



The Disrespectator

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"The Colon
of the
Student
Body"

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Administration Raises Math Requirement to Five Years

By CHRISTOPHER NATOLI

At a recent faculty meeting, the administration decided to increase the mathematics requirement from three years-worth of classes to five. This change would first be implemented for the class of 2014—the incoming freshmen. The administration hopes that the heightened requirement would give students a significant advan-

tage when applying to colleges. "It would be an integral part of their college applications," mathematics teacher Deena Avigdor said. "Excuse the pun."

How this will be achieved has not yet been entirely decided. Most students will have to double up in both pre-calculus and calculus during their junior year and then take Multivariate Calculus and Differ-

ential Equations as seniors to fulfill the fifth year of math.

"Many juniors do this already, so I doubt it's much of a struggle," principal Stanley Teitel said. "And since teachers hardly follow testing days anyway, having two math tests on one day would be easy to handle."

"I can't wait to come back to Stuyvesant, since I'll finally have enough days to make a perfect drawing of the nine-point circle," former mathematics teacher Joseph Stern said in an e-mail interview.

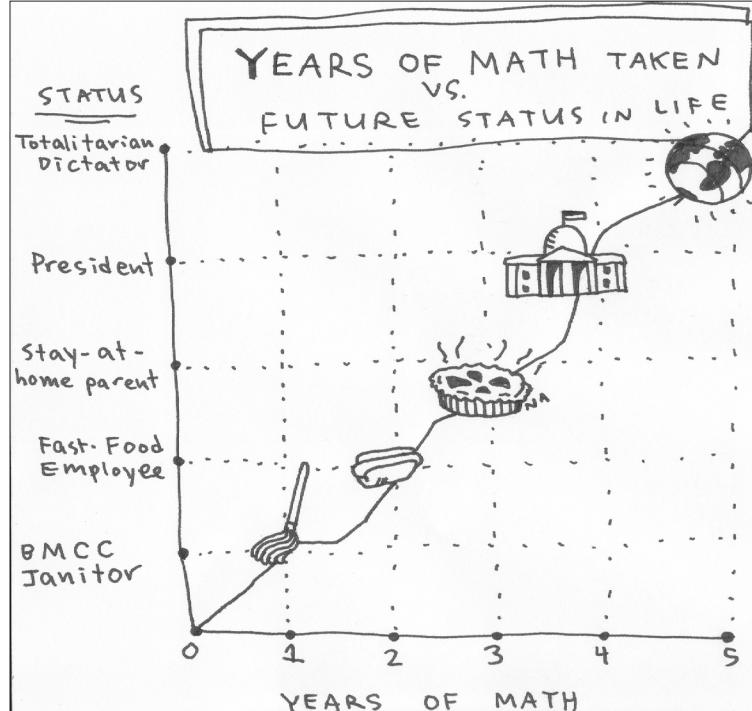
Freshmen taking both pre-calculus and calculus will be forced to take Linear Algebra at New York University (NYU) in their junior year. However, this only satisfies four years. The mathematics department is not sure what students will do for their fifth year.

"They could continue math at NYU. Take an Analysis course," mathematics teacher Gary Rubinstein said. "Or maybe they'll just transcend the human mind."

Recognizing that colleges prefer students who have taken at least four years of math, the administration decided earlier this school year to automatically schedule juniors for a fourth year.

But during a faculty meeting discussing this change,

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Juniors Won't Stop At SING!

By LUC COHEN

After pulling off a close yet remarkable SING! victory over the seniors on Saturday, March 6, the junior class recently announced a shockingly ambitious agenda, including the conquest of the senior bar, control of prom and perhaps even graduation this June. The three goals were outlined on a poster on the senior bulletin board by the third floor escalator, under the heading 'Hi Hataz.'

"I have always recognized our grade's immense talent, intelligence and overall superiority," junior class Vice-President Emily Quint-Hoover said. "Our victory in SING! was only the beginning."

The Senior Bar

The Class of 2011's attempts to gain control over the bar began on Monday, March 8, as part of Junior SING! Victory Day. The offensive began with the strategic plating of Improvised Cereal Devices (ICDs) at locations at and around the popular senior hangout spot. ICDs, which are primarily homemade and difficult to detect, consist of a small amount of dynamite placed within a cereal box, which are either motion-sensitive or detonated remotely by juniors ostensibly using a cell phone. When detonated the devices are not harmful, but merely cause hundreds of pieces of cereal to explode in the face of an unlucky senior.

"The purpose of the ICDs is to let the seniors know that they are no longer safe in what they think is their territory," a masked junior who claimed responsibility for the

Students Shocked By SING! Party Degeneracy

By SAM FURNIVAL and CHESTER DUBOV

When students participating in SING! attended this year's incarnation of the traditionally wholesome post-SING! festivities, they were shocked and horrified to find themselves trapped in a bastion of sin and degeneracy, possibly inspired by the gritty and inadequately censored themes underlying this year's three SING!s. The bacchanal was held on Saturday, March 6 in a dimly lit Chinatown Basement.

Would-be revelers arrived at the celebration between the hours of 12 a.m. and 1 a.m. For the first fifteen minutes of the party, family friendly participatory dances such as Cotton Eyed Joe and The ChaCha Slide dominated the dancefloor. However, once "Rap Music" was played, the evening quickly took a turn for the craven.

"I was chillin, you know, just jammin' to what I thought was [Miley Cyrus's] Party in The USA, when I realized there was an accompanying hip hop vocal track. I couldn't help myself," said junior Michael Zurier, rationalizing his behavior which was described by junior Ben Garner as, "Broin' the [omitted] out," Garner said.

Shortly after the introduction of "Rap Music," partygoers were observed in the act of "Freak Dancing" and "Hooking Down"—

actions described by Garner as "Broin' the [omitted] out." Numerous teens were seen engaging in premarital canoodling and petting in the venue's back room.

Even after the wanton debauchery was ended at 3 a.m., participants were still in shock at the immorality they had witnessed. "That party last night was awfully crazy, I wished we taped it," lamented alumnus Asher Roth ('03).

Senior Sarah Cohen-Smith was presumably appalled at the events that transpired. "All of this inter-grade licentiousness, and on my birthday too!" said Cohen-Smith, with a horror that could have been mistaken for elation.

"I had to fend off succubi left and right," junior Ani Sefaj said. "If not for the [brave efforts] of [junior] Josh [omitted] Poretz, I would have been perverted by their feminine wiles."

However, not all attendees were off-put by the evening's depravity.

"I'm having the time of my life," said chemistry teacher and junior SING! faculty adviser Michael Orlando. "Who wants the piece of the 'Lando?'" He exclaimed, to no one in particular.

A thorough accounting of the debauchery that occurred at the after party is as follows:

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Grossman Declares English "Number One", Math Department Invades Sixth Floor

By GAVIN HUANG

In an ongoing inter-departmental feud, Assistant Principal Mathematics Maryann Ferrara secured the sixth floor for her department last Friday, forcing English classes to be held in the stairwells. This invasion occurred just weeks after Assistant Principal English Eric Grossman made a formal school-wide declaration that English was "number one."

"I inadvertently started a school-wide war when I said that," Grossman said. "I didn't intend to incite anything. I was just expressing my own personal opinions."

Math teacher Richard Geller has accused Grossman of stealing his trademark catchphrase "Math is number one!" However, Grossman denies any copyright infringement.

"There may be some hints of inspiration," Grossman said. "But I didn't 'steal' anything. These are all just words, words, words."

Geller declined to comment, other than adding "Math is number one!" Grossman's statements

sparked a furor in the math department and amongst the department's most dedicated students, leading to action on the department's part.

"This is wrong," senior and math team captain Chen Lee Park said. "If we let X equal English, Y equal math, and Z equal social studies, we'll find that Y is more than Z which is more than X. Y is more than X, which means math is better than English. Therefore, we can conclude that math is number one, not English. Q.E.D."

According to math team students, Ferrara replaced their first period classes with military training sessions, turning the "math team" into a "math army" of highly-trained mathematical assassins. After spending Thursdays testing their skills in textbook weaponry, they employed these skills on the English teachers, who surrendered their respective rooms and fled to the stairwells.

"I was overtaken by the textbooks they were carrying and

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Stuyvesant's Most Wanted

By SADIE BERGEN, HANNAH O'GRADY, and EMMA POLLACK

even using her influence over students to



ture arsonists. "Ms. Pluchino almost set the room on fire today!" said sophomore Kimberly Iboy. "It was awesome!"

Throughout the year, as fires ravaged the school, the Senior class remained curiously unresponsive. However, during the yearly expression of class camaraderie that is SING!, the Seniors could no longer contain their obsession with fire. Not only did their Greek Gods-inspired production take place in the fiery depths of Hell, but the Seniors covered the costumes of their most impressive dance crew, Step, with flames. As if this didn't prove evidence enough, on the Wednesday night performance of SING! the Seniors actually lit the stage afire. Although the flames were quickly put out, the Seniors clearly have a love of fire that can only lead to one conclusion - the Seniors are the arsonists.

Joann Lee, The Spectator



been a coach of the Stuyvesant girls' handball and track teams. It has been suggested that perhaps this popular teacher with a knack for blowtorches is

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News

Practical Botany Students to Gain Hands-On Experience through FarmVille

The biology department announced last week that the spring term course Practical Botany (SPB8), which has not been offered in recent years due to budget cuts, will be re-opened to students during the 2010-2011 school year. However, instead of taking costly field trips to botanical gardens, students will gain first-hand experience with the course material through the Facebook application, FarmVille.

According to biology teacher Dr. Bereta Runcie, who will teach the course, students will go to a computer lab each week to have their farms checked. Additionally, they will be required to submit weekly reports on their observations. Report card grades will be based largely on how many experience points each respective student has by the end of each marking period.

"This new approach is great in so many ways," Assistant Principal of Biology Elizabeth Fong said. "Not only will we save the money that we would normally use for trips for other uses, but students will also be exposed to rare and foreign plant species, such as the Super Pumpkin, the Gumdrop Tree, the Carnival Tree and the Monster Plant."

Students are eager to apply for the course. "I'm already at Level 72 and I have over a million experience points,"

junior Fran Willer said. "I failed all my classes last term because I was playing FarmVille, but now there's a class I know I'll get a 100 in."

Jay Leno Chosen as Graduation Speaker; Conan Upset

Hoping to outdo Conan O'Brien's commencement speech to the Class of 2006, Jay Leno signed a contract last week with senior class president Mohammad Rahman to be the keynote speaker at this year's graduation ceremony.

"I figured, if Conan could do it, why can't I?" Leno said. "I've wanted to be on that stage ever since I saw him up at Lincoln Center four years ago."

In a high-profile squabble last month with NBC, O'Brien lost the network's signature "Tonight Show" to former host Leno. Since then, he has been soul-searching in the Himalayas.

"First he steals my show and now this?" O'Brien said in a telephone interview from his makeshift Nepalese hut. "What's he going to steal from me next? My trademark hair?"

Meanwhile, not to be outdone, David Letterman has signed on to be the graduation speaker at the Bronx High School of Science, while Jimmy Kimmel has agreed to speak at Brooklyn Technical High School.

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News in Brief

Students Kicked Out Due to Budget Cuts

According to recently announced statistics from Chancellor Joel I. Klein, the Department of Education expects to cut several million dollars from individual school budgets in September of the 2010-2011 year. Due to the projected 4,100,000 dollar deficit, Principal Stanley Teitel has decided to remove 200 students—those deemed too unattractive for Stuyvesant—from each grade. Stuyvesant's Parents' Association (PA) is planning to protest the recent suspensions, outside of the Stuyvesant High School's main entrance on Friday, April 9.

"As an elite specialized high school, we cannot sustain these blemishes [students] on our otherwise impeccable reputation," Teitel said.

Despite the PA's disapproval, Teitel's decision has received positive feedback from the student body. "I always had mad ugly chicks in my classes, but now I'm finally going to have classes with hot girls," sophomore Dennis Rim said.

Seconds later Rim received notice of his dismissal.

"I hate ugly people," junior Alexander David said.

Sarah Palin to Run for SU President

In a press conference last Thursday, Sarah Palin finally broke silence about her politi-

cal future since her resignation from the office of Governor of Alaska, announcing her bid to run for President of the Stuyvesant High School Student Union (SU).

"I want to extend my conservative ideals to today's young leaders," Palin said. "We need lower taxes, more accountability and a smaller government."

In response to Palin's statements, SU President Paul Lee said, "That's impossible. You can't make the Student Union any smaller than it already is."

"I believe I am more than qualified to represent the students of this school," Palin said. "Stuyvesant High School will finally get the maverick it deserves."

When asked about her vision of the future for the student body, Palin looked down at the palm of her hand, looked back up and said nothing.

"How does she think she can do a good job?" said junior SU vice president Keiji Drysdale, whom many are speculating will challenge Palin in June. "At least I won a vice presidential position. Besides, there are way more students here than there are people in Alaska."

Other students, however, have expressed more optimism and hope for change.

"Yo, I would so vote for her," senior Henry Lin said. "She is the future of our school. We need more free markets. We need to get the government's hands off our education. Palin is a true Stuyvesant hero."

Mandarin Becomes the Only Foreign Language Course

Even though the dreadful financial crisis seems to have passed, the Department of Education is still having budget cuts left and right.

In order to save money, Stuyvesant's School Leadership Team (SLT) has been forced to make a spate of drastic cutbacks to the Foreign Language department. While in years past students have been able to select from Spanish, French, Japanese and Na'vi, among other languages, after budget projections, the SLT resolved that only one Foreign Language course would be able to remain—Mandarin.

"Mandarin is the most spoken language in the world," one of the SLTs noted. "Approximately 50 percent of the school's population is Chinese, so Mandarin was the obvious choice."

According to the Principal Stanley Teitel, this change will begin within two weeks. Unfortunately, students whose poor foresight led to their taking other foreign languages will be required to switch into Mandarin and begin anew their required three year language sequence.

To accommodate the influx of students, faculty from across the school have been reassigned to teach the language. "I don't think much will change" math teacher Richard Ku said.

Grossman Declares English "Number One", Math Department Invades Sixth Floor

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had to give up Room 615A in the middle of my creative non-fiction class," English teacher Jonathan Weil said. "They carried all they could bear, and then some, including a silent awe for the power of the

than that, we're cooperating with each other on space." The English department has plans to retake the sixth floor, including the use of a giant insect, a Cyclops and a spell from the three witches in Shakespeare's "Macbeth".

However, implementation has proven problematic. In the email—sent by the Big Sib Chairs on Sunday March 14—the days were described as "pretty much an opportunity to go totally [apenuts] and do terrible, terrible things to those ungrateful little [Freshmen] scumbags." The email went on to recommend techniques such as "stuffing them into trash cans, burning their bookbags, or stuffing their heads into toilets."

There have been unsubstantiated reports of Big Sib Chairs seeking out members of the Cricket team in an attempt to secure flat-surfaced bats for the purpose of paddling. The bats, if procured, are expected to be distributed to Homeroom Leaders on the day of the event.

Big Sib Chairs are still undecided on whether or not to give individualized themes to the various days. Some suggestions have been made to this effect, proposing possibilities such as "Purple Nurple Day" or "the Dead-Arm Decathlon."

"I'd like to keep it open ended," junior and Big Sib Chair Sadie Bergen said. "I don't want to put a damper on anyone's creativity. We're here to support each other, after all."

News of the planned events

things they carried." So far, the English department has fared well holding its classes in the stairwells. "We've seen a few problems in the Hudson staircase," Grossman said. "But other

only attack route right now is the four-to-six escalator," Grossman said. "The problem is it never works, so right now, we can't do anything about the situation."

Joann Lee/The Spectator

Big Sibs to Host Freshman Fridays

By CHESTER DUBOV

In a shocking reversal of policy and message, the mentoring organization Big Sibs has announced that it will be starting a series of "Big Sib-Little Sib Freshman Fridays" throughout the Spring 2010 term. The decision was announced via email to all upperclassmen affiliated with the program.

In the email—sent by the Big Sib Chairs on Sunday March 14—the days were described as "pretty much an opportunity to go totally [apenuts] and do terrible, terrible things to those ungrateful little [Freshmen] scumbags." The email went on to recommend techniques such as "stuffing them into trash cans, burning their bookbags, or stuffing their heads into toilets."

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spread rapidly throughout the student body, prompting a wide range of reactions among upperclassmen. Many freshmen interviewed refused to go on record, citing



fears of imminent reprisals.

"I'm gonna get wrecked if I say anything!" freshman Adam Lieber said, before cowering behind a shelf of books in the non-fiction section of the library.

Many upperclassmen heralded the planned events as commendable.

"I think it's going to be a great community building expe-

rience," junior Vladislav Deshovich said. "I think I might actually apply [to be a Big Sib] now."

The administration has responded positively to the proposal as well.

"It really shows courage on the part of Big Sibs to do something like this," Principal Stanley Teitel said. "I wasn't sure about it at first, but I finally realized that the freshmen really are just contemptible."

Despite widespread acclaim for the now institutionalized beatings, one newly appointed Big Sib Chair had reservations.

"It's against my core beliefs to participate in Freshmen Friday—if the hazing continues after sundown I'd be violating the sanctity of the Sabbath," junior and Jew Oren Bukspan said. "The Talmud prohibits bullying on Shabbas."

According to junior and Big Sib Chair Colin O'Connor, the decision to embark on the program was made in order to "show everybody how much more badass we are than ARISTA," he said. "Also, Freshmen suck."

Fellow junior and Big Sib Chair Kathy Lin echoed O'Connor's sentiments.

"They're so ungrateful," Lin said. "They never come to homeroom, so this is what they get. I hope they like their tenth floor lockers, because I am going to trap them in there."



Stuyvesant's Robotic Team Wins at New York City Regionals

By DEVON VARRICHIONE

For the first time in seven years the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) division of Stuyvesant's robotics team, StuyPulse, defeated teams from 64 other high schools, hailing from the New York City area and countries such as England and Brazil, to win the New York City Regional FRC. Their win advances them to the Global Championships to be held in Atlanta, Georgia from April 15 to 17.

The New York City Regional FRC took place from Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 15 at the Jacob K. Javits center in lower Manhattan, and was one of the 43 Regional Competitions hosted by FIRST at locations around the United States, Canada and Israel. FIRST, an acronym for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is a competition that was founded 18 years ago by inventor Dean Kamen, which, in accordance with Kamen's vision "to steal from the playbook of sports...to change the perception of a whole generation of kids," combines the popu-

larity and universality of athletics with robotics to generate enthusiasm for technology.

The 2010 robotics competition required participants to construct and program robots that could compete against one another in a game called Breakaway, which closely resembles soccer. Each team had to build a robot no heavier than 120 pounds that would be able to navigate a 27 foot by 54 foot field, divided into three sections by two protrusions extending across the width of the field, and kick or guide multiple size-five soccer balls into one of two goal spaces. One point was awarded to each team for each goal they scored.

Each participating team had to form an alliance with two other teams from separate schools and operate their respective robots from opposite ends of the field.

At the end of each game, teams could earn up to eight additional bonus points by having their robots latch onto, climb up and hang from the tower designated for their alliance, found in

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The 27 packaged foods that met the 11 criteria include

DOE Lifts Ban on Bake Sales, But Prohibits Selling Homemade Goods

By SHARON CHO and MOHAMMAD HOSSAIN

The Department of Education's (DOE) Panel for Educational Policy decided to repeal the ban on bake sales in all New York City public schools after meeting on Wednesday, February 24, but placed new restrictions on which items may be sold. Under the new regulations, no homemade foods may be sold in schools from the beginning of the school day until 6:00 p.m. Students are only allowed to sell fruits and vegetables, as well as any of 27 packaged foods that have already been approved by the DOE.

According to the New York Times article, "No Brownies At Bake Sales, But Doritos May Be O.K.," published on Tuesday, February 23, in order to "qualify as an approved item, a snack must meet 11 criteria developed by the city," including, for example, being packaged in marked, single-serving bags with a maximum of 200 calories per serving, with less than 35 percent of the calories coming from total sugars or fat.

The 27 packaged foods that met the 11 criteria include

two varieties of Doritos chips, a type of Kellogg's Pop-Tarts, two-cookie packs of Linden's Cookies, blackberry flavored Nutri-Grain Cereal Bars, among others. In order to add a new product to the list of permitted foods, one must submit the product's printed nutritional information to the DOE for approval.

According to Chancellor's Regulation A-812, the previous regulation that had originally banned all bake sales "has been updated to provide additional flexibility for fundraising while conforming to the [DOE's] Wellness Policy and initiatives to improve the quality and nutritional value of foods and beverages that are available for children."

The reason that home-baked goods cannot be sold in these now-permitted school sales, however, is that "it's impossible to know what the content is, or what the portion size is," said Kathleen Grimm—the Deputy Chancellor for Infrastructure and Portfolio Planning, who oversees the regulation—in the New York Times article "No Brownies At Bake Sales, But Doritos May Be O.K."

According to the regulation,

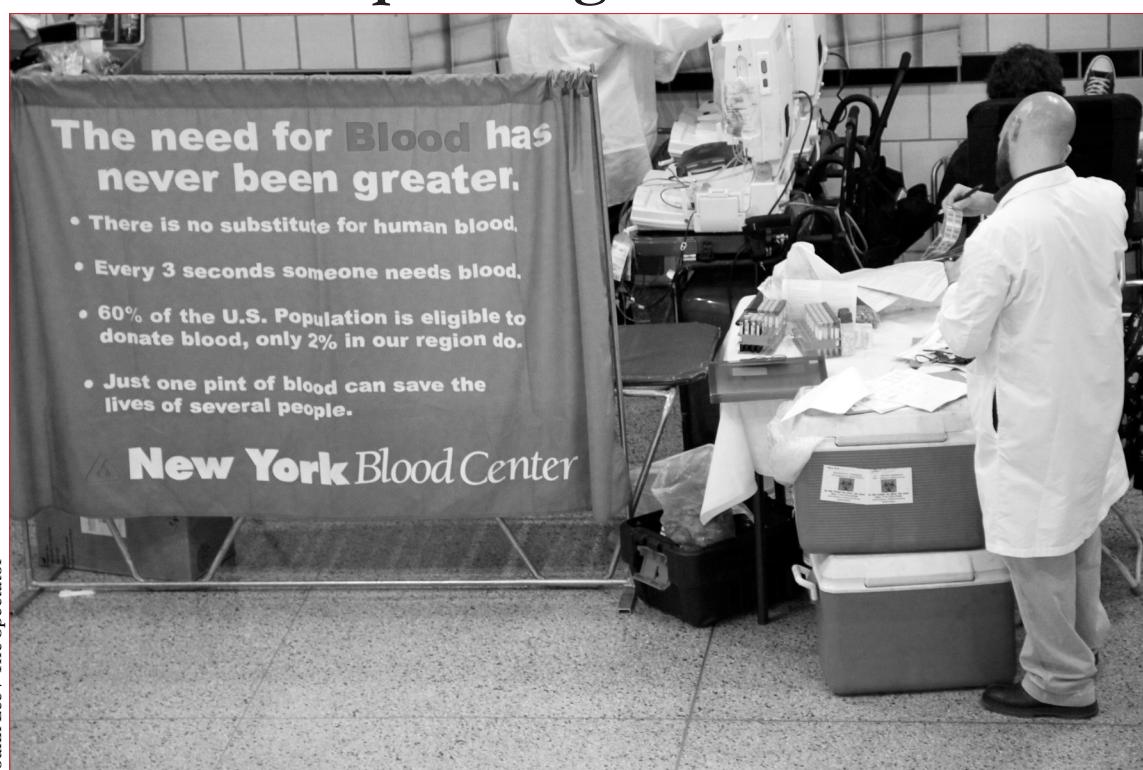
the only time during which unapproved foods may be sold is at a bake sale hosted by a Parents' Association or Parent-Teacher Association once a month, provided that sales are conducted outside of the cafeteria.

According to Principal Stanley Teitel, the Student Union (SU) would be in charge of the sales of approved food items. The SU would have to order snacks and distribute them to clubs for sale. However, the SU has not made any definite decision on sales yet because it is taking into consideration time constraints and the feasibility of its options. "Considering there [are] three months of school left and it takes two weeks of organization and three weeks to deliver, we'll have to weigh that and see if it's worth it to start these snack sales this term or next year," senior and SU president Paul Lee said.

Teitel doubts the benefits of the new regulations. "I don't think this is going to help close the gap in funding for student extracurriculars," he said. "In the past we ran bake sales twice

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Blood Drive Does Not Break Records Despite High Turnout



A banner promoting the blood drive held at Stuyvesant on Tuesday, March 23.

By MAYA AVERBUCH and CHESTER DUBOV

Stuyvesant High School held its second blood drive of the year on Tuesday, March 23, in the first floor atrium. Students 16 years and older were asked to participate in the drive, which ran from 4th period to 4:45 p.m. Students who were 16 years old

needed a parental consent form in order to donate, while those who were 17 and older did not. Donated blood was collected by the New York City Blood Center (NYCB).

In contrast to previous years, the drive ran smoothly and efficiently, due in part to the increased NYCB staff presence.

"We had three times the

number of staff we've ever had at a blood drive before," senior and Blood Drive Coordinator Lily Ostrer said. "The wait time was a lot less, and students didn't have to miss as much class."

"I literally waited for thirty

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Opinions

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A New Deal for Health Care

Sticking up for the undedogs, the Senate's newly passed healthcare bill and its effects on students.

Article on page 15.

Arts & Entertainment

An OK for K-Pop

The K-Pop music genre is delightful, not only for its catchy tunes, but for its addicting qualities.

News

DOE Lifts Ban on Bake Sales, But Prohibits Selling Homemade Goods

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a week, and this new policy only allows for one once a month." When asked about the nutritional value of the approved foods, Teitel said, "It's a matter of the individual. Somebody telling me what to eat isn't going to change my habit."

Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm also addressed the financial needs of student organizations in his reaction to the policy. "I applaud the rationale behind it. And especially in a period of significant budget cuts, student organizations are probably getting less support, so it's doubly difficult [for them]," he said. "It seems kind of silly to me that a home-baked cupcake is bad but Doritos is okay."

Like Blumm, other people are not pleased with the new decision. Elizabeth Puccini, mother of students at the Children Workshop School in the East Village, is sponsoring an online petition against the policy change, which has collected nearly 850 signatures in five days.

The Facebook group "Petition Against the A-812 Regulation of the Chancellor" has helped spread awareness about the petition. Bronx High School of Science junior and administrator of the Facebook group Matthew Melore said, "The only option for making money at schools with the vending machines is to have bake sales with homemade foods. [...With packaged snacks] the clubs have to sell the snacks at a higher rate to make a profit while still trying to maintain a lower price than the vending machines that have all the packaged foods."

A group of parents organized a rally that took place at City Hall on Thursday, March 18, to protest the new regulations. Hold-

ing signs that read "Joel Klein get out of the pantry" and chanting, "DOE, read our lips, no more chips," the sizable group of over 100 parents and children protested the policy change. Two tables with the new approved foods for sale and banned home made foods were on display. The rally was organized through www.nycgreenschools.com and Facebook. "Parents know what is healthy and these foods are not," said Helen Greenberg, a parent organizer. "The loss of bake sales is hurting everything from extracurricular [activities] to supplies for art rooms and the parents have taken it up on themselves to show that we need the [homemade goods] back."

The robotics team held the first bake sale at Stuyvesant, under the new regulations, on Wednesday, March 17. The team is raising money for the costs of going to the national FIRST robotics competition in Atlanta, Georgia in April. The bake sale took place from period 7 until after school. "The bake sale was a huge success in itself," said Spencer Birnbaum, a member of the robotics team. "We made over 600 dollars from the bake sale, but this is only a drop in the bucket when it comes to closing the ten percent budget gap we lost from the ban of food sales."

Smaller clubs are waiting it out until next year to consider bake sales. "It's great that we can finally sell something to raise money, but it's late in the year to start sales," Pokemon Fan Club President William Tsui said. "A lot of clubs are going to become inactive in spring."

Students have mixed reactions to the new regulations. "The new policy seems more like its playing out to the interests of

"I don't think that selling baked goods and candy presents a problem. And especially in a period of significant budget cuts, student organizations are probably getting less support so it's doubly difficult [for them]."
—Harvey Blumm,
Parent Coordinator

these companies that are trying to sell their products in school," junior Jimmy Cheung said.

Others think a compromise is still better than nothing. "Clubs can finally have a way to raise money, and this entire year has been really hard for the clubs to do as much as we used to," junior Fanny Mei said.

Blood Drive Does Not Break Records Despite High Turnout

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seconds," senior Alberto Arias said.

The event was well attended, with approximately 230 students seeking to donate. However, stringent height and weight requirements put forth by the Food and Drug Administration disqualified many potential female donors. According to Ostrer, many of these disqualifications were unjustified because they occurred based solely on the nurses' discretion without students being measured or weighed.

"The blood center refused to believe or acknowledge that certain [presumably qualified] girls met the height and weight requirements," senior and Blood Drive Coordinator Sahil Goswami said.

As a result, 167 total pints of blood were collected from 151 donors. This did not break the record achieved in the spring blood drive of 2009, when a total of 205 pints was collected.

"I don't think the turnout for this drive was any less than in the past, but many, many more students were turned away than had been in the past. I think that contributed partly to our lower numbers," Ostrer said.

As in previous drives, there

"We had three times the number of staff we've ever had at a blood drive before. The wait time was a lot less, and students didn't have to miss as much class."
—Lily Ostrer,
senior and
Blood Drive
Coordinator

"In the end, the biggest problem as always was the staff," senior and Blood Drive

Coordinator Taha Ahsin said. "Basically the staff was really nasty and uncomfortable, and just in terms of how they were regulating everything, there was more intervention—far more than what was necessary. They were really strict in how they wanted to enforce the FDA regulations."

"Out of every blood drive in the past we've come out with a lot of frustrations towards the New York Blood Center," Ostrer said. "I don't know if this was necessarily the tipping point, but it definitely is just building on this mountain of frustration we have towards them."

Despite these frustrations, students were happy that they were able to donate. "I'm really glad I did it," senior John Connuck said. "It was the right thing to do."

Goswami said the coordinators hope to organize a third blood drive later this year, when there will be more eligible donors. "We're going to judge the successes of this drive and see whether we want to have another one in May [...] because a lot more juniors will turn 17, so they won't need any parental consent, [and] a lot more seniors will turn eighteen, so the height and weight requirements won't apply [for them]," Goswami said.

New Practices Implemented in Foreign Language Classes

By ALEX WANG

As part of a new teaching strategy, the World Languages Department has implemented new practices this semester to teach language students at all levels not only to listen, speak, read and write in a foreign language, but also to use these skills simultaneously, as would be done in the real world.

The activities, which include formal presentations, simulated conversations, formal writing and informal writing, have been used in Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Language classes to prepare for the free-response sections of the AP exam. However, teachers were concerned that students entering the AP Spanish Language class were not all properly prepared for the difficulty of these activities. As a result, the department has expanded usage of these activities to pre-AP courses, as well.

In formal presentations, students make two-minute speeches comparing and contrasting authentic aural and written articles, thus integrating speaking, listening and reading. Cassette recorders are used to record the speeches, enabling the entire class to present their speeches at once instead of each student presenting individually in front of the entire class. Teachers then grade the recorded speeches at home.

"If you want to speak a language, you must be able to communicate and if you cannot find the words to communicate, then there is no language."
—Vito Recchia,
Italian teacher

"It gives you a situation that is similar to what you might find in the real world," Spanish teacher Robert Weldon said. "It's an efficient way to get everyone to participate and practice."

In simulated conversations, students are required to record their responses to the one-sided conversation being played on a CD player.

"If you want to speak a language, you must be able to communicate and if you cannot find the words to communicate, then there is no language," Italian teacher Vito Recchia said.

Formal writing activities, which are meant to contribute to the Writing Across the Curriculum policy, are conducted in the same format as formal presentations, but students write essays based on the given articles instead of presenting formal speeches. For informal writing activities, students write mock e-mail or letters that respond to a given prompt.

"The bottom line is, to better prepare the student for the future, we are introducing pre-AP skills as of [the first year] and on," As-

sistant Principal World Languages Arlene Ubieto said.

The introduction of the activities is part of the department's new teaching strategy that was adopted two years ago in response to changes made to the AP Spanish Language course and the creation of new AP language courses by the College Board.

The new teaching strategy follows the College Board's Vertical Teams approach to teaching, which helps build aspects of learning a second language, such as basic writing skills and cultural studies, "vertically" in each subsequent year. This is in contrast to being taught "horizontally," where a skill or verb tense is learned in one year and not returned to in subsequent years.

The use of the new skill-developing activities is the most recent development in the department's mission to follow the Vertical Teams approach to teaching. Other changes include the process of purchasing new textbooks for each language except Japanese and correspondingly writing curricula to fit the textbooks. Grading rubrics were also previously created to ensure consistency within grading.

Foreign language teachers generally agreed that the "vertical" style of teaching, the new textbooks and the new activities were all strong improvements for preparing for the AP courses, as well as using the language in the real world.

"All the teachers are doing the same types of exercises. We're all pretty much on the same topic at the same time, which is good for us teachers because we can sort of share what works and what doesn't work and we can help each other out in the moment," Weldon said.

Spanish teacher Milton Diaz believes that the new activities are beneficial, but said time and practice was needed for "ironing out" small problems such as setting up the CD player or tape recorders.

German and Spanish teacher Gabriele Dehn-Knight was glad a new set of textbooks was purchased for her German classes. "For German, definitely it has been a true improvement. The old textbook was completely outdated," she said. "It was ridiculous. We really needed those new textbooks."

Students agreed with the teachers about the beneficial changes to the approaches of the World Languages Department, but were inconvenienced by the need to purchase cassette tapes.

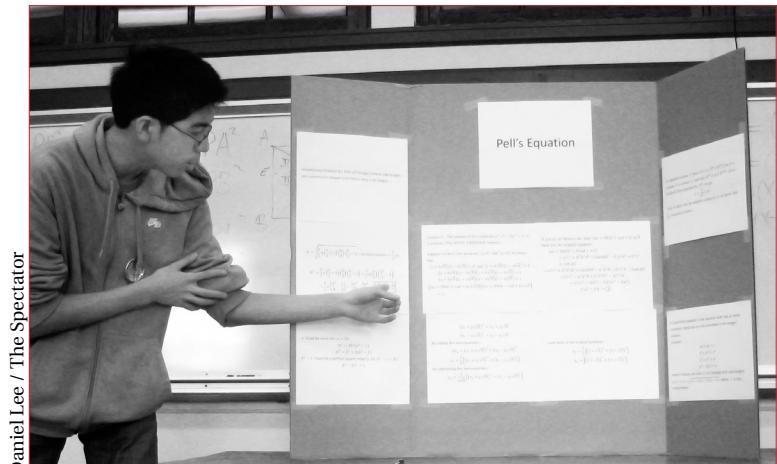
"It'll definitely be beneficial practice, since it's time-efficient," freshman Samuel Lijin said.

"It will positively affect the class because some students have trouble with pronunciation. If it is graded, it really depends on how much effort the student will put into getting better at speaking. It's not really something you can open up a book and memorize," sophomore Mostafa Elmabdoly said. "But I think the fact that we're using archaic technology [the cassette tapes], that didn't really seem thought out."

Some saw it as having the potential to negatively affect students.

"I understand the purpose of it being used to challenge students academically, but it can also serve as an obstacle for those less adept in the Spanish language," senior Jeffrey Shi said.

Students Advance to Second Round of Math Fair



One Stuyvesant student of many displays their project at the recent New York City Math Fair.

**By POOJA DESAI and YANA AZOVA
with additional reporting by BRIAN KIM**

Of the 140 Stuyvesant students who participated in the preliminary round of this year's New York City Math Fair, hosted by Brooklyn Technical High School, 31 students advanced to the second round. Students entered the competition by submitting research papers, based on various mathematical topics, to a panel of judges. The second round of the competition, which was held on Sunday, March 21 at the Polytechnic Institute of New York University in Brooklyn resulted in the acceptance of 17 Stuyvesant students to the third and final round.

In order to enter the competition, students had to submit a research paper on a mathematical topic of their choosing. Each paper was read by two judges who then decided who would move onto the next round. Students selected for the next round were asked to prepare oral presentations of their papers to be given to a panel of judges, as well as to other students involved in that round of the competition. Students were advised to use a poster board, which was provided by the Mathematics Department, to present their topics. After presenting, students answered questions asked by the judges. Participants were also given a chalkboard on which they could write or draw to further explain their topic, and they were allowed to bring additional

it in a way that will keep them interested," participating sophomore Victoria Gong said.

Students in both the Math Research and Honors Sophomore Math (MR21H) classes, taught by Oana Pascu and Sebastian Stonescu, participated in the competition, in addition to several upperclassmen who submitted papers independently. The majority of participating students came from the Honors Sophomore Math class. "It's a department requirement for students to write math fair papers in the fall," Pascu said.

Other students used their final research paper from the Math Research (MM1R) class for the competition. For their papers, "students researched historical topics in math or invented their own problems to solve" math teacher and coordinator of the math fair Gary Rubinstein said.

"For my paper I researched Math Points which is basically a problem-solving technique that reduces the time and effort needed to solve problems related to triangles and cevians," Gong said. "Beforehand, I had basic knowledge of the topic, but researching the topic has given me a lot more information, and I actually know how to use them [Math Points] now."

The competition has four levels of entry: level one for freshmen, level two for sophomores, level three for juniors and level four for seniors. However, entrants are not limited to entering the level corresponding to their grade. Depending on the complexity of his/her project, a participant is allowed to enter at a higher level. According to junior, former gold medalist and level four entrant Jane Colter, "It's all about how well you know your material, how interested you are in it and how you present it," she said.

This year Cotler submitted a paper on linear Diophantine equations, which she described as "indeterminate polynomial equations with integral solutions," she said.

All those who make it to the third and final round are guaranteed a medal.

According to Assistant Principal Mathematics Maryanne Ferrara, writing a paper and submitting it to the NYC Math Fair is, "the culmination of our research class. What's also nice is that it is open to freshmen" she said.

"Even though the next round will be more competitive, I feel confident that if I work hard enough I will do well," Cotler said.

notes to further aid them in their presentation.

"Your goal is to educate your audience on how your topic works and what you can do with it in a way that will keep them interested,"

—Victoria Gong, sophomore

Stuyvesant's Robotic Team Wins at New York City Regionals

continued from page 3

the middle of the field.

For the final round of the NYC Regional Competition, Stuyvesant was aligned with Team 341 from Wissahickon High School in Ambler, Pennsylvania and Team 2265, The Fe Maidens, from the Bronx High School of Science. All three teams will advance to the Global Championship.

Teams only had six weeks, beginning in early January, to prepare for the FIRST competition, but StuyPulse members were convinced their win was worth their many hours of practice.

"After the hundreds of hours put in by our dedicated members to design, build and test the robot, winning the New York City Regional was an incredible reward," junior and Director of Fundraising Spencer Birnbaum said.

"This victory was the product of the blood, sweat and tears of our team, not only during the six week build season, but throughout the year."

Junior and former Director of Programming Ariel Eisenstadt agreed. "Winning invoked a feeling of absolute euphoria. I can safely say that it is one of the happiest moments in my life," Eisenstadt said.

Consisting of more than 100 members, the Stuyvesant robotics team is divided into five departments: engineering, marketing, programming, FTC and animation, with each department accountable for an integral part of the building process. The marketing department has the responsibility of conveying the team's activities to the rest of the world, and accomplishes

this through demonstrations at events such as the Tribeca Film Festival and Stuyvesant's end of the year Parents' Association meeting. While the much larger FRC division, which includes the engineering and marketing department, builds and competes with robots that can weigh over 100 pounds, Stuyvesant's FTC division deals solely with smaller robots. Stuyvesant's two FTC teams participated in a smaller competition at the New York City Regional, with one of the teams, StuyFission, receiving the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award, in recognition of the creativity they displayed in designing and building their robot.

In addition to the main award, senior and President of Engineering Seth Berg was one of two people at the competition who received the Dean's List Award for outstanding commitment to bettering the technological appreciation and literacy of both the team and the community. Outside of the six-week build session, many members of the Robotics team—Berg included—spend time mentoring students from other teams and working with after school programs around New York, as well as holding robotics demonstrations with the intention of increasing interest in technology.

"I could not be more proud of the team," Berg said. "This is my fourth year on the team, and at competition after competition something goes wrong that stops us from going all the way, but everything just meshed last weekend, and everyone did exactly what they needed to ensure the win."

When asked in an email interview how she feels the team will perform in Atlanta, senior and Director of Marketing Betsy Soukup said, "The team as a whole expects to do well at the Championship. However, our team lacks many of the resources of the better FRC teams from around the country, which have access to full practice fields and more modern lab equipment."

Although Berg, Soukup and Director of Programming Emily Matteson will graduate this year, the team hopes to continue its success next year.

"All of the leaders of Engineering, Programming, and Marketing have been working throughout the year training younger members to take over for us after we graduate," Soukup said. "Many of them have taken on leadership roles during the competition."

Ceramics and Technical Drawing teacher James Lonardo—one of the team's two faculty advisors along with Rafael Colón—who teaches Robotics (TNPPRT5) and Robotics Engineering (TNPPRTA), said, "There is a smaller number of seniors on the team this year than in the past, which certainly helps us moving forward."

The team will retain many of its experienced members next year, such as Birnbaum and junior and Director of Strategy Samantha Unger.

"I am very proud and feel confident that I will be leaving the team in good hands next year," Berg said. "FIRST robotics is really the epitome of team sports, and everyone really worked together perfectly."

Barnes and Noble Book Fair Held for Stuyvesant Parents' Association

By TEO GELLES

The Barnes and Noble bookstore located at 97 Warren Street in Tribeca will be holding its third annual book fair to support the Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association (PA) from Thursday, April 22 to Sunday, April 25.

Any Stuyvesant student or faculty member can partake in the book fair by presenting an official voucher, which they will be able to download from the Stuyvesant Web site, or by mentioning Stuyvesant High School to the cashier when making in-store purchases. They can also contribute by entering the event ID number, 10165744, at the Barnes and Noble Web site when making online purchases.

Ten percent of the proceeds made from the purchase of books, CDs, DVDs or gifts will be donated to the PA. Purchases of gift cards, Barnes and Noble memberships, textbooks, video games, digital devices and magazine subscriptions will not count towards the book fair proceeds.

Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm first contacted Barnes and Noble to hold the fundraiser three years ago because Barnes and Noble "had a reputation for holding fundraiser events for schools. As the young scholars at Stuyvesant use books often, we thought a book fair would both promote student reading and generate some money for Stuyvesant," Blumm said.

Sophomore Eli Rosenberg agreed that the book fair is a great fundraising opportunity.

"Stuyvesant could really use the money, and I think a lot of kids will end up going," he said.

"This book fair is a fantastic idea. I'd like to meet the person who came up with it and shake their hand."

**—Robert Weldon,
Spanish Teacher**

According to the Barnes and Noble Web site, bookstores across the nation hold book fairs year-round in coordination with pre K-12 schools and non-profit arts and literacy organizations to encourage literacy and raise money to support the schools and organizations.

"It's nice that they're [Barnes and Noble] willing to help out the community and willing to donate some of their proceeds to us," senior Michael Block said.

PA community organizer Larry Woods said that past book fairs have managed to raise between 500 and 1,200 dollars, in previous years. Most of the money has

been used to fund student, faculty, administration and school activities and programs that are not currently financed by the Department of Education. According to Woods, past book fairs have "never been a big money marker for the PA, but every little bit can help, especially if it's purchases that people intended to make anyway, and they can support the school at the same time," he said.

Stuyvesant parent Silvia Hakanoglu, this year's book fair organizer, is doubtful the book fair will raise a large amount of money, but feels that "in this tight fiscal period every amount counts," she said. "We are very grateful to Barnes and Noble for helping the PA through this."

Sophomore Robert Bennett expressed similar doubts about the success of the book fair. "This sounds like a great way to make money for Stuyvesant, but I'm just not sure that the PA can motivate enough kids [to attend]," Bennett said.

However, the PA is currently organizing special events to make the book fair have greater public appeal, such as having a presentation by Stuyvesant's robotics team.

Despite the fact that the PA has not yet started advertising the event, many people are already very enthusiastic about it. Spanish Teacher Robert Weldon, who plans to attend the book fair, believes that "this book fair is a fantastic idea," he said. "I'd like to meet the person who came up with it and shake their hand."

News

Speech & Debate Team Members Qualify for National Championships

continued from page 3

rize and perform a ten-minute long speech written by someone else, and they are judged solely on presentation. In this category, sophomore Suprita Datta won second place, and Mani came in fourth place.

For Oral Interpretation, students choose a 10-minute selection of poetry and prose to interpret and perform expressively. Senior Singha Hon was the champion, while junior Omika Jikaria came in second place.

In Dramatic Performance, competitors memorize a 10-minute interpretation of a play, television show, book or movie to perform, and act as all the characters. In the CFL tournament, the category is divided into two subcategories: Humorous Interpretation, in which participants perform comical pieces, and Dramatic Interpretation, in which participants perform more serious works. Seniors Valeriya Tsitron, Chelsea Grant and Santi Slade placed second, fifth and seventh respectively. Slade was chosen as an alternate and will compete if any of the other members cannot.

The category of Duo Interpretation is similar to Dramatic Performance, but rather than performing individually, competitors perform in pairs. The partners are not allowed to face or come into contact with each other while performing. All of Stuyvesant's qualifiers were juniors; Temkin and Jaimie Meyers were the champions, while Jin Rim and Abbie Kouzmanoff placed sixth. Miryam Coppersmith and Sadie Bergen came in seventh and were selected as alternates.

For Original Oratory, competitors write their own 10-minute speech, memorize it and perform it throughout the year. They are judged on both content and performance, and the upperclassmen who compete in this category tend to use a combination of personal experiences and societal problems as topics in their speeches. Senior Kashyap Rajagopal was the champion and junior Simon Ayzman placed fifth. Furthermore, senior Arun Abram-Singh came in seventh place and will be an alternate.

In Extemporaneous Speaking, competitors build up folders of documents on current events to use as evidence at tournaments. There, they choose one of three questions presented to them at each round and compose a seven-minute long speech to deliver in response. Littlefield placed third in this category.

In Student Congress, competitors model the United States Congress by writing and debating legislation on domestic and foreign policy issues. Qualifications went to junior Edwin Yung as well as senior and vice president of the Speech and Debate team Joseph Puma.

Performances in Policy Debate, which are done in pairs, are fast-paced and research-intensive. Competitors debate one resolution for the entire year, but their arguments are expansive. Junior Daniel Frankel and seniors Anna Gordan, Sahil Goswami and Sandesh Kataria received qualifications.

While Public Forum is also a category in which performances are done in pairs, performances emphasize current events and

resolutions change every few months. Junior Lalita Maraj and sophomores Liam Downs-Teppler, Jong Lee and Sam Saskin qualified.

The NFL tournament has different requirements for qualification. The number of points that the Stuyvesant team gains in the league's tournaments determines how many students may enter the national qualifying tournament.

This year, the Speech District Tournament was held at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York on Saturday, February 27.

"This is the most the team has qualified ever."
—Claire Littlefield, senior and Speech and Debate team captain

In Duo Interpretation, Temkin and Meyers were the champions while Jikaria and Tsitron placed third. For Extemporaneous Speaking, Littlefield came in second place.

In the NFL Speech District Tournament, Humorous Interpretation and Dramatic Interpretation are separate categories. Junior Jin Rim won second place in Humorous Interpretation. Tsitron and Meyers placed third and fourth respectively in this category, but will only be competing in the Duo Interpretation category during the national championships.

The NFL Debate District Tournament was held at Bronx Science High School on Friday, February 19.

Gordan and Kataria were the champions for Policy Debate. In addition, junior Lea Beltramo came in fourth and is an alternate competitor for the Lincoln-Douglas debate. This one-on-one debate focuses on the role of government in an ideal world, emphasizing logic and philosophy.

The qualifiers have great expectations for both national tournaments.

"For the last two years we've won a sweepstakes team award at both Nationals," Director of Forensics Julie Sheinman said. "There are so many factors, but I anticipate [we] will do well [again this year]."

"It's gratifying to end a year of hard work and research with this successful tournament, and I'm really looking forward to going to Nationals," Frankel said. "Going to Omaha is definitely going to be an out-of-body experience."

"Everyone on the team is incredible and so talented," Mani said. "I think we are going to have such an awesome time and hopefully all do great while we are at it, too. We all have been working really hard to get to where we are."

Seniors Get Lectured During Respect For All Week

By KATIE LEMBRIKOVA

Two speakers from the non-profit organization "Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation" lectured several 6th and 7th period senior social studies classes about respect, as part of the New York City Public Schools' Respect for All Week. The lectures took place in Lecture Hall B of the Murray Kahn Theater on Friday, March 12.

Respect for All Week, an initiative from Chancellor Joel I. Klein, was held from Monday, March 8 to Friday, March 12 in an attempt to establish safe and respectful learning environments in the New York City public schools. During the week, students were encouraged to take workshops about different types of diversity, such as racial, socioeconomic and gender diversity, which they might encounter in their daily lives or future careers. Posters announcing the week were placed in hallways throughout the Stuyvesant building.

The two speakers were Court Tour Representative Jo-Ann Carey and Judge Danny K. Chun ('80) of the New York State Supreme Court. Carey is part of

a program called the NYC Access to Justice Program, which teaches students about the court system and gives tours of courthouses. Chun specializes in juvenile delinquency cases, and his lecture was centered on the topic of discrimination in the court system.

Both speakers used personal experiences to reach the students. Chun mentioned that racism in the court system is highly prevalent, citing an anecdote in which he had been mistaken for a Chinese translator in his own courtroom. "Once people become more knowledgeable, respect will come along," Chun said.

According to Chun and Carey, the rate of hate crimes in New York City is increasing, but crime in general has decreased over the past several years.

Chun believes that there is more to Respect for All Week than just dealing with diversity and racism. "We are trying to emphasize to the students how respect for oneself leads to respect for others," he said.

The organization plans to return to Stuyvesant in order to give further speeches and spread awareness about respect next year. However, this orga-

nization is always working with social studies teacher Warren Donin and Assistant Principal Pupil Services Eleanor Archie in order to help them conduct various tasks around Stuyvesant.

Overall, the speakers wanted the students to know that accepting people of different races is necessary to create a respectful society.

"Be proud of where you came from and be proud of who you are today," Carey said.

The lectures left a positive impression on the students. Attendees appeared to be engaged by Chun and Carey, but were skeptical about the importance of Respect For All Week. "Stuyvesant is one of the safer schools so we don't need [lectures] to tell us that we need to respect each other's differences, since many of us already do. However, it was very inspiring to see two people from different backgrounds reach great heights in the court system," senior Adeline Zelyony said.

According to Carey, the week had been instituted in order to remind us to be respectful, but it does not mean that this week is the only time one should be respectful towards others.

Advanced Topics Global Studies to be Offered for Incoming Freshmen

By ANIKA RASTGIR

The incoming Stuyvesant class of 2014 had the option to sign up for Advanced Topics in Global Studies—a new full-year course that would take the place of Global History (H1G) during their freshman year. Previously, all incoming freshmen were automatically programmed for Global History.

"I like classes with people who want to be there. They like the topic and make class interesting."
—Jane Cotler, junior

which will depend on the number of students who request the course, has not been finalized yet. "I would like to have at least three [sections]," Assistant Principal Social Studies Jennifer Suri said. If too many students select the course, the Specialized High School Admissions test scores will be used to select the students.

According to Suri, Advanced Topics Global Studies will be ideal for students "who feel that they are strong in humanities and want to delve deeper into [global history]," she said.

Although the freshmen in the class will learn the analytical skills required for AP, they will not be automatically placed in an Advanced Placement class.

This is not the first year that there has been a full year course with a strong humanities focus. Freshmen were able to take a full year Social Studies Humanities course (H1HG) in conjunction with Freshman Humanities (EH1), which was an English course. The courses used various forms of literature that focused on certain cultural periods. However, they were discontinued due to the start of Freshmen Composition (E1FC), which had the benefit of having a smaller class size.

Students were concerned that incoming freshmen might be hesitant to apply for the course. "Freshmen who decide to take the class would not know what they are getting into. Someone who likes history may be horrible in this class," senior Tasso Bountouvas said. "Until you see what it is like at Stuy, this course is not the best idea."

Several incoming freshmen expressed similar views.

"I did not know much about the class and did not know if I would like it," incoming freshman Otylia Tara said.

"I did not want to take a class that I could not handle," incoming freshman Farhan Hasan said.

Current Stuyvesant students, however, wished that they were offered the class when they were freshmen.

Sophomore Cecilia Kim, who is currently taking AP European History, would have taken the course had it been offered when she was a freshman. "AP Euro brings people with a shared history interest together. I would have loved to meet them earlier," she said. "Not all students are math and science oriented [...] This is a great opportunity

"Freshmen that decide to take the class would not know what they are getting into [...] Until you see what it is like at Stuy, this course is not the best idea."

—Tasso Bountouvas, senior

for students who are interested in history."

Junior Jane Cotler also would have taken the course for the same reason. "I like classes with people who want to be there. They like the topic and make class interesting," she said.

Features

Alison Roberts: Of Piano and Song

By TEN-YOUNG GUH

It is just a minute before eighth period begins. In room 125, members of the Stuyvesant Chamber Choir chat while waiting for senior Alison Roberts, their pianist, to begin the warm-up.

"First, you go up in triads chromatically from C major to A flat," Roberts said, explaining her routine. "And then, you go up and down the scale in fifths, 'Dana-na-na-na-na-na-na-na,' from C major to E flat major above the octave." Thus starts a day of chorus rehearsal.

After chorus, many students will be done with music for the day, but for Roberts, who is also the co-president of Stuyvesant A Cappella and was one of the choral directors of this year's Senior SING!, it will be neither the first nor the last time she sits down at the piano or lifts her voice in song.

Roberts began playing the piano when she was five years old. "Actually," Roberts said, "my parents really didn't know much about music, so when I started out, [...] they were like, 'Oh, piano is probably something, like, our kid should do and just learn it,' you know?"

Robert's first music instructor was not a teacher, but rather a "music editor," Roberts said, involved in putting together "computerized sounds [...] in pop music and stuff," she said. He occasionally played piano and wrote his own music. By age ten, Roberts left him to attend Mannes College of Music.

Today, Roberts goes to Mannes every Saturday, where she not only takes lessons in piano, but also advanced keyboard harmonies, conducting, ear training and music theory.

Roberts likes a wide variety of music, in part a result of her father exposing her to different kinds of music at a young age. "When I was younger, my dad had this vast collection of music from everywhere," she said. "So, I was listening to a lot of that, you know, like, Norwegian pop, [...] Brazilian tribal stuff, it's crazy."

Roberts attributes her inspirations to a plethora of sources, including American rock band, The Beach Boys, composers Frédéric Chopin, Sergei Rachmaninoff, George Frideric Handel and even her music teacher and choral director Holly Hall herself, according to Roberts.

When Roberts first auditioned for chorus, she intended to sing. However, Hall decided to make Roberts a pianist, as she knew Roberts had been playing harpsichord for orchestra director Joseph Tamosaitis.

Roberts not only plays the accompaniment for the chorus, but also sometimes leads the chorus when Hall is not present. With the A Cappella Club, Roberts takes this leadership role a step further.

Before she eventually became one of A Cappella's leaders (along with club president and senior Esteban Pomboza), Roberts "was sort of dragged into [A Cappella] as a pianist so [I] could teach people music," she said. "And then, I sort of gradually got more

and more involved in it."

As Vice President of A Cappella, Roberts leads practices, writes music, arranges music and talks to people about whether or not they want an A Cappella group performance at their event. Roberts has arranged A Cappella performances for the school administration, the Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital and, by proxy, the Tribeca Film Festival.

Roberts is regarded by her fellow members from A Cappella as an effective teacher, valued for not only her leadership skills but for her passion as well. When sophomore Esmé Cribb first attended an A Cappella interest meeting, she was greeted by Roberts's enthusiasm from the start.

"She was like, 'Oh, you should all join A Cappella, because we're great,'" Cribb said. "And then, they sang songs for us for half an hour. But you could see that she was really enthusiastic about what she did, and she put everything into it."

"She has genuine passion for teaching others and for producing successful performances," senior Thomas Ng and A Cappella member said. "Even though she's not a bass, she seems to manage to get me to learn the bass part, which is rather impressive."

Roberts is known to be stern when necessary. Junior Billy Yang, also a member of the choir, described her as a perfectionist who "doesn't settle for half-right," he said.

"She's kind of like a motherly figure," Yang said. "She cares, like, not merely how we do in performances, but, also, just how we



Alison Roberts, pianist for both choruses, performs a piece.

Tong Wan / The Spectator

are, how we're doing, our state of well-being, mental, physical, [...] you know, all of that stuff."

Cribb described Roberts's personality as "effervescent" and "bubbly." She recalled a time when Roberts tried to make the whole club of singers into dancers. "[It] was a great way of relieving tension," Cribb said, "and also made us all realize we couldn't dance."

Roberts hangs around with many choral directors, who she looks up to for leading a chorus. "I learn from them, I watch them, I see what they do," she said. "And, things like that, that's how I learn about [leading a chorus]. I want to be an effective leader."

Despite her work in choral groups, Roberts isn't necessarily planning to pursue choral directing as a career. She might go in

a completely different direction. "Maybe something that has to do with art," she said, such as being an illustrator, animator, or graphic designer.

Of all her musical accomplishments, Roberts considers A Cappella to be her greatest. "Singing together with people is something I love to do," she said. "I want them to have a good time, and I want us to learn something. I want us to have fun learning what we do."

What Roberts enjoys most about her choral work is the people. "[I'm proud] that I can make friends with so many people, like so many wonderful people," Roberts said. "[I'm] just doing what I love with people who also are doing what they love. You know, it's a lot of corny stuff, but I really believe in it."

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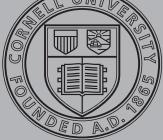
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Features

Introducing the 2010-2011 Big Sib Chairs



Dennis Rim / The Spectator

The newly appointed Big Sib Chairs (left to right) Oren Buksman, Colin O'Connor, Kathy Lin, Sadie Bergen and Tiana Stute.

By JUDY CHEN and JOANNA GAO

Some of the most enthusiastic, reliable and helpful people that Stuyvesant freshmen will ever encounter are Big Sibs. Big Sibs have the responsibility of easing the school transition process for incoming students. Every year, the five Big Sib Chairs select the following year's Big Sib chairs, who then select each of the 150 Big Sibs.

The Big Sib chairs are the masterminds behind organizing many of the Big Sib events, including CampStuy, Big Sib tutoring and the Big Sib Little Sib dance. Senior and 2009-2010 Big Sib Chair, John Connuck, describes each of the new Big Sib Chairs chosen as unique in flavor and having individual style. "Going into the selection process, I thought we would choose five people who reflected the five current chairs. I couldn't have been more wrong," he said. Out of 25 applicants, five Big Sib Chairs were chosen to lead fellow Big Sibs of 2010 to 2011.

Sadie Bergen

When junior Sadie Bergen entered Stuyvesant high school as a freshman, she was admittedly very shy. After three years in the school, however, Bergen has become Arts and Entertainment editor for the Stuyvesant Spectator,

a member of Stuyvesant's speech and debate team and a cast member in this year's SING!

Bergen attributes her extensive involvement in the Stuyvesant community to her own Big Sibs. "I was able to get involved in things I would never do otherwise," Bergen said.

Bergen was surprised when she found out she was chosen to be chairperson, since the selection process is so thorough. "It is a hard decision because you have to find five people who will mesh well together," said Bergen, in regard to the chairs selection process.

"I was unsure of how we would work together but it's been really natural," Bergen said.

As a chairperson, Bergen is interested in making each Big Sib responsible for keeping track of the attendance of a particular group of Little Sibs, "so no freshmen fall through the cracks," Bergen said. Like her fellow Big Sib Chairs, Bergen wants Big Sibs to spend more time with their Little Sibs.

Oren Buksman

It was his strong passion for helping others that first led junior Oren Buksman to apply to be a Big Sib Chair. Now that he has been accepted, he hopes to help freshmen "realize that when they walk into Stuyvesant, the sole purpose

is not to just study," Buksman said. "We just want their transition to be as easy as possible."

Apart from his involvement in the Big Sib program, Buksman is a member of the boys' varsity cross country, indoor track and outdoor track teams. He is also a member of the Student Union Communications Department and enjoys playing music.

Buksman is enthusiastic about the upcoming 2010-2011 Big Sib program and looks to build on the work done by the Chairs that came before him. "A few things the '09-'10 Big Sib chairs tried were events and tutoring," Buksman said. "We just want to take their input and improve on the program this year, making it fun and informative."

Buksman has already set up the Big Sibs website, which includes applications for returning Big Sibs, new applicants and Little Sib recommendations.

Kathy Lin

Junior Kathy Lin's first impression of Big Sibs was that they were bubbly, dedicated and inspiring. She credits her Big Sibs for making her transition from middle school to high school easier. She believes that being a Big Sib chair is "an opportunity to help others," Lin said.

Lin was the Sophomore Vice President and is currently a mem-

ber of both ARISTA—Stuyvesant's chapter of the National Honor Society—and the ultimate Frisbee team. She volunteers at a hospital and enjoys playing the flute and piano.

For potential Big Sibs, Lin is looking for "students who will act as role models and motivate freshmen to participate," she said. "Big Sibs should be individuals who have established responsibility and show an interest in participating in school activities."

As a new chairperson, Lin hopes to continue to build on the program with ideas like a "check-up system on the Big Sibs to ensure they're attending the homes," Lin said. "The program has been great this year, but we hope it will be even better."

Colin O'Connor

Junior Colin O'Connor says that being a Big Sib has not changed him. He describes himself as someone who likes to help people and be a role model for others. O'Connor came from a graduating class of 57 students in middle school, yet he enjoyed the transition to a high school with a class of 800.

"The minute I walked into Stuy, I knew I wanted to be a Big Sib," O'Connor said. "The next logical step for me was to be a Big Sib Chair."

By MADHURIMA CHOWDHURY

With their green baseball caps on, they began twisting their legs, spinning on their toes—sliding back and forth, dropping down to the floor before bobbing up again—and generally igniting the packed Murray Kahn Theater. The seven dancers ended their Junior SING! routine with repeated chants of "jerk squad!" after which the audience exploded in applause.

Lean back. Soulja Boy. Swag Surfing. Tutting. As these dance crazes fade out, a new form of hip-hop surfaces. Jerking, a dance style formulated in the beginning of 2009 in Los Angeles, has made its way to Stuyvesant, courtesy of the Junior SING! Jerk

Squad.

Squad members—Jeffrey Castillo, Andy Chen, Daniel Beer, Colin Li, Jaime Myers, Tobi Idowu, and Billy Barnes—began jerking throughout Stuyvesant before SING!, practicing their maneuvers before physical education classes and in the hallways. When SING! came around, Chen, the director of Jerk Squad, put together the crew. "[Jerk]ing has become a really popular thing especially among the juniors. So I felt like it would represent our grade very accurately and it would add a new innovative thing to add to our SING! that other SING!s wouldn't have," Chen said.

Since many Stuyvesant students weren't familiar with jerking, juniors incorporated jerking

into their plot by having the Jerk Squad teach Pop, played by Sadie Bergen, how to jerk. "She wanted to be cool and learn how to jerk because all the coolest kids jerk," Beer said.

Jerking, a street dance, was popularized by the New Boyz music video "You're a Jerk." These days, there are jerk crews who engage in jerking battles and competitions. "Some of the good jerkers are the Ranger\$, who are a jerk crew, and the UCLA Jerk Kings," Idowu said.

The Jerk Squad members were influenced by these Jerking crews to begin jerking themselves. "I saw people [jerking] and I watched the music videos and I thought it was cool," Chen said.

Like all street dancers, the

Jerk Squad members taught themselves how to make the moves, and even came up with a couple of their own. "We help each other with different types of moves," Idowu said. "If someone picks up something quicker than others we give it to the group and see if the group can use it."

To many people, jerking seems to be a simple dance style. However, jerking involves heavy footwork, making it a difficult dance to learn. "It's a lot more complex and intellectual than what most people think," Idowu said.

Though many people believe that the dance move known as the Reject—which is the Running Man, a move from the 80s, in reverse—is the only move in jerking, squad members say there's

O'Connor plays on the boys' varsity soccer team and a club soccer team, and has participated in SING!. He enjoys doing charity work by donating soccer equipment to those in need, through the Passback program. He has also coached younger kids in soccer.

"Being a Big Sib Chair has given me more responsibility to be a model student and try to help lost students," O'Connor said.

As a new Big Sib chair, O'Connor wants to have more homerooms. "We have less homerooms than D-days," O'Connor said. Because it is hard to know everyone, O'Connor is also eager to make more time for Big Sibs to interact with their Little Sibs in ways such as taking Little Sibs to the park more often.

O'Connor is looking for potential Big Sibs who are positive and outgoing. "You can never be enough of these two things," O'Connor said.

Tiana Stute

With a feeling that seems to be an emerging trend among this year's Big Sib Chairs, junior and Big Sib Chair Tiana Stute felt that she had wanted the position upon entering Stuyvesant. "I liked the idea that you could be a role model," she said.

While many of the other chairs found this reaction difficult to trace, Stute attributes her early interest in the position to one of her own Big Sibs, Katherine Wycisk ('08), who herself was a Big Sib Chair. "Katherine definitely inspired me," Stute said. "I wanted to be just like her."

Since her first day at Stuyvesant, Stute has branched out to numerous activities beyond the Big Sib program. Stute is the Stuyvesant Theater Community's costume director, as well as this year's SING! costume co-director. She also plays basketball outside of school and is involved in her church's youth group.

Although Stute loves the Big Sib program, she admits that there are some aspects that she is looking to change. "We're disappointed about people faking enthusiasm in the beginning of the year then seeing it wane," she said. She has also worked with the other chairs to modify the Big Sib application so that, "We [The Big Sib Chairs] get a picture of who you are, not only how many extracurriculars you have" Stute said.

As for what she is looking for in potential Big Sibs, Stute is looking for "well-rounded, diverse, dynamic and enthusiastic students who are willing to devote their time and effort into being a Big Sib," she said.

more to it than that. "There are a lot of basic moves, like the Pin-drop, the Reject, the Spongebob, Threading," Beer said.

These are the most recognizable moves of jerking and can be used in hundreds of different combinations. "A lot of moves done in jerking are taken from other forms of dance. They generally are changed or adapted to jerking to separate themselves from their origins to become a unique part of jerking," Chen said.

Even though the juniors are open to more students joining in, they aren't thinking about forming an official Stuyvesant jerk squad. They want it to be known that this new art form is mostly about having fun. "Jerking isn't just a dance—it has become an

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Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

With All Due Respect

Over the years, the only thing higher than our national debt is our increasing level of disrespect. Gone are the days of propriety, of "please" and "thank you." But one institution still retains some of these fundamental values. Here's to Stuyvesant High School—a monument of manners, an edifice of etiquette. The word Stuyvesant carries a magnificent aura of intellectualism and maturity about it. Between our award-winning pupils and our ivy-league wonders is also a mass of respectful students who have brought prestige to the institution.

When Chancellor Klein announced that the week of March 8 was dedicated to "respect," Stuyvesant students failed to show any excitement because, in our minds, every week is respect week. The timing was perfect, since it was the week after SING!, and the utmost civility was shown between the winning and losing grades. Cereal was joyously passed around in celebration as seniors and juniors held hands and sang the winning grade's spirit song. This ambivalence of admiration and courtesy was just one example of the respect that students at Stuyvesant High School exhibit every day.

Within the hallways of Stuyvesant High School, push never comes to shove because our expertise in optimization calculations allows us to expertly maneuver ourselves without even brushing against our fellow well-mannered students. Due to students' concern over the growing problem of obesity, which interferes with weaving through the hallway traffic, students often purposely break the escalator just to burn a few extra calories.

Other than the great health of our students, one of the things that sets Stuyvesant apart from its friendly competitors is the strong student government presence in the school. The SU is shown a great deal of respect for all of the contributions it has made to the student body, and its word—especially about the school's need to rid itself of candy-sellers—is gospel. The lack of attendance at SLT meetings is only a result of the fact that students already feel so secure in the school that they do not even have concerns to voice.

From the moment class starts, students are already respecting their teachers. The occasional need to borrow a sheet of paper demonstrates the concern that students have for the environ-

ment, and the occasional need to borrow a pencil is often due to the borrower's own pencil having been dulled in the previous period. Some students even have such a great amount of appreciation for their studies and teachers that they can be fond doing work for one teacher's class during another subject's period. The one student who sits in the back of the room with his head on the desk and his eyes closed is merely resting after pulling a productive, Facebook-free, all-nighter.

And then there are the ambitious students who, in an attempt to maintain their stellar grades, spend their lunch periods studying. Yet even these students, so obsessed with their GPA, still find ways to respect their peers during their times of frantic cramming by tearing the answer keys from textbooks, just to discourage cheating by their peers. Work done directly in the books' old pages offers considerate help to those who actually open up to the questions rather than skip directly to the answers.

The students who live in the library serve as examples of all the students' compliance to the school's rules. Rarely will you find students lounging on floors other than 1, 2 and 5, and when they are it is only because they are trying to find a quiet place to finish off some work.

Such adherence and respect to faculty rules only strengthens the bond between students and faculty. This bond also accounts for the many privileges that students are granted—one of which is having the option to leave the building for lunch. As students exit the building and merge with the mass of older students from BMCC, the big-brother-little-brother relationship is clearly visible. Just like our friends at Bronx Science and Brooklyn Tech, the students of BMCC are embraced and seen as slightly taller and stronger peers. The community reciprocates this feeling of respect by opening its doors to our students. We are well respected by the Tribeca neighborhood, and stores like Whole Foods welcome our presence in the same manner that we respect their salad bar, chicken wings and off-limits beer bottles.

And just as students respect the rules set by the Chancellor and enforced by the SU, they respect the classroom rules set by their teachers. Wads of gum under desks are not acts of felony, but rather acts of Stuyvesant ingenuity to implement inexp-

sive methods of furniture-restoration. Furthermore, students have worked to enhance the interior decoration of their classrooms by adding art to their otherwise boring desks. To the more mature students of Stuyvesant, the act of drawing so-called "profanities" on desks is seen for what it is—a helpful attempt to teach the more obscene lessons that are squeamishly left out in Health Education. With all due respect, these kids deserve to know the truth.

One thing that is not taught in the books, but that Stuyvesant students are very exposed to, is the respect for the diverse community, which is easily seen at Culture Night. The show—created in order to embrace cultures around the world—is made up of about 80 percent Asian performances, and 20 percent Black, Hispanic and other minority performances. To some extent, these figures represent the racial breakdown in our school, but the lack of attention, yet enormous respect for the minority cultures causes Stuyvesant to devote all the PA announcements during February to Black History Month. One thing the school has not caught on with, however, is devoting the other nine school months to Asian history announcements (with one month devoted to South Asian history).

However, Stuyvesant's immersion with other cultures goes beyond morning announcements, and can be seen on walks down the hallway where groups of students are having esoteric conversations in Chinese and Korean. 看这些白人在走廊里讲英文。

As members of the prestigious Stuyvesant community—a beacon of light in a city of ignorance—it is important for us to earn the respect of our genius students, and continue to bring a respectful vibe to our community. As each of you walks out of this school, avidly reading this enlightening editorial, you might trample over a few torn-down "Happy Birthday" posters or abandoned Spectators—signs of how we embrace our peers and our community, of the message we leave in our wake as we power our way to be the best and brightest minds in this country. Just imagine what a harmonious world we can create with this kind of attitude. It's like singing "We are the World" over the PA system, spreading the love.

Opinions

A New Deal for Health Care



By DANIEL SOLOMON

Over the past year, the debate over health reform has gripped the American political scene and grabbed the attention of the country's body politic. Much has been said, and a fierce battle in Congress that ended this week in victory for reformers has raged as Republicans and the far-right sought to block passage of the much needed overhaul. The conservatives decried the legislation as a "government takeover" of the insurance industry and one prominent Republican, Sarah Palin, worried that "death panels"—rationing boards composed of government bureaucrats—created by a public insurance option would deny care to her son with Down's Syndrome. What Palin overlooked is the fact that death panels already exist. They are run by private corporations that deny tens of

thousands of people life-saving treatment every year.

I've seen the corporate death panels in action. I was born with disabilities and my parents have grappled with our insurance company ever since. My father's employer-sponsored coverage plan initially refused to insure me—according to them, a birth defect was a pre-existing condition. When my parents finally won their battle with the insurance industry, their plan still left them with a good amount of debt that would have forced a family with less economic wherewithal into bankruptcy.

This happens in America every day and it is a national disgrace. Even those with insurance are not safe. Corporations like Anthem Blue Cross in California have attempted outrageous rate hikes on their patients. Anthem recently attracted national headlines for increasing the cost of its policies by an eye-popping 39 percent over the last year. Appropriately, health reform legislation passed in different forms by both houses of Congress would remedy these gross injustices. In the signed Senate legislation, insurance companies would no longer be allowed to deny patients coverage based

on pre-existing conditions, and under a separate proposal by President Barack Obama, an independent commission would be established to stop price-gouging by the insurance industry.

Youths are one of the biggest victims of the health care status quo.

The health care overhaul will benefit large swaths of the American public. Senior citizens will no longer have to pay thousands of dollars a year for prescription drugs. The disabled will no longer be discriminated against by health care companies. The uninsured will be given access to an exchange where they can shop for quality, affordable coverage. Most importantly, health reform will help us students.

Youths are one of the biggest victims of the health care status quo. According to a report released last September by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a third of young adults don't have insurance, a fourth lose their coverage before they can find a job with health benefits and two-thirds skimp on medical care because of the prohibitive cost.

The bills passed in both chambers of Congress and the one President Obama signed will end this problem: students can remain on their parents' plans until they are 26. Additionally, the amended Senate legislation will stop health care companies from raising premiums on parents who have a college student on their insurance. And under the Senate bill, if a parent does not have coverage, students will be allowed to shop the insurance exchange for a plan that reflects their specific needs. If reform had failed to pass, more and more college students—that's us in a couple of years—would have been left at the mercy of the insurance industry.

More broadly, health reform doesn't help particular sectors of the American people, but rather everyone. Medical costs have

been rising exponentially over the past 20 years and they threaten America's long-term prosperity. We are the future, and it is essential that we inherit a country that is on firm fiscal footing. The Senate bill, which was signed into law this Wednesday, is not perfect—it doesn't include a public option that would allow patients to purchase their coverage from the government—but it will begin the long process of putting downward pressure on the price of insurance and securing for this nation the destiny it deserves. The legislation will go a long way to ending the most abhorrent and abusive practices of the insurance industry and would be the scaffolding for more comprehensive change.

People shouldn't be intimidated by the demagogues on the right—they said the same thing about Medicare. Ronald Reagan declared that the program for seniors would cause old men to "spend [their] sunset years telling [their] children, and [their] children's children, what it once was like in America when men were free." Fifty years later, this assertion is laughable, and a half-century from now so too will be the claims of Palin and her contemporaries.

The Enlightenment Period



By JEREMY KAPLITT

We've all longingly gazed upon the fifth floor balcony, knowing that lying beyond the boundary of glass is fresh air, closed off to the entire student population. The thin glass barrier on the fifth floor has long separated fluorescent pale light from nature and sun, a densely populated lunchroom from the wind and outdoors. Although permitting students to use it unsupervised during free periods or lunch may initially seem dangerous, the balcony can serve many safe activities if properly supervised. In particular, a green roof could feasibly and productively improve the quality of student life.

A green roof could feasibly and productively improve the quality of student life.

Although one might argue that safety would be a concern, the presence of teachers and requirement to complete class work would greatly lessen the risk. In class, there already must be a qualified supervisor, and the assigned task would discourage students from potentially dangerous activity. Therefore, by using them for class related activities, green roofs can become a valuable and practical addition to students' daily routine.

Along with expanding class possibilities, an open terrace will give lovely fresh air and sunshine to brighten every student's day. Stuyvesant is a place where one can often find oneself longing for a breath of fresh air. Especially on days with little sleep and a steady burden of work, the presence of natural light and landscape for just a single period would play a major role in sustaining student interest and simply brightening one's day.

Sugar Tax Won't Sweeten the Problem



By JOSEPH FRANKEL

Coke, Pepsi, Sprite, Snapple, Dr. Pepper. After school or during meals, these drinks are a constant and cheap source of comfort, caffeine and refreshment in our lives. But that's not how New York City health commissioner, Thomas Farley, views the situation. He, along with Governor Patterson and Mayor Bloomberg, is pulling for a penny per ounce tax on "sugary drinks," an umbrella term that includes any soft drink sweetened with sugar—soda being the main target. The tax would be introduced in hopes of curbing the growing obesity epidemic—to which they claim soda is a primary contributing factor. They believe that by taxing sugary soft drinks, they will not only decrease New Yorkers' daily caloric intake, but will also generate millions of dollars in much needed revenue from the sales of soda at its new price.

While the goal of gaining money for the state, especially in these hard economic times, seems rational, the thought that this tax would have such a profound effect on people's health in the long term is questionable. Commissioner Farley, in his arguments for the tax, has touted a number of studies citing soda and soft drinks as the cause of an extra intake of up to 200 calories. Even though this is an undeniably large amount, this is in no way the sole cause for obesity, and even if it were, implementing this tax would not solve the problem. It is impossible to simplify the causes of the obesity problem in this article, just as it is impossible for the government to simplify the solution by introducing a tax of an extra penny per

ounce. There is also the issue of whether or not the tax will have its intended effect of reducing obesity among New Yorkers. While, no doubt, a gain in revenue is more important to the government than the potential lowering of obesity rates, the first is likely to be the only effect. As the proposed tax is an extra cent per ounce, this would amount to a tax below 50 cents, something that many Stuyvesant students, and the rest of New York, would be able to endure. This would also not be the first time New York teenagers have adjusted to the rise in price of food. The rise in the price of pizza has been something that students have put up with throughout the past several years.

An issue that has repeatedly been brought up against the proposed tax is the negative effect it could have on New York's poor. According to a 2008 study conducted by the National Institute of Health, New York City's poorer population is more than twice as likely to consume soda and soft drinks as the more privileged. The study also showed that people from minority neighborhoods are more than three times as likely to consume soda than the general population does. This is a clear point of hypocrisy that the government has done little to address. The commissioner has emphasized the importance of creating a healthy working youth in this time of economic difficulty, though introducing such a regressive tax would only drain money from those who are already suffering from the recession.

Even if people were to cut down on their soft drink purchases, as the government intends, this would not solve the obesity problem. If the government really hopes to eliminate the issue of obesity, especially among New York's youth, there are a number of steps that could and should be taken other than this irrational tax.

In behavioral economist Richard Thaler's book, "Nudge," Thaler addresses this issue by emphasizing two points: that people would not respond as well to elimination or discouragement from a certain option as they would to

an increased number of options and that people can be more easily "nudged" into making better choices by the way their options are presented. He gives a study conducted in school cafeterias as an example: when two school cafeterias were compared, it was found that students purchased dessert less when fruit was displayed further up on the lunch

It is impossible to simplify the causes of the obesity problem to include in this article, just as it is impossible for the government to simplify the solution by introducing a tax of an extra penny per can.

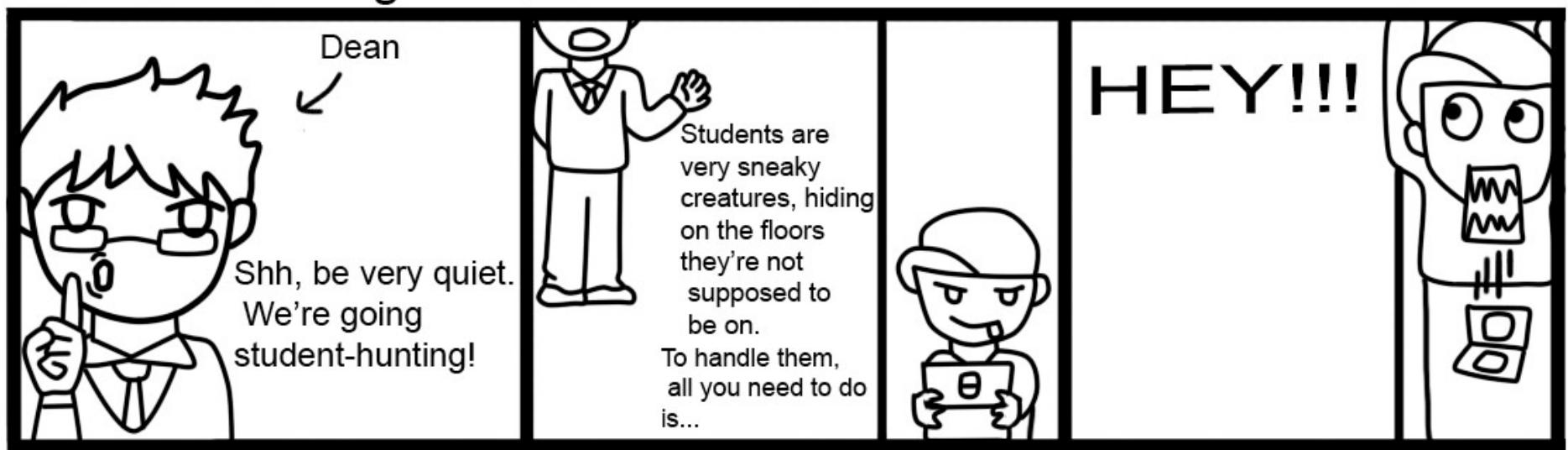
line than dessert, as opposed to a school cafeteria where the price of dessert was raised. If energy was put into implementing these more effective sorts of policies in schools, the problem would be much more efficiently dealt with.

But, in reality, whatever happens with the tax, the problem of obesity will still remain. Even if the government were to continue taxing unhealthy foods, which Governor Patterson stated as his next objective in a recent New York Daily News article, there will still be a large portion of people who will pay that extra few cents and will not make that shift to healthier foods. The truth is, the only way to solve the obesity problem is if people become more educated about the ramifications of their diets and take their nutrition into their own hands, maybe with a helpful "nudge" from the government. An arbitrary tax won't do the trick.

Cartoons

Student-hunting

by Rebecca Li



One thing you can't find in Lost or Found

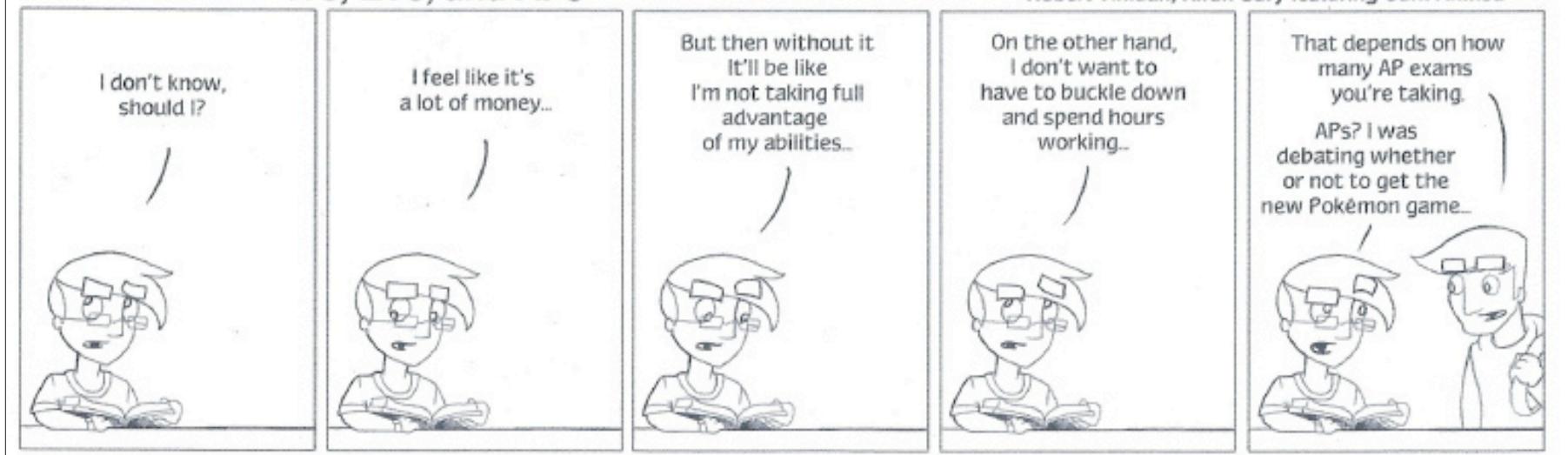
By J. H. Lee



Conversations

"IVs, EVs, and APs"

Robert Vinluan, Kiran Sury featuring Oark Ahmed



Code Names

by Tracey Lum



Arts and Entertainment

More than Just Chocolate

By BENJAMIN KOATZ

Located on 60 New Street is a warm and welcoming art studio, owned by a musician and a painter. It functions as a gallery and a children's cooking school, sells its wares worldwide and serves hot cocoa to customers on comfortable stools. But the most intriguing and mouth-watering aspect of the shop is the presence of rows of hand-made chocolate squares that are brightly lit behind curved Plexiglas.

Owned by Chief Chocolate Officer John Down and President Joe Giuliano, this iconoclastic chocolate shop, called Christopher Norman Chocolates after Down's two middle names, is as abnormal as it is delicious. Although Christopher Norman has offices in Japan and the United States, its New Street location maintains a small business vibe. The daily tasks of employees are fluid, with many jobs taken on by the same people. The retail manager occupies the cashier post and stacks boxes, and the co-owners often help with some of the menial tasks.

Christopher Norman has been trying to brighten up everyone's days with its designer, hand-made truffles and candies since its opening 17 years ago. The store offers a variety of products, including hand-painted caramel ganaches, replete with the "gooey factor," as their Web Site proclaims. Another signature piece is the Blue Cheese Box, which combines Blue cheese and dark chocolate into eight finely wrapped truffles. Around the store, one can also see the countless specialty Christopher Norman offers, such as chocolate paintings and bowls. Such masterpieces, however, are not prepared easily.

The store's delicacies are finely crafted through an intricate, multi-step process. Unlike other big businesses, the entire assembly-line-type work is carried out by people. First a ganache—the filling used in truffles—is created, using absolutely no preservatives, and tempered to make it dark, milk or white chocolate. Next, a mold is filled, and the desired shape is hand cut. The truffle is then enrobed, drizzled or showered with ingredients, such as nuts, coconut shavings or more chocolate, to produce the desired appearance and texture. Finally, the chocolates may be hand rolled, to give them a rough hew. The ultimate product is then boxed and shipped out, or kept as in-store stock.

Even with innovative tastes like Rosemary Walnut and Coconut Curry, and a production model unlike any other major company, the store has seen a drop in sales over the last few years. A pickup around this year's Valentine's Day does not mask the fact that business is tough. Though the economic climate in the United States is less than forgiving, Down and Giuliano have tried to keep as much of their business here as possible.

Thankfully, they are not solely in the business to make a profit.

Christopher Norman Chocolates offers a fledgling, sporadic program for children aspiring to be chefs. "It's a community effort," Down said. "We've had a class from P.S. 1 come over, you know, for a career day thing."

Down and Giuliano do not stop their societal help at teaching kids to cook—the two moved their business to rejuvenate the devastated area around the World Trade Center in early 2002. "Though there were many barriers up, there was



The interior of Christopher Norman Chocolates, a high-end chocolate store located on 60 New Street.

construction everywhere, we considered it a social obligation to contribute our little effort," Down said.

Down is not the iconic, nine-to-five businessman. Though he is dedicated to his work, he describes himself first as an artist—exhibiting paintings he makes in galleries in Italy—and then as a chocolatier. Down designs and paints the truffles and squares, while Giuliano adds his own artistry to the chocolate boxes.

"Chocolate is more of an opportunity to support my life as an artist," said Down, while describing the transition from artist to chocolatier. "[Chocolate making], like painting, is a craft, a skill."

Giuliano, like his partner, was in a field unrelated to chocolate

before founding Christopher Norman. He is a classically trained musician, who has performed at the Metropolitan Opera House. Down and Giuliano began their business in 1993, consolidating both of their artistic talents and love of food. Down designs and paints the truffles and squares, while Giuliano adds his own artistry to the chocolate boxes.

Beyond their personal history, there are many more reasons why Christopher Norman Chocolates "prides itself in its abnormality," Sales Director Cate Kilmner said. The store is a trendsetter, innovating how chocolate is packaged and made. Christopher Norman pio-

nneered the practice of stating the percent of cocoa on the front of its chocolate bars. It was also the first to use Sea salt, a revolutionary new ingredient in many chocolates, which found its first home in the hand-churned vats of the Christopher Norman kitchen.

But more than any chocolate product could do, the small-business feel of this shop, and the relaxed, hometown vibe it exudes, are what set it apart. Getting back to the basics, both in the manufacturing of products, and in the ideals of business practices, is not just an unreachable, unmarketable standard, but an attainable reality.

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Arts and Entertainment

Substance Amidst Sensationalism

By EMMA DRIES

In many ways, we have become an impatient society. Often controlled by the media, technology, and social networking, we are easily distracted, with fleeting attention spans. The current fear in many traditional news organizations is that print journalism is slowly fading away, to be replaced by talking heads and trivial discussion. The fear is that the general public will grow tired of the recent Haitian and Chilean earthquakes; we will transfer our sympathy to a new tragedy, despite the fact that both countries will be rebuilding for years, possibly decades, to come.

So what role does in-depth print journalism play in a society that has been trained to react to the headlines – the breaking news banners traveling across our television screens – instead of the meat and substance of the issues at hand? Last month, I got my answer.

"Reporter," a documentary directed by Eric Metzgar, premiered at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. HBO held a screening at its New York headquarters on Tuesday, February 9, followed by a question and answer session lead by both the primary subject of the film, New York Times (NYT) columnist Nicholas Kristof, and Times editorial page editor Andrew Rosenthal.

The primary focus of the film is Kristof's annual "Win a Trip" to Africa contest (which is funded by The New York Times) – this time to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Kristof selects the winners of the trip, a college student and a high school teacher, based on a single submitted essay. "It becomes an excuse for me to write about issues that are always there, always happening," said Kristof in the question and answer session.

"Reporter" is, inherently, not a film about poverty. It is a film about journalism. The strongest aspect of the documentary is how Metzgar uses the lens of journalism to discuss poverty and the public's perceptions on poverty.

Kristof himself is well known for bringing significant international attention to the genocide in Darfur – all with a notebook and pen. He reports on issues that today's media often generalizes, glosses over, or lets slip through the cracks. "Every day, people dying of war, but not in a way that impels them onto the television screen," says Kristof in the film. "Reporter" shows its audience the importance of sustaining this type of journalism, by shadowing a man who is helping to lead that charge.

As a person, Kristof embodies a down to earth quality that many news anchors and political pundits lack. In conversation, he seems entirely unimpressed with himself, and "Reporter" shows us how his amicable attitude allows him to develop a rapport with his interviewees, which ultimately produces a better story.

Additionally, journalists are often reluctant to report on the same topic again and again. But Kristof

sees nothing wrong with readdressing continuing issues of poverty, genocide, and women's rights. "If it's happening every day," he says in the film, "it deserves to be written about every day."

Kristof succeeds by way of his unique redundancy. Yes, he reaffirms the necessity of developed nations to help assuage the troubles of the third world, but he does so by finding an individual muse to illustrate the issue he is trying to highlight in each column. His reasoning for the use of a singular muse involves the idea of Psychic Numbing—a theory that uses evolutionary science to explain how humans can grow "numb" to tragedy when experiencing disaster on a large scale. This can also explain his ability to compartmentalize while interviewing. "I can listen dispassionately to the most inhumane stories," says Kristof, a tactic that, though unnerving, undoubtedly makes him a better journalist.

Kristof recognizes the effectiveness of using one affected person to help connect with his readers. Appropriately, the documentary itself opens with Metzgar quoting Mother Teresa: "If I look at the mass, I will never act. If I look at one, I will." However, Kristof's understanding of these crises exceeds the idealism that helping an individual will solve an entire issue. He concedes the struggle we face when dealing with a calamity that can often seem overwhelming, and recognizes the magnitude of every issue he reports on.

"Reporter" does not once shy away from the gritty locale and subject of Kristof's reporting. It does not gloss over awkward moments in which a language barrier is evident, nor does it ignore the uneasiness emanating from the contest winners as Kristof interviews Laurent Nkunda, a powerful Congolese warlord. With its heavy content, the documentary might exhaust some audience members, having no qualms about exploring a literally starving village and a dying woman – Yohanita Nyiahabimama, a 60 pound, 41-year old woman, whom Kristof names as his next muse.

Metzgar acknowledges the way that humanitarian aid efforts try to put a face on poverty. Over an image of an emaciated young boy, he narrates, "We've been asked to care about this face many times before." Kristof, on the other hand, does not try to put a face on poverty. He finds the faces of poverty.

"Reporter" does not directly answer the question of whether traditional journalism can be saved. Yet somehow the audience leaves feeling more secure. Knowing that journalists like Kristof are out there, asking tough questions, reassures us that perhaps human compassion is not a lost cause.

"The saddest stories exist," narrates Metzgar, "whether or not Nick finds them." Yet Kristof finds them. He always does.

"Reporter" comes to DVD March 21st, 2010



Broadcast Yourself

By MOLLIE FORMAN,
JAMES HONG,
and TONG NIU

The only student procrastination tool that could match Facebook is YouTube. This popular video sharing Web site connects people from all over the world through entertaining videos both hilarious and meaningful. There are thousands of channels and millions of videos to choose from, so it is no surprise that the real gems are hard to find. There is some truly unique talent out there, but without guidance even the most intense all-nighter can yield poor results. Here are some suggestions for the more efficient procrastinators.

MUSICIANS

Bo Burnham

For the one man who is outclassed by Kanye West, turn to Bo Burnham. The best white rapper this side of Eminem, Bo can spin a phrase like a pro. His lyrics are bawdy enough to make your ears burn, but if you can get past the vulgarity you will find that his work is absolute genius. Kick your kid brother out of the room, and listen closely to the catchy tune, "I'm Bo Yo." His rhythm is just as good as any multi-millionaire rapping on the radio, but his ingenuity and charm set him far apart.

[Bo Burnham's] rhythm is just as good as any multi-millionaire rapping on the radio, but his ingenuity and charm set him far apart.

Stratofender2003

On a site that is overrun with flamboyant "singers" who sing Top 40 songs with tinny background music, a user who respectfully covers songs is a rare find. Stratofender2003, who has been on YouTube since April 2006, utilizes acoustic and electric guitars along with his own smooth voice to treat viewers to a wide range of music -- including covers of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Jimi Hendrix, and even James Taylor, an acoustic singer-songwriter.

Most impressive are Stratofender's renditions of Jim Croce songs, which are not easy to cover due to their complex acoustic melodies. However, Stratofender2003 expertly fingerpicks and sings in a sorrowful style very reminiscent of Croce. Stratofender2003's cover of Time in a Bottle is particularly affecting. Stratofender2003 is a man in his 30's who wears a Led Zeppelin tour shirt on camera and never shows his whole face. His clear guitar playing, mellow vocals, and excellent choice of music make his channel a real gem on YouTube.

Goldentusk

For those who believe that film music is integral to the total cinematic experience, Goldentusk is the chief composer of YouTube. Andrew Goldberg, pseudonym Goldentusk, writes lyrics for famous film scores while wearing in over-the-top costumes in front of a relevant background. While he has also

uploaded commentary on the antics of actor Christian Bale and has created a parody of Kings of Leon's Sex on Fire, a la Weird Al Yankovic, Goldentusk's best videos are his film theme renditions. The themes that he has written lyrics for are: Superman, Jaws, James Bond, Back to the Future, Batman, Indiana Jones, Halloween, and The Terminator. His comical costumes and props - which serve to enhance his performances - include a black tuxedo and slicked-backed hair in the James Bond theme, a puffy orange vest and 80's-style headphones in the Back to the Future theme, to name a few. Goldentusk inserts subtle bits into the lyrics that show his extensive knowledge of the film. The best themes he has written are Back to the Future and Halloween; Goldentusk does his best singing in Back to the Future and his best writing in Halloween. His videos are more understandable with previous knowledge of the films, but Goldentusk's cinematic brilliance and charisma remain prevalent.

NEWS

What the Buck

Even if you hate the guy, you have to give Michael Buckley credit for incredible breath control. The flamboyant speed-talker who "occasionally covers sports and politics but would much rather talk about what happened on American Idol or The Hills," as his self-made description states, gives hilarious single-take rants on whatever he wants to gush about. Sure, after eight minutes he can get annoying, but if you're in the mood to bash on Justin Bieber or Miley Cyrus, then this is the man for you.

SxePhil

Busy Stuyvesant schedules often trap you in your own world, making you forget about the other billion people on earth. Thankfully, Philip DeFranco from SxePhil makes a video every day to inform everyone of the most recent world events. Though no replacement for The New York Times and certainly not as hilarious as The Colbert Report, DeFranco uses humor, genuine concern and sarcasm to comment on the stupidity of the world. Thoughtful and articulate, DeFranco, in his own spastic way, always leaves his viewers thinking. His posts always end with commentary highlighting and criticizing shameful behavior that seems to have escaped the public eye. Underneath his joking commentary lies true insight into important values that seem to have faded away.

PARODIES

"Weird Al" Yankovic

Best known for his parodies of popular songs, Weird Al is no less talented than the actual songwriters themselves. His unique sense of rhythm and skill with words allow him to create hilarious parodies. His most popular songs include "White and Nerdy," "Amish Paradise" and "The Night Santa Went Crazy." If you're tired of the same old mainstream pop music, check out Weird Al's funkier versions.

Jacksfilms

Anyone who hates Twilight, cheesy infomercials, and Justin Timberlake would love Jack Douglass. An aspiring director, actor, pianist, composer, and self-proclaimed "tool," this college student makes videos from everything from a one-man performance of Les Misérables to a Susan Boyle parody and a frat boy's review of "Avatar." Not only is he a brilliant comic, but he can write surprisingly poignant piano pieces, such as the "Boy Band Sonata," an original arrangement

of popular Backstreet Boys and NSync tunes. His best works are probably his series of "WTF Blanket" videos, which parody the Snuggie.

MISCELLANEOUS

Community Channel

Don't let the boring name fool you—Natalie Tran from Community Channel is wit, charm and quirky humor all wrapped up in an authentic Australian accent. Her weekly Vlogs encompass everything from Dead Jagger Theories to movie parodies. Though presented in a humorous fashion, her topics are universally known situations that all audiences can relate to. Her unique ability to see things from a different viewpoint is both fascinating and, at times, disturbing. Unaframed to laugh, mostly at herself, Tran's commentaries are unique and thought provoking.

Oscars

Whether you think the Oscars provides an authoritative voice on film or is simply a night of glorified self-indulgence, its YouTube channel provides content for every breed of movie fan. There are clips of winners receiving their Oscars, which range from the timeless elegance of Audrey Hepburn to the hilarious euphoria of Cuba Gooding Jr.

Though no replacement for The New York Times and certainly not as hilarious as the Colbert Report, DeFranco uses humor, genuine concern and sarcasm to comment on the stupidity of the world.

Legendary moments in the history of the Oscars are easily accessible: the infamous streaker of the 46th Academy Awards is one of the best TV moments in history, and the heartbreak speech of Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein reminds us that the movie business can be worth more than money. Chocolates "prides itself in its abnormality," Sales Director Cate Kilmer said. The store is a trendsetter, innovating how chocolate is packaged and made. Christopher Norman pioneered the practice of stating the percent of cocoa on the front of its chocolate bars. It was also the first to use Sea salt, a revolutionary new ingredient in many chocolates, which found its first home in the hand-churned vats of the Christopher Norman kitchen.

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Arts and Entertainment

Healthy Eats and Treats



Mimi's cafe offers a variety of healthy foods like salads, fruit, and juices.

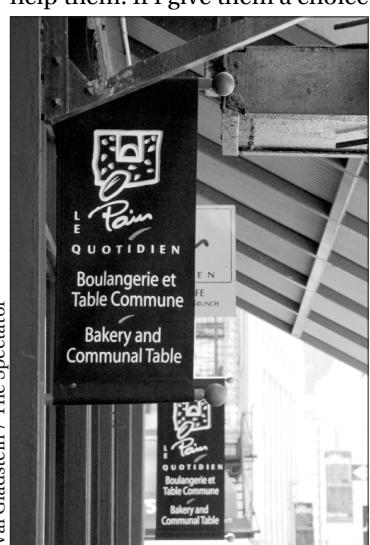
By JENNY FUNG

Does your typical lunch consist of a double bacon cheeseburger, large fries and a super-sized soda? If the answer is yes, then it is time for change. Altering your diet to include wholesome items not only helps you maintain a healthy weight, but also makes you become more energized and alert in class. This rising trend of being healthy has been adopted by many local Tribeca eateries, making it even easier for students to eat good and healthy food.

Many students would benefit from bringing their own lunch since it is cheaper and there is more control over the food chosen. However, for those who don't have time to prepare their own lunch or do not know what to make, there are many eateries around Tribeca that offer healthy and quick lunches, without causing too much of a strain on their wallets.

Mimi's Cafe, located at 165 Church Street, advocates natural and whole foods. The cafe maintains a bright and cozy ambiance despite its lack of space. Since every item is made to order, service can be slow at times. However, the tasty and fresh sandwiches more than make up for this dis-service. Mimi's most popular orders are the turkey burger and the Turkish Durum—a wrap filled with organic chicken seasoned with Turkish spices and topped with a cucumber yogurt sauce. They cost \$6.95 and \$7.45 respectively. "I really like their chicken wrap. You can tell that it's fresh. They make it right in front of you," customer Joseph Cruz said. "This is definitely better than a McDonald's snack wrap."

According to the owner of the café, Michael Coban, everything they use is as organic as possible. Nothing is fried and there are no trans fats. Another popular item at the café is the vast array of fruit smoothies, including acai berry smoothies. "I see all these overweight people. I want to try to help them. If I give them a choice



The exterior of Le Pain Quotidien, a popular "healthy food" bakery in Manhattan.

of eating healthy, it will cut down on their temptations. I want to change their habit of eating. Slowly," said Conan, when asked why he supports healthy eating.

Another eatery that supports healthy eating is Le Pain Quotidien, located at 81 West Broadway. This Belgian chain's philosophy focuses on treating the body, community and earth well. Its goal is to serve organic and sustainable foods to the people. "Treat your body well. There are plenty of good delicious things that are not rabbit food," Le Pain Quotidien employee Kate Planitzer said.

Though shelves of artisan breads line the walls, the European-styled restaurant is known for its freshly baked whole grain breads. However, the restaurant offers more than just bread. The menu has a wide selection of organic salads and tartines, which are essentially toasts topped with a variety of accompaniments such as Chicken Curry Salad. Le Pain Quotidien is also very accommodating for vegetarian and vegan customers. Vegan soups are offered daily. However, the high prices (a typical meal costs around \$10) may deter students from stopping by for lunch.

An already popular eatery that is known for supporting healthy eating is Whole Foods Market. Located at 270 Greenwich Street, this supermarket is not only conveniently close to Stuyvesant, but also boasts a wide selection of healthy foods. The Whole Food Company is dedicated to promoting natural, organic and sustainable products. "Everything in Whole Foods does not have hydrogenated fats and oils. They are all natural and have no preservatives," Whole Foods team member Tashane (who declined to give her last name) said. "Our Company's standard is to eat healthy."

Whole Foods provides a large variety of already prepared foods, making it easy to grab a quick bite for lunch. The salad bar is not the typical deli salad bar. At \$7.99 a pound, the choices of food from the salad bar are endless with dishes ranging from traditional roast beef to lemon-scented quinoa. There are also many other stations with prepared food, all of which are as fast to order, but much healthier to eat than what many fast food joints offer. "Basically, it's about making the right choices," Tashane said. "Even if you are at McDonald's you can still adjust and eat healthy."

*Mimi's Cafe 165 Church Street
NY, NY 10007
Le Pain Quotidien 81 West
Broadway NY, NY 10007
Whole Foods 270 Greenwich
Street New York, NY 10007*

OPINIONS IN A&E

An OK for K-Pop

By ANASTASSIA BOUGAKOVA

Of the several musical genres out there, one particular genre has recently emerged from the side-lines and captured the interest of many Stuyvesant students. That genre is Korean popular music, often abbreviated as K-pop. Sure, I'm used to the occasional K-pop reference, but lately it seems as if all my friends are falling under the influence. The interest in K-pop is contagious.

K-pop originated in South Korea in the 1930s, while the country was under Japanese rule. The Korean music at the time was heavily influenced by Japanese popular songs. Twenty years later, the genre further evolved, when American forces stationed in Korea put on concerts for the people. The Korean adaptation of the genre started out with a solo guitar player, strumming the strings of his guitar and singing in a simple vocal style. The idea of incorporating dances and visual effects into performances was popularized much later when U.S. pop groups began to perform in South Korea in the early 1990s. South Korean groups soon began to incorporate rap and techno styles into their music, as well as dance routines.

Today, K-pop songs have become a staple in many Stuyvesant playlists. The epidemic seems to spread by word of mouth. People gush about a particular song to their friends, who in turn listen to it and become hooked. "My friend got me to listen to one song. The music is just so cheerful, it becomes addicting," said sophomore Nolana Wong.

People download the songs to their iPods, watch the music videos and learn the dance moves of their favorite group. K-pop has evolved from a simple music genre into a hobby, generating fan clubs in Stuyvesant like AMPO (Asian-Oriental Music Promotion Organization) and K-Loved.

I've always believed that music should only be about the music, not the way the music video is compiled, or the dance moves that go along with it. With K-pop, the song itself seems to take a backseat to the performance. K-pop bands don't just sing—they put on a show, complete with dance routines, misty streets and sparkly glass backgrounds. By the 2000s, most American pop groups fell apart, leaving solo singers to take their place. The boy band, 98 Degrees, broke up in 2002. The Backstreet Boys and New Kids on the Block went on hiatus in the early 2000s and have only just started to emerge from it. Still, they are not nearly as popular as they were in the 1990s. On the other hand, their Korean counterparts have flourished and spread their influence far beyond their home country. K-pop is listened to all over the world, particularly in China, the Philippines, and in some areas of the U.S. The Wonder Girls—a five-member South Korean group—have recently joined the Jonas Brothers on tour and opened for them in concerts across America. 2PM – a Korean boy band—is also rumored to be coming to the U.S. this year.

One can't get the whole experience of listening to K-pop music without watching the accompanying music video at the same time. Boy bands like 2PM and SHINee might give great performances, but they're nothing special as singers. Most of the band members sound very similar to one another, singing in high-pitched, flat voices that can become a bit tiresome to listen to. The musicians' personal lives also seem to be more important than their music. "K-pop's big appeal is the celebrities themselves; not the music. That's what really drives Korea's music industry," said sophomore Cecilia Kim. Kim adds that K-pop artists pay attention to their images as much as U.S. celebrities do, but that band

members interact with their fans much more than American groups do. That close relationship between the musicians and the audience is an important part of Korean musical culture.

However, not all K-pop artists depend on performance over pure talent. Big Bang, for example, manages to deliver memorable melodies and solid vocals, without resorting to flashy performances. Their music video for "Haru Haru" features muted gray and beige tones. And while they do employ a bit of acting in the video, the emotions seem authentic and fit the tone of the song. Unfortunately, just as I begin to enjoy their melodious singing, it's interrupted by a bout of rap (this is especially evident in their song "Let me Hear your Voice"). These interludes, often rapped in English, break the spell created by the band's soft, but strong voices.

Listening to a song over and over again while not understanding a single word of the lyrics can be quite calming. Not knowing Korean makes me pay attention to the melody and the quality of the singers' voices more than the lyrics. By learning not to focus on the words, I can enjoy the music without being distracted from whatever it is I'm doing.

Ultimately, whether you end up liking Korean pop or not depends on the first song you listen to. If you like it, you'll be hooked. If it turns out to be one of those dance routines accompanied by pitchy vocals, you might just come to hate it with a passion. K-pop is catchy and perfect for studying, but it's not something I will listen to everyday. The songs are fun, whimsical and catchy enough to keep people listening, even when they're a bit skeptical to begin with. Despite its drawbacks, everyone should listen to at least one K-pop song, if only to understand what all the hype is about.





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Sports

FROM THE VAULT

Making of a Dynasty: Wrestling in the 80s

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State Wrestling champion and wrestler at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Ognibene graduated as a financial advisor and ended up working close to Stuyvesant. Interested in volunteering and helping out a local wrestling team, he was immediately recruited by Stuyvesant prior to the 1980-81 season. "We became the perfect match. He knew the wrestling moves, but he didn't know how to teach them well, and I developed a system where he'd show me the move and I'd know how to drill it," Palczewski said.

"The dominance of the team came from the fact that coach [Palczewski] and [Ognibene] focused on skill and stamina rather than brute strength. Many matches were fought where the winner was the smaller person because he was able to outlast the opponent," Don Wade ('86) said.

After decent success in the early 1980s, everything finally seemed to click for Palczewski and the Big Blue in the 1982-83 season. He had at last perfected his system of coaching by modeling other successful programs at DeWitt Clinton and Stevenson High Schools. The rejuvenated program would be tested that season in matches against the two perennial powerhouses. Surprisingly enough, the Big Blue managed to beat Stevenson by a score of 34-24. Later that season, the Big Blue won again against DeWitt Clinton, 44-25, in the highly anticipated away match.

Suddenly, the Big Blue was entering the playoffs with an undefeated 8-0 record. Breezing through the first few rounds, it faced some resistance in the semi-finals against Far Rockaway High School. After its top four wrestlers lost in their matches, Stuyvesant had to count on its three most inconsistent wrestlers—Tom Leonardi ('83), Gian Stagnaro ('83) and Tom Clancy ('83). In an unimaginable performance, all three won and the Big Blue went on to win 47-22. "We were actually happy those four guys lost," Leonardi said. "It showed that the other guys could carry us, and would also wrestle at the same level again."

Boy's Baseball

Hitmen Turn to New Players in Search of 14th Straight Playoff Berth

continued from page 18

game against Manhattan Bridges High School on Wednesday, April 8. "Losing a [Becker] is always a big thing, but we have [Gallo] still. He won five games for us last year and is a very good player," Carlesi said. The Hitmen will rely on Gallo, along with the returning juniors and sophomores. Last season both then-sophomore catchers Jakob Moran and Clay Gibson made the move to varsity so they could learn to "throw, frame and really call a good game," Carlesi said.

Although they did not play very much, Moran and Gibson are some of the many juniors who are "stepping up in every aspect of the game," said coach Matthew Hahn. On the 19-man roster, 13 players are juniors.

Moran, Gibson along with juniors Jack Zurier, Lionel Jens-

The Big Blue then entered the finals against Tottenville High School, whose top three wrestlers were among the best in the city. Stuyvesant jumped out to an early lead, up 25 points with five matches to go, including the last three against those very three dominant wrestlers. Assuming that the last three would pin their Stuyvesant opponent, earning them 6 points each and 18 points total, the Big Blue had to avoid being pinned in the next two matches to mathematically clinch the victory.

Ironically enough, the complex mathematics learned only in Stuyvesant, which was lost on the referee, led to the eventual downfall of the Big Blue. After avoiding being pinned in the subsequent two matches, the wrestlers began celebrating for a reason unbeknownst to the referee, who then proceeded to subtract one point for unsportsmanlike conduct. As expected, the next three wrestlers were pinned by Tottenville's big three, ending the match in a 30-30 tie. The two schools were co-champions. "We felt like we got robbed, but looking back, we still were the city champions," Leonardi said. "We didn't lose it, we just had to share it." That first city championship proved that Stuyvesant could always overcome the odds and perceptions. "It was a bunch of smart kids, supposedly, a bunch of nerds and that was the image that they had of us. People began taking us seriously because they were losing to us," Berton said.

Despite the fact that the average SAT score of the team in 1983 was a 1386 out of 1600, Stuyvesant eventually became the team to beat. Palczewski changed the name of the team to the Warriors in order to establish a new, tough physique and perception of the team. "Stuyvesant became the model of how to run a team. Every other team that had to compete with us had to improve their knowledge of different wrestling techniques," he said.

Another factor in the success of the team was the great support shown by the Stuyvesant community. Cramped in a tiny gym in the old Stuyvesant building, fans consistently filled the second-tier

seating on the track above the gym, giving the team an immense home-field advantage during meets. "It seemed like we were the most popular team in the school," Berton said. "The home matches were really packed."

"I remember having the band come out for a rally on the playoff meets. It is always fun performing in front of friends and family, especially the girls we were chasing," Chung said.

Fueled by raging hormones and a will to win, the Warriors continued their success, reaching the playoffs the next two seasons.

The team continued to distance itself from the stereotype of a group of scrawny nerds, and continued to intimidate the opposition. "The gym went dark when they began and the song "Iron Man" by Black Sabbath started to play. Three spotlights came on and ended up shining on the middle of the mat. Then our captains stepped onto the mat and into the spotlights. It was very showy but I think it did what we wanted it to do, which was to intimidate our opponents. All of our matches were designed to intimidate psychologically before the first match even began," Wade said.

The 1985-86 season led to another miraculous city-championship—the team's second one of the decade. In the finals, the Warriors once again faced Far Rockaway High School, where Chung upset the Rockaway captain Omar Ortega—the stud and pride of Queens. The victory unleashed a hail of insults from the Rockaway crowd. After their match, the Warriors were escorted out of the building by the referee Paul Goddard, who was a transit cop by day.

The Warriors continued their unbelievable success and went on to repeat and win the city championship in both the 1987 and 1988 season, building a dynasty rarely seen in those days at Stuyvesant. Both Palczewski and Ognibene continued to coach throughout the decade, though the triumphs of the early 80s teams were never fully recreated. "It felt great that I had the opportunity to be in the history books," Palczewski said. "I had the opportunity to be a part of Stuyvesant history."

en and Scott Chiusano have the experience needed to help their new junior teammates make the transition to varsity. This experience, along with the depth the new players provide, will help the Hitmen in achieving their playoff hopes.

The Hitmen are already off to a good start, winning their first four exhibition games of the season before losing to Forest Hills High School 5-0 on Sunday, March 21.

Although none of these games were in league play, the Hitmen have begun to answer questions concerning their hitting, scoring six runs in their first game and seven more in their second. "The surprising part is we are starting to hit, we need to hit more," Hahn said. "That is probably going to be our biggest weakness, our pitching is looking good. The pitchers have been throwing

strikes. The defense has been playing very well, we had some great plays in those first games."

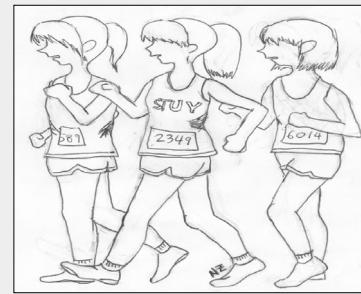
Gallo, Zurier and sophomores Evan Lubin and Kyle Yee will head a very strong pitching staff. Zurier and Gallo both pitched very well last season, while Lubin had four wins for junior varsity, allowing only two hits all season. "We have really good depth at pitching, we have defense, our hitting has always been a problem but we have worked hard at it and I think it will turn around," Carlesi said. "But defense wins games."

Last year the Hitmen made the playoffs for the 13th consecutive year, despite playing in the Public School Athletic League's Manhattan A division, thought to be one of the tougher baseball divisions. "Our goal is always to make the playoffs and I think we will have that chance again," Carlesi said.

(Race)Walk It Out

continued from page 18

appeal to anyone interested in track. The current racewalkers are trying to increase participation through posters and interest meetings. When she was asked about what was fun about the racewalking team and why people should join, Luu simply said, "We're awesome," echoing the sentiments of the entire team.



The Olympics: Sports, Flaws, and a Common Identity

By CORY BEHROOZI

I'd like to begin this column with some dramatic account of the single most exciting, breathtaking, awe-inspiring, pride-instilling and overall perfect moment from this year's Winter Olympic Games. This, although it sounds appealing, is not entirely plausible, because life is a lot like sports in that it is pretty much never perfect.

At the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Canada, American short-track speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno won his sixth, seventh and eighth career Winter Olympic medals, giving him the most of any U.S. Winter Olympian. Though this seems like a great accomplishment, for Ohno, it was somewhat of a disappointment. Sadly, none of these last three medals were gold.

With 25 seconds left in the ice hockey gold medal match, Canada led the United States 2-1. By the end of that 25th-to-last second, American Zach Parisie had tied the game at two goals apiece. It was a beautiful, miraculous moment, but it might have been just a bit sweeter if the U.S. had managed to come away with a victory in the overtime that followed.

Shaun White is without much doubt the greatest halfpipe snowboarder in the history of the winter Olympics. For the past few years, he has worked at his private halfpipe tucked away on the side of Silverton Mountain, Colorado, to perfect a trick known as the Double McTwist 1260, or as he calls it, the Tomahawk.

In his first run at the 2010 Winter Olympics halfpipe event, White stuck to what was, for him, a conservative run. However, this was enough for a score of 46.8 (out of a possible, though almost unattainable, 50). As it turned out, this score was enough to win him the gold medal. However, he performed his second run anyway, as something of a victory lap, and threw down the much-anticipated Tomahawk. It was amazing. It was beautiful. For me, it was the most fantastic moment of these Olympic Games. But don't you think it might have been a little more perfect if he had been forced to do the impossible trick for the victory, rather than just doing it for fun?

Before you begin to come to the conclusion that the purpose of this article is just to make you feel depressed and unfulfilled, let me explain my point. Nothing in sports is ever truly perfect. There is always something that could have gone a bit more smoothly – something that could have gone another way. But as a fan and athlete, I wouldn't have it any other way.

The flaws and the imperfections are what make sports beautiful. They are the reason we watch them, the reason we care what happens, and the reason we get excited when something goes our way. They are



Polina Rozina / The Spectator

what unite us behind our team.

I think I can safely say that most people reading this column are sports fans in some capacity. Most likely, we have all basked in the glory of our teams' victories and felt the pain of their defeats (as a Mets fan, I have felt more than my due of the latter).

Without having felt that bitter, hopeless pain that always seems to creep into the mind of a true fan when times are tough, the warm glow of glory would not feel nearly so warm. True fans really unite when their teams need their support, not just when things are going well.

But sports still do have the capacity to unite those who would not stick with the team through thick and thin. The popularity of the Olympics is a perfect example of this. The Olympics provide an opportunity for a country to see its representatives competing on the highest level possible, and Olympic success is one of the strongest unifying forces that a country can experience.

Yet if sports always turned out perfectly, this would certainly not be the case. It is that constant—if sometimes only slight—fear of failure and defeat that makes victory so meaningful. And it is the nagging imperfections that make sports enjoyable to watch.

I doubt that anyone would call American short-track speed skater J.R. Celski's nearly life-threatening crash at the 2010 Olympic trials "perfect." But the fact that he overcame a prognosis that he might never walk again to earn two Olympic medals just five months later is nothing short of stunning. Ohno's "imperfect" showing at these Olympics only makes the 19-year-old Celski's rise even more exciting for American short-track fans like me.

Zach Parisie's game-tying goal in the dying moments of the gold-medal match did not win the U.S. a gold medal, but it did show just how volatile and exciting hockey can be.

Shaun White didn't need to land the Tomahawk to win gold, but he threw it down beautifully for the sake of the sport. Personally, I was more than satisfied just to see the trick done, regardless of the situation.

Frankly, if sports always turned out the way the fans wanted them to, or the way that made sense, or the way they were supposed to turn out, we would all lose interest. Without the flaws, the confusion and the unforeseeable twists, sports wouldn't capture the attention and imaginations of countless people around the world.

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

FROM THE VAULT

Making of a Dynasty: Wrestling in the 80s

82-83 Stuyvesant High School Big Blue wrestling team



The posing members of the Stuyvesant 1982-1983 wrestling team.

Courtesy of The Indicator

By PHILLIP GODZIN

Gold medals aren't really made of gold. They're made of sweat, determination and a hard-to-find alloy called guts. Few teams in Stuyvesant history could make this proverb more appropriate than the championship-winning wrestling teams of the 1980s.

In the late 1960s, wrestling began in Stuyvesant as a club formed by the football coach at the time—Merle Thrush. Football players volunteered to belong to the club as a way to stay in shape during the winter before the football season. Thrush, himself, was a former wrestler at Oklahoma University and a wrestling coach at the New York Athletic Club, as well as a now legendary

football coach who led the Peglegs to their last Public School Athletic League championship in an undefeated 1968 season.

By the end of the 1970s, wrestling became a much bigger sport, and consistent success came with its increased popularity in Stuyvesant. "We were serious contenders," Jeffery Haber ('78) said. "Through the mid and late 70s we had solid teams, and the wrestlers who did not graduate with my class looked like they would have great success."

In 1979 coach Martin Wasserman, the coach of the wrestling team throughout much of the 1970s, left to coach at DeWitt Clinton High School. Searching for a new coach, the team looked for candidates close to Stuyvesant.

Several of the wrestlers who were also part of the football team recruited coach Doug Palczewski—then the assistant coach of the Stuyvesant Peglegs—as the new head coach of the wrestling team.

Immediately after inheriting a lackluster 0-8 team, he instilled a winning mentality, striving toward the championship every year—specifically through hard work. "Coach [Palczewski] sat down and said, 'I don't know anything about wrestling, but I know about conditioning,'" former captain Tom Berton ('83) said.

Palczewski implemented several of his football workouts, which included daily 3-hour-long practices consisting of pushups and close to 100 flights of stairs per day in the old 15th street Stuyvesant building. "We never met a team that was in better condition than us," he said.

Palczewski also provided an encouraging and motivating attitude. "Coach [Palczewski] was a good coach and knew how to push your buttons to get the best out of each of us and his pre-practice speeches usually fired us up for the next team we were expected to demolish," Jae-Bum Chung ('86) said.

The team, then known as the BigBlue, soon received the tactical aid it needed, in the form of Mike Ognibene. A former New York

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Girls' Softball

Chipmunkz Go Renegade



A member of the Stuyvesant softball team prepares to hit the ball during a game.

Emma Pollack / The Spectator

By OLUWATONI IDOWU

Last year, Stuyvesant's girls' softball team was a force to be reckoned with in the Manhattan A division. It finished in second place, behind Manhattan Center, with a 12-6 record and made a strong showing in its unfortunate first round playoff loss. This year, with a new name—the Renegades—and an experienced team, the team members hope to make it past the first round of the playoffs for the first time since 2005.

The team will be led by second year captains and seniors Marlee Melendy, Kelly Quinn and Alex Albright, who, according to coach and physical education teacher Vincent Miller, "are all driving forces for the team both on and off the field," he said.

Miller has great confidence in the ability of his captains to lead the team to success this season. Melendy, the starting shortstop,

is praised by Coach Miller as a player who "excels at hitting for average, hitting for power, base-running skills and speed, throwing ability and fielding abilities," he said. Quinn, according to Miller, "has been a 'clutch' performer for [the team] in the past," as a hitter and the starting first baseman and will hopefully continue her strong play this season.

Albright, a pitcher and the team's "franchise player", in the eyes of Coach Miller, is "a true leader [whose] love for the game and desire to win is noticeable and contagious," he said.

The players on the team also believe their captains help keep the team together. "The captains keep the energy up and inspire us," junior Audrey Fleischner said. "They each bring something different to the team."

The team was relatively young last year with only one senior, Whitney Ko ('09). That sense of youth has matured this year to

make a powerful veteran squad. Ko, a defensive powerhouse third baseman, the team's lead-off hitter and an integral part of their success last season, will be replaced by Albright and sophomore Morgan Higgins, who will rotate between pitcher and third baseman. Higgins, as well as sophomore Ana Slade and freshman Liana Penny, is just one of many young players who will be expected to fill big roles. "We've got five really competent freshmen this year," Fleischner said.

Older veterans will need to step up too. Fleischner switched positions to play catcher last season when the team was without one. She picked up the role instinctively and has continued to progress this year. Although she suffered from a wrist injury last season, with a year of experience as a catcher behind her and a healed wrist, she will be able to contribute greatly to the team.

To emphasize its change in attitude this year, the team has changed its name from the Chipmunkz to the Renegades. The team may have changed its name because, as Quinn put it, the name "Chipmunkz doesn't exactly strike fear in enemy hearts," she said. Or maybe the team is just trying to inspire change. The Renegades hope a new team name will alter the mindset of the team from that of cuddly, woodland creatures to fierce competitors.

The Renegades believe that with the new additions to the roster, and with returning players maturing and stepping up, the team can be the start, as Albright put it, of the "coming of a new generation of softball" at Stuyvesant High School.

Boys' Baseball

Hitmen Turn to New Players in Search of 14th Straight Playoff Berth

By JORDAN FRANK

As spring approaches, Stuyvesant's boys' varsity baseball team, the Hitmen, is already preparing daily for the upcoming season, whether it is by scrimmaging with the junior varsity team, going to the weight room or hitting in a batting cage. However, even with the addition of nine new players, the chemistry on the team has remained intact. "They're all really enthusiastic, and I noticed we are having a lot of fun. I think this group of kids is really great," senior and captain Nick Gallo said.

"A lot of the guys are good friends away from the team," coach John Carlesi said. "They knew each other

from [junior varsity] or have known each other from practices or winter workouts."

While the influx of new players gives the Hitmen reason to look forward to the season, they will still miss the eight total players—six graduating seniors and two current seniors—who are no longer on the team. Included in these eight players are all four captains from last year, Nolan Becker ('09), Zach Karson ('09), Nick Rozar ('09) and Nick Wheatley-Schaller ('09).

Gallo, the team's lone left-handed pitcher, has the responsibility of filling the void left by the loss of Becker, the team's ace last year, who pitched a perfect

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(Race)Walk It Out

By MAHTAB ALAM

Although it is often overlooked, racewalking is one of the most difficult track events to master. It is not like the dash, the sprint, or the relay, which require different work-outs. Very few girls participate in racewalking events, and most of them have to teach themselves the techniques because they do not have a specialized coach. Like any other sport, though, racewalking requires hard work, dedication and concentration.

Despite being relatively obscure, racewalking has been an Olympic sport since 1904 and hosts a biennial World Cup. It is a track and field event that has two basic rules. The first dictates that the athlete's back toe cannot leave the ground until the heel of the front foot has touched. Violation of this rule is known as loss of contact. The second rule requires that the supporting leg must straighten from the point of contact with the ground and remain straightened until the body passes over it. Failure to follow these rules can result in the athlete's disqualification from the race. The distances for races can vary from 1500 meters, at the high school level, to 50 kilometers, for men in the Olympics.

Although the rules are different for racewalking, the athletes still prepare and condition themselves as they would for any other track event. They still work on their core and do cardiovascular exercises. They also run long distances. However, there are key differences. For example,

same level that we were two years ago," sophomore and indoor track co-captain Kimberly Iboy said.

This year, seven of the top 20 racewalkers in the PSAL are from Stuyvesant, proving that the girls on the team are trying to make racewalking at Stuyvesant what it once was. "We're working really hard this season to regain our legacy," junior and indoor co-captain Lisa Li said.

The racewalking team has had to face adversity before. In January 2008, ex-coach Erin Taylor took some of the racewalkers to a non-PSAL competition at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Tragically, the car they were in was involved in an accident and one racewalker, Valerie Piro, was left paralyzed. This shocked the track team, as well as the entire Stuyvesant community. But it did not stop three of the racewalkers, including Yang, from qualifying for the National Championships that year.

Soon after the incident, the Taylor resigned as a result of her injuries. Since then, the team has not had a coach who works exclusively with the racewalking team. "Without a coach, we've been forced to learn our race-walking techniques by ourselves or from our veterans and that is the reason why we haven't been performing as well as we used to," freshman Linda Luu said. "The captains teach all the new race-walkers how to race-walk."

The captains try their hardest to carry the burden of coaching young racewalkers, but find it stressful sometimes as well. "We have to be each other's support. It's hard at times but we have to do it," Iboy said.

This past season, Girls Indoor Track found some success at the PSAL City Championships, including in racewalking. Freshman Linda Luu placed second in the 1500 meter racewalk at both the PSAL Holiday Games on Saturday, December 26 and the PSAL Freshman and Sophomore City Championships on Sunday March 7. However, despite the success they had during the season, junior Katerina Lembrikova and sophomore Iboy placed tenth and eleventh, respectively, at the PSAL Varsity City Championships.

Although racewalking is still relatively unknown to most, it is a sport that can potentially

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Sports

The Great Hole

By Tong Niu

As a permanent fixture in the Tribeca neighborhood, one deli has been continually passed over. Popularly known as the "Hole in the Wall," this nameless deli has been underappreciated throughout the years. Its potential lays hidden behind the mass of eateries along Chamber Street. Though business is always booming, one can fail to notice the quality and class that this deli provides.

While no one knows when the Hole in the Wall—which is open 24/7—opened its doors, there have been speculations. "I heard that the deli was originally a really large crack in the wall, which, due to weather erosion and some slight digging, has



evolved into its current state," junior Charlie Darwin said.

The Hole has come a long way from its caveman days. Over the centuries, it has expanded from two square feet to almost double that size. This expansion can in part be attributed to its booming business, mostly from high school students. Its prime location, sandwiched between Taco Bell and some apartment, allows easy access to it. The construction rails in front of it create a natural awning which shelters it from the elements.

Not only is its location accessible, but its inventory is well stocked as well. The Hole caters to a variety of tastes. It offers everything from sweet candy to salty chips, from soda to healthy orange juice—the choices are simply limitless. International treats are not unknown to this little deli, either. Swedish Fish is always in stock, among many others foreign delights. "My favorite is the Mike 'n Ike jelly candies. They have a whole bunch. You can pick the ones in the green bags, the orange bags and I think there's even a blue colored bag too," sophomore Hammund Eigs said.

While the interior of the deli is a bit on the shabby side, students seem to appreciate its focus on quality rather than meaningless decorations. "It's good that they don't focus a lot on appearance. People focus too much on looks. It's bad enough that Stuyvesant is kicking out ugly students," freshman Som Yong Chik said.

But the best part about the Hole is its reasonable pricing. Gum (\$2), candies (\$2-\$3) and chips (\$1-\$3) can all be bought at typical Manhattan prices. "The prices are amazing and you even get a free plastic bag for your things," Chik said.

Drinks, ranging from one dollar to four dollars, are also relatively cheap. "The Arizona teas are only 99 cents. And since they don't charge you tax, you can even ask for your change back," customer Pennie Les said.

The Hole in the Wall has been forgotten as one of Chamber Street's most exquisite eateries. "I don't know what it is about the place. Maybe it's the great ambiance that it gives out or the great food quality. Maybe it's the great location."

What ever it is, it's definitely one of the best delis I've ever been to," Les said.

Indeed, with such popular support from local residents, the Hole might have to consider upgrading to five square feet.

Marsha Kononenko / The Spectator

Asian Diversity

By SAM FURNIVAL

While universally lauded as the city's most elite school, in recent years, Stuyvesant High School has drawn widespread scrutiny for its chronic lack of racial diversity. The incoming class's homogeneity has been dissected by pedagogical journals, the New York Times and, most recently, a group of students dedicated to creating a more inclusive institution.

"The situation has become untenable. Anyone who looks through the halls can see the problem. It's all around us, like a sea of identical people," senior and Asian Diversity Association (ADA) President Kevin Lee said. "Where are the Hmong? The Lao-tians? The Mongols? The continent of Asia is simply not represented."

Though 70 percent of incoming freshmen in the class of 2014 self identify as Asian, the vast majority of these are Chinamen or Koreans or something. Included in the tally is also an oncoming deluge of Bengalis and Indians. Much to the ADA's chagrin, barely any incoming Asians are Polynesians, Thai, Samoans or

Cambodians.

"The hue of the average student is much too light," Lee said. "Clearly the [Specialized High School Admissions Test] is racially biased against Indonesians and Filipinos. The Department of Education should make high quality test prep accessible to Nepalese and Tamils."

Members of minority groups at Stuyvesant responded positively to diversity-building efforts. "I hate being so alone. I feel like no one else can appreciate my struggles," said Freshman Kevin Lin, who hails from the underrepresented Hei Long Jiang province of China.

"I think Stuyvesant can be a little too plain old boring vanilla [lemon] in terms of people. I think increasing the number of Taiwanese would help," said Sophomore Kevin Luo.

Some students had reservations about the new campaign. "Diversity is all well and good, and I think all of Asia should be represented," Junior Kevin Liang said. "But you have to draw the line somewhere. What happens when you start letting in Uighur's and Fujianese?"

Jerking Replaces Ballroom Dancing in Third Marking Period

By MAYA AVERBUCH and SHILPA AGRAWAL

The Physical Department will be changing the curriculum for the Ballroom Dancing class (PD7) so that students will learn jerking during the third marking period of the spring term instead of doing their usual ballroom dancing presentations.

According to Assistant Principal Gym Larry Barth, Ballroom Dancing teacher Silvanna Choi brought the matter to his attention in the first week of March.

"I was very impressed by what I saw from the jerkers in SING! and when Ms. Choi suggested altering the Ballroom Dancing curriculum to incorporate jerking, I almost signed up for the class myself," Barth said.

Although the decision was sudden, Choi believes it will greatly contribute to the growth of Stuyvesant students.

"We do not want Stuyvesant students to forever be pubescent pimples who hide in the corner at their college frat parties because they can only ballroom dance. They should be exposed to modern styles of dancing so they can flourish in the real world," Choi said.

According to Choi, she has taken a few jerking classes outside of Stuyvesant to ensure she "got all the moves down and was proficient in the dance."

The new curriculum will start off with some basic steps, like the Reject, and will progress into more intricate moves such as the Spongebob and the Pindrop.

Some students are very enthusiastic about the change because they feel that jerking is more beneficial in the modern day.

"Ballroom dancing is so last century," senior and Ballroom Dancing student Luc Cohen said.

"We are past the age when you can land some hotties with just a waltz," Senior Class President and ballroom dancing student Paul Lee said.

Many juniors are supportive of the new curriculum as well.

"If those seniors learn how to bust some moves, we can get some jerk-offs going," junior Andy Chen said.

However, some seniors are disappointed that they will not be able to complete their ballroom dancing education.

"How am I supposed to be the next Antonio Banderas if I can't even pull off a sexy tango?" senior Simon Sullivan said.

"To become well-polished members of society it is vital to be able to dance a respectable fox trot," senior Evan Smith said. "Jerking looks too much like bad hip-hop dancers tripping over their own feet."

Choi says she has heard some complaints about the change but she said students will "warm to it and get their swag on soon enough."

Administration Raises Math Requirement

to Five Years

mathematics teacher Richard Geller suggested that Stuyvesant instead require five years-worth of mathematics.

"Sure, we want our kids to look good come time for college applications, but don't we want them to really stand out? And what better way to stand out than to fit five years of math in only four years of high school?" Geller said. "After all, math is number one."

Teachers and staff enthusiastically approved. "Hot diggity!" mathematics teacher Dr. Paul Fitzgerald said.

"I'm ecstatic to see that kids spend more time under the reign of the kingdom of math," mathematics teacher Edward Losta said. "They can learn to pay more

respect to their Master Math."

Even teachers of other departments were in favor of the increasing the mathematics requirement. English teacher John La Bonne said, "I just love to watch kids use my class to do their math homework, and this change is sure to make that more common."

Students are equally enthusiastic. "When I came to Stuy, I was overwhelmed by all the electives I could take. So I think it's really good that Stuy is going to restrict [the incoming freshmen's] opportunity to learn what they want," junior Mustapha Mond said. "It makes it easier on them since they won't have to worry about what they want to do in life. Stuy is stressful enough."

Stuyvesant's Most Wanted

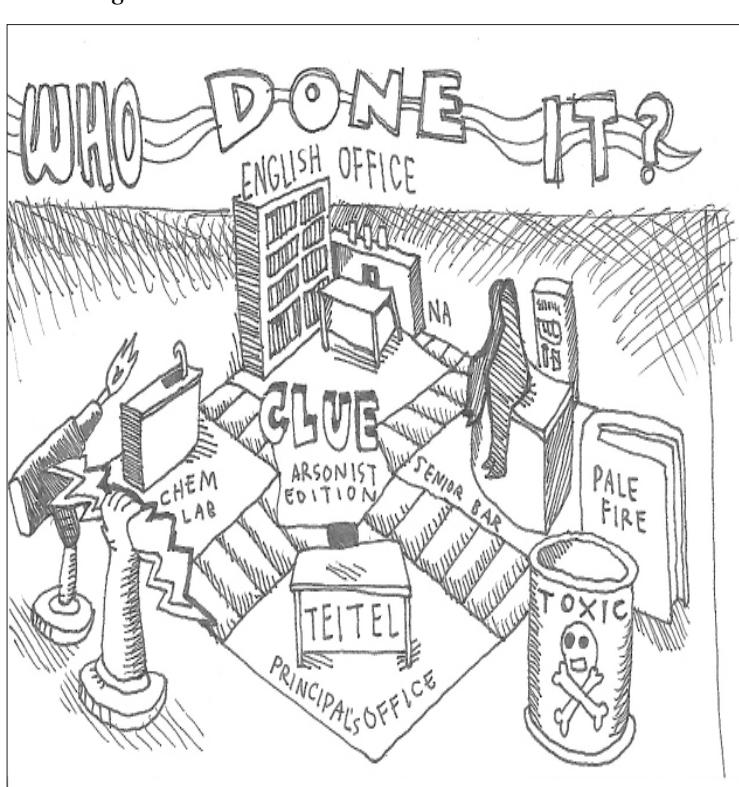
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To say that Assistant Principle English Eric Grossman has a passion for Fire is an understatement. For years Grossman has been teaching his Great Books class Pale Fire and for years his students have slaved over the papers. Countless hours, numerous edits, and undeniable pain are the raw components to these essays. Grossman does not just have a love for Pale Fire but rather an obsession with it. "My respect and affection for [Pale] Fire is undeniable," Grossman said. "Everyday I have an uncontrollable desire to be with it." Grossman goes so far as to state that Fire is the only reason why he keeps teaching.

But perhaps the true criminal is the man who we all would least suspect. Principal Stanley Teitel—mild mannered, outgoing and amiable—is the absolute least likely candidate for the arsonist. And this is precisely the reason that we believe he is culpable. "Mr. Teitel is always so nice!" said freshman Jenny Lotova. "He would never do anything bad," said freshman Charlie Kramer. Mr. Teitel was recently spotted at a Hess sta-

tion in New Jersey, filling his car with a well-known flammable substance--C8H18--commonly known as gasoline. His incentive for setting fires? Who wouldn't

jump at the chance to carry out the perfect crime? Our very student body may just be under the care of a crazed pyromaniac!



THE DISRESPECTATOR SPORTS

Juniors Won't Stop At SING!

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attacks said in a YouTube video.

In recent weeks, the Senior Intelligence Agency (SIA) has learned that the juniors have been planning an offensive codenamed "Operation Hurt Locker," in which they will place ICDs in senior bar lockers. The SIA has learned that the administration has already willingly given the combinations to senior bar lockers to participating juniors. While the SIA is uncertain of when the juniors will execute the plan, it warns seniors to be vigilant and to carry a carton of 1% milk, which can disable ICDs, with them at all times.

In response to the first attacks, Senior Army General Henry Lin requested troops from Student Union (SU) President Paul Lee in order to stabilize the

third floor and quell the insurgency. Much to Lin's frustration, Lee took a comparatively long period of time to announce his decision, leading many pundits, including this newspaper, to accuse him of 'waver'ing and allowing the juniors to strengthen their forces and strategy. In the end, Lee committed a force of eight Spartan warriors, a unit Lin described as "acceptable, but not ideal."

The Spartans executed their strategy—which consisted of doing the 'Jump on It' dance in the third floor corridor while throwing cereal pieces at junior passerby—on Tuesday, March 16. However, despite the administration's compliance with the juniors' operation, dean and social studies teacher Daniel Tillman voided the Spartans' lunches. When asked why the seniors

were punished and the juniors were not, Principal Stanley Teitel cited the floor policy. With its armed forces tightly stretched, it is unclear whether the seniors will be able to hold off an inevitable junior invasion of the bar.

Prom

In possibly the most controversial move of his presidency, Lee issued an Executive Order preventing senior girls who plan to take a junior boy to prom from attending. "The pain from this loss has dealt a powerful blow to all of our egos," Lee said in a press release. "I am concerned that if current dating trends continue, the senior boys will never be able to recover."

Back in the fall, a large number of senior girls made use of the wildly popular 'Krispies for Klunkers' program, in which they could trade in an antiquated senior guy for a new, improved junior model. While junior girls and senior boys have coalesced in their support for the new order, junior boys and senior girls have stolen the narrative with a viru-

lently antigovernment argument.

"This new order represents an unwelcome and unStuyvesantian intrusion of the government into our social lives," one anonymous senior girl said. "I refuse to stand in front of the SU's 'date panel.'"

Due to the program's success, juniors now for the first time in Stuyvesant history have a legitimate shot at filibustering the supermajority needed for seniors to claim the prom as their own.

"Many people do not know this, but it's only called the 'Senior Prom' if a supermajority of senior girls—albeit a very high one—are taking someone their age or older," said one anonymous junior boy. While this has never happened, the lower grades' success at the SING! after party—which has not failed to swing in the seniors' favor for decades—may prevent the seniors from reaching closure and handing the prom off to the juniors.

Graduation

Undoubtedly the most quixotic of their goals, the juniors are hoping to capitalize on the

slight possibility of stealing 2010 graduation from the seniors. The seniors' grades have been in recession—due in part to the collapse of a 'grade bubble' caused by speculative teachers who doled out subprime A's to unreliable students who promised they would do their homework eventually. Because the effects of the ensuing crisis have touched all sectors of the senior grade, an administration bailout—which would allow seniors to graduate—is considered all but certain.

Riding a wave of populism, however, the juniors have begun to lead an organized and effective campaign against the bailout package. While the administration has not yet begun to take them seriously, they have vowed not to do any work next year unless the administration refuses to bail out the seniors and let them graduate instead.

Miller to Premiere on Season Two of "Jersey Shore"

By SCOTT CHIUSANO



MTV's new hit series "Jersey Shore" has made its way into Stuyvesant—and not only through excessive use of the "fist pump." Our very own physical education teacher, Vinny Miller, has been offered a spot on season two of the show, which premieres next December. The show, which features the lives of a group of eight guidos living together in one house, could not resist recruiting Miller—a true Italian out of Marine Park, Brooklyn.

The producers of the show were out to find an Italian male, preferably with spiked hair, abs of steel and a thick Brooklyn accent. Miller, widely known as the best looking teacher Stuyvesant has to offer, fit the bill perfectly. "Oh my gosh! He is so dreamy," junior Audrey Fleischner said.

The producers were not thrilled that Miller coaches two girls teams—softball and Junior

Varsity volleyball—at the school. "It really doesn't help display his masculinity. People might get the wrong idea," executive producer Mark Efman said. However, they stuck with Miller because "the next best bet was the bald guy with the fanny pack," he said.

Although Miller had shown little emotion while finding out he had made the show, outside sources say he was later spotted fist pumping in the weight room. When asked what he most wanted to do on the show, Miller proceeded to lift his shirt and reveal his spectacular abs. "I can't wait to give that JWow broad a look at these. And give Snooki a piece of this," said Miller, while making a gesture at his large biceps. The producers felt that the only thing Miller was lacking in becoming a guido was an authentic "Jersey Shore" name. When one of the producers inquired as to what name Miller would like to be called by, Miller said, "What's the problem with Vinny, eh?"

"That's it!" the producer said, and thus, Miller was blessed with the guido tag of Vinny "The Problem" Miller.

The Stuyvesant community has been very accepting of Miller's decision to take on the role of "The Problem" in season two. "It's friggin nice to know that our people are bein' represented. This was an offer Vinny couldn't refuse," said John Carlesi, infamously known for his mob connections and coach of Stuyvesant's boy's baseball team, the Hitmen.

When Miller's fellow Marine Park resident and physical education teacher Howie Barbin was asked about Miller's new position on the show, he simply pumped his fist and emphatically said, "Awesome!"

al tournament to determine the very best like no one ever was.

Many schools across the city compete in the NIPPL tournament, making high school Pokémon one of the most popular local competitions, third only to Robotics and Science Olympiad. The Stuyvesant Pokémon Team alone has 255 members.

Each school sends its 31 best students to the regional competition, of which only a select few advance to nationals. Seven is a high number of students to

move on to nationals, although it does not break Stuyvesant's record of nine from two years ago.

Advancing to the national championship is a prestigious achievement. Top contestants may receive scholarships to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, California Institute of Technology, and Carnegie Mellon.

Harry Poppick / The Spectator

nationals. I worked so hard over the past few years and never came close. I guess luck was on my side this time."

"It wasn't easy," junior Lawrence Lin said. "Pokémon requires a lot of time, skill, and cunning. You need a lot of patience when you're training, and in battling, you have to anticipate your op-

ponent's moves. Juniors make one mistake can cost you the game."

The Stuyvesant Pokémon Team started training months before the tournament. Training is an arduous process that involves planning, building and testing one's team. Building one's team can itself take weeks because it requires tedious processes such as breeding for individual values and effort value-training.

Pokémon coach Miss Ingno could not be found to comment. The rest of the advancing tournament participants had rushed home to train before they could be reached. "I was supposed to take the SATs today, but I canceled them when I learned that I qualified for regional finals, a month ago. I needed all the time I could get to train," junior and regional champion Bill Basaur said. "I couldn't be more happy about that decision."

"I'm so proud of all of us," senior and Pokémon club co-president Victoria Wu said. "I never thought I'd make it to

白人看不懂

牛童和施清绮

by TONG NIU and VIVIAN SZE

今天的天气多好！你好点儿的看一下。快！转身！瞧一瞧

那蓝色的天空。

看看这个又蓝又清的天空，我想起来我妈妈跟我讲的“李白的静夜思”：

床前明月光，
疑是地上霜。

举头望明月，
低头思故乡。

我知道你们大部分都看不懂我现在为你们写的字，但我不管，反正我是为自己而写的。

让我讲我的故事给你们听。

我是个移民。

我三年级的时候还住在中国，我只记得我每天早上听我的姐姐，哥哥们在唱我们中国国歌：

三民主義，吾黨所宗，
以建民國，以進大同。
咨爾多士，為民前鋒；
夙夜匪懈，主義是從。
矢勤矢勇，必信必忠；
一心一德，貫徹始終。

我四年级的时候，我上了飞机到了美国。

我五年级的时候，我上了小学。

我六年级的时候，我发现了一个法拉盛！我从来都没有见过一个多么干净的地方。到处都是垃圾。难道我们华人都不会清扫吗？

我七年级的时候，我学了怎么煮我的第一餐！（你如果想向我学，别犹豫，过来找我！）我现在想起来，那可是我最好吃的一餐。你知道是什么吗？是我的独一无二的天上人间快面！

我八年级的时候，我上了补习班。我现在想起来，每一个人都白痴。那么容易的数学应该一教就懂。

然后我九年级的时候我终于上了高中。我到了stuyvesant的时候，我天天（一下学），我马上到中城去买“垃圾”。你知道中国餐是世界上最好吃的餐吗？那一个国家比我们中国煮的饭又味道又出息呢？你们想一想，我们有北京烤鸭，东坡肉，福州饺子，叉烧，油鸡，等等。

哎呀想看这些吃的东西我肚子真的有点饿。让我在说最后一句：你们真的没事赶。这里没有任何有意的话，你们浪费了你们的时间。

To Train Them is Their Cause

By VARUN SHARMA

Seven members of the Stuyvesant Pokémon Team returned victorious from the American Regional Pokémon League (ARPL) competition, hosted by Nintendo World at Rockefeller Center on Sunday, March 14. They will advance to the national competition—the next and penultimate level of the National/International Pokémon Player's League's (NIPPL) annual