



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

“The Pulse
of the
Student
Body”

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Freshmen Disqualified from SU Election

By SHINNY HWANG
and KAITLYN KWAN

Due to the Student Union (SU) Board of Elections (BOE) screening process, freshman caucus candidates Stacy Chun and Glory Kim have been disqualified from the SU elections. After an inspection by Coordinator of Student Affairs Lisa Weinwurm, Assistant Principal Organization Randi Damesek and Principal Stanley Teitel, Kim and Chun were pulled from the running because Kim received three ‘Needs Improvement’ (N) grades on her report card. Kim and Chun had placed first with 144 votes in the freshman caucus primary on Thursday, October 16. Candidates Reema Panjwani and Yuri Luo, and Elie Shvidky and Hannah Whalen received 73 and 44 votes respectively. Panjwani and Luo, and Shvidky and Whalen proceeded to the general elections, held Monday, October

27. “I don’t think that it’s that difficult to ask students who want to represent our school to have satisfactory grades in all their subjects,” Principal Stanley Teitel said. “We’re talking about someone who wants to be elected as a leader of their class, who will represent their class and our school.” “It wasn’t a matter of one or two [grades], which could be a possible mistake or the consequence of a silly rule, but [...] a majority of her grades,” junior and SU Vice President Casey Griffin said. “The administration has done it before, but only when a person that has historically low grades is running. Usually they don’t do an entire scanning of the candidates.” Before campaigning for the election began, the BOE held an interest meeting during which prospective candidates were informed about “the elections process in detail in order to clear

up any confusions,” senior and BOE co-chair William Oh said. “They were informed about everything they needed to know,” Oh said. “They also had a sheet on rules and regulations that outline the procedures, deadlines, rules.” According to Oh, these rules included maintaining their grades and being responsible and disciplined. Both Chun and Kim, however, said that the policy did not state that getting an N would count as a disqualification. “It wasn’t well stated that we needed an S on our report card to be able to run,” Chun said. “If we did know, I would be more strict on myself and also on [Kim] to do better in school to have the opportunity to run.” “If I had been failing three classes, the administration would have been justified in disqualifying me because a freshman vice

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SU Proposes Keeping Office Open All Day

By PAULINA KARPIS
with additional reporting by
ALEX SHIN and M.E. FICARRA

At the School Leadership Team (SLT) meeting on Tuesday, October 27, Student Union (SU) members asked the administration to keep the SU lounge open all day. Currently, the SU is open a few periods a day and after school when English teacher

Jonathan Weil or Coordinator of Student Affairs Lisa Weinwurm are available to supervise. The Big Sibs, Arista and The Spectator offices, which are located inside the SU area, would remain locked under the SU’s proposal. The Spectator originally proposed the idea in a staff editorial

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Underclassmen Election Results Are In

By ARIANNA MOSHARY
with additional reporting by
PAULINA KARPIS

Sophomores Mohammad Hossain and Kathy Lin won the Student Union (SU) general election on Monday, October 27, for Sophomore President and Vice President, respectively. They received 83 votes, defeating Ani Sefaj and Keiji Drysdale, who received 63 votes. Freshmen Reema Panjwani and Yiru Luo won the elections

for Freshman President and Vice President with 76 votes. Runners-up Elie Shvidky and Hannah Walen received 30 votes. In the primary elections, Panjwani and Luo came in second with 73 votes, but were moved to first when freshmen Stacy Chung and Glory Kim, who received 144 votes, were disqualified due to the Board of Elections screening process. As freshman caucus, Panjwani and Luo will make

communication a priority. “I want to represent [the freshman class], to hear what they have to say. If they believe something is wrong, I have to try to fix that problem,” Panjwani said. “It’s a really large student body, so to represent everyone and make sure their year goes right is a big responsibility [...] I feel like I can represent the student body.” Panjwani and Luo’s other

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Sean Gordon-Loeb/ The Spectator

The Stuyvesant boys' basketball team, the Runnin' Rebels, prepare for their upcoming season opener.

Getting Technical: Life of an Aviation High School Student

By JUDY CHEN

The closest that most Stuyvesant students will ever be to planes in the curriculum is in physics, learning about the velocity and acceleration of a flight’s path. But students at Aviation High School get a feel for flying aircrafts every day. It’s a part of their studies. Admission at the school on Long Island City, New York is different from that of specialized science high schools. Prospective students may apply to one or more of the high school’s screened programs, and must have a minimum score of 2 on their New York standardized reading and math exams, mandated by the Department of Education in middle school. There are a total of 1,900 students in the six-floor building, with 11 periods per day. First

period starts at 8:08 a.m. Like Stuyvesant, Aviation has stairs as well as escalators for students to use. Aviation offers a vast array of programs ranging from engineering and wood shops to aircraft design, hydraulics and welding. Students in each grade learn how to repair airplanes and airplane parts. “Eighty percent of these students leave the school with a good job,” Aviation sophomore Noreen Chaudry wrote in an e-mail interview. A section of the building called the hangar, located in the basement, holds about six planes and two helicopters, some that were donated by the U.S. military. If the aircraft malfunction, seniors get to repair them. The hangar is also the site of the school’s graduation ceremony. Aviation mandates that stu-

dents take aircraft-related periods called shop classes, which are engineering or wood shop classes cycled throughout the school year. The number of shop periods students have in their schedule depend on their grade—freshmen take two shop classes per day, sophomores have three and juniors and seniors must take four. The materials that students in each grade use to fix airplane pieces also vary, with older students using thicker metals. “There are about 50 shop teachers in the school,” Aviation electrical and jet shop teacher Miguel Raminoz said. “Many teachers at Aviation are also former students as well as veterans.” The types of shop classes include woodworking, airframe, electricity and engineering. Some classes are conducted in

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Sarah Cohen-Smith/ The Spectator

Opinions

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Luscious Ladybugs Celebrate Slutoween

Does Halloween justify scantily clad girls?



Arts and Entertainment

Article on page 9.

The Underground Museum

Finding beauty in the dingy tunnels of New York.

News

Freshmen Disqualified from SU Election

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president who is failing classes would not be a very good role model," Kim said. "But [... my] lowest grade was an N, which is not failing according to Stuyvesant's explanation of grades."

According to Griffin, the candidates were also not explicitly told that their grades would be checked. "If the administration was planning on looking into grades, they should have made that clear [...] so that anyone looking to run could decide beforehand if their grades were good enough," she said.

"The administration should be more specific with their rules instead of being so vague," Kim said.

Other freshman caucus candidates agreed with the administration's decision to disqualify Chun and Kim.

"Anyone who wants to represent the grade needs to [...] prove themselves worthy," Whalen said. "If someone is going to represent us, there should definitely be standards academically."

"The administration was right in disqualifying them," Panjwani said. "Most people would agree that grades are much more important than taking on a responsibility of representing the whole freshmen student body."

"The candidates, when they sign the affidavit confirming to campaign for their caucus, agree to follow the rules that we hand

Underclassmen Election Results Are In

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goals include cleaning up the student lounge and "[bringing] the Stuyvesant freshman community a wonderful year," Panjwani said.

Panjwani also expressed full faith in her vice president. "[Luo is] really responsible, so if for some reason I can't complete part of my job, I know she will as vice president."

As sophomore president, Hossain's main goals are "getting the sophomore class more involved in the SU and promoting spirit among the class," he said.

The involvement in the SU that Hossain wants to accomplish extends to the elections as well. According to the SU website, only 106 freshmen and 146 sophomores, out of over 800 in each grade, voted in the general election. "In the primary election, there were a lot of people who voted. Unfortunately in the general elections there was a little less people, but [my campaign] tried to get people to vote, whether it be for Ani

out along with the affidavit," Oh said. "That's the screening process that happens. It's not anything malicious. We're just making sure that they're following the rules and being responsible."

Other students, however, felt that Chun and Kim should not have been disqualified on the basis of grades. "It shouldn't be based on grades because grades don't necessarily show how great of a leader you can be," sophomore Jennifer Kuo said.

"I can understand the administration's decision to disqualify the candidates," Luo said. "[But] they should be given another opportunity [...] to participate in the SU, because [they] have excellent ideas."

"Glory and I both started out saying that we wanted a 'Better Stuy' and that speaking out was the best way to do it," Chun said. "Even if we lost the elections at this point, we're still making [our voices heard] and hoping to make the BOE understand how their elections could be better."

Griffin said, "Because the huge difference in the number of votes that the winning ticket received, it is a little unfair." Chun and Kim received almost double the amount of votes that runners-up Panjwani and Luo received.

"I wish that the girls [...] could have made it through," Griffin said. "But if the grades weren't going to get better then I don't want an elected official who is forced to resign midway through the year."

Charles Schumer Rallies for Protection of Student Loan Market Outside Stuy

By ROBERT COLGAN and SAM LEVINE

New York State Senator Charles Schumer called on the federal government to protect student loans outside Stuyvesant on Monday, October 6. He proposed a four-point plan to help ensure that families of New York City students get the loans they need to pay for college.

As a result of the current economic crisis and the tightening of credit markets, student loans will become harder to get and more expensive in the near future. Schumer's plan involves encouraging all colleges to accept direct government loans, and assuring that government loans will still be available even if the private loan market collapses.

Schumer also sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke asking them to pay special attention to the student loan market.

"We need to build an impermeable wall around the student loan market to protect our kids from this financial crisis," Schumer said in his speech. "If even one high school grad has to forgo college because they can't get the loans they need to pay for it, it would be a great casualty of

this economic crisis."

Almost half of all public and private student-aid funding (around 60 billion dollars) comes from the federal student loan program. Students can either borrow money directly from the government or get loans from private lenders subsidized by the government. Due to the credit crisis, over 50 lenders have either suspended their student loan programs or left the guaranteed loan program. This has many students worrying about how they will pay for college.

Principal Stanley Teitel attended Schumer's rally, and agreed with his ideas on the student loans. According to Teitel, the average cost of a private college is about 45,000 dollars a year and the average cost for a state college is about 25,000 dollars a year. Without loans, many students and their families will not be able to afford the costs of certain colleges.

"This could have a very detrimental effect on lower and middle-class students who rely on these loans in order to go to college," Teitel said. "I just hope that the legislature can act quickly enough so that students are not closed out this year who might need the money."

Schumer's plan does not

guarantee that students will get the loans they need, especially those applying to college this year.

"I'm obviously really worried. College prices are going up and the amount of help we're getting is going down," senior Tanya Kobzeva said.

Meanwhile, other students are not worried, and believe that they will have no problem paying for college. "I mean, everyone's been talking about the financial crisis but for me, it hasn't affected my life too much," senior William Oh said.

Congress recently approved a measure that would allow students already on loans to continue on their loans and continue with their education no matter what the current difficulties in the private credit market. This measure will remain through the 2010 school year.

Teitel said that families need to think about college costs realistically, and always have a back-up plan in mind if they are not able to get a good loan.

"Everyone's going to have to have a realistic assessment of what financial means do we as a family have, and what do we really need in order to be able to allow you to go to the school you want," Teitel said.

eChalk Creates Student Accounts

By BRIAN KIM and ANI SEFAJ

eChalk, an online service provided by the Department of Education (DOE) that facilitates communication between students and teachers, created student accounts in order for students to correspond with fellow classmates and teachers.

Students were e-mailed their account username, password and eChalk e-mail address on Monday, October 6.

Students can use eChalk to "keep up-to-date and accountable with important class information, interact with teachers using safe and secure email, have online class discussions and surveys, be informed about upcoming classroom events, and store information for easy access from any computer connected to the Internet," as stated in the e-mail distributed to students.

The accounts allow students to upload files to the eChalk server, view homework assignments and notifications that the administration posts and see dates of upcoming events on the teacher-edited calendar. Students can also check the weather forecast on eChalk.

History teacher Kristen Burnell started using eChalk for the first time during her three years at Stuyvesant. "If a student loses a HW or an extra credit assignment, it becomes available

at anytime for him and it's more convenient for all of us," she said.

Sophomore Ariel Lerner agreed. "[eChalk] has a lot of interesting features," she said. "If every student and teacher in our school would use eChalk, we could gain a lot from it."

However, the creation of student accounts was met with criticism from Program Coordinator Computer Science Michael Zamansky.

One aspect of the student accounts that Zamansky dislikes is the fact that students' passwords are their four-digit identification numbers. "Having the student's four digit ID number for his or her eChalk account password is irresponsible," he said.

Zamansky also said that student accounts are unnecessary since it creates another account for the students to memorize.

"It's starting to become confusing because [I'm] going to have so many school accounts now," freshman Emma Hante said.

According to Zamansky, eChalk provides a substandard service for the 700 dollar annual fee that the DOE is required to pay. "A few years ago, I suggested using 'moodle' that would have provided a similar service as eChalk," he said. "It would have been completely owned by Stuyvesant and have been free."

Moodle is a free and open source e-learning Web site that

provides similar services as eChalk.

Despite the upgrade, few students and teachers use eChalk. "It really doesn't affect me much," junior Petros Skalarinis said. "I don't think any of my teachers use eChalk."

Principal Stanley Teitel believes that eChalk will be beneficial for both students and teachers. "Any changes a teacher may want to make could easily be made by changing it on the Web site," he said.

However, due to the technical difficulties that may arise, Teitel does not "see the advantage of using [eChalk]," he said.

Computer Science and math teacher Ashvin Jaishankar agreed.

"Although I can see how this would work, I'm still concerned if the server might crash or the student might not have internet access, then no work can be accessed for the day," he said.

"Using eChalk for my classes would just be superfluous since all my assignments are already on the board," Assistant Principal English Eric Grossman said.

Assistant Principal Technology Services Edward Wong said, "eChalk is a great tool, but it is up to the faculty and students as to whether or not they will utilize the services it provides."

SU Proposes Keeping Office Open All Day

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written in its April 18th 2008 issue. The SU discussed the proposal at an Executive Council meeting on Wednesday, October 22.

The SU is exploring the possibility of taking the office's doors off their hinges or just propping them open all day.

SU Vice President Casey Griffin said keeping the SU lounge open is important because "so many floors are being closed off" and "student space is being limited." This year, students are

only permitted to congregate on the first, second and fifth floors.

"Because of the limited hours its open, students are turned off by the [SU] because they come and it's closed," she said.

SLT members debated the proposal. United Federation of Teachers Representative Ellen Schweitzer said the SU's proposal "doesn't seem like much of a big deal."

"It's space, they're kids, let them go," she said at the SLT meeting.

Principal Stanley Teitel was concerned that the space would

be unwelcoming to underclassmen due to its proximity to the senior bar and the mostly upperclassmen members of the SU. He was also worried about being able to find proper supervision for the space.

Teitel said that students in other schools are not even allowed to stay in the hallways when the bell rings. He would support using the theatre as a study hall to create an additional area for students to use during frees.

Although Parents' Association Co-President Paula de Kock

would like to see the SU area used to house the College Office, she sides with the students. "It's their space," she said at the SLT meeting. "If they're willing to take off the doors, then why not?"

"The SU office, if the doors are open, is just as enclosed as the staircase or the first floor," Griffin said. "Students are allowed to be there all day. Why shouldn't they be allowed to be in the SU?"

Dean Robert Rosen disagreed at the SLT meeting. "Even with the doors off, it is very secluded," he said. He discussed how he found students partaking in activ-

ities that are "inappropriate for school" when the SU was open in the past.

Junior and SLT representative Brianna Last countered. "Security guards roam the area all the time," she said, adding that there were many unsupervised areas in the school.

Assistant Principal English Eric Grossman said it's "unfair" "to have the space sitting empty all day."

"I'd like to see us have the courage to do something valuable with it," he said.

Getting Technical:
Life of an Aviation High School Student

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cycles of about 21 to 30 days long, so there is no time to waste. Based on FAA, or Aircraft Maintenance Technical Certificate, requirements, every student must have good attendance and pass their shop class finals with a grade of 70 or higher. “Shop is different from other classes because you must pass the final, whereas in other classes, you don’t necessarily need to pass the final exam to pass the class,” Aviation sophomore Karina Medina said.

After completing Aviation’s technical requirements, seniors will receive a Career and Technical Education endorsement on their diplomas. In addition, selected graduating seniors earn their FAA, needed to obtain an airframe or power plant license. If graduating seniors get the license, they have the option of staying in the school for the Aviation Fifth Year Honors Program, in which students take additional shop classes. This program is selective and grants students the opportunity to get a second license.

Males at Aviation account for two thirds of the total student population. However, Aviation fifth year student Annie Becerra, who attends the school’s honor program in addition to college, feels otherwise. “At first, I felt inferior about having to do manly work in this school. But after a while,



At Aviation High School, there is a section of the building called the hangar. It holds airplanes and helicopters.

it feels great to get to do the things a guy can do,” she said.

The school has changed significantly over the course of over 50 years. Aviation was located in Manhattan and was considered a specialized high school along with Stuyvesant, Bronx High School of Science and Brooklyn Technical High School. When the entrance exam was eradicated, Aviation became a screened school that chooses students selectively.

Similar to Stuyvesant’s policy, the school requires all students to swipe upon entering the building.

Aviation has a student government called the Student Organization (SO), comparable to Stuyvesant’s Student Union.

The SO is necessary for all clubs and social events to take place. Other extracurriculars at Aviation include The Log, Aviation’s official newspaper, Solo, its yearbook, Christian Seekers and several varsity sports teams such as volleyball, track, basketball, baseball and soccer. Other students take part in the school’s ROTC, the Reserve Officer’s Training Corps.

Aspiring pilots and aircraft mechanics at Stuyvesant are able to take aviation-oriented courses, but students at Aviation High School are the ones receiving the hands-on experience. They’re well on their way to being the brains behind the planes one day.

Read the
Writing on the Wall



Jan Raphael Cornel, one of the editors of the student-run organization Writing on the Wall, posts a submission.

By EMMA ZIEGELLAUB
EICHLER and SARAH KAPLAN

Stuyvesant’s walls are never bare. From cubes full of artifacts from the school’s past to posters advertising club meetings, they are always covered with something interesting to look at. Hidden among these colorful decorations are six plastic display cases, scattered all over the building, each containing a piece of poetry or short prose written by a Stuyvesant student.

These cases are a part of Writing on the Wall, a student-run organization that allows Stuyvesant students to display their writing around the school. Writing on the Wall editor Shoshana Akabas said, “Writing on the Wall is a way to give writers the opportunity to exhibit their work and the students of Stuyvesant a chance to read poetry.”

Once a month, the Writing on the Wall editors, juniors Akabas, Dominika Burek and Jan Raphael Cornel, go through submissions and choose one to publish and hang up in the cases and on bulletin boards throughout the building. The program, now in its second year, was started by English teacher and faculty advisor Emily Moore. The editors, however, are all students.

Writing on the Wall is part of a trio of student organizations that help foster creative writing at Stuyvesant. “Open Mic encourages students to read out loud. Caliper is for students to publish their work and have it in print. Writing on the Wall [is] about exhibiting your writing in the school,” Akabas said. Writing on the Wall tries to help students who find reading their writing aloud or having it published too intimidating to share their work with a larger audience. “The first step as a writer is to just put your work out there,” she said. Akabas’s hope is that “people will eventually feel comfortable enough with their work to submit to Caliper or read at Open Mic.”

Raphael Cornel discovered he was a writer when he started attending Caliper with his friends last year. “[I’d] find new ways to express a mood,” he said, and “realize [I] have some sort of ability in this.” With

Writing on the Wall, Raphael Cornel is hoping to bring this realization to other students. It seems to be working, too. He said his favorite part of being editor “is reading all the creative work that I personally didn’t expect,” because many contributors are people whom he’s never seen in Stuyvesant’s creative writing community before.

The new editors are implementing some changes this year, mainly to promote student awareness of Writing on the Wall and increase their ability to participate. The editors have already put submissions in the plastic cases this year, but they are also hanging submissions on bulletin boards and in English classrooms. They are working to ensure that the writing changes monthly, “so people can look forward to it,” Raphael Cornel said. “[There’s a lot of] stress [and] effort that goes into getting Writing on the Wall known because it hasn’t been a constant or strong part of Stuy, and that’s what we’re trying to change.” In addition, they have created a new Facebook group and a Web site, WriteOnStuy.com, which has a virtual wall. According to Akabas, the website was created because “one poem a month isn’t enough!”

The internet expansion of Writing on the Wall seems to be making a difference. Students have become much more aware of the organization: the editors have received seven submissions in the past few weeks. Junior Kimberly Bain became interested in Writing on the Wall last year, but didn’t pursue it until she got an invite to the Facebook group. “I started writing seriously when I was around nine. I found out that writing was the same thing as reading, only I could create the characters and end the story how I wanted to,” she said. What she particularly likes about Writing on the Wall is that, unlike Open Mic and Caliper, it is “free and easily accessible.”

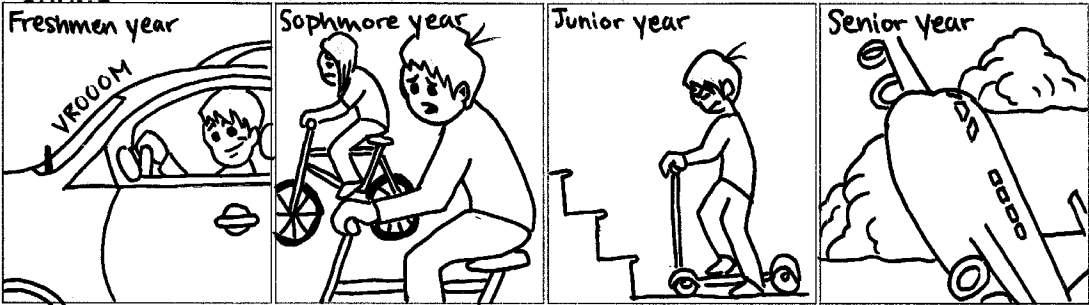
The Web site also enables Writing on the Wall to publish more, and longer, submissions. The limit on the website is 300 words, 350 at the most, while for the physical walls themselves it is 100. The minimum, according to Raphael Cornel, is, “At least three lines of something. We accept almost anything. I would say poetry would be recommended [...] but we do still accept prose or even short stories.”

Submissions can be sent to writeonstuy@gmail.com or placed in a mailbox in the English office. “Or you can just hand your submission to one of us!” Burek said.

“We want students to be able to be published,” Burek said. “A lot of students in Stuy have a real talent for writing. It’s important that they get a chance to have that work showcased and get credit for it.”

CARTOONS

THE DEAL WITH TRANSPORTATION BY STEPHEN



98.6

Average percent of student attendance as of Friday, October 10

3252

Number of enrolled students on the first day of school

3212

Number of students present on the first day of school

3195

Number of students present on the second day of school

Thanks to: Assistant Principal of Technology Services Edward Wong and attendance secretary Carol Carrano

Features

Toto, I Don't Think We're in Seattle Anymore!

By HANNAH O'GRADY and SAMIRA SIDDIQUE

A few months ago, sophomore Jocelyn Schulz traveled 2000 miles from Leawood, Kansas, to get to Stuyvesant

"I was pretty pissed about the vending machine situation." —Jocelyn Schulz, sophomore

High School this year, around the same time that sophomore Chester Dubov journeyed across the country from Seattle, Washington. Sure, they didn't come to New York City just to attend Stuyvesant—Schulz's mother wanted to move her family to the city to be near her elder daughter, and Dubov's dad relocated to take a new job.

Still, these students share the struggles of transitioning from Schulz and Dubov are sophomore transfer students.

Schulz hails from a suburb outside Kansas City and now lives on Roosevelt Island with her mother and older sister, who currently attends Parsons College.

She had her own biases about New York City—but fortunately, she has been finding New Yorkers "nicer" than she expected, and the Tribeca area surrounding Stuyvesant "pretty cool" with "lots of places to eat."

Her first impressions of Stuy itself had to do with its size. "I thought there were too many floors [...] and I was pretty pissed about the vending machine situation," Schulz said. Her old school had just under 1000 students, one floor, and vending machines with chips, candy and gum.

Schulz didn't think Stuyvesant was particularly welcoming to her as a newcomer, nor is she that impressed with the unity of the student body or the extra curricular

offerings, saying her old school had "great productions, sports teams, and an amazing dance team." Still, she said she'd like to write for The Spectator and get involved in SING!. She has already become a choreographer in Stuyvesant Squad for contemporary dance.

Dubov also had a mediocre start. "No one knows what's going on and no one tells you anything," said this new resident of Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Dubov admits it was "daunting moving to New York."

Within the first month of school, Dubov's cell phone got confiscated by Assistant

Principal Organization Randi Damasek.

Although Dubov is from a town known for native rock legends (Nirvana, Jimi Hendrix, Nikki Six, and Pearl Jam), he himself is interested in acting, and he was in fact admitted to LaGuardia High School's drama program. In his previous school, he acted in theatre productions and was a member of the Ultimate Frisbee and curling clubs. Curling is a close cousin of shuffleboard. His Seattle school also had "real art classes, was a lot smaller, and had a much easier workload." He didn't have an issue of sleep deprivation there either.

However, Dubov, who regularly wears a wide smile and shouts a passionate "Hey!" in the hallways, is pumped about Stuyvesant's extracurriculars. He landed a role in the upcoming production of "Urinetown," is interested in joining The Spectator, wants to be part of SING! and plans on starting a curling club at Stuyvesant.

Though Dubov admits it was "daunting moving to New York," he has not found its

inhabitants to be as "brusque and fast-moving" as he'd thought they'd be. He says he now "loves Seattle and New York equally, in different ways."

"No one knows what's going on and no one tells you anything." —Chester Dubov, sophomore

From Schulz and Dubov, Stuyvesant students have something to learn about what it's like to adjust to a new school as well as a new home environment. Their culture adds to the diverse mix of backgrounds that make up Stuyvesant's student body and their experience proves another story to tell.

69

Number of regular classrooms in the school building

2911

Number of lockers in the school building

61

Number of seniors who started this term with a full schedule

150

Number of juniors who started this term with a full schedule

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 - 2) College Application Essays: Mon 7-9pm

Olympiad

- 1) Biology Olympiad: 9/16 Start. Sunday 1-4pm
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Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

Early Warning System Failure

We understand: our first priority is to be students. Everything else—especially extracurriculars—should be extra: the gravy on our meat and potatoes, the salt on our mac and cheese. But these activities make for more interesting people and a more interesting school community.

The administration is taking a draconian approach and preventing students from taking part in extracurricular activities due to poor first marking period grades. We understand that classroom performance is paramount to students’ success—when schoolwork conflicts with extracurricular activities, work must take precedence. However, there is not a clearly articulated policy regarding students who are receiving poor grades and it is too early in the year to judge students’ academic performance. We are also concerned about whether strict enforcement of the extracurricular policy will help, or hurt, students trying to succeed in their courses.

Since first marking period grades do not go on transcripts, teachers consider them to be a warning. These grades alert students to their general standing and let them know if they’re either performing well or “need improvement.” The grades are often based on very little class work this far in the school

year—one failed exam should not prevent a student from participating in an extracurricular activity. And even if teachers do want to give students an Unsatisfactory (U) or Needs Improvement (N), many times they are unaware that this grade could exclude students from after school activities.

As a result, many students who are actually completing their work but have room for improvement are being pulled from extracurriculars. Receiving one U or multiple Ns on the first marking period report card (as was the case with the winner of the vice presidential primary for sophomore caucus), is not necessarily an indication that someone is incapable of balancing schoolwork and outside activities.

Many times after school activities motivate students to perform well and attend school more than their classes do. Excluding individuals who perform poorly at the beginning of the semester could actually result in worse academic performance.

Removing students from an activity not only lowers morale but also places an unfair burden on their colleagues who are participating in the extracurricular. The Urinetown directors had to replace the lead of the show three times, as well as several other smaller parts. None of the

teachers who failed students were aware that in giving the student a U meant he or she would be taken out of the production.

This policy also undermined the democratic process. The winner of the vice presidential primary election for freshmen caucus was disqualified for receiving three Ns, despite having twice as many votes as the runner up. Students overwhelmingly voted for the top pair, and their votes were disregarded.

Students should have the ability to take part in extracurricular activities despite sub-par grades. Any student receiving a grade of N or above in all of their classes should be allowed to continue participating in all of his or her extracurricular activities. Those who fail should not automatically be excluded from after school activities. They should still be able to participate as long as their guidance counselor and parents sign a permission form. This way, students who are stretching themselves too thin will be forced to reexamine their priorities, while someone who is keeping up with the workload will not be barred. No one is saying that our school work should come second—we’re just saying that first marking period grades should remain what they always have been: a warning.

Opinions

Material Girl in Search of Work



By JENNY HU

In the last presidential debate, focus turned to a man nicknamed Joe the Plumber. Growing up, though, no one I knew wanted to be a famous plumber. Everyone I knew dreamed of becoming a doctor, a lawyer or even an artist. When I was little, I told everyone who bothered to listen that I would get a job in business. I had no idea what it entailed, but it seemed glamorous. I wanted to wear power-suits and high heels, click-clacking my way from Starbucks to Starbucks.

When I was little, I told everyone who bothered to listen that I would get a job in business. I had no idea what that entailed, but it seemed glamorous.

After all, a job consisting of paperwork and coffee couldn’t be that hard.

As I got older, I promised myself that I wouldn’t get caught up in silly ideas of becoming famous. I had seen the E! True Hollywood Stories of novice actors sharing a loft with five other people. I wanted to live a life of luxury, complete with expensive clothing and jewelry. I most certainly did not want to be screaming at roommates and eating Ramen noodles. I had my plan, and I refused to get side-tracked by trivial things.

However, when stocks dropped and companies went bankrupt, I was dumbfounded. My entire future, painfully planned out, collapsed alongside Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers. Those big corporate types were my heroes. They had the power to buy anything. That was all I wanted: to surround myself with shiny and pretty things with the least amount of effort and work. After all, if Corporate Barbie could do it, then so could I. Alas, it was not meant to be. With major newspapers reporting on how these corporations sold out America and created the current economic crisis, I was left with no choice. I had to find another dream career.

At first, I thought about becoming a singer. After all, if Britney Spears can make a comeback, then surely I would be able to make it. Then I remembered getting rejected for chorus—twice. Maybe singing wasn’t for me.

An idea struck me while I was avoiding homework and watching Grey’s Anatomy. Perhaps I would fulfill the dream every Asian parent has for their

child: I would become a doctor. That idea had potential, if it wasn’t for the fact that I hate touching people and the thought of blood makes me feel faint. With my choices for the future narrowing, I started to resign myself to a life of sale items at the Gap and gave up the glamorous life that Fergie sang about.

My entire future, painfully planned out, collapsed alongside Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers.

As the financial crisis dragged on, though, I started to realize that these business moguls didn’t have it as easy as I thought they did. With the risk of losing millions of dollars hanging over every move, one mistake could be costly. This entire financial crisis is the responsibility of a small group of people—the same people I had looked up to. Perhaps money may provide some fulfillment and happiness in life, but these past weeks have made me realize that money isn’t everything. It may provide basic comforts, as well as the luxurious ones, but it doesn’t buy integrity, morals and honesty. And without those things, life is pretty empty. Now, that life of lofts and Ramen cup noodles doesn’t seem like such a bad alternative after all.

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



“The Pulse of the Student Body”

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The Spectator

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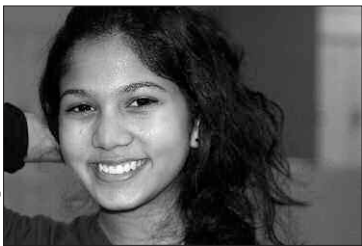
Write a letter to the editor and e-mail it to letters@stuyspectator.com or drop it in The Spectator box in the second-floor mail room.

FOR THE RECORD

- In Issue 4, it should be noted that Paulina Karpis did not take part in the writing or editing of “Paulina Karpis Wins 1010 WINS Award.”
- David Avendano’s surname was misspelled in “The Nuyoric: Mecca of the Spoken Word.”
- In “Can’t Touch This,” bouts were incorrectly called duels and there are 12, not 15, bouts.
- In “Two JV Football Players Poisoned At Practice,” it was wrongly stated that the copper sulfate crystals were put in water. They were put in Gatorade.
- In “SU Candy Selling Policy Revised,” Mohammed Hossain’s, Ashley Qian’s, Emily Matteson’s and Jonathan Meed’s surnames were misspelled.

Luscious Ladybugs Celebrate Slutoween

Michael Silverblatt / The Spectator



By SAMIRA SIDDIQUE

Clad in fishnet stockings, thigh-high boots, a mini-dress made of taut leather strips and only a short red cape to identify her, Little Red Riding Hood seems to be on her way to a brothel rather than grandma’s house. Little Bo Peep has apparently lost more than just her sheep, Goldilocks has been sleeping around and Snow White is the sultriest of them all.

Debauching little girls’ bedtime stories has become a part of modern Halloween tradition. In recent years, it seems like the female costume market has gone completely downhill. It only produces one-dimensional provocative attire. Many costume stores now have a separate “sexy costume” section, and one prominent costume Web site, BuyCostumes.com, even breaks its “sexy” category into three subdivisions. This Web site, and stores like Party City sell various indiscreet costumes like “Vixen Pirate Wench,” “Luscious Ladybug,” “Barbarian Babe,” “Straight A Student Hottie,” “Sexy Firefighter,” “Cerections Officer,” “Sexy Baby” (a woman

in thong diapers sucking on a pacifier) and, of course, “Classic French Maid.” These costumes are as creatively named as pornographic films, and are among the most popular this year.

To back shelves have gone the typical costumes of previous years, when Halloween was just about trick-or-treating with parents and friends and dressing up for innocent fun. Green-skinned witches with neon wigs, princesses with strict corsets and tight chastity belts, ghosts represented by a simple white bed sheet and even pumpkins (the kind that maintained some nutritional value) are no longer in favor with children and adolescents. In fact, teen girls, even pre-teens and children as young as eight years old, seem to dress more tastelessly every Halloween.

In “Mean Girls,” Lindsay Lohan’s character observes that “Halloween is the one night a year when girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it.” This costume trend can account for many females feeling that showing off their bodies is a display of confidence and independence. Of course, you would expect nothing less three decades after the second wave of the women’s movement.

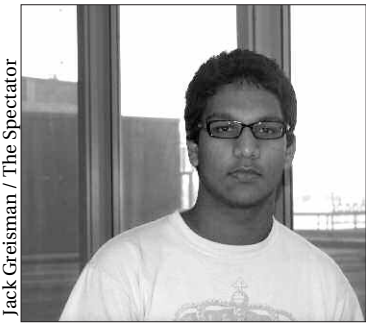
Though demeaning to women, the costumes still sell. They even follow unexpected popular themes like “fairytales and superheroes.” Female superheroes are considered symbols of dominance and

feistiness—all the more a turn-on for men if the heroines are scantily clad. Icons like Wonder Woman and Supergirl are looked up to by young girls, as are fairytale characters. Dressing up as a sexualized version of a fairytale character or super heroine, for many women, could be a satirical jab at their traditional childhood ideals. If only this “display of independence” was more logically thought out.

A truly humorous costume would rarely consist of only a corset and thong— unless, maybe it was a male’s costume. However, men have completely different genres of costumes. Sexualized male costumes barely even exist, compared to the vast array available to women. It is widely acceptable for men to dress-up obnoxiously, crudely or gorily—even to cross dress. And on Halloween, many women tolerate the unspoken stereotype that females are the unimaginative, boring, sexy counterparts of males.

For the one day of the year when you’re encouraged to be as imaginative as you possibly can, why succumb to an age-old stereotype? The fact that it is rare to see a female on Halloween comfortable enough with herself to look slightly unattractive or use creativity reflects poorly on women as a whole. Ultimately, choosing the path of “Vixen Pirate Wench” is predictable, poignant and preposterous. Next Halloween, try being unconventional.

What’s That Lab Again?



Jack Greisman / The Spectator

By KASUN NAVARATHNA

Labs are often portrayed as just another requirement that students have to meet to pass a class. They no longer feel important because they have been diluted to a point where concepts cannot be demonstrated appealingly. Chemicals that could illustrate concepts with a bang (literally) have been replaced with safer, and less interesting, ones to keep students safe.

Today’s labs are more focused on safety than engaging students with interesting material. Labs were once an integral part of a teacher’s lesson plan, and were testable material. Students were able to understand concepts better for the Regents exams. This understanding is crucial now that the percentage of Stuyvesant students scoring above an 85 on the chemistry Regents dropped from 72 percent to 50 percent in the 2006 to 2007 school year, according to Stuyvesant’s latest comprehensive information report. We may have not yet reached our 90 – 90 goal because our labs are uninteresting.

In contrast, many Advanced Placement (AP) science classes are striking examples of how scores can be kept high by interesting labs. Lab work is a key component of any AP science course, because the College Board requires that course instructors submit a list of labs they teach before their courses are called AP classes. Dr. John Utting’s and Roslyn Bierig’s AP biology classes are examples of how important interesting labs are to student success. Unlike most Regents labs, Dr. Utting’s and Bierig’s labs use activities like observing multiple live organisms under a microscope or dissecting a cat. Dr. Utting and Bierig frequently refer back to labs to explain key points and introduce new topics. Their methods have been proven useful, with between 90 and 95 percent of AP Biology students scoring a five in the 2008 AP biology exam, according to Dr. Utting.

Labs are so good at helping students learn that Dr. Utting said he “wants more labs to help my students.”

The biology Regents classes, however, look at less interesting preserved models and dissect less complex organisms, like grasshoppers. These safer, smaller and toned down labs bore students. Many Regents students are turned off by the idea that there are more exciting labs they aren’t shown. A pillar of fire is more likely to catch someone’s eye than a small spark. This disenchantment causes students to see labs as grades instead of engaging learning experiences.

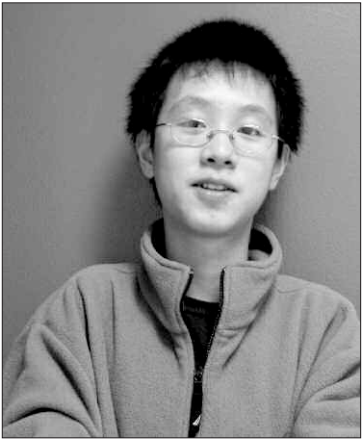
Students were able to perform better on Regents examinations because they had done labs that they were interested in.

A common argument against engaging labs is that they aren’t safe. But goggles and aprons can adequately protect against eye or skin irritants, and every lab also has an emergency shower, an eyewash station and fire blankets. Another safety problem is that students might steal harmful materials and use them unsafely. One lab teacher cannot guarantee 30 students’ safety and also ensure a fun and interesting lab experience. For this, more lab specialists are needed. This would end theft of possibly dangerous materials as well as the incorrect handling of dangerous materials. It’s the best of both worlds—student safety and engaging materials to illustrate concepts.

Education is viewed to be the key to success, and the lack of engaging labs that help students understand concepts is outrageous. The fear of lab accidents shouldn’t affect student exam performance, especially when hiring more lab specialists could easily rectify the problem. The current do-nothing mindset only makes problems worse, and makes a downward trend in Regents grades more likely.

Perils of the Grade Trade

Diane Yee / The Spectator



By GAVIN HUANG

My cousin works at Merrill Lynch, my parents’ friends own stock in AIG and my friend’s parents had their home loans in Washington Mutual. Amid this economic crisis, I thought to myself, “Ha, my parents use Chase Bank.”

After the events of the past few weeks, historians and financial analysts have compared the recent roller coaster ride of Wall Street to the Great Depression. Just last week, analysts began throwing around the words “stock market crash” when Dow Jones closed at 8,600 points, a low that hasn’t been reached in five years. But one prominent Harvard historian, Niall Ferguson, hesitates to call this a Great Depression 2.0 and insists we are merely in a Great Recession.

But the real depression is right here in school. We wake up every morning and drag ourselves out of bed. Then we drudge through the day sucking up to teachers and working our butts off to try and beat our fel-

low classmates. Yes, we’re no different from the Wall Street financiers who spend their entire days on trading floors, buying and selling, dealing with numbers and scrambling to amass as much money as they can.

Our daily quests remind me of an Oliver Stone film, “Wall Street,” from the Reagan era. It showed what greed could do to a man when it went too far. From that cautionary tale co-starring Michael Douglas, we got the perfect definition of capitalism from Gordon Gekko, a fictitious tycoon who built his financial empire on corruption. “Greed—for lack of a better word—is good.”

As well as being correct in a twisted way, it applies in Stuyvesant. While our friends on Wall Street stare at tickers, watching numbers rise and fall steeply, we stare at our test papers, watching numbers rise and fall steeply. Every single day for us is a silent rat race. And, according to the wisdom of Gekko, our greed for grades is good. Because, after all, there’s nothing we want more than a number that says we’re better than everyone else.

There’s nothing we want more than a number that says we’re better than everyone else.

Greed—for lack of a better word—is good.

One Oxford University economist, Tim Harford, cited testosterone poisoning as a possible factor for the recession. In a 1975 Ms. Magazine article, “Testosterone Poisoning,” actor Alan Alda famously wrote, “All men suffer from testosterone poisoning.” A joke? Yes, but it has some substance to it. According to Harford, after male or female traders start on a money roll, they feel a hormonal rush and so much confidence that they become addicted to trading and start making rash judgments that lead to terrible results. It sounds eerily like what happens to many of my friends: they start scoring 90s on consecutive exams and ultimately crash with a 70 on their finals.

There is another term we use in the economics of the grade trade. When a teacher starts doling out 90s to the student who wants to pass and sleeps in class, we call it grade inflation. Just as the value of our dollar decreases with inflation, so does the value of a grade the teacher gives.

It’s a tough market to work. You have to be greedy, deceitful, corrupt and sly to get through. Hard work? Not if you have a cunning mind. Beware though. Too much greed and you could get yourself into a crunch.

OP-ART



Arts and Entertainment

Frozen Yogurt Takes New York City

By EMMA POLLACK

Following the lead of Starbucks and McDonald's, frozen yogurt stores have started to occupy almost every block in New York City. Originally starting in Korea and then moving to America, frozen yogurt is an extremely competitive business. Lawsuits have formed between rival stores and each business scouts out the others for exotic new flavors and toppings. Every store tries to differentiate themselves from the others, but they all have two things in common: a claim of being the only store with non-fat, natural, frozen yogurt and fluorescent lights. Due to the low calories, low fat and the great benefits that come along with eating it, yogurt has started to replace ice cream as the most popular dessert. "All the stores have their strengths in certain areas. Red Mango has the best atmosphere, Pinkberry has the best customer service and Yogurtland has the best and most flavors," sophomore Jasmine Wong said. Which store has the best yogurt? It is up to you to decide.

Yogurtland

267 Bleecker St (between Cornelia St & Morton St)

"Lush life, premium quality, heavenly taste, fresh fruit, active cultured, natural yogurt" These words painted on bright green and pink walls describe not only Yogurtland, but frozen yogurt stores in general. Although the design of the store, bright walls, fluorescent lights, limited seating and modern architecture, seems similar to the rest, Yogurtland

stands out due to the method of obtaining your yogurt. After picking up a bowl, you walk down the long row of yogurt picking the flavors you want. There are 16 different flavors that change every few weeks, ranging from snickerdoodle to taro to strawberry tart to green tea. Next is the toppings section, where tons of different fruit, syrups, cereals and sweets are available to put on your yogurt. Lastly you weigh and pay by the ounce. The yogurt is a little icier than others, but has a strong burst of flavor. Smoothies, frappuccinos and shaved ice are all also available in a variety of flavors and at cheap prices.

Cocoplum

388 6th Ave (between Waverly Place and 8th St)

Cocoplum only opened about a month ago and it already has a large client list. The store adheres to the usual trend of colorful walls and fluorescent lights, but it puts a tropical twist on its decoration. The employees believe that the tropical design, including a tiki hut, is based off the cocoplum, which is a tropical fruit and the inspiration for the name of the store. The menu includes the two common flavors, plain and green tea, but it also has an extra flavor that changes every few weeks. The current flavor is pomegranate, but has been aloe and passion fruit in the past. One distinctive characteristic of Cocoplum is that its yogurt is non-fat, while that of many other places are low fat. With a small cup of plain starting at \$3.10 and a small flavored yogurt starting at \$4.10, Cocoplum provides prices similar



to those of their competition. The yogurt is thick and has a strong flavor, but is also quite sweet. Their toppings include fresh fruit and cereal. The customer service was extremely convenient due to the energy and politeness of the employees.

Yolato

2286 Broadway (between 82nd St & 83rd St)

418 Sixth Avenue (between 8th St & 9th St)

Yolato is a made from a mix between yogurt and gelato. They offer plain frozen yogurt, and a fruit flavor that changes regularly. The gelato and sorbet come in many flavors ranging from peach to Nutella, and help separate Yolato from the rest of the frozen yogurt business. A small is \$3.99 and the toppings are 95 cents, making it one of the more expensive yogurt places. Although the bright bold orange and green decorations can be spotted from

miles away, the actual store is hidden as it lies in the basement of another store. Despite the uptown location's severe lack of seating, the downtown store provides tables and block foam chairs. The yogurt and gelato is more filling and sweeter than other stores, but the service is a little worse because the employee was speaking loudly on the phone the whole time.

Pinkberry

523 6th Ave (between 13th and 14th St.) Broadway Between 111th and 112th, and many more

Pinkberry is the most popular and famous of all the frozen yogurt stores, but is it really the best? The store, which claims to have started the whole yogurt trend, combines nature and modern architecture into the design. There are colorful Plexi-

Pinkberry is the most popular and famous of all the frozen yogurt stores, but is it really the best?

glas walls with imprints of leaves, modern chandeliers, polka dots, gravel floors and the popular fluorescent lights, but there is also a cleaner solution-like smell. They

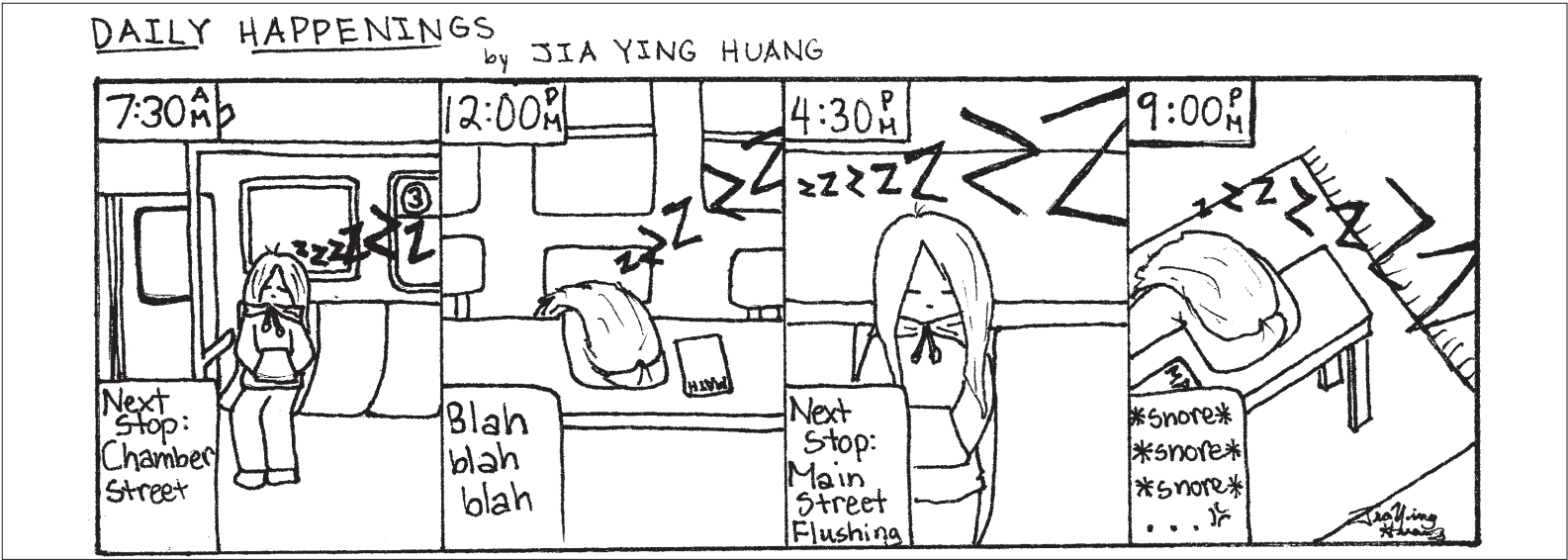
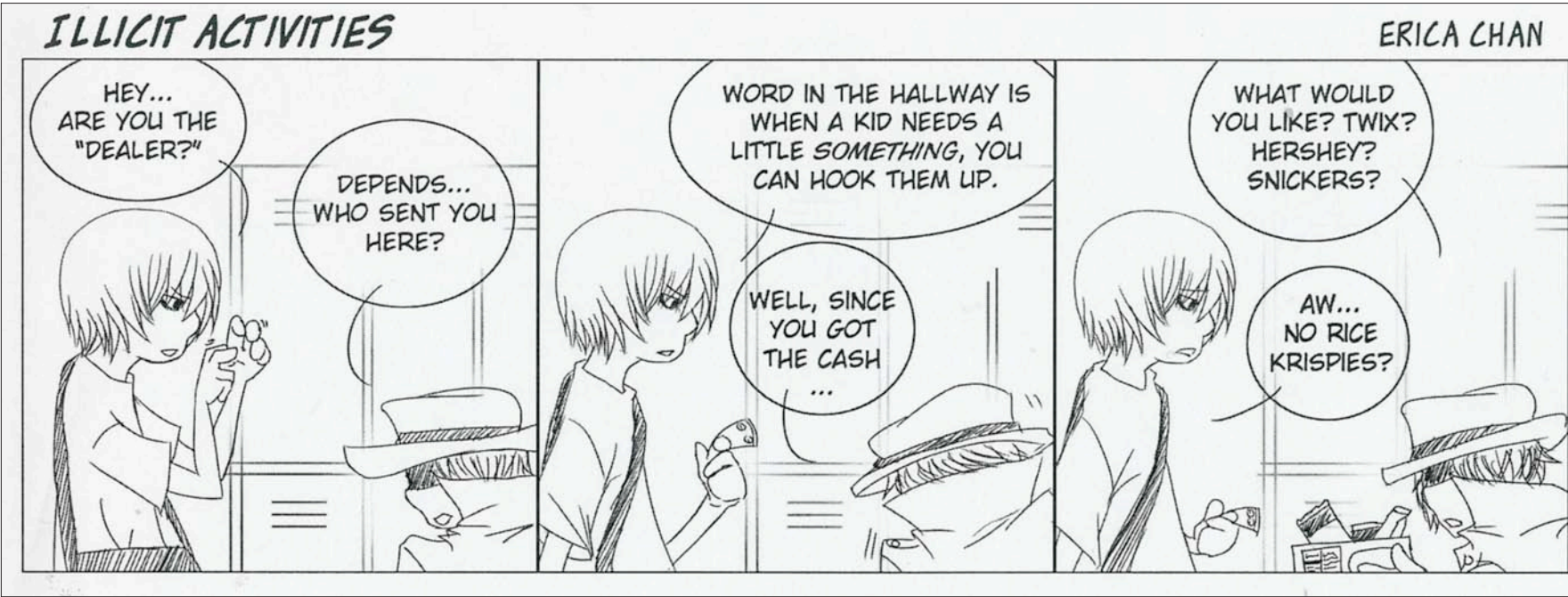
offer three different flavors of frozen yogurt: coffee, plain and green tea. The yogurt is a little thinner than at other places, but it also has less flavor and a grainy texture. The small plain yogurt is \$3.15 while a small flavored yogurt is \$4.15 and toppings are 99 cents. Although the quality and price of the yogurt doesn't seem to be significantly better than their competitors, Pinkberry provides a fun and relaxed environment with good customer service and a 10 percent student discount. Beware of long lines.

Red Mango

63 W 14th St (between 6th and 5th ave)

Red Mango is Pinkberry's main competitor, especially on 14th Street where both chains have stores across the street from each other. Red Mango has a more sophisticated style with red walls and plenty of brown suede seats. They offer two flavors of yogurt, plain and green tea, and a variety of toppings from fruit to chocolate to cereal. The yogurt is thick, creamy and smooth with the tart taste of yogurt. The green tea is not as strong, but it is also not grainy, like many other stores' green tea. A small plain yogurt starts out at \$2.95 while a small green tea yogurt starts out at \$3.95. Although the yogurt is cheaper, the toppings are pricey at \$1 per topping. Along with yogurt, the chain has blenders so people can make their own creations in addition to the pre-existing flavors. The atmosphere at Red Mango is very relaxing and inviting, and there are many seats and tables unlike most yogurt stores.

Cartoons



Arts and Entertainment

The Underground Museum

By FARDEEN CHOWDHURY and ALAN SAGE

What’s the first thing that comes to mind when you hear “subway”? Dirty? Grimy? Smelly? What about artistic? With over 200 exhibits scattered throughout its 468 different stations, the New York City subway is probably the world’s vastest museum. From the colorful, bright mosaics that line Manhattan interchanges to the mysterious face-shaped windows adorning stations on the city’s fringe, the subway seems to have art for just about every mood.

14th Street/Eighth Ave: “Life Underground” (A)(C)(E)(L)



Stephanie London / The Spectator

“I absolutely love it,” said Valerie Bridges, a subway maintenance worker from the Bronx. “It really brightens up my day and seeing these statues go about their business puts a smile on my face. The statues each tell a different story and it’s fun to think of the adventures they’re going through.”

The positioning of the statues is unbelievably whimsical. One statue proudly sits on an 8 Avenue Line platform bench, while another statue appears to be diving underneath the fare gate. Money remains a constant theme—one portly statue with a top-hat is seen handing a gargantuan penny to his far smaller counterpart.

To some, the statues provide a constant source of entertainment. “Whenever I’m standing on the platform waiting for the train, I like looking at the statutes and try to think of a story that goes along with their actions,” said Amandal Garza, a resident of New Jersey. “It’s great because there’s nothing written so I can make up what I want.”

To your right you see a police officer scolding a man trying to sneak into the subway, while to your left you see a money bag-headed man shriek with anguish as an alligator tries to take him into the depths of Manhattan’s bedrock. As long as you’re on 14th Street, you’ll never be by yourself.

The platforms and mezzanine of the 14th Street/Eighth Avenue

station are full of ram-bunctious bronze statues, collectively titled “Life Underground.” The statues seen here are only part of public artist Tom Otterness’s much larger series of bronze statue exhibits scattered across the city. The bronze statues of pennies and animals in Battery Park are also part of an Otterness exhibition titled “The Real World.”

Lexington and 59th Street: “Blooming” (4)(5)(6)(N)(R)(W)

Located in the mezzanine of the Lexington Avenue/59 Street Station is a beautiful, 120-foot long mosaic titled “Blooming,” by Elizabeth Murray. Murray is an experienced author, photographer, painter and gardener. She is also experienced in public space artwork—Murray was responsible for the restoration of Claude Monet’s historic gardens in Giverny, France.



“I absolutely love it because it reminds me of my two daughters when they were younger.”
— Jim Hirshack, Upper West Side resident

“Blooming,” placed in a passageway between the Broadway and Lexington Avenue lines, is a breathtaking piece. The mosaic depicts a large tree spreading its wings against a blue background. The wall is also adorned by the image of a blue shoe and a steaming cup of coffee. Written across the mural is the phrase, “Conduct your blooming in the noise and discipline of the whirlwind” - a line from the Gwendolyn Brooks poem “The Second Sermon on the Warpland.”

The artwork is most likely a play on the name of Bloomingdales Department Store, located outside the station.

“I absolutely love it because it reminds me of my two daughters when they were younger,” Upper West Side resident Jim Hirshack said. “We always stopped to look at these mosaics and now that they’ve grown up, I just like looking at these mosaics, reminding me of times past.”

“It’s all about growth, blooming, living life to the fullest,” Bronx-resident Chris Akers said. “Whenever I see the sprawling tree, it reminds me of the growth of life and I tell myself to live this day like the last.”



Alan Sage / The Spectator

Eastern (J/Z): “Five Points of Observation” (J)(Z)

Along the eastern part of the (J/Z) lines, five stations are adorned with a unique addition: a face. The 75th Street, Cypress Hills, Woodhaven Blvd, 102-104 Sts and 111 St stations all exhibit face-shaped windows installed by Kathleen McCarthy in 1992. The exhibit is titled “Five Points of Observation.”

The unique use of copper-mesh in the “masks,” which jut out from the otherwise opaque walls of the elevated platforms, allow the masks to appear as solid structures in the daytime and serve as windows at night. From the platform, however, one can always view the street below through the tinted windows. Unfortunately, many riders have squeezed used MetroCards between the cop-

per mesh, equating the masks’ chins to trash cans.

“It’s good art, but I don’t think it’s a good spot,” said Oscar Esquivel, a commuter at the Woodhaven Blvd station. Esquivel also felt that the title was deceiving, since all of the masks are placed at separate stations. “I don’t see why they call it five points. When you approach the figure, you don’t see any five points.”

Many of the locals simply don’t notice the installation. “I really never paid it any mind,” said Tonequa Wilson, who was waiting on the Manhattan-bound platform at Woodhaven Blvd. “I don’t think I would choose this station. Maybe somewhere like inside Penn Station.”

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Arts and Entertainment

A Different Kind of Art Appreciation



Anna Menkova / The Spectator

The World Financial Center offers free events which allow the Tribeca community to appreciate art and dance.

By BETTE HA

In celebration of the World Financial Center’s (WFC) 20th birthday, a variety of free events dedicated to the arts are being offered. Held in the Winter Garden, it is easily accessible to all high school students and residents in the Tribeca area. There is no entrance fee, but seating is on a first-come first-serve basis and attendants usually exceed the number of allocated seats. Many free events are still being planned by WFC event coordinators and their sponsors, including dance shows and art galleries. The goal of these free events is to allow everyone access to the fine arts. “Everything’s for everyone,” said Jenna Parks, Program Coordinator of the Monk at 91 Piano Marathon.

The Monk at 91 Piano Marathon is part of an annual series that counts down to Thelonius Monk’s 100th birthday which is held throughout the country in different cities. Monk was a prolific innovator of jazz and a herald of bebop, as well as a Stuyvesant graduate, and it would have been his 91st birthday on Wednesday, October 10. This year, the WFC was lucky enough to host

it, and it is only one of the many events that they have planned for the public.

On the 91st anniversary of his birthday, 19 pianists performed five hours of jazz. “If you reverse 19, it’s 91, that’s what we were actually going for,” said Terrence McKnight, host of the event and WNYC’s Evening Music radio show. A large number of people came to enjoy the concert, including tourists, high school students and local residents.

The evening began with rousing performances, with a vocal composition by seven-time Grammy nominated Kurt Elling. With piano accompaniment, he captivated the audience with his rich voice and meaningful lyrics.

Vocal arrangements were not the only musical treats; a wide variety of styles were introduced. Magali Souriau, leader of her own jazz orchestra that plays at NYC venues and a renowned pianist, played her own unique pieces. Her music was strangely erratic, changing suddenly from morbid to jolly, but through these “mood swings,” the song seemed to speak for itself, random and yet beautifully atonal. Many other notable artists were present including Edsel Gomez, a

2007 Grammy award nominee, and Randy Weston, named “World’s Best Jazz Pianist” in 1988 at the International Roots Festival.

Other events taking place later in the year are sure to be as artistic and as popular as the Monk at 91 Piano Marathon.

The Limón Dance Company will be taking the Winter Garden stage on Tuesday, November 4, as part of their “City Tour,” and will feature works by Jose Limón and his mentor Doris Humphrey, showcasing modern dance elements and expressionism. There will also be new pieces by current company members and the next generation of dancers inspired by Limón.

Some of the WFC’s events focus less on the performing arts. “Canstruction,” for one, is the 16th annual NYC competition between teams of architects, engineers and students to design and build giant sculptures made entirely from cans of food. On display daily starting Thursday, November 20, 40 entries will be shown to the public until Monday, December 8, when the cans of food will be donated to the City Harvest for distribution.

These events can bring a whole new perspective to the arts for anyone who has a few hours to spare. They provide a whole new field of depth and perception to dance, music and art. Over 3.5 million people have attended more than 2000 free music and dance performances, exhibitions and festivals at the WFC since 1988. With their new influx of programs, the WFC is giving the Tribeca community an opportunity to absorb the culture that so many others have enjoyed.

Props to Props



By JENNY CHE

A Christmas tree in springtime? Not a problem, if the STC Props crew is on it. But when the slate of the 2007 Spring Comedy, “The Man Who Came to Dinner,” first asked for a holiday tree, crewmembers were stumped. The season for stockings and pine trees had long passed.

“It was a little problem,” said junior Tasso Bountouvas, who was a freshman at the time. “We didn’t have anywhere to go.” After an unsuccessful search, the team eventually turned to each other and found one stuffed in an acquaintance’s closet.

Other interesting props have included a coffin, again for “Dinner,” and a chunk of rock for last spring’s “Don’t Drink the Water.” The coffin was ultimately built by the Tech Crew one hour before it was needed on stage, and the rock was swiped from the Irish Potato Famine Memorial.

The graduation of crew directors Elaine Lavin, Kate Mulhauser and Natalie Rynczak (’07) led Bountouvas and senior Ava Hecht to fill the openings last fall. About a half-dozen students (mostly juniors) now constitute the active body of the Props Crew.

“I have no problem at all with them being juniors,” Hecht said. “It’s impossible not to bond more with someone once you’ve transported large kitchen appliances through Manhattan.” Hecht was referring to an oven which was requested for “Don’t Drink the Water.”

The group’s small size results from what junior Katerina Patouri calls a lack of “taking things seriously.” Because the

crew’s work blends in with the set, people tend to forget about its importance. Despite good turnouts during STC interest meetings, “very few actually come to rehearsals, because it’s so relaxed,” Patouri said.

Bountouvas is unperturbed by the number—he believes that participation is up to each person. “Personally, I feel the need to be at every rehearsal, and I want to as well, but others don’t necessarily feel that way,” he said.

The crew’s current task is supplying this year’s Fall Musical “Urinetown.” (Props isn’t supplying “And Baby Makes Seven” because studio shows don’t fall under the crew’s jurisdiction). After Bountouvas and Hecht received the list from the show’s slate, they held a meeting during one of the weekend all-day rehearsals to decide which items would be bought or made, based on the Crew’s budget of roughly 250 dollars per show.

Everyone on Props seems to enjoy the shopping treks. “It’s a great non-stress way to participate in theater,” said junior Margaret Borowczyk, who hopes to co-direct next year. “We get to go out and look for the craziest things.”

“Ava and Tasso are extremely professional,” said junior Annalise Lockhart, co-director of “Urinetown.” “They always ask us specifically what kinds of things we need, whether it’s flashlights, police clubs, or fake cigars, and they want to know exactly how we want them to look.”

Occasionally, though, an outrageous demand can only be met by a miracle. For last year’s Fall Musical “Bye Bye Birdie,” the slate requested 25 retro telephones. “We were going crazy,” Bountouvas said. “The only suitable ones we found were on eBay selling for 50 dollars.” The disappointed crew sought the help of machinist Kerneth Levigion. “The next day, we came into the closet and found a recycle bin full of phones,” Patouri said. “We didn’t know where they came from, where they had been, but the point was, Kern saved the day.”

“That’s the great thing about Props,” Patouri said. “It’s basically about having connections. You call people, you ask them for favors, even if they’re friends of friends of friends.”

Disclaimer: Ava Hecht was not involved in the writing or editing of this article.

The Man with the Sax

By HELEN SONG and ANNIE ZANG

He looked just like any other student dressed in baggy jeans and a t-shirt, leaning casually against the wall outside Barnes & Noble. But the white bandanna tied around his head gave him away. For sophomore Huei Lin, his bandanna has become a signature accessory as well as a part of his identity. His quirky bandanna, however, is not all he is known for. Lin is the Stuyvesant’s saxophone virtuoso.

“People shouldn’t say one type of music is superior to another.” —Huei Lin, sophomore

Despite having played the instrument for five years, his passion for the saxophone and jazz music “was not an overnight kind

of thing. It was gradual,” Lin said.

When he first started, music was emphasized by his elementary school and not of great interest to him. He only began seriously practicing during the summer of eighth grade. During that summer, Lin went to a music camp in Maine and met some incredibly talented kids around his age. The experience changed his perspective of himself as a saxophone player. Lin said, “Kids my age or a little older are doing amazing stuff with their instruments. Maybe I can get into that.”

Lin now plays the saxophone an average of one and a half hours every day and attends a weekly music class at 3rd Street Music. To him, the saxophone has become more than a hobby. Lin said, “A [spiritual connection] does happen, but you have to go through hours of suffering and practicing to get there.”

Besides being in Stuyvesant’s symphonic band, Lin recently joined a band made up of Stuyvesant students as well as students from other schools. Junior Audri Augenbraum started the band and is the rhythm guitarist. Other Stuyvesant members include juniors Andrew Chow on piano and Jacob Sunshine on the guitar. Augenbraum said, “Lin is an incredible player. It’s an honor to work with someone who is so intensely technical. He adds dynamic to the

group.” Just last week, Lin, Chow and Sunshine played on the street in Washington Square Park. They collectively went home 30 dollars richer. The band will also be performing at the Bowery Poetry Club in the East Village on Sunday, November 30.

Lin usually listens to a combination of classical and jazz music. Some of his favorite artists include Claude Delangle, John Coltrane, Art Peppers, Chick Core and Return to Forever—a blend of jazz and rock. However, Lin also keeps an open mind to other genres of music. “People shouldn’t say one type of music is superior to another,” Lin said.

Between music lessons and schoolwork, Lin has a busy schedule but still devotes time to expand his other interests. Lin is especially attracted to French culture and French food. He is currently taking French “to immerse myself in it [French culture].”

Over the summer, he became involved in parkour—an intense physical activity that helps the participant pass obstacles in his or her path with speed and efficiency.

Lin is not sure whether he will choose a career in music. As for now, however, he will stick with the saxophone. Lin said, “I’ve spent so much time practicing and jamming, it would be a shame to give it up.”



Natalie Grybauskas / The Spectator

Sophomore Huei Lin, who plays the saxophone for approximately one and a half hours every day, is a member of both the Stuyvesant symphonic band and a band with other students.

Athlete Spotlight: Nick Goldin-Varsity Football's Golden Boy

By CHARLIE GINGOLD

Since Nicholas Goldin was five, his favorite sport has been “football.” Twelve years later, he now stars on a team that plays a very different kind of football. “Soccer was the first sport that I played as a child,” Goldin said. “I played from when I was five up until I started high school.”

The start of high school was a turning point in Goldin’s athletic career. He took a gamble by joining the junior varsity (JV) football team, and decided to forgo an opportunity to try out for the varsity soccer team because the two sports play during the same fall season. Public School Athletics League (PSAL) rules prohibit a student-athlete from participating in two sports per season. “I was always good at soccer and I’m pretty sure that I would have made Stuyvesant’s team, but the game of football just seemed like it would be a lot more fun. Soccer is fun but it’s nothing like football,” Goldin said.

Fast forward to Goldin’s junior season, and you can see how his choice paid off. After the best season of his high school football career, he was at the top of Stuyvesant’s division in three different categories—with 11 touchdowns, 42 receptions and six interceptions. The PSAL awarded Goldin three

plaques for his three division-leading statistics. He was also named Stuyvesant’s Most Valued Player. At the beginning of his current senior season, Goldin was voted captain by his teammates.

His high school accomplishments have roots in his elementary school days. As a kid, Goldin played touch football and also tackle football in the park, but never organized football.

When he first joined the junior varsity team, Goldin tried out for the wide receiver job and earned a starting position. He only recorded one reception due to the team almost always running the ball. Despite only one reception, Goldin had an impressive 29 tackles as linebacker. But it was a good experience for Goldin. “It was really good to get a feel for the game. It’s a lot different playing a high school game with pads than just playing around in the park,” he said.

The next year Goldin became the only sophomore to make the varsity team where he again played wide receiver. “That whole summer I wasn’t really sure if I was going to play JV or Varsity. I started out summer camp on JV but I was practicing with Varsity more and more, so eventually I got moved up,” he said, “At first I was a lit-

tle nervous because it’s a faster game, and I didn’t know the kids as well. But I enjoyed playing up.”

Last year Goldin got the starting wide receiver job on the varsity team as a junior. He scored a team high of 11 receiving touchdowns with 42 catches. He had so many receptions because of football coach Brian Sacks’s “spread offense,” which emphasizes passing more than running. When the fans at Pier 40 noticed the new quarterback of the Stuyvesant Peglegs during their first home game, something didn’t seem right. They witnessed Goldin, last season’s wide receiver, playing the exact opposite position he had before. After the starting quarterback for the Peglegs graduated last year, a new role on the team opened up for Goldin. The decision to make Goldin quarterback only happened a few days before the season-opening game. “I knew that I could play quarterback but I wasn’t sure if it would help the team out,” Goldin said. “Honestly, I didn’t think it would happen.”

Goldin is not the typical quarterback. He can either throw or scramble out of the pocket and run the ball. He has four passing touchdowns this year and three rushing touchdowns. But Goldin sometimes returns to his original position,

wide receiver, as he did in the Peglegs’ game against Springfield Gardens High School—in which he had five catches and one touchdown.

In addition to football, Goldin also competes for Stuyvesant’s varsity baseball team. He began on the junior varsity as a freshman, just as he did for football. In his sophomore year Goldin was brought up to play at the varsity level. He considers his role on the baseball completely the opposite of his role on varsity football. Goldin said, “I would say that on football I have a leadership role as captain and I need to pick other guys and get them motivated, but then on baseball, I’m one of those guys that maybe the captains have to teach or refocus. I think it’s good for me to see both sides of the spectrum.”

Describing Goldin’s role on the football team, senior and co-captain of the Peglegs, Dionicio Herrera said, “He’s very athletic and he works really hard.” Though by now the Peglegs’ playoff hopes are lost, Goldin tries to savor every last bit of high school football he has.

As he pursues higher education, Goldin has recently been looking into some colleges to play football at next year. “Right now I’m just trying to decide if I



Sadman Islam/The Spectator

want to play Division I-AA or Division III,” Goldin said. “Right now I think I might go to Dartmouth, which is I-AA.”

The one thing Goldin won’t have to worry about in college is that his true sport is football—the American kind. “The way you feel before a football game, the adrenaline and the excitement is unlike anything I’ve ever felt in sports. And when you’re done with a football game and you have bruises and a limp, then you feel like you have accomplished something,” he said.

Girls’ Swimming

No Pool? No Problem

continued from page 12

onds of breaking the Stuyvesant record, finishing in 1:59.40. We were fast, we were fresh, and we had a fire to win. Needless to say, the swimming stars were aligned in our favor.

Then we hit a bump in the road in the form of a ceiling panel, and now we don’t have a pool to call home. It’s no longer convenient for our classmates to watch our meets and cheer us on from the second floor. We can no longer show off our sparkling aqua-center to the rest of our division. We can’t even sing together in our own locker room anymore.

We are hurting from not having the benefits that come with having a home pool. In a sense, nonetheless, this lack of the luxury of having a home field has allowed us to focus on improving our swimming. We are still fast, with a great looking record and some outrageous workout stories to prove

it. We’re still fresh, exploring new places and showing off our hot apparel around the city. But more than anything, this team still has fire. If there’s one thing more motivating than defending your own turf, it is rising to beat the odds. We could lose pool time any minute, but our season is far from over. Skill-wise, we are still even with our competition throughout the league. Spirit-wise, every other team has a force to reckon with.

The next few weeks will test whether or not our physical advantages can overcome the psychological setbacks. If having our own pool is what’s most important, then my sob story will end as most do—in tears. But if losing our pool has the reverse effect and makes us ‘want it more,’ then you might just see a Girls’ Swimming and Diving City Champions banner hanging from the bridge at the start of the winter season.

Girls’ Volleyball

Vixens Extend Undefeated Streak

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her we only need once captain.”

So far, the Vixens have been able to make up for the loss of last year’s seniors with young talent, such as freshman Melissa Chin, who Ko said is “a freshman who can already kill the ball.” Chin has played in all six games this season, recording 14 aces and eight kills. “She has a perfect arm swing and she’s only thirteen and a half and only weighs like 85 pounds,” Fisher said. “But when she hits it, you’re

like ‘Oh my God.’ She has the potential to be the best player in the city her junior year.”

With a 6-0 record at this point in the season, a playoff appearance is all but assured for the Vixens. Last season, they won the citywide bronze medal. Currently, they are seeded fourth in the city by fiveborosports.com. If they wish to change the color of their medal to gold or silver, they will need to play the way they have been against tougher competition in the playoffs. “I would like to see this team win the championship,” Chin said.

Girls’ Golf

In First Season, Birdies Make Playoffs



By TIMOTHY PARK

Stuyvesant’s girls’ varsity golf team, the Birdies, completed its eight game season with a 6-2 record. With the exception of two close losses to the Bronx Science Wolverines on Monday, October 6 and Thursday, October 23, they cruised through most of their games, defeating John F. Kennedy, DeWitt Clinton and Lab Museum United.

Stuyvesant and Bronx Science both went into their Thursday, October 23 game knowing that the division title was at stake. Although both would make the playoffs no matter what, a Stuyvesant victory would result in a tie for the division title. Bronx Science had not lost a game for the past four years, but the Birdies felt prepared for the match. “We’re con-

fident that we’ll beat them,” senior and co-captain Jenny Han said. “Our first match was really close and it went down to the last match of the game.”

The Birdies lost this second match too, however, by a score of 3-1, and will face New Dorp High School in their first round playoff match, which was held on Wednesday, October 29.

Even though this is their first season, many members of the Birdies are not surprised that they have attained such a high level of success. “Many of us had played golf outside of the team,” Han said. “And our best players are our two freshmen, Sarah [Soo Hoo] and Jessica [Plotnikov].”

Coach and English teacher Emilio Nieves did have somewhat high expectations, but did not expect the team to do quite as well as it has. “We started the

team from scratch and we made the playoffs,” Nieves said. “I made reasonable goals. What I wanted most was a winning record but we got even a better result in that we got second place in our division and even gave Bronx Science a good fight.”

Although they are the youngest on the team, Soo Hoo and Plotnikov have more experience than many others on the team. “My dad got me into golf when I was 10, but I wasn’t a serious player,” Soo Hoo said. “I started playing competitively last year, along with Jessica.” So far, she has enjoyed being on the team, and credits Nieves with helping improve both the team and her own personal abilities.

“Being on the team has definitely improved my game,” she said. “Mr. Nieves, our coach, has given each of the team members personal tips on how to improve our skills, which has been really useful to all of us.”

Despite being somewhat inexperienced as a group, Stuyvesant is able to rely on contributions from its few experienced players since golf is an individual sport.

The combination of such young talent with the leadership by senior captains Han and Jung Yun Min has resulted in expectations that the team will make the playoffs. They have also been helped by the veteran coaching experience of English teacher Emilio Nieves, who also led the Stuyvesant boys’ golf team to an undefeated record and a number one seed in last year’s playoffs. “Our dedication, work ethic and practice will help us be even stronger in the playoffs,” Han said.

Although Nieves believes the team has good chances in the playoffs, he acknowledges that the season will be a success regardless of what happens. “What I want to see from Stuyvesant is to play our best,” Nieves said. “If we lose or if we win, I want to see the effort.”

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

Girls' Swimming

No Pool? No Problem



By EILEEN CONNORS

If you ever want to be sobered, take a stroll down the second floor atrium and look through the window to the pool deck on your right. No, that intricate jungle of scaffolding is not construction for the new log flume at Stuyvesantland Theme Park. That is, or, more appropriately, was, the six-lane, 25 yard long, 14-foot deep pride and joy of our school: the pool.

One group affected by the replacement of water with giant metal bars is the freshmen and sophomores enrolled in swim gym. The other group affected consists of 28 girls who know something about swimming. They won the Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) Bronx-Manhattan division last year, going on to place second in the city championships. This year, they have two new coach-

es and are more talented than at any point in recent history. They're Stuyvesant's varsity girls' swim team. They're called the Penguins. And they have no home.

As The Spectator reported in its fourth issue of the year, this aquatic disaster began when a ceiling panel located directly above the exact center of the pool was loosened due to humidity. Because it has the potential to fall, this poses a dangerous situation for anyone in the water. What appeared to be a simple fix-it job, however, turned out to be a major undertaking, and the Penguins have since relocated. Their current schedule? Two 6 a.m. practices a week at NYU, meets whenever and wherever possible, a general scramble for practice time at any pool, no matter how inconvenient, and a backup plan of dry land exercises in the park after school until 5:30 pm. Yes, word has gotten out that these Penguins have some thick skin.

But what still hasn't gotten out was what a talented team had been put together for the 2008-2009 season. With two new coaches, a crew of eight new rookies, and returning players improving our performances, we came out with a bang in the first event of our opening meet. Our 200 yard medley relay team, which had only been practicing for three weeks, came within three sec-

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Boys' Soccer

Successful Season Breeds High Hopes

By OLUMUYIWA IDOWU

"Structured, disciplined and reliable on the field," coach Adam Goldstein said, listing the attributes that he has drilled into the Stuyvesant boys' soccer team throughout this season. It seems that focusing on these aspects of the game has brought suitable rewards for the team, which feels that this might be the year they go farther into the playoffs than ever before.

The success of the season was most evident in a game that the Ballerz played against Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) High School on Friday, October 10 at Riverside Park. The game was a hard fought battle in which grit and hustle was evident on both sides. Stuyvesant attempted to pressure the MLK defense in the first half and subsequently played defense when pressured in the second half. The game ended in a scoreless draw. Although this outcome may not seem spectacular on paper, MLK is a nationally ranked team that has been city champions for the last 10 years.

Ultimately, though, what the game really proves is that the Stuyvesant team has the potential to beat the two top ranked teams in the city that are obstructing their champi-

onship hopes: Beacon High School and MLK. "We've gotten very close to beating both teams," senior Alexandros Kaliontzakis said. "I believe we can beat them in the playoffs." Kaliontzakis's statement accurately reflects the general sentiment of the rest of the team. Goldstein believes that beating these teams is a matter of "overcoming psychological barriers."

Other than this, the team will have to focus on the aspects of their game that have brought them to this point in the season. One of those things is the leadership of captains Andrew Ermogenous, Dylan Levy and Andres Fernandez. Goldstein has nothing but praise for them, citing that they are "great communicators and motivators off the field" in addition to their contributions on the field. The captains have accepted position changes in order to help the team work better as a whole. Captain and senior Andrew Ermogenous said, "All of [the captains'] personalities kind of mesh together and it works out really well."

Although Goldstein feels that the team is filled with a "massive amount of young talent," his coaching has also obviously helped this team accomplish its turnaround in the last two seasons. His focus on the structure, cohesion and

strategy of the team as a whole rather than just the skills of individual players has helped to create a team that is now ranked third in the city according to fiveborosports.com—a New York City high school sports outlet that was launched this past September. According to Ermogenous, "[Coach] has made us very disciplined. When he's pleased he tells us and makes us feel good, but when he's not he tells us too and pushes us to work harder." This work ethic can only result in a better team, one that is prepped and ready for whatever is to come in the playoffs.

The Stuyvesant soccer team is looking for their city championship this season. They have played in the top soccer division all year and have played "among the best teams in the nation" according to Goldstein (MLK and Beacon are both nationally ranked teams). Stuyvesant entered the postseason with a regular season record of 5-4. After winning their first playoff game 2-0 against Midwood High School on Monday, October 27, they must next face a much tougher opponent, Francis Lewis High School, in their quest to be city champions.

"Some of the guys on this team play like city champs every game," Ermogenous said.

Girls' Volleyball

By CODY LEVINE

The Stuyvesant girls' varsity volleyball team, the Vixens, has not lost a regular season game in at least five years, a streak of over 46 games. They show no signs of reversing that trend this season. After six straight victories, the team is undefeated so far, on pace to repeat its 8-0 record from last year. Led by senior and captain Tina Khiani, the Vixens are the only team in the Manhattan 4A Division with an undefeated record at this halfway point of the 12 game season.

Although originally intended to be a 'rebuilding season' after losing two-thirds of last year's starters to graduation, the Vixens have worked hard to be at the top. Several members of the team, like Khiani, senior Diana Liskovich, and juniors Imelda Ko and Alex Albright

attended college volleyball camps over the summer to hone their skills and get meaningful practice and workout time.

Coach and physical education teacher Phil Fisher has also stressed the importance of non-league, or scrimmage, games, which don't count towards their Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) standing. The Vixens started the year with a scrimmage against Francis Lewis, widely considered the best team in the PSAL. Despite losing in straight sets, the team was able to learn and improve from the game. After losing in the first set by a score so bad that members of the team decided to forget it, Stuyvesant lost the second set by only two points. Although she was disappointed, junior Imelda Ko said that the team found inspiration in their perseverance. "It



Sam Devine / The Spectator

The undefeated girls' varsity volleyball team, the Vixens, aims to win the championship.

gave us hope that we were able to hang with them at the end," she said.

The Vixens put their skills to

the test early in the season with a tough match against their top division rival Seward Park High School. After getting ahead early, they won the first set by a comfortable score of 25-13. As a result, they were too overconfident and relaxed during the second game and lost by the same score. They bounced back in the third, however, winning 25-12 and securing a 2-1 victory.

Although Francis Lewis has beaten them and seems to be a better team at this point, the Vixens have nothing but a championship in their heads. "For a while I told myself to be happy with second place because Francis Lewis somehow got blessed with amazing hitters, but more and more everyday I want gold so badly," Khiani said. "Our team has worked so hard and deserves it more than anyone."

According to fiveborosports.com, a Web site that tracks New York City high school and college sports, Fisher nominated Khiani for the Heisman Award, which is given to the best PSAL player in his or her particular sport. "Of course I'm a little ecstatic but at the same time I know I'm up against rough competition," Khiani said. "It's an honor to be nominated [...] but our captain my freshman year won it so it'd be the perfect way to end my career." Numerous Stuyvesant alumni have won the award in the past, including track star Serge Morell ('06) and swimmer Vivian Healey ('06).

"She's the hardest working and has tremendous leadership abilities," Fisher said of Khiani. "Tina has the respect of everyone on the team and because of

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SPORTS CALENDAR

Sunday, November 2	Monday, November 3	Wednesday, November 5	Thursday, November 6	Friday, November 7	Saturday, November 8
Boys' Football vs. Franklin K. Lane High School Erasmus Hall Campus 11:00 a.m.	Girls Bowling vs. University Neighborhood H.S. Leisure Time Recreation—Lane 3 4:00 p.m.	Boys' Fencing vs. Hunter College High School Stuyvesant High School—6th Floor Dance Studio 4:30 p.m.	Boys' Bowling vs. Hunter College High School Leisure Time Recreation—Lane 23 3:45 p.m.	Girls' Volleyball vs. Bard High School Stuyvesant High School—3rd Floor gym 4:30 p.m.	Boys' and Girls' Cross Country City Championships Van Corlandt Park 1:15 p.m.