chess prodigy in Alaska, where, as per Franklin Delano Roosevelt's suggestion, the beginnings of a Jewish homeland have materialized.

"The Good Life," by Jay McInerney (Knopf Publishing Group, 1/31/06, \$25)

McInerney, author of "Bright Lights, Big City," shows how a major disaster that touched thousands of people and the state of the world can reach

apparently unaffected and well-off (fictitious) New York couples. Russell and Corrine, who were introduced in an earlier novel, and Luke and Sasha evaluate their superficial lives and loves after the September 11 attacks

"The Tenth Circle," by Jodi Picoult; illustrated by Dustin Weaver (Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group, 3/06, \$26)

In the continuing saga of Picoult's Daniel Stone—a comic book artist married to a Dante scholar, as the title suggests—his teenage daughter is date-raped and he discovers that his wife has been having an affair. The investigation of the former leads to Daniel's childhood home of Alaska, where the story takes a decidedly Dantesque turn. The images from the graphic novel created by the

protagonist (also called "The Tenth Circle") appear in Picoult's work. This should be a hit with fans of Matthew Pearl's "The Dante Club."

"In the Company of the Courtesan," by Sarah Dunant (Random House, Inc., 2/14/06, \$23.95)

A dwarf named Bucino Teodoldo narrates the latest historical novel from the author of the insightful, engrossing and detailed New York Times bestseller "The Birth of Venus." Bucino describes his escape from the sack of Rome with his mistress and famous courtesan Fiametta, and their part, along with that of a blind healer named La Draga, in the rich and intrigue-laden tapestry of sixteenth century Venetian life.

Jammin' to the Beats of the New Year: Expected Hits of 2006

1. **"A Blessing and a Curse"** (Drive-By Truckers, New West, 4/06)

Drive-By Truckers is not a predictable band. A country-rock quintet from Alabama, Truckers has brought an edge to their genre for 10 years, while still maintaining close ties to their southern roots. They've made music about the down-and-out South and even produced a double-disc rock opera about the rise and fall of Lynyrd Skynyrd, so it was anyone's guess as to what their recently announced album was going to be about. That is until they released "Feb. 14," a new song, on Christmas Day. About (obviously) Valentine's Day, it is catchy and hopefully part of their next great album.

2. **"Idlewild"** (OutKast, LaFace Records, first quarter)

Andre 3000 and Big Boi are branching out. After their hit record "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below," the hip-hop duo is releasing a movie sound-

track for the picture in which they star. After taking a more disjointed approach to their last album, both artists are now equally involved in all the tracks. The movie's setting, the Depression-era South, played a heavy influence into the music they produced, adding a Ragtime flavor to the mix. The group is so proud of their newest creation that they had to postpone the release because they were having too hard a time picking out a single from four possible tracks.

3. **"Stadium Arcadium"** (Red Hot Chili Peppers, WB Records, 5/9/06)

For their ninth and newest record, the Red Hot Chili Peppers are returning to form. After their moody and mellow "By the Way," they are reclaiming their funk and metal sound with "Stadium Arcadium." Originally to be released as the first part of a three part series, with each album released six months apart (think System of a Down's "Hypnotize/Mesmerize"), it was consolidated into a double-disc so that fans could listen to the music quicker. After

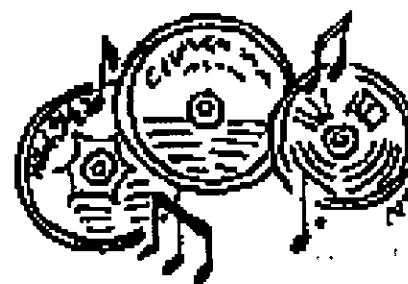
debuting some singles at shows in New York, Las Vegas and Atlantic City to a warm reception, the band, and its fans, remains heavily optimistic about Arcadium's release.

4. **"The Pilgrim"** (Jerry Lee Lewis, Columbia-Sony Records, 3/06)

Seventy-one years old and still kickin'. That's the message Jerry Lee Lewis is trying to get across in his new collaborative effort with some of the best and most talented names in music. A la Ray Charles' "Genius Loves Company," Lewis jams with top-notch contemporaries, such as Buddy Guy, Ringo Starr, Little Richard, Kid Rock, Eric Clapton and 17 other artists. Totaling 21 tracks, expectations are high, but if anyone can pull it off, the Killer can.

5. **"Keasbey Nights"** (Streetlight Manifesto, Victory Records, 3/7/06)

Streetlight Manifesto has been through a lot in 2005; after \$80,000 of equipment was stolen from their van



while on tour, they were practically bankrupt and had to start from scratch, even getting "real jobs" to pay their bills. But this ska/punk band never gave up, and they have a lot to show for it. Known for their fast-paced and witty wordplay and deft horns section, they continue to improve on their winning formula in new songs played on tour. Consisting of some of these songs and some re-recorded tracks from sister band Catch 22's record "Keasbey Nights," it is riling up fans eager to hear their sophomore album.

WINTER CONCERT



Arts & Entertainment

Congee Brings Soul to Chinese Cuisine

By ATRISH BAGCHI

Tucked away in a corner of the Lower East Side, away from the bustle and grime of Chinatown, is a Chinese restaurant that is delicious, homely and affordable.

Congee is a Chinese restaurant named after "congee"—a rice porridge usually served with combinations of vegetables, meats and seafood. Congee comes steaming in a bowl—when you put a spoonful of it in your mouth, the flavors of meat and rice subliminally blend together in a light, yet creamy, texture.

If, after your first spoonful, your soul is not relieved of the stress from that failed science test, there is still an extensive palate to choose from. The menu is full of delicacies that all invite sampling—dishes range from vegetarian noodle dishes with juicy, tender eggplant, to congee full of strips of pork, chicken and beef, to rice dishes laden with generous portions of meat.

Congee not only offers attractive entrees, but also a variety of side dishes. If you've got the munchies, try some orders of fried bread dipped in condensed milk—it will surely

satisfy your need. "The menu is overwhelmingly delicious," said Stuy graduate Nicholas Betito ('04), who frequents the restaurant. "There's something seriously wrong if you don't have leftovers. Either you're eating way too much, or you didn't order enough and it barely breaks the bank."

"The menu is overwhelmingly delicious. There's something seriously wrong if you don't have leftovers. Either you're eating way too much, or you didn't order enough and it barely breaks the bank."

—Nicholas Betito,
Class of '04

Indeed, the low prices at Congee tempt one to order as many dishes as possible. Congee itself ranges in price (according to what is in it), but is generally around \$4; it comes in a big, steaming bowl—a very generous portion for such a small price.

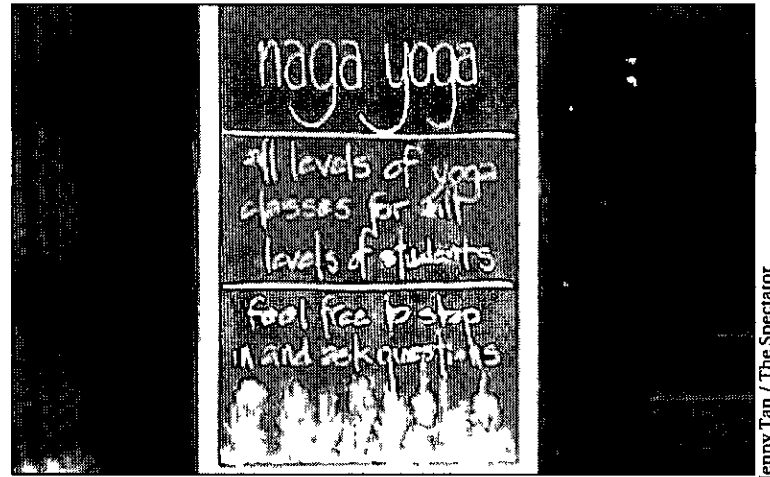
In fact, one is hard-pressed to find a dish on the menu that exceeds \$10.

However, it makes a difference whether you order "fried bread" or "fried dough." The service at Congee, though pleasant and friendly in general, is hurried. The waiters, instead of providing a dish you meant to order, may supply one with a similar name. So instead of supplying five orders of fried bread, they may give you five pieces of fried bread.

The restaurant—bustling yet cozy—is a classy yet informal setting, perfect for Friday night after-school chill-out sessions with friends. Located just a few train stops away from Stuyvesant, its proximity to the East Village shopping district makes it a convenient stop on a Village shopping excursion with a group of friends. No restaurant is perfect, but Congee's title dish, its low prices, and savory Chinese soul food make it a great place to possibly check out, if you're ever in the neighborhood.

Congee
98 Bowery Street
New York, NY
Phone: (212) 965-5028

Top 5 Resolution Solutions



Naga Yoga, a great place to fulfill New Year resolutions to "work out more," is conveniently located down Chambers Street

By KATHY WANG

Admit it—it's only the second week of January and you've already broken your New Year's resolutions. Or perhaps you didn't even bother to make any. Feeling guilty? Take a peek at our suggestions to fulfill those resolutions of yours, or to get your motivation vibe flowing if you haven't already made any.

5. Lose the Flab

So you've decided to jump on the bandwagon and have scrawled "work out more" on your planner. A great way to work out while avoiding your run-of-the-mill athletic activities is yoga—luckily in the neighborhood. Right down Chambers Street is Naga Yoga. Just step inside and its incredible tranquility and clean, soothing atmosphere will make you forget the outside world ever existed. Naga offers a variety of classes, both group and private, at flexible times, including open-level classes perfect for beginners. You're welcome to just drop in for a single mat (group) class or opt for a series of 5 to 20 classes. A 75-minute class goes for just \$15 with a student discount

4. Get Addicted to Something Else

If you've had enough of that sixth cup of coffee, take a break and treat yourself to something healthier (kind of) and just as yummy—tea. Not a tea person? Maybe Saint's Alp Teahouse will change your mind. This cozy, inviting teahouse, with exposed brick walls and lacquered redwood tables, doesn't just offer your run-of-the-mill black, green and fruit teas. Much adored for their Taiwanese-inspired milk teas with pearl tapioca, commonly called bubble teas, it's no wonder they're one of the city's hottest spots for tea. Try their coconut black milk tea with tapioca (\$2.95) or kumquat lime juice (\$2.95) and pair it with some tasty glazed chicken wings (four for \$3.50), and you'll wish you had decided to break that Starbucks' addiction earlier.

3. Dream Green

So you've got a bad case of post-holiday guilt syndrome from those Christmas cookies—a fresh bowl of greens just may be the cure. Chop't Creative Salad, a small but sleek salad bar with blown-up photos of veggies on lime-green walls, serves up a mean mixed greens. Customize your own salad with four items and your choice of lettuce and dressing for \$6.75, or choose a chef-designed salad—try the intense Chop't 10 Vegetable salad

for \$9.45. You can even turn any salad into a sandwich for a dollar less than the salad price.

2. Indulge Your Inner Neat Freak

Maybe when you're searching for your phone on the floor for the fourth time since you got home, you'll realize that you might want to see the carpet in your room every once in a while. No worries—drag yourself over to The Container Store, with containers specifically designed for holding everything from baseball cards (\$13) to Beanie Babies (\$10). A bonus is their annual 30% sale, which happens to be going on until the end of the month on selected items like cute dairy crates in a variety of colors (\$5-\$10). To top it off, they also offer free space planning. Just bring in your dimensions and list of furniture and they'll lay out a master plan for organizing your room.

1. Get Busy

Next time you wish you had had the courage to learn how to dance (or to meet that special someone), head over to Dance Manhattan's studio with their jam-packed calendar of classes. With dibs on everything from tango to swing to Latin to ballroom, you can drop in on any basic, hour-long class, attend a monthly workshop or a one-day crash course, each for \$25. Social dance parties are often held—go single or as a couple. If you're not sure what suits you, check out their \$20 intro offer that includes a half-hour dance analysis, one social dance party, and \$5 off your first course. There are even open house guest nights with free classes. Student discounts are available.

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www.nagayogany.com

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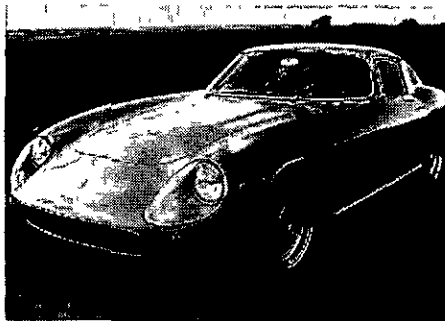
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Physics : 토요일 4:30-7:30

Math IIC : 토요일 1:30-4:30

AP

US History : 토요일 1-4

European History : 토요일 4-7

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Calculus BC : 금요일 6-9

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Writing A반 : 금요일 6-8, 토요일 1-3

Writing B반 : 수요일 6-8, 토요일 9-11

SAT I English (Reading + Writing)

11학년 A반 : 목요일 6-8, 토요일 9-11

11학년 B반 : 화요일 6-8, 토요일 11-1

10학년반 : 금요일 6-8, 토요일 1-3

SAT I Math:

11학년 A반 : 토요일 9-11, 목요일 6-8

11학년 B반 : 월요일 6-8, 수요일 5-7

Pre-Calculus : 수요일 7-9

Math B : 화요일 6-8, 토요일 11-1

AMC 10 & 12 : 일요일 12-2, 2-4, 4-6

AIME & USAMO : 토요일 1-5

Debate & Speech & College Interview
매월 첫째 토요일

개인 지도 : Science Research,

Term Paper, Writing Paper, 기타

Sports

Athlete Spotlight: Skilled Swimmer and Deft Diver



Saman Hasan / The Spectator

"[My coach, Jim Cooney] really made an impression on me, because I always watched him dive from the three-meter diving board, and I wanted to be able to do all the stuff he could do. He taught me that if I practiced hard and put in time on the board, I would improve and someday become really good," says Styles

continued from page 16

of 2004, he also competed in the Empire State Games, placing second at the Regional meet to qualify.

His team seems to be grateful for his diving ability. "He's our only diver, so that's really important. He usually wins first in the meets with other schools, which boosts us a lot of points," said junior Jonathan Jao.

Coach Peter Bologna said, "He's very important to my team because he's my only diver."

Styles' athletic abilities don't stop with his diving. Styles is an accomplished swimmer, especially at the backstroke. Last year, he was part of Stuy's City Champion 200-yard Medley Relay team that went to States. Furthermore, Styles has been an avid basketball player from an early age. "I love basketball. I played in the CYO [Catholic Youth Organization] from the first until the eighth grade. I was a Staten Island CYO All-Star in the eighth grade, and I was really torn between basketball and swimming as a freshman [both PSAL sports take place during the winter season]."

However, he hasn't regretted joining the Pirates in freshman year. Styles counted the team's numerous PSAL City Championships among his most valued achievements. "You work the whole season with the guys: 6:00 a.m. practices and drylands, and you really get to celebrate as a team." Last year's PSAL City

Championship Finals were especially important to him, because he was able to face off against many of his friends who swam for Curtis High School, whom he met through his various swim clubs on Staten Island.

Styles is also appreciated for his sense of humor. Senior Jeffrey Lock said, "He's a really funny guy."

"[He's] probably the funniest guy on the team, James does all these great impressions from random movies like 'Troy,' 'Anchorman' and 'Dodgeball.'"
—Jonathan Jao, junior

"[He's] probably the funniest guy on the team, James does all these great impressions from random movies like 'Troy,' 'Anchorman' and that 'Dodgeball,'" said Jao.

At the same time, though, Styles knows how to switch from laughing to leading. "When it's time to be serious, he's serious, in meets, in practice, but after practice, before practice, before a meet, he's one of the jokesters of the team. But he brings levity to the team, enough to say that he doesn't do it at the wrong time, so he knows when to joke and when to have a serious attitude,"

said Bologna

In addition to Coach Cooney and Coach Choy, the current coach, Bologna, has also helped him progress as both a swimmer and a diver. "Coach B has been awesome. He's like one of the guys. He gives us a lot of free run, but he works us really hard, and we have fun."

Styles' favorite swimmer is Olympian Michael Phelps, and when he was able to meet him in 2004 as part of Disney's "Swim With The Stars" program at Stuy, he described his reaction as being like that of "a six-year-old girl."

Styles is also an active member of both his own community and Stuyvesant's. He is a member of the Concert Chorus, and excels academically. After the death of a friend's father, who as a firefighter died on 9/11, James started the Jim Giberson Memorial Swim-A-Thon, which has raised over \$5,000 for families of children with disabilities. Among the colleges he has applied to this year is Georgetown University, whose swim team has been given Team All-American Academic status for 22 consecutive semesters.

Although diving is often overlooked in the realm of PSAL sports, with ambassadors to the sport such as Styles that also swim and take an active part in their community, people will slowly but surely begin to take notice. As Bologna said, "He's a leader, in the pool and out of the pool."

Boys' Indoor Track

Running for Another Championship

By JANE LIN

Only two and a half months into the long winter season, the Stuyvesant boys indoor track team is still making their shift from the cross country season. Although the boys' indoor season is not as successful as their cross country season, the team still has plenty of goals set.

Coach Mark Mendes said he believes that it is "too early to know what is going to happen in the season." Senior Francisco Cai agrees, saying that "they still need time to get into [their] groove." Yet, having only competed in three meets so far, the team already has a line of boys on the road of qualifying for city championships. In the indoor season, runners must have a qualifying time in order to compete at the cities.

Senior Serge Morrell and junior David Silverberg have qualified in two events each. In addition, Seniors Richard Zheng and Gregory Lee have qualified for shot put and hurdles, respectively. Meanwhile, senior Andrew Wood is on his way to qualifying in the triple jump.

Furthermore, the team is making much progress not only in their individual events, but also in their relay teams. They already have a 4 x 800 meter team qualified in cities, consisting of Morrell, Silverberg, and sophomore Sam Frizell and junior Karol Zieba. Frizell has set his goal for the season to improve his 800 meter time by six seconds, which is an ideal time. In addition, Coach Mendes wishes to put another 4 x 800 meter team into the city championships, hopefully consisting of all sophomores. This will prepare the team for future years of competition.

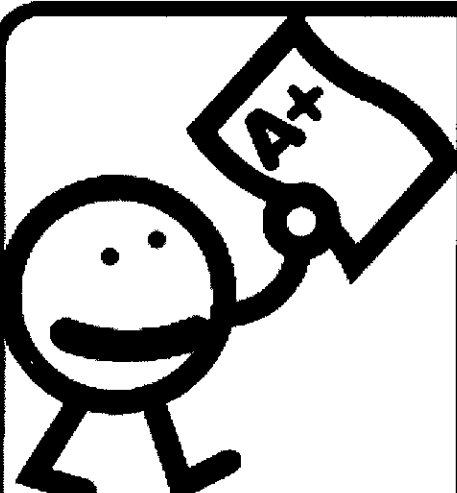
With all these distance runners on the team making their debut, the sprinters on the team are never to be forgotten about. Although the team



consists of the best distance runners in the New York City PSAL, there is still some hope with the sprinters. "We may have the best 4 x 200 meter team that we've had in several years," said Coach Mendes. "I have a whole group of boys that are contesting for the spots on this 4 x 200 meter team." Some of these boys include Cai, juniors Johnery De Jesus and Garland Wong, senior Ronell Auld and rookie and junior Romeo Alexander. Coach Mendes also hopes to have a 4 x 400 meter team qualify for the city championships.

Mendes, as well as the team, knows that winning city championships is beyond their reach. "However, we would like to place in the top six in all 15 events at the Manhattan Borough Championships," said Mendes.

With the indoor season "not as motivated as the cross country season" said Frizell, the team's main goal is to return and defend their title as Manhattan Borough Champions.



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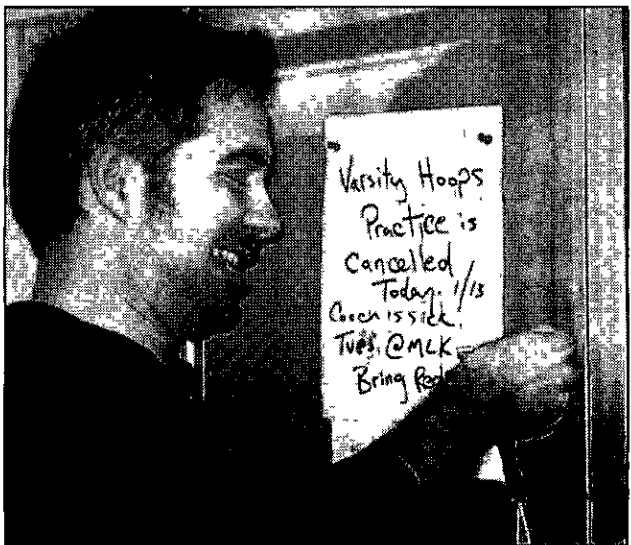
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Sports

Stuy Downs Rival Beacon Connolly Leads Team Toward Playoffs



Gym teacher Eric Connolly also coaches the boys' varsity basketball team

continued from page 16

hand injury, but will join the team on the court in the coming week) were allowed to play after serving an academic suspension from the team. Wong joined fellow starters, juniors Tammer Farid and Menley Khuu and seniors Coyle and Stefan Siveski.

The very first play of the game was a perfect example of the style of play Connolly tries to encourage. After Beacon won the tip, tough defense by Wong lead to a steal and an easy transition lay-up on the other end. Connolly wants to use a run and gun offense, in which players would push the ball up the court for transition baskets, rather than slow down the game. Run and gun offense in its best form is, as Connolly puts it, "contained chaos."

Along with the run and gun offense, Coach Connolly emphasizes good man-on-man defense. As the first quarter got on the way, Stuyvesant emerged as the better team. They took a 20-10 lead into the second quarter.

All along, Connolly guided the team from the sidelines. Sometimes, this involved a little tough love. After Siveski was called for a foul, he swore he didn't commit the foul. But Connolly knew better. "You can swear you didn't all you want, but you're still bodying him," he said to Siveski. Going into halftime, Stuyvesant held a 36-22 lead over the third best

team in the division.

The third quarter began and ended without much fanfare. Stuyvesant kept up its superb play and held a commanding 46-32 lead.

However, in the fourth quarter, the Runnin' Rebels ran into some problems. Sloppy play and foul trouble began to plague the team. With Stuyvesant up only 52-44, junior Eric Knutsen made a couple of big plays to keep the lead secure. First, he hit a baseline jumper to extend the lead to 54-44. He followed it up with a strong block on defense, just seconds after his jump shot swooshed in. Yet Beacon played hard, and the lead was reduced to four, 56-52. With help from Connolly's coaching, the Runnin' Rebels held on to win 58-54.

After the victory, Connolly critiqued the team's play. "We played well in the first half, but we played sloppy and let our emotions take over." Farid led the team with 15 points and 10 rebounds, and his co-captain Siveski added 14 points and five assists.

Before the game, a confident Siveski said, "we'll win by 20 or more, quote me." Though they did not quite win by 20, after the game Siveski said "a win is what matters."

He's right. With Stuyvesant winning its fourth division game, and with five division games left, the Runnin' Rebels have a shot to make the playoffs.

Girls' Basketball

Rough Resurrection for Phoenix

By EDWARD LU

It's not often that Egyptian mythology can be applied to high school sports, but the Phoenix, Stuyvesant's varsity girls' basketball team, are an exception. Like the legendary bird for which the team is named, the Phoenix are currently in a phase of rebirth. After losing several key seniors last year, their collective inexperience has been evident, as the Phoenix have struggled to score enough points to stay close in games, and have only a winless record to show for their effort.

These troubles can be dangerously demoralizing to a team that's used to seeing much better results. But as the Phoenix practiced in the sixth floor gym last Friday, the prevailing mood was surprisingly optimistic.

"If you want to judge by wins or losses, then it's been a horrible season," said head coach Philip Fisher. "If you want to judge the team by how close-knit they are, how much spirit they have, and by their work ethic, then it's been a great season."

Senior and co-captain Laura Han is one of many who have noticed a drastic change for the better in the team's chemistry. "There wasn't quite as much dedication [last year] we couldn't perform to our best," said Han. "It was just a different experience."

"Last year we won a lot of games, but nobody was happy. This year the attitude is completely different," Fisher added. "A lot of the positive aspects of a



The girls' basketball team, the Phoenix, huddle during a game. Despite a tough season, the team has had an excellent year in terms of spirit and cohesiveness

team environment are evident."

A reason for the more relaxed atmosphere is the more difficult schedule the team has had to contend with this year. As junior Jennifer Bido said, "The

"If you want to judge by wins or losses, then it's been a horrible season. If you want to judge the team by how close-knit they are...then it's been a great year."

—Philip Fisher, coach

last couple of years have had higher expectations compared to this year." This season the Phoenix have been playing against the tougher Manhattan A Division, which Han described as "really intimidating." As newcomers from the weaker B



In 23-57 game, Stuyvesant was defeated by Frederick Douglass Academy

Division, the Phoenix have not made much of a first impression—one game against Murry Bergrum (who are currently undefeated) ended in a 107-10 loss.

The move was made by the PSAL against the wishes of Fisher, who admitted that the team belongs in the less competitive B Division and blames the organization for the team's poor record. "There is no one in the PSAL with a degree in sports administration or sports education," said Fisher. He plans to petition the PSAL again after the season is over in the hopes of restoring respectability to the team's image.

Fortunately, lopsided defeats have not interfered with the team's ability to make progress. Senior and co-captain Marie Artaki acknowledged the long way her younger teammates have come since the start of the season. "They've all improved a lot," said Artaki. "At first they weren't team players at all." Several newcomers, especially freshman Tina Khiani, have showed the potential to carry the team in the future.

Besides developing new players, however, the focus is still on trying to pull off a win. Even though the journey doesn't get any easier, Han is confident that it will happen soon. "This is really something they're serious about," she said. "They really want to win a game. Nothing is impossible."

Give them enough time, and nothing will be

Girls' Indoor Track

Girls' Indoor Releases New Weapons

continued from page 16

formed the 300 meter dash at the PSAL Holiday Games with a time of 48.37 seconds and Lee finished first at both the McKay Combined Games and the Pilgrim Games in the 1500 Meter Race walk with times of 7:47.15 minutes and 8:22.29 minutes, respectively.

Despite the impressive times, the question remains: Is the team doing better this year? "As of now, not yet. But we have been improving significantly and I believe we will continue to do so," said He. According to Lok, the team "does really well in race walking because [senior]

Elisa [Lee] wins first place and will probably be the next city champ and the twins [and juniors] Debbie and Jessica Chen are right behind her."

For future plans, the team hopes to win Borough competitions and "do well in [the city championships] as well as the Soph-Frosh Boroughs since some of the new girls are quite good," said Zych. "[We want to] do the best we can and improve as much as possible." The team is continuing to improve on their indoor running, and may soon make it a strength. "Indoor is not our strongest season— but we are working very hard to change that," said Zych.

COLUMN

continued from page 16

games.

Stuyvesant runner and senior Serge Morrell displays the same balance of superb scholarship and performance. As the fall Heisman winner, he is a 4:27-miler and was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania.

Athletics teaches discipline and the will to persevere. During the fifth game of the 1997 NBA finals, Michael Jordan had a fever of 102 degrees and played anyway. He finished the game with 38 points, seven rebounds and five assists. A reporter once asked the English runner David Moorcraft why he never dropped out of a race even when he was sick, injured or sorely mismatched. Moorcraft answered "I think that once you do, you've given yourself an option for the future."

When failure isn't an option, plowing ahead is the

only solution. How many artists and writers and architects would echo this runner's sentiments? Without the persistence inbred in athletes and competitors the world over, would Watson and Crick have discovered the structure of the DNA molecule? Stuyvesant swimmers personify this perseverance in their relentless 6:00 a.m. practices. As would be expected, it has paid off in a streak of six straight city championship wins.

Just as Asher Lev's papa does, many people perceive sports as a pointless waste of time and effort. Stuyvesant itself is no stranger to such sentiments. At Stuyvesant, sports are obviously secondary to academics. But while Stuyvesant students are creators, actors, researchers, professors, poets, scholars, scientists and writers, they are also athletes.

Bill Bradley, besides being a college hero and New York

Knicks star, was also a Rhodes scholar and U.S. Senator. In his book, "Values of the Game," Bradley recounts why even today, years after his retirement, he still plays basketball. "For those of us who found imagination in playing [basketball], it has shaped our joy in countless ways. It has enriched our experience and allowed us to feel the thrill of fresh creation. It puts us in touch with what most makes us human."

In answer to doubters, the immortal sports announcer Red Smith once countered, "Baseball is dull only to those with dull minds."

Athletics transcends nationalism, racial differences, gender and age. Sports reminds us of the interminable power of the human body and spirit. In "My Name is Asher Lev," Asher tells his father, "It's not a pretty world, Papa." Perhaps sports makes the world a little less ugly.

S P O R T S

Boys' Swimming

Pirates Looking to "Hook" the Competition

By MO ARAFAT

It comes as no surprise that eight games into the boys' varsity swimming season, the Stuyvesant Pirates sit on the top of the standing with a record of 8-0. For the past six years, the Pirates have failed to lose a meet, and this season is no different. "The team has a strong returning core," said coach Peter Bologna, who is in his second year of coaching the team. "There is no weak aspect of the team. However, the biggest attribute is the team's cohesiveness."

Although the team is very confident this season, they "never take a meet for granted, but take them seriously," said sophomore Andre Lazar. This season, Stuyvesant competed against other dominant teams, such as Hunter College High School and Bronx High School

of Science. Dewitt Clinton, which Stuy faced last year in the finals, is certainly the team to beat, with their own perfect record of 4-0.

Record shows, the Stuyvesant Pirates are the most

The Pirates "never take a meet for granted, but take them seriously," according to sophomore Andre Lazar

dominant team in the division. However, such dominance does not come without hard work. Sophomore Jason Tong, a newcomer to the team, said, "We practice two hours daily, and if

we have a tough meet on a Monday, we also practice on the weekends." This hard work and dedication is apparent in their perfect 8-0 record for the season. According to Bologna, one of the main goals this season is "and always has been for my swim team to improve in time and technique." The captains, seniors Lawrence Chan, Daniel Chen and Jonas Altman-Kurosaki have proved themselves to be extremely effective this season.

The Pirates' captains have shown great leadership. "I am proud of the captains, because they are the leader of them all," said Bologna. Along with team chemistry what else makes the team so successful? According to Jack Duch, a sophomore in his second year on the team, "it takes good players, a good coach, and a lot of hard work!"

Skilled Swimmer and Deft Diver

Athlete Spotlight: James Styles

By JAMES KIM

Many of the world's divers get their start in gymnastics, or have specialized in only diving from the start. Not so for James Styles. The senior Pirate has been swimming for as long as he has been diving, and unlike many of the PSAL's divers, he is as proficient in the water as he is out of it.

Styles started swimming at the age of four, when he received swimming lessons every week. He joined the Great Kills Swim Club, an outdoor summer swim club on Staten Island, where he lives. It was there that Styles was first introduced to the sport of diving. "[The diving] I just picked up fooling around on the board

with my friends every summer," said Styles.

Styles attributes his swimming and diving coach at GKSC, Jim Cooney, as having the most influence on his disciplined maturity as a diver. "He really made an impression on me, because I always watched him dive from the three-meter diving board, and I wanted to be able to do all the stuff he could do. He taught me that if I practiced hard and put in time on the board, I would improve and someday become really good."

Styles later swam for Staten Island Aquatics until it closed in 2002. Outside of Stuy, he now swims for the Wagner Aquatic Club at Wagner College. However, he has

always held the Pirates in high esteem. Styles gave credit to former Pirates coach Silvana Choy for helping him make the transition to high school, saying, "When I was a freshman and sophomore, I felt kind of lost at Stuy, but Coach Choy was like a mother to me. She just made it easy for rookies to fit into a team of older, stronger, and better guys."

Choy's guidance helped Styles win the PSAL Opens Championships for diving in both his freshman and sophomore years, which allowed him to compete at the New York Federation State High School Swimming and Diving Championships. In the summer

continued on page 14

Stuy Downs Rival Beacon

Connolly Leads Team Toward Playoffs



"Coach [Eric] Connolly has us well conditioned," says senior Peter Coyle

By ALEX BELAKOVSKIY

"What am I going to do to help the team win?" Eric Connolly, coach of the Stuyvesant Runnin' Rebels, the varsity basketball team, pondered before a game on January 10 against Beacon High School.

Connolly has already been impressed by what the team does to help themselves. He said, "This year's team really gets along, the camaraderie is great, and not to mention this team works very hard."

Let's face it. For many players on the team, basketball is not a first priority and Connolly understands this. Stuyvesant's basketball team will never beat anyone by their size—playing hard and playing cohesive team basketball is the only way this year's team can win. Senior Peter Coyle said, "Coach Connolly has us well conditioned." So when Connolly said they work hard

and get along, it really holds meaning.

Despite the Rebels' effort, the previous two games before the Beacon game were losses to Thurgood Marshall Academy and then Park West High School. These two losses, which dropped the Runnin' Rebels to 3-4 on the season, were hanging over the players' heads. Connolly said, "Given our last two losses, we need to play like a team. It's more of a mental problem than a physical one."

Early on in the season, Beacon had beaten Stuyvesant, 71-65. If the Runnin' Rebels were to correct their previous mistakes, they would have to take Connolly's words to heart.

As Tuesday's game got underway, there was good news for the Runnin' Rebels. Previously suspended seniors Danny Wong and Justin Han (who did not play because of a

continued on page 15

COLUMN

From Crick to Jordan

By MARK CHIUSANO

"What is this part called, Papa?" I could not quite make out the words [in the newspaper]. I was six at the time.

"Sports," he said.

"You don't read sports, Papa?"

"It's a foolish waste of precious time," he said. (from "My Name is Asher Lev," by Chaim Potok)

Rebbe Lev brings up a valid point, especially in association with Stuyvesant students. For the late night workers, the all-night research paper writers, the four o'clock risers, the train readers, the hallway finishers, the "it's not due until tomorrow" math students, time truly is a valuable commodity. Who has time for running and swim-

ming, hitting, shooting, fencing, wrestling, setting, rebounding, and boxing out? Why do we participate in sports anyway, when most of us will not continue to a professional level of athletics?

The Greeks would offer "arete," or valor, as a reason. What would life be without clean, honorable, peaceable competition? The ancient Olympics consisted of two and a half weeks during which international conflict was put aside, when the gods were saluted through pure athletic struggle. The original Olympics paired strength of body with strength of mind; the Greeks held competitions in music, oratory and theater performances during the

continued on page 15

Girls' Indoor Track

Girls' Indoor Releases New Weapons



The girls' track team jogs through the fog to train for their upcoming meet

By TAANZILA MOIN

You may see them running in or around the school. But mostly, the girls' indoor track team has been practicing all over the city in anticipation of the new year. "We focus on speed work [at the Armory], since it's a 200 meter track. We

do longer distance at central park, and strengthening at school," said Stuyvesant's girls' indoor track team co-captain and junior Natalie Zych.

The team has been practicing hard, as they've had to compensate for the loss of key senior players. At the end of last year, the team "lost some very impor-

tant seniors, such as Laura Coogan and Hannah Pinski," said junior runner Jing He.

Coogan led Stuyvesant in the 3000 meter run with a time of 11:42.20 minutes. Pinski led the 1500 meter run with a time of 5:40.59 minutes.

But the team is picking up the pieces well as new and current members have filled top positions. Sophomore Melissa Lok commented on the team's top runners, "Offhand I'd say [junior and co-captain] Ada [Okun] for distance, [freshman] Morgan [Browning] for sprints, [senior] Elisa [Lee] for race walking." Okun placed second in the PSAL Holiday Games at the Armory with a finishing time of 5:25.50 minutes. Browning per-

continued on page 15