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Teitel Makes AIS Tutoring Mandatory for Failing Students

By ROBERT COLGAN
and KAITLYN KWAN

Principal Stanley Teitel implemented a new policy this semester that requires all students failing a major class to attend Academic Intervention Services (AIS) tutoring sessions. In the past, attendance was optional.

The policy is intended to reduce the number of classes failed at Stuyvesant. Members of the guidance department suggested the policy to Teitel after he reviewed the number of students who had failed classes last year (see chart). The number was not unusually large when compared to previous years.

"The guidance department felt that a lot of students were not getting the support they needed or when they were, it was too late," Assistant Principal Guidance Eleanor Archie said.

According to Teitel, one of the main reasons why students

fail is because of their participation in after school activities. "Students sometimes allow non-academic things to become more important than their academic success? I have a club meeting, I've got this, I've got that? so they don't go to AIS, and they continue to not do as well as they could," Teitel said.

The policy will not affect students' participation in their extracurricular activities as long as the timing of the two does not conflict. However, if it does, the student must attend the tutoring session rather than the extracurricular.

For some departments, like the sciences, students who fail the first exam will be required to attend AIS tutoring. "I won't even wait for the first report card, because maybe, just maybe, if you go to AIS, you might not fail," Teitel said.

If a student does not attend the mandatory AIS tutoring ses-

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New High in Class Size



Diane Yee / The Spectator

This year, Stuyvesant High School has enrolled 843 students, making it the largest class size in the school's history.

By ZOE WU

At 843 students, this year's freshman class is the largest yet.

This title previously belonged to the sophomore class, which, at approximately 812 students, falls

an entire classroom of students short when compared to the freshman class.

According to Principal Stanley Teitel, this decision was not made by the school.

"[The school does not] con-

trol the number of letters that are sent out after the [entrance] exam," Teitel said. "And [the Department of Education (DOE)] seems to be sending out more and more letters, which of course results in more and more students saying yes."

Despite the rise in the number of students, teachers will not have to teach more classes or classes with more students. According to Teitel, the teachers' contracts limit them to teaching five classes of, at most, 34 students each day. Instead, to deal with the large number of students, more teachers were hired. "I am getting my budget based on enrollment," Teitel said. "So if I have more students, I get more money, and that allows me to get more teachers."

In addition to a bigger staff, the school also had to make other adjustments. Classroom space was also an issue. From fourth to eighth period, approximately 500 students have lunch at a time, and the rest of the students can be put into classrooms. During first, second, third, ninth, and 10th periods, however, fitting students into classes becomes difficult. "According to [Assistant Principal Tech Services Edward]

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Research Physics Canceled Despite No Budget Cuts

By AMIT SAHA
and NICOLE ZHAO

Despite the full restoration of Stuyvesant's budget, Research Physics was canceled during the summer due to "budgetary constraints," as stated on student program schedules distributed on Tuesday, September 2.

Research Physics is a year-long course offered in place of Regents Physics to juniors who completed Regents Biology during their freshman year.

According to chemistry and

physics Assistant Principal Scott Thomas, the chemistry and physics department had been planning to hire new physics and chemistry teachers for the current school year since beginning of the 2008 spring term.

"We had interviewed [a physics teacher] in the spring and thus allowed students to register for the class," Thomas said.

However, during the summer, the chemistry and physics department discovered that there was inadequate funding to hire both chemistry and physics

teachers, and the chemistry teacher was hired instead of the prospective Research Physics teacher. There were not enough physics teachers in the current faculty to cover the Research Physics class.

Principal Stanley Teitel also attributes the cancellation to time constrictions.

"Because [the class is] a double period every day, we didn't have room in the program for [it]," he said. "I discussed it with Thomas, and I suggested that we go back to Regents Physics for all juniors."

Many of the juniors who registered for Research Physics were disappointed that the class had been canceled.

"I was really ticked off this year when they said they didn't offer Research Physics due to budget constraints," junior Evan Chen said.

"I was outraged," junior Kenny Yu said. "Research Physics had ruined my schedule for junior year, where [Advanced Placements] are very important. I had given up taking AP US History and AP Computer Science for it."

It remains to be seen whether Research Physics will be available next year. The school is notified of the budget for the upcoming school year in June. Teitel said that there is "no way to anticipate [next year's budget]" and predict whether Research Physics will receive adequate funding for the following school year.

Thomas supported having Research Physics restored next fall. "I want to have it absolutely," he said. "If we can, we'll reinstate the class for next year."



Seam Gordon-Loeb / The Spectator

Mayor Bloomberg spoke at a ceremony welcoming returning New York City Olympians at City Hall. See page 16.

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News

Guidance Counselor McCray Promoted, Replaced by Parnes

By ANI SEFAJ
with additional reporting by BEN GARNER

Last June, guidance counselor Jan McCray left her position at Stuyvesant High School. McCray is now working as the Assistant Principal of Guidance at the High School of Art and Design. Guidance counselor Ronnie Parnes has replaced McCray at Stuyvesant.



I am looking forward to meeting all of my students and establishing meaningful relationships with them,” Parnes said.

McCray, who knew during the spring term of last year that she would be leaving Stuyvesant, told most of her students of her departure. “I was informed that she was leaving by her and also by word of mouth,” senior Nolan Becker said.

According to Guidance Assistant Principal Eleanor Archie, McCray is still responsible for her seniors’ SSRs. “All the guidance teachers had deadlines for the SSR, which was in June,” Archie said. “McCray did all of her senior SSRs in plenty of time. She is still receiving updates from Stuyvesant for the SSR and she is keeping in touch with the faculty and her students.”

McCray received glowing praise from her coworkers and students for her time at Stuyvesant High School.

“I knew Ms. McCray fairly well and I thought that she was very helpful and accommodat-ing to her students,” Becker said. “She really excelled at her job as a guidance counselor because she was so easy to have a one-on-one conversation and relationship with even in a school of so many people.”

“We will sincerely miss her, but we are very happy for her,” Archie said. “As for her replacement, Ms. Parnes, she is a very capable and dedicated guidance counselor.”

Parnes has now taken over

Teitel Makes AIS Tutoring Mandatory for Failing Students

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sion, his or her parents will be notified.

Some students and teachers are unsure about the effective-ness of the policy. “It really depends upon how many stu-dents show up for AIS. If it’s too many I think it might not be very efficient and you might not get the results that are desired,” physics teacher Rebecca Gorla said.

“If they’re already failing classes, they’re probably already

McCray’s homerooms and stu-dents. “I am responsible for seniors in homerooms 7F, 7G and 7H. They are a group with diverse strengths, interests and aspirations,” Parnes said. “I feel privileged to interact with them.”

Parnes was formerly the guidance director at a small col-lege-preparatory academy in Bajonne, New Jersey. “As the guidance director, I also had oversight over the college appli-cation process and took interest-ed students on college tours,” Parnes said. She also worked with students in Scarsdale, New Rochelle and Harlem.

In a prior career, Parnes worked as a fixed-income securi-ties trader and salesperson. She welcomes all students who are interested in pursuing finance careers to come to talk to her.

“The first week was great. Many students stopped by sim-ply to introduce themselves and to make me feel welcome. Other students dropped by to discuss personal concerns or to request program changes,” Parnes said. “Making program changes can be very challenging and I try my best to accommodate those stu-dents with legitimate requests.”

“I didn’t need to get my schedule changed,” junior Steven Pateo said. “But I came in to introduce myself to [Parnes] and she seemed really nice.” Other students agreed.

“She really has our best interests at heart,” sophomore Arik Raviv said. “I had a huge problem with my schedule and I went to see her during her lunch break. She helped me out of a jam.”

“She is very dedicated. She is learning all the intricacies of working at a place like Stuyvesant,” school social work-er John Mui said.

Parnes is glad to be part of the Stuyvesant community. “Stuyvesant is an amazing school. I have been consistently impressed with the energy, spirit and optimism in the building,” she said.

“I am looking forward to meeting all of my students and to establishing meaningful relationships with them,” Parnes said. “All of the staff at Stuyvesant has the same goal: to help students become all they can be, to help them work through bumps in the road, and to revel with them in their suc-cesses. All in all, I would not want to be working anywhere else, doing anything else, at this point in time.”

lacking motivation to do well in school. Because honestly, it’s hard to fail in Stuy,” junior Hui Lin said.

Others support the new poli-cy. “It’s actually really helpful because a lot of people are not going to go if they don’t have to,” senior Sayera Musfika said.

“Some of the students who should have been going [to AIS] weren’t going,” Archie said. “By mandating it, we’re giving them that extra support to help them.”

News in Brief

By PAULINA KARPIS
and ARIANNA MOSHARY

No More Locker Sharing

In order to prevent theft, sophomores, juniors and seniors are not allowed to share lockers this year. “All of the thefts that occurred last year involved lockers in which stu-dents were sharing,” Principal Stanley Teitel said. “This sum-mer, I had [Assistant Principal Tech Services Edward] Wong buy more lockers, so there are enough for every senior, junior and sophomore to have their own locker.” However, some freshmen will be required to share, since there are still fewer lockers than students.

According to Teitel, he knows which students are shar-ing lockers because they didn’t buy the combinations to their original lockers. “None of you are going to walk around all year carrying your coat,” he said. If students are found to be sharing, both of their lockers will be taken away.

Dean Phil Fisher approves of this new policy. “Our main goal is not to inconvenience students, but to keep student property safe,” he said.

Student Cell Phones Confiscated

The administration started confiscating cell phones that are in students’ pockets or other visible locations. Students must hide their phones in their bags and turn them off.

“It has come to my atten-tion through matters I can’t discuss that students are not powering down their phones and are texting during the school day,” Principal Stanley Teitel said. “I want [phones] away.”

Teitel announced the new policy at every grade assembly and placed a sign on the bridge to inform students. Dean Phil Fisher said he “stood outside on the bridge and warned kids” to hide their phones.

About 70 cell phones were confiscated on the morning of Wednesday, September 10?the first day the cautionary sign was displayed on the bridge.

Department of Education Chancellor Regulation A-412 states, “Cell phones, iPods, beepers and other communica-tion devices are prohibited on school property.” This policy has been in place since 1988,

but, up until now, Stuyvesant teachers and administrators would not confiscate cell phones unless they rang in class or students were caught talking on the phone in the building.

Crack Down on “Inappropriate Clothing”

Last week, several students were pulled aside during the day and told to dress more appropriately by deans and some members of the adminis-tration.

Although Stuyvesant has no official dress code policy, the Code of Conduct states that “students are expected to dress appropriately for school.”

“There should be an official guideline,” senior Pamela Soto said. “Otherwise it would be too subjective and demeaning to girls.”

Sophomore Emma Carleton, who was pulled aside, said, “Our school has no dress code and it’s unfair because I’m not offending anybody.”

“You’re coming to school. You’re not going to a club,” Principal Stanley Teitel said. “If I get really angry, I may call your mother.”

New High in Class Size

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Wong, there were more students with a free period during the day,” Teitel said. “We don’t have enough classrooms to put all the people in a classroom every peri-od.”

Some students see the increase in the number of stu-dents as problematic. “It’s a huge disadvantage,” sophomore Kseniya Ostrovska said. “It makes it harder and harder for students to get into the electives or AP classes that they want to take.” Freshman Tong Wan is not wor-ried about not being able to take certain classes because there are “so many electives,” Wan said. “If a class fills up, it motivates you to take another elective.”

Sophomore Faheem Zaman, on the other hand, sees an advantage in allowing more stu-dents to attend Stuyvesant High School. “I think it’s great,” Zaman

said. “It extends the opportunity [for a quality education] to more students.”

Teitel said that he is not sure

Teitel is already trying to work with the DOE to limit the number of incoming freshmen next year.

at the moment whether the increase in freshmen might hurt students’ chances in getting the electives that they want. He did

say that difference between the sophomore class and the fresh-man class “is not that dramatic. The numbers are really not that different. It’s a little bigger. It’s one class difference.”

Still, Teitel is already trying to work with the DOE to limit the number of incoming freshmen next year. “I had a deal that we would keep our classes around 800,” Teitel said. “Eight-hundred forty-three, in my book, is not around 800.”

According to Teitel, the num-ber of the student body at Stuyvesant High School is sup-posed to be around 3,200. But if the freshman classes in future years continue to be as large as this year’s, the total number of students might exceed 3,300. “I’m already asking that we reduce the number of letters that go out after an entrance exam so that we come back to the number that we agreed to,” Teitel said.

Suri on Sabbatical to Pursue Individual Study

By BEN GARNER
with additional reporting by ANI SEFAJ

History teacher Joel Sklaroff will replace Assistant Principal Social Studies Jennifer Suri, who has taken a six month from to study at Baruch College. She is taking three history classes.

“The department seems to be doing very well and I am in almost daily contact with Mr. Sklaroff who is running the department in my absence,” she said.

“Everything is great,” Skalaroffsaid. “We talk to [Suri] two to three times a week and she is aware of everything going on in the department.”

New York City have taught a minimum of 14 years are eligible to request a sabbatical leave for study. This includes up to three years of substitute service for which salary credit granted.

Suri, who was on maternity leave three years ago, has

“I am in almost daily contact with Mr. Sklaroff who is running the department in my absence.” — Jennifer Suri, Assistant

Advanced Placement (AP) American History and been

Assistant Principalat Stuyvesant for approximately nine years.

Most teachers within the department are adjusting to the . “verything is still smooth, but . Suri isn’t there for everyday advice,” History teacher Kristin Burnell said.

Several students also regret her absence. Sophomore Disi Chensaid, “ though Mr. Sklaroff at the office should be able to handle[it], it will be nice to have Ms. Suri back.”

Suri will resume her duties in February for the second semesteras Assistant Principal and AP American History teach-er.

The faculty agrees that the department will normally. “. Suri left on a sabbatical three years ago on maternity leave and left . Sklaroff in charge, o we are pretty accustomed to it,” Global History teacher Phil Scandurasaid. “We know things will run smoothly.”

Introducing the New Faces of Stuy’s Faculty

By JUDY CHEN and AVA WOYCHUK-MLINAC

It’s always tough coming into a new a community. Being in the spotlight while trying to fit in is not easy. Fortunately, at Stuyvesant, new teachers are surrounded by fellow department members, who help ease the process of adjustment. Along with the new freshmen, these five teachers have joined the diverse mix of people that makes up Stuyvesant this year.

David Schephard



Sean Gordon-Loebl / The Spectator

Subject: Social Studies
Previous school: He taught at the Delta Program at Booker T. Washington Middle School.
Looking forward to: “I’m really looking forward to the interaction with the best and brightest that New York City has to offer.”
Favorite topic: "Social Studies is such a great subject that it is hard picking favorites. It's probably American History."
Over the summer: He “got a job at Stuyvesant High School, took classes, and went to Central Park a lot.”

Ching Yun Yang



Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

Subject: Mandarin
Previous school: She taught elementary school in Taiwan.
Looking forward to: Teaching her students to "enjoy learning" and wants to "achieve mutual happiness. Progress is most important - not numbers."
Fun facts: Yang enjoys cooking in her free time because it calms her down. She also enjoys shopping at supermarkets and watching shows on the Food Network, especially The Barefoot Contessa.

Jane Karp

Subject: Art Appreciation
Former school(s): M.S. 232, and Ridgeview Classical Schools
Looking forward to: “I’m looking forward to the chance to teach more art history.”
Favorite museums: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Frick Collection
Over the summer: Karp spent almost a month in Germany.

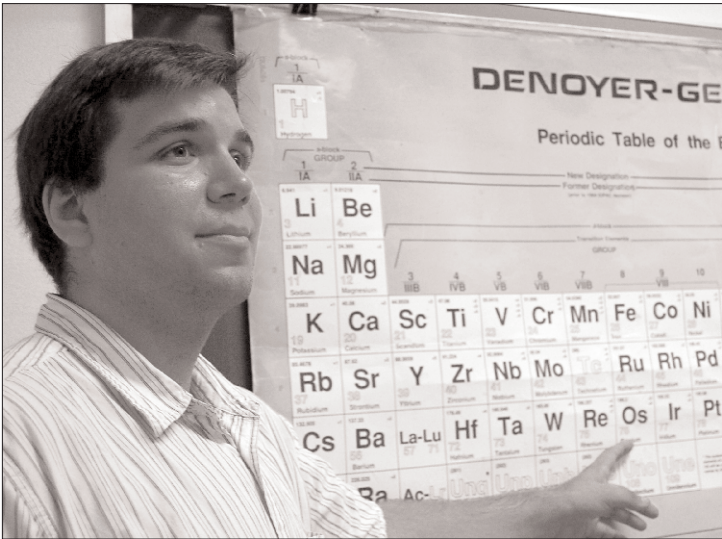
Sophie Oberfield



Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

Subject: English
Former school: Oberfield taught at the High School of Environmental Studies for four years. She also worked at the Solomon Schechter School in Glen Cove, Long Island.
Looking forward to: “Working with and getting to know the students!”
Favorite topic: Teaching plays and having discussions.

Michael Orlando



Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

Subject: Regents Chemistry
Prior experience at Stuy: As of June 2008, Orlando did a demonstration back for Stuyvesant’s chemistry department.
Former school: Star Early College High School
Looking forward to: “Teaching is, by its nature, an act of giving, and I look forward to being able to give more.”
Favorite topic: “If it catches fire, changes color, or blows up, I find it interesting.”

843

Number of freshmen

824

Number of sophomores

810

Number of juniors

783

Number of seniors

Features

Club Showcase

By LEA BELTRAMINO, SARAH KAPLAN, CASSIE MOY and AVA WOYCHUK-MLINAC

Stuyvesant students have many choices. Options can range from where to eat for lunch or which electives to take. With over 200 student clubs, choosing how to spend your precious after-school time may be the hardest decision of all. Here are just a few of Stuyvesant's new and thriving clubs that should be considered.

SUPER SMASH BROS BRAWL CLUB

Although regular Super Smash Brothers is addictive, the Brawl edition makes the classic Nintendo game even more irresistible. With its all-new characters and graphics, the game will keep you glued at your television for hours.

Founded last year by sophomore Mohammad Hossain, the Super Smash Bros Brawl Club meets twice a week after school to compete in tournaments for prizes, discuss game strategies or just to play for fun. If you miss a meeting, don't fret—flyers are posted around the school before each one. "The purpose of this club is to have fun [and] to find the best Brawl player in the school," sophomore and Forum Director Wasi Ahmed said. "Mainly it's for all Brawl lovers to get together and play." Players of all skill levels are encouraged to join.

"I thought Stuy could use a place where people could just relax and loosen up," Hossain said. "Last year as a freshman I had a pretty stressful year and the same [went] for my peers."

For more information about the Super Smash Brothers Brawl Club, check out the club's online forum at http://z15.invisionfree.com/Stuyvesant_SSBB_Club/index.php.

STUY'S FREE HUGS CLUB

Stuy's Free Hugs Club was created in 2007 in response to the inspirational "Free Hugs" viral video by Australian Juan Mann. His goal was to brighten the lives of strangers with hugs. "[They're] a universal symbol of caring and compassion," senior and club vice president Tanya Kobzeva said. "Reaching out and helping others, and having them reach out to you in return." club's goal is to give back to the community and meets weekly throughout the school year.

The first annual St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Fundraising Carnival hosted by the club earlier this year was met with unprecedented success. Students participated in many different games, tournaments and raffles to help raise a total of 3,600 dollars. All of the proceeds were donated to help continue research for a cure to pediatric cancer and other childhood illnesses at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The club hopes to expand into a non-profit organization called the Free Hugs Foundation in the future. But for now, "every member of the club is there because they want to be, not just for college credit," Kobzeva said.

For more information about Stuy's Free Hugs Club, e-mail stuysfreehug@gmail.com.

STUYSERVE

"StuyServe is a community service network of over 250 kids that informs students about upcoming service projects around the city," junior and club president Shoshana Akabas said. Unlike most clubs, StuyServe does not meet because they "don't believe in talking about community service—we believe in doing it," she said. Instead, there's an online calendar featuring upcoming events. They have four or five projects a month, but each project is optional. These projects "range anywhere from ice skating with kids in need to making sandwiches for the homeless to gardening to painting murals," Akabas said. There is no minimum number of community service hours that a member must fulfill to remain in the club.

For more information about StuyServe, visit www.stuyserve.com.

RUSSIAN BARD CLUB

"We basically just get together, talk about the Russian bard genre and sing songs," junior and Russian Bard Club president Daniel Fleishman said. Russian Bard is a style of singing that started in the early 1960s in the Soviet Union and was originally performed by "underground performers who sang songs mocking Soviet government," Fleishman said. The Russian Bard songs have more emphasis on the words than the simple melody. They are normally performed with repeated guitar accompaniment. "I'm hoping to eventually teach some songs and chords to club members and maybe go to some concerts or get some small gigs in Russian neighborhoods," Fleishman said. The club will soon meet weekly.

For more information about the Russian Bard Club, e-mail dfleishman@stuy.edu.

GREEK DRAMA CLUB

Most sophomores are required to read Greek literature for English class. For those who loved the books, there exists a club for you. For those who thought they were boring or irrelevant, this club would like to change your mind. Junior and Greek Drama Club president Tasso Bountouvas was disappointed that many students considered classical Greek drama bland and uninteresting because the texts were written thousands of years ago. "My fellow officers and I found Greek drama to be very important today. It plays a huge role in theater and even in cinema," Bountouvas said.

He founded the club with junior and club vice president Katerina Patouri last year as a place where students could come together and discuss Greek drama. So far, the club has gone to see a modern rendition of Aristophanes' "The Frogs." There are tentative plans for the club to perform Greek plays in Astoria, a neighborhood in Queens, for senior citizens.

The Greek Drama Club enthusiastically welcomes all students, including students who aren't of Greek descent. Another aim of the Greek Drama Club is to spread awareness of Greek culture, both ancient and modern. "We're very interested in non-Greeks who want to learn more about our culture," Bountouvas said.

For more information about the Greek Drama Club, e-mail aboutouvas@stuy.edu.

STUYVESANT STRIVE

Stuyvesant Students Taking Resolute Initiative to Vindicate the Environment (STRIVE). It's a long name, but this club's goals are simple: to raise awareness about the environment and to make Stuyvesant more environmentally friendly. Stuyvesant STRIVE was formed at the end of last year by merging two smaller environmental clubs, GreenStuy and the Stuyvesant Environmental Club. "Before we started our club, we saw so many un-environmentally friendly practices at Stuy," junior and club president Divya Dayal said. "We're really trying to greenify Stuy and set an example for other schools."

This year Stuyvesant STRIVE plans to work with the Department of Education to get Stuyvesant to use renewable energy, to start an effective recycling program, to lobby politicians to support environmental legislation and to host Tribeca's first Earth Day festival in Rockefeller Park. "We're Stuyvesant's first environmental club in a while," Dayal said, "so we just want to get more people excited about the Green movement again."

For more information about Stuyvesant STRIVE, visit www.stuystrive.org.

VISUAL | THE MODERN LOVE

Junior and president of Visual | The Modern Love (VTML) Younjung Chung describes her club as profound, new, inspirational and dedicated. Chung founded VTML last year so students could make a difference creatively. The club's goal is to create a successful student-run clothing line and use the sales profits to benefit causes that the members care about. "The meetings are a way to raise awareness [of the causes] as well," Chung said. Money from the sales of their first design will go towards preventing fistula, a condition which affects many girls in third-world countries who have pregnancies and give birth too early for their bodies to handle without damage. Aside from benefiting their noteworthy causes, VTML wants to help its members as well. "We're going to offer as close as we can to a real design environment, a real business environment," Chung said. She also acknowledges that VTML's goals are very ambitious. But Chung is confident in eventual success and ready to welcome any new members. "The only requirement is dedication," she said. Visual | The Modern Love meets about once every week.

For more information about VTML, e-mail youn-jc@gmail.com.

1900

Number of male students

1361

Number of female students

3261

Number of students

5

Number of Academy Awards won by Stuyvesant alumni

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Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

A Pocketful of Policy

The administration is on pocket patrol. Administrators are looking for lumps. Not cancerous lumps but something worse: the dreaded rectangular lump of a cell phone.

Students were not informed of this pocket patrol until the second week of school, when the administration slapped a giant sign on the bridge announcing, “In your bags, not your pockets.”

This is just one of the school’s new, stringent approaches to enforcing its previously ambiguous policies. Not only are the deans spending their mornings scanning thousands of students’ pockets, they are reprimanding girls for too-short shorts and threatening to clip the locks of locker-sharing individuals. All of these actions are meant to encourage adherence to policies that were tacitly ignored before, a time when the school seemed to function perfectly well.

We recognize that the administration has been bending the Department of Education cell phone policy. And students have been playing along with it. The compromise has been working well—we both

pretend our cell phones don’t exist. By searching pockets each morning, administrators are only encouraging us to hide our phones better. What difference does it make if these contraband items are stored in pockets or backpacks? Don’t administrators have any better way to spend their mornings than staring at students’ pants? Waiting at the school entrance demanding that we hide our phones better is unwarranted and, really, a waste of time.

This trend of unexpected and gratuitous discipline extends to reprimanding students for wearing provocative clothing. Stuyvesant has no formal dress code, simply a reminder in the school planner that “students are expected to dress appropriately for school.” But, beginning this fall, deans are waiting just past the scanners, pulling girls aside for not covering enough of their legs. This dress code enforcement is inconsistent and subjective. The administration should either officially change the current dress guidelines or stop pulling random students aside.

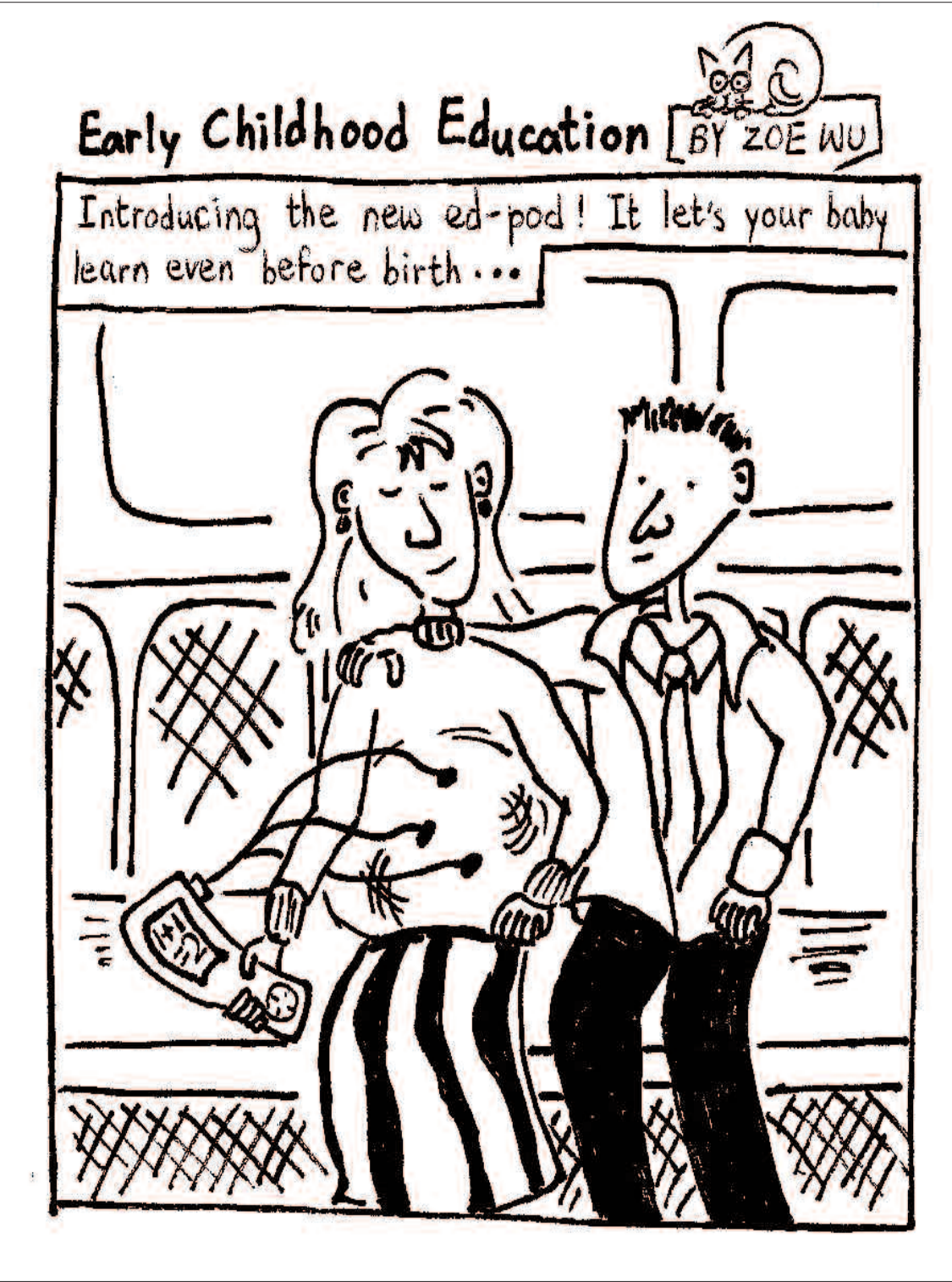
Prohibiting students from sharing lockers is similarly

unwarranted. Recent announcements have threatened locker-sharing individuals with having their locks clipped. “All [locker] thefts last year involved lockers which students were sharing,” Principal Stanley Teitel said. Even though thefts are more common with shared lockers, locker arrangements should be a student’s choice. The administration has freshmen share lockers—if older students wish to follow this arrangement, let them. Requiring individuals to purchase locks so as to not lose money is an insufficient reason to ban sharing.

Too much time and energy is wasted searching for harmless machines and tight t-shirts. Will students stop learning because one more person dresses skimpily for school or puts his coat in a friend’s locker? Will the world end because 3,000 kids decide they would rather carry cell phones in their pockets than their bags?

All of these recent alterations are making for a negative school atmosphere. Students have been cooperating and helping school policies run smoothly—we do not need to be parented.

OP-ART



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



“The Pulse of the Student Body”

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The Spectator

We are compiling an archive of past issues.

We are looking for issues published before 1995.

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Or speak your mind?*

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

FOR THE RECORD

- In Issue 1, there was no byline for “The Eatery Directory.” Abby Schaeffer wrote the article.
- The photo for Kiva cafe in “The Eatery Directory” was miscredited. Abby Schaeffer took it.
- In “The Eatery Directory,” Pakistani Tea House’s name was misspelled.
- In the byline for “Elephants and Army Tales,” Rebecca Elliott’s surname was incorrectly spelled.
- The headline for “That Inevitable College Application Article” was misstated.
- In “Coaching Switch Brings Offensive Changes,” coach Mark Strasser’s surname was misspelled.

Will the Real Locker Policy Please Stand Up?



Lucia Hsiao / The Spectator

the
diary
of a
mad
senior

By **GEORGIA STASINOPOULOS**

When it comes to my relationship with the locker policy, only one Facebook status will do: “It’s complicated.”

As a freshman, I was blissfully ignorant of the teeming real estate market at Stuyvesant. With the autumn sun warm on my face and my oversized backpack heavy on my shoulders, I felt blessed with a comfortable eighth floor niche to share with another freshman. But the rainbows disappeared two weeks into the school year, as I realized that all was perfect with this eighth floor locker—except, that I had no classes on the eighth floor.

It was my Big Sib who suggested a solution. “Take another locker,” she suggested. “Try a first floor locker; no one really wants them.”

What marvelous latitude, I thought—and promptly claimed a handy first floor locker next to my chorus classroom.

Sophomore year, I sprinted to the sixth floor to grab the perfect locker near debate, my his-

tory and English classes, and my underclassmen buddies. The sun was shining still, and the clouds did not appear—and neither did my friends. Apparently, there was not only a hidden real

Logic is still a required course for freshmen; perhaps the administration should get their noses out of physics books and take an MQ3 class instead.

estate market, but locker societies—and in the hierarchy of societies, the fourth floor was the sophomore Upper East Side.

The sixth floor, though academically convenient, remained a social Sahara Desert.

On the heels of sophomore year came a controversial decision aimed at taming the whining, fighting and locker clipping of previous years. It was decided that all lockers would have their own installed lock. Each student would be assigned a locker, and for 11 dollars one gained the privilege of knowing the combination. Now, upperclassman-status in sight, it seemed as though the dream of a Perfect Locker was to remain, forever, a dream. And yet, halfway through the summer before my junior year, I discovered an announcement inviting juniors to select their lockers online.

Sure, I felt a twinge of regret for my colleagues who could not choose lockers. But: shush, whiny senior! Silence, lowly sophomore! Better luck next time.

I called up my closest friends, and we registered for three adjacent lockers. In the span of ten minutes, I had accomplished more than I had accomplished in two years—a convenient locker, next to both friends and classes, as far away from the tenth floor as I could get. It was convenient, social, and—best of all—something I was allowed to do. I grew comfortable with the locker policy. Surely this relationship was meant to last.

But don’t get your hopes up—policies aren’t supposed to make students happy. Despite full support from the administration, despite Mr. Teitel commending the Class of 2009 for its mature handling of the experiment, despite being told that our

year had surpassed his expectations, I checked the website in mid-August before my senior year only to discover that sophomores and juniors were permitted to select lockers. Seniors—and freshmen—were assigned lockers.

I could care less about the lunch, lateness, or textbook policies. But, seniors of the past, I understand your whining. Many people wanted senior bar lockers—but plenty could care less about where on the second floor their lockers were placed, as long as they got the opportunity to choose. Had I signed online and found that I could choose my locker, but that there were no more senior bar lockers left, I would have done the same thing I did last year—called my closest friends and coordinated lockers we wanted, somewhere else. But seniors can’t get what they want—a locker not only on the lowest floors, but near our friends—because after four years, we should know better than to be seen as anything but college-crazed Tarzans using calculus textbooks and TI-84s as ammunition in the senior bar locker wars.

Perhaps I am naïve to expect consistency—and a little bit of thought—from an erratic administration. But logic is still a required course for freshmen; perhaps the administration should get their noses out of physics books and take an MQ3 class instead. By enacting such an unpopular policy after giving my class the right to choose a locker just a year before, the message sent is not only unpopular in content, but also unfortunate in result. It invites seniors to flout the rules—and flout we

do.

The black market in locker swaps still booms two weeks into school. Seniors have created an Ebay of sorts to auction off lockers on Facebook—some for over 50 dollars a locker. Others are bartering for homework. Some are cooperating, sharing lockers near friends. A select, lucky few pulled favors left and right to get their lockers changed. These solutions are clearly against the rules; any one

When it comes to my relationship with the locker policy, only one Facebook status will do: “It’s complicated.”

will have seen these in their locker request form as forbidden. All of those prohibited solutions could have been prevented in one easy step—by letting seniors pick their lockers. Not everyone got the locker they dreamt of a year ago. But they got a locker they wanted to use, and so there was never a need for people to break the rules.

Mr. Teitel waded into the calm seas of locker policy and, trident in hand, created the perfect storm. Don’t be surprised. They say practice makes perfect.

A Journalist’s “Paradise”



Tincey Wang / The Spectator

By **EMMA DRIES**

Shrieks, claps and cheers filled the arena as delegates and special guests welcomed Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama on Wednesday, August 27 at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Denver. But up in the press box, spanning the very top of the arena, all the reporters seemed unfazed. In fact, most were eating dinner. Representatives from local radio stations and small newspapers sat at desks that looked out over the huge arena, picking apart sandwiches and salads.

My sister, my mother and I were whisked to the very top of the Pepsi Stadium in hopes of seeing Delaware’s Senator Joe Biden, Obama’s running mate, speak. We stood with our press

passes in the middle of an indifferent group of journalists. I, of course, let out a girlish scream as the “surprise guest,” who turned out to be Obama himself, stepped out on stage.

For my sister and I, this was a moment we would always remember and always be grateful for. We were experiencing an event that many in America could only dream of witnessing. But over the last two days at the DNC, reporters often looked nonchalant and indifferent. For the media, crammed into the lit box at the top of the arena, it was merely a job.

A few minutes before Obama came out on stage, I was given plenty of mutinous looks as I attempted to peer over the desks that looked out to the arena.

On Thursday night, Obama gave his acceptance speech at Invesco Fields, a stadium that could hold up to 80,000 people.

Ironically, press access was limited. Tickets to the event were given mainly to Denver residents and delegates. The New York Times (NYT), where my mom works as the department head of the video unit, was given a limited number of passes. The three of us could not find a way in.

Instead, we spent the night at a local restaurant, where the convention was broadcast on six different televisions and projected onto a bed sheet that was tacked up on a wall. The experience of listening to Obama speak was amazing enough, but I couldn’t help wondering what it would feel like to be in the stadium. Reporters got decent access, but the truly blessed were the photographers who were allowed access to the best spots to capture the inspirational candidate on camera.

It’s true that reporters enjoy many benefits when attending an event like the DNC, but there are also downsides. Deadlines have to be met, and leave journalists spending their time in the press tent late after midnight. The catered food for the media is sub-par compared to the food given to delegates, and the “floor passes,” which allow people to access an area directly under the stage, were hardly ever given in increments of more than 30 minutes.

“To be honest, once you get beyond the usual political

stargazing, I find convention

“I find convention journalism incredibly constricting.” —Richard Tanner, senior New York Times producer

journalism incredibly constricting,” said Richard Tanner, a senior NYT producer who attended the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis. “Access is limited, and the message is bottled and committed.”

Up in the box, a few minutes before Obama came out on stage, I was given plenty of mutinous looks as I attempted to peer over the desks that looked out to the arena. A woman, clearly flustered from running around all evening, deposited freshly-printed, stapled pages on the desks of reporters. I soon realized that this was the speech Biden would be giving in a matter of

seconds.

The vice presidential candidate soon launched into a speech discussing the way his mother raised him, the four-hour commute he makes from Washington, D.C. to Delaware every day and his son Beau’s impending tour in Iraq. The reporter in front of me, a representative from a local radio station, was making edits to the speech.

A sentence Biden added. Some words he left out. This reporter didn’t miss anything. I was surprised that someone sitting in on such an influential speech would choose to simply take notes on how the speaker messed up or ad-libbed. It could be because, according to some, journalism isn’t about the big speeches and high-end venues but chasing something more real.

Whether a journalist considers a convention to be life-changing or simply a hyped-up political event, it’s safe to say they are seeing history in the making. More often than not, however, “Any journalist worth their own byline and doing daily coverage is so busy in those four or five days that they don’t and won’t have enough time to take a breather to soak in the broader picture,” Tanner said.

But does the experience influence their reporting in any way? “It’s our job to make sure it doesn’t.”

Opinions

Chocolate, Cheese, or Both?



Sean Gordon-Loebl / The Spectator

By EMMA ZIEGELLAUB EICHLER

“The chocolate club...the cheese club...the Lord of the Rings club...the old movies club...”
“Yum...what?...NO!...uh-uh...”
So my friend responded as I read the Big Sib Handbook list of clubs to her over the phone at the start of freshmen year. The list was hundreds of items long, incomplete and rather inaccurate, and we still couldn’t find a single club we agreed about.
She ended up joining half the clubs that actually existed but never attended more than one meeting for most of them. She did, though, eventually obtain officer positions in a few of them, despite her erratic attendance. Her one big commitment ended up being the speech team.
And me? I sent emails to about half a dozen clubs. The Harry Potter club, much to my disappointment, didn’t really exist anymore since the president had graduated. The old

movies club met during 10th and I had class, so that was out. The photography club, I decided, was too much of a commitment and too much work. Every week, members had to bring photos for critique, attend photography sessions around the city and take “labs” on how to use the dark room. I was also terrified of the older kids and was worried that I would seem like an amateur. What made it overwhelming then makes it appealing now, and I regret not joining.
The other clubs I signed up for didn’t respond. So despite my firm commitment to joining lots of clubs freshman year, I didn’t. And I didn’t want to do anything that involved a try-out—like The Spectator or Speech and Debate—because I was scared of not making it. Although I am not Indian and had never given the club a look, I ended up in the Indian Movie Club because my friend from middle school joined.
I had dozens of friends during my freshman year and I was busy and happy, but I can’t help wondering what I missed. I never would have joined the Indian Movie Club on my own and I ended up loving it. I enjoyed spending time with an old friend that I didn’t have any classes with and actually learned quite a lot about Indian culture. I came to understand her experience better and was exposed to something I never would have gone into on my own.
I didn’t make any new friends though. So what if I had joined Speech and Debate? By sophomore year, I felt too intimidated to join the competitive

and tight-knit community of what my close friend called the “Debate Cult.” Speech and Debate is often a central part of the Stuy experience for its members, and it’s certainly a good way to meet many people quickly. However, it also feels like an impenetrable community to outsiders—it’s as exclusive and intimate as a wealthy gated community.
I recently joined the board games club and I’m making better friends there than I expected. I know it doesn’t sound like the classiest or even the most interesting club ever, but two of my friends joined freshmen year and they loved it. I scorned them but started going with them so I wouldn’t be left out, and I was surprised with what I found. The games weren’t the boring, endless rounds of Monopoly that I expected but things I had never heard of, like Hex Hex and Attribute. The members are so close that even those who have graduated and are now in college remain members and come back to visit whenever they can.
It’s true that the clubs you join freshmen year influence the friends you make and what groups you belong to, but there are also many clubs and pubs you can join later that will still welcome you. Although joining loads of random clubs—whether or not it’s for college—probably isn’t the best strategy for happiness, the clubs you’ll like aren’t necessarily the ones you expect. Despite my love for writing, I certainly never expected to be writing this because I couldn’t imagine trying out.

Try out for The Spectator!

When: Wednesday, September 24 and Thursday, September 25 after 10th period.

Where: Library
Departments: News, Features, Opinions, Arts and Entertainment, Sports, Photo, Art, Layout, Copy, Business and Web

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Language Barriers



Tincey Wang / The Spectator

By JUDY CHEN

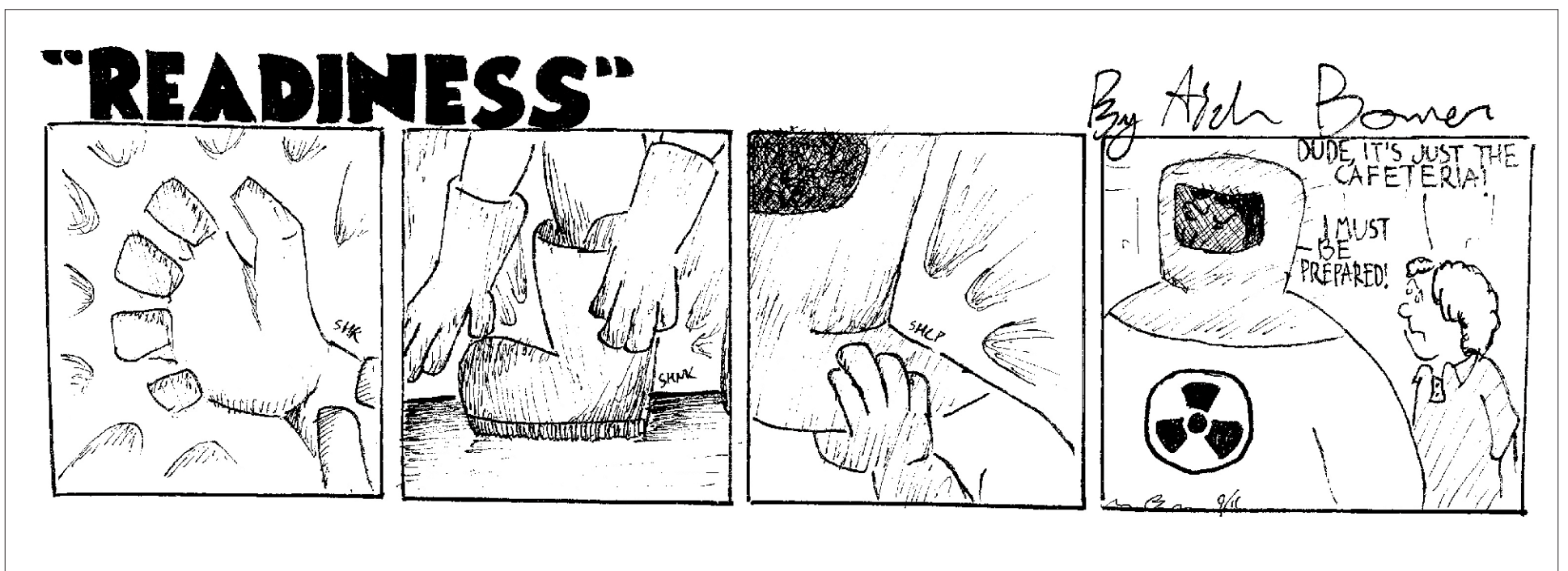
Many people are excited when it comes to learning a new language. Some students in Stuyvesant are excited because their middle schools never offered extensive foreign language programs. Others like the experience of learning about an entirely different culture. Whatever the reason may be, studying a foreign language at Stuyvesant can enrich students’ lives immensely.
There are over 10 languages a person can take at Stuyvesant, ranging from first year to fourth year, some languages even to the fifth year. Often though, students are either placed in a class that is too challenging for them or not challenging enough.
A few underclassmen who take the language placement exam sometimes purposefully perform poorly to start at a lower level and obtain a good grade. Because of this, teachers have to teach at a level higher than that of the actual class,

leaving the real beginners struggling to keep up with the class work.
Even worse, students who start certain languages, like French, at the third-year level are forced to take the Advanced Placement (AP) class the following year. Many students are shoved into these classes even when they are not ready to take the challenging work or make the commitment, a problem that is seen even in the Regents-level classes. Students entering an AP class should be able to decide whether they would like to go into the AP program or take a level 7 class in languages that currently don’t offer the alternative.
To make sure underclassmen are put into a class that is better-suited for them, teachers should administer a more personal round of exams during the first week of classes. The department should also evaluate students orally. If teachers find that some students can’t speak the language, which is equally as important as being able to write, they should be pushed down to a lower-level class.
Learning a language can always be more than just a mandatory class. It can make our lives easier if we decide that in the future, we want to vacation in another country or work internationally. It teaches us about a different culture and a country’s way of life. And when students come home, they should feel excited about getting the opportunity to show off to their family their skills in another language.

New York’s Fencing Finest by Sean Gordon-Loebl



Cartoons



Arts & Entertainment

The Under-Looked Above-Ground

By SERENA BERRY, EMMA POLLACK AND ERICA SANDS



Film Forum

(1) Houston St (3 Stops from Chambers)

Sit in vintage movie theater seats at this artsy cinema house while you wait for your friend to grab some popcorn, or any of the other “concession stand” offerings like ice cream (\$2.50), a classic New York egg cream (\$3.50) and an assortment of cookies, brownies, cakes and coffees. Tickets are \$11, but quality is ensured at Film Forum.

Film Forum offers unique films and series like a marathon of The Godfather which will run until Thursday, October 2 and a screening of Virtual JFK (starting Wednesday, September 17), which is about how the Vietnam War could have turned out if President Kennedy had lived. Some of Film Forum’s recent

noteworthy events include a series of Jean-Luc Godard’s social commentaries from the ‘60s, screenings of Masaki Kobayashi’s 3-part, 9 hour and 47 minute-long “The Human Condition,” and a French Crime Wave series, including masterpieces like Robert Bresson’s “A Man Escaped” and Jean-Luc Godard’s “Pierrot Le Fou.”

Film Forum’s size may be small, containing only three theatres, but both the bohemian ambiance and its offerings can’t be found anywhere else.

209 West Houston Street,
between
6th Ave and Varick (7th Ave)

Silver Moon Bakery

(1) 103 Street (18 Stops from Chambers)



Jack Greisman / The Spectator

This bakery occupies a charming space on the corner of 105th and Broadway. The inside is relatively small, but there is a good amount of outdoor seating. On a day with nice

weather it’s delightful to sit outside munching on any one of their delicious pastries or sandwiches. They offer all different kinds of baguettes and breads, cakes and tarts. The brownie servings are very generous and moist. “The brownies are my favorite indulgence,” said Sarah Cohen, a regular of Silver Moon. They also have wonderful cheesecake, chocolate mousse, tiramisu and much more. You can even order a personalized cake here.

2740 Broadway @ 105 Street
212.866.4717,
1 train to 103rd st.



77th Street Sunday Flea Market

(1) 79 Street (15 Stops from Chambers)

At the 77th Street Flea Market, there is literally everything. Upon entering, one is overwhelmed by the array of flowers, baked goods, fruits and vegetables. In the winter there’s hot apple cider, so even cold days can be enjoyable while shopping here. The vendors are often as diverse and interesting as the items sold here. There are antique jewelry pieces, furniture, silverware, vintage clothing, knick-knacks and sunglasses. Vendor Lara Kornbluh believes that the vast offerings bring “an interesting demographic here,” she said. “A lot of different New Yorkers come here.” The price range is equally broad, considering the range of offerings from antique jewelry to trinkets.

Currently the flea market is on 77th a little off Amsterdam, instead of 77th and Columbus, because of construction. It will be back to its original location by the end of September. The flea market is one block east and two blocks south of the 79 Street station. There is also an indoor section on 76th between Amsterdam and Columbus.

77th Street & Columbus Avenue



Alphaville

(1) Houston St (3 Stops from Chambers)

This small store sells unique vintage toys at excellent prices. Memorable items include the “new mini watches” from the 1960s which come in three colors and are only \$3.50. Also memorable are the calendar sharpeners (pencil sharpeners decorated with a calendar, \$4.25), comic books (\$3.95) and posters (\$15) from the 1950s. T-shirt iron-ons from the 1970s are only \$4.95 for five— and are an easy way to revamp an old shirt. Alphaville is the perfect place to buy gifts due to the unique and nostalgic nature of their merchandise. While you’re there, pick up some plastic bubbles, cute cards and vintage wrapping paper. Oh, and don’t forget the X-Ray Spex. For only \$5.95, you can actually see the bones in your hand!

226 West Houston St. 1 train to Houston St.

Jacques Torres Chocolate

(1) Houston St (3 Stops from Chambers)

Watch as your chocolate beans become bars behind glass walls at this chocolate factory steps away from the 1 train. French Food Network star Jacques Torres’s taste for the delicious and eccentric shines through at his Greenwich Village outpost. There’s a large assortment of truffles, but perhaps most notable at Jacques Torres Chocolate is the Hot Chocolate Bar. You’re invited to enjoy one of the queer hot chocolate flavors (\$3.25)—peanut butter, caramel, or wicked, which has just the right amount of chili powder to

make your chocolate hot in more ways than one. Try the large chocolate-chip cookie (\$2.50), which manages to be both soft and crunchy with melted chocolate in every bite, or opt for a chocolate mudslide (\$2.50).

Tired? Add a shot of espresso to your hot chocolate for a mocha. And don’t forget to buy some chocolate “bark” containing the perfect mix of pistachios, almonds and hazelnuts (\$1.25 per ounce).

350 Hudson at King Street (1 block
South of Houston)

Arts & Entertainment

Crafting in the City

By HELEN SONG

After a long day, nothing feels better than unwinding. Instead of going home to crash on your couch, why not visit a craft studio and create your own masterpiece? Free your mind through painting, mosaic-making or even necklace-making at these three studios that are each equipped with fine materials, friendly faces and beautiful décor. Let the relaxation begin.

Color Me Mine (TriBeCa)



Michael Silverblatt / The Spectator

Conveniently located one stop away from Stuy on the (1) train, Color Me Mine is the ideal place for any Stuyvesant student. However, with a studio fee of \$12, be careful not to splurge.

Color Me Mine is elegantly decorated with yellow walls filled with stunning ceramic pieces and complementary wooden furniture. The high ceiling and large store-front window make the studio seem larger than its actual classroom size. The tables are all neatly arranged in rows with the bowls already filled with water- inviting you to sit down and start painting.

But before you begin, you can choose from a wide collection of ceramics. From animals to plates to cups, everything comes in different shapes and

sizes. The plates range from \$16 to \$50, and mugs are \$15 to \$20 (all excluding the initial studio fee). Charms can also be added for an additional \$5 or \$10.

There are over 100 colors to choose from, and the employees will gladly refill your palette. In fact, the staff is always there usually working on their own projects.

Color Me Mine offers the largest selection of colors and sculptures, but can also leave your wallet feeling a lot lighter than when you stepped in.

Studio hours are from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Mondays.

116 Franklin Street
@ W. Broadway,
Manhattan, NY

The Painted Pot (Bay Ridge)



Michael Silverblatt / The Spectator

If you're on a budget and looking for a cozy atmosphere, The Painted Pot is perfect for you. The store has the longest hours, from 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. The studio fee of \$6 to \$8 for ceramics and \$5 for beading allows anyone to fritter the time away and make as many pieces as they want.

The store pulls you in with its wooden tables and chairs surrounded by canary yellow walls with pastel bordering. Above are ceiling fans adorned with floral patterns, creating a swirl of colors as they rotate. The staff is approachable and helpful with choosing beads and pieces for your project. Although space is limited, there's always a chair available and enough personal space to sit back and listen to the pop music playing softly in the background.

The ceramics are priced between \$4 and \$40 and come in shapes of animals, teapots, picture frames and

tiles. They offer around 50 colors and dozens of different stencils and stamps to embellish your project. Customers can also create their own "itty bitty critter" stuffed animal for \$10.

On the far right corner there's a beading station with a small selection of trays filled with tiny glass, plastic, wooden and metal beads that are priced at an average of 10 for \$1. Below those are pendants that are priced anywhere from \$0.75 to \$2. They also offer a tube of filler beads for \$2.75 or \$3 that can easily make a necklace or several bracelets. The staff will do the clasp for \$0.75 and help with sizing. Generally speaking, a necklace or double stranded bracelet can be made for \$10.

8009 Third Avenue,
Brooklyn, NY
339 Smith Street, Brooklyn, NY

Little Shop of Crafts (West Side)

Although it is named after the 1960 film and 1982 musical Little Shop of Horrors, Little Shop of Crafts is nothing like its namesake. It does not contain any flesh-eating plants, instead offering a vast range of projects: plaster, ceramic, T-shirt and tote bag painting, mosaics, beading and doll making.

From the outside Little Shop of Crafts looks like a daycare center; inside it continues with that motif—making any teenager dreadfully aware of their age when surrounded by elementary kids and their nannies. The floors are paint splattered, and aluminum chairs create a pseudo-futuristic appearance. The staff is full of energy and willing to give a tour of the entire store to any new customers. "It's colorful and friendly," junior Julie Kim said.

Unlike the other two studios, Little Shop of Crafts does not have a studio fee—instead the prices of the items include everything. Mosaics are priced from \$21 to \$75 which includes all the tiles and cement. Ceramics are priced at \$20 to \$80 and are in the shapes of Hello



Amy Crehore / The Spectator

Kitty, tissue boxes and platters. Plaster molds come in the form of furbies, gargoyles, superheroes and piggy banks. They are priced between \$14 and \$50 and can be glitter-sprayed for free. To the right there is a long bead station stuffed with vintage and exotic beads priced anywhere from \$1 to \$3 (not to mention the additional cost of a clasp). Dolls which are called "Cuddlies" are \$33 and with an additional purchase, outfits can also be

decorated. Tote bags are \$10 and can be painted with stencils.

The biggest downside to the studio is that after 6:30 p.m., it's "Adults Only," during which wine is served and only those 21 and older are permitted. Overall, the Little Shop of Crafts is a great place to have fun and let out your inner child and imagination.

711 Amsterdam Avenue &
94th Street, Manhattan, NY
431 East 73rd Street,
Manhattan, NY

Omika Jikaria: Pageant Queen



Courtesy of Omika Jikaria

Sophomore and pageant participant, Omika Jikaria, has won 11 national awards and 6 state awards.

By LEILI SABER

Swish. Flick. Brush. Sweep. Watching sophomore Omika Jikaria apply her make-up is a bit like watching an orchestra being conducted. I watch with a mixture of admiration and jealousy, fully aware that the warm weather has ruined my eyeliner, while Jikaria looks like she's stepped right out of a fashion magazine.

Or, right out of a beauty pageant. You would almost expect it, with her high cheekbones and vivid green eyes. Jikaria has studied ballet for nearly 12 years and has achieved a look of natural poise. Her speech is clear, unhurried and uses few "ums" and "likes." This is clearly not her first interview.

"My mom saw an ad for a pageant when I was four, and she thought I would be well-suited for it," Jikaria said. Before the idea of an over-bearing "pageant mom" could even enter my mind, Jikaria made it very clear that participating in pageants is simply a way to have fun and gain confidence. In fact, Jikaria has no formal pageant coach or entourage of helpers, aside from her family. "Pageants are weekend events, so my family will pile into the car, we'll fill up the trunk with my outfits, and we're off," Jikaria

said. She describes her usual pageant day while I try to sneak a glimpse at her brand of mascara. Her mother does her hair before dawn, and then Jikaria hastens—beauty queens don't run—to different competitions throughout the day. "Most days at pageants end at around 10 o'clock at night," Jikaria said.

The long hours of weekend excursions have yielded her a total of 17 awards—11 on the national level and 6 on the state—including Little Miss All-American, Miss All-American Teen Model and International Princess Model. Girls in these competitions are judged on poise, outfit, interview and overall impression. Talent is an important part of these competitions, as competitors are not only judged on their routine, but on their execution of the skill.

Modeling awards are given to girls who look particularly stunning in evening gowns. She dismisses the notion that judging women on their looks makes these pageants superficial. A master of polite brush-offs, Jikaria said, "There are some girls who do pageants who are fake, but I've met a lot of true friends, and I'm all about being genuine to myself." However, Jikaria does admit that the competition has its negative aspects, believing some competitors and their mothers are poor representatives of the pageant world. She believes that her ability to set realistic goals is what separates her from the extremely competitive girls.

Between schoolwork and pageants, Jikaria has a busy schedule, but she is involved in a wide array of school activities. She is a member of the Speech and Debate team, a cheerleader and played a role in last year's spring comedy, "Don't Drink the Water." "The schoolwork can overwhelm me sometimes," Jikaria said. "But I love being in pageants. I love dressing up and displaying my personality."

Beauty pageants are a hobby for her, and Jikaria intends to keep it that way. "I'm not sure if I want to do something as serious as the Miss Teen New York competition, because I don't want pageants to take over my whole life," she said.

As we say good bye, she begins packing up her makeup case. Before leaving, I stop and ask her how she looks so flawless whenever I see her in the hallways. She looks surprised. "This is all my pageant make-up," Jikaria said. "I don't wear make-up to school." Shaking my head at the injustices of the world, I head towards the door.

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The Forgotten Film Reel: Slacker

By HYEMIN YI

Roaming New York City are the infamous, nameless eccentrics who give us occasional stories to tell our friends. Without ever truly knowing them, we glimpse their lives by eavesdropping. Replace the location with 1990 Austin, Texas, string together the conversations to fit into a day, and you have Richard Linklater's "Slacker."

Though Linklater is usually associated with his big-time comedies such as "School of Rock" or the remake of "Bad New Bears," the self-taught director refuses to work or live in Hollywood for an extended period of time, remaining in Texas. "Slacker," in particular, is sometimes talked about as the beginning of the 1990s independent film movement.

Throughout the stretch of a movie day, "Slacker" offers no solid linear plotline. It's simply an aimless day. The camera focuses on any given individual

for only a few minutes before following someone else. Starting from the outskirts of Austin, the camera moves more closely to the center of the city as it progresses. Linklater starts out the film, rambling to his taxi driver about alternate realities.

"Every thought you have creates its own reality. Y'know, it's like every choice or decision you make, the thing you choose not to do becomes its own reality," he says.

Since the film centers on dialogue for the most part, cinematography is sacrificed to some degree. The camera in "Slacker" usually remains still for entire scenes, so as not to distract from the characters.

The cast, mostly 20-something year olds, is assembled from amateurs, some even picked right off the street. There's a UFO enthusiast who claims that people have been on the moon since 1950, a woman trying to sell a Madonna pap smear (and



public hair), a John F. Kennedy conspiracy theorist, an elderly anarchist who befriends a man trying to rob his home, a TV collector with a TV strapped to his back and a woman with a menstrual-cycle stone garden.

There is a lack of cohesiveness, but every character leaves an impression by talking about an often amusing bit of his or her personal philosophy. Towards the end, two friends theorize that Smurfs are

preparing us for the return of Krishna and that Scooby-Doo is "teaching kids bribery." The TV collector comments that a video image is more powerful than an actual event since with real life, "I can't press rewind. I can't put it on pause. I can't put it on slo-mo and see all the little details."

Even though the characters aren't presented with the same depth as those in a linear-plotline-with-a-protagonist film, some of the characters' prattling becomes relatable. At certain points, one wishes certain characters were there for just a little bit longer or, with characters like the JFK conspiracy theorist, just a little bit shorter.

While the method of storytelling becomes tedious towards the end, "Slacker" is certainly original. Far from an action movie, the film contains something strange as we follow the bohemian dropouts living inside their heads, simply talking about life.

Backstage at the Olympics



Zin Chan/The Spectator

During his annual trip to Beijing, Senior Muzhou Lu worked as a media translator at the Olympic Games.

By JACK GREISMAN

For 17 days in August, many Stuyvesant students enjoyed watching the Beijing Summer Olympic Games on television. In between presidential campaign ads and cheesy Visa commercials, they watched in awe as Michael Phelps won a record eight gold medals, as Usain Bolt rewrote sprinting history, and as Shawn Johnson completed a nearly error-free performance on the balance beam. Stuyvesant junior Calvin Hu and senior Muzhou Lu, however, were able to view the Games from another perspective. While their classmates were watching Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh dominate the beach volleyball court, they were busy working at the Games.

Hu got his position at the Olympics through a friend of his mother, who is the communications director at General Electric (GE) China. GE was the leading sponsor of the games. Since one must be at least 18 years old to work at the Olympics, Hu, 16, was a volunteer employee.

“My jobs changed from day to day,” Hu said. “I usually did the odd-jobs. I handed out kites, and directed media personnel in the right direction. Sometimes during special events, I would have to get water for people.” The kites that Calvin distributed were a part of a GE promotion.

Although Hu described most of his jobs as “low-level,” he did have a more significant job before the start of the Games. “I escorted Melvin Stewart to the Olympic Green,” Hu said. Stewart, an American swimmer, won three medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, including gold in the 200 meter Butterfly and the 4x100 meter Medley Relay. He was in Beijing for the opening of the Imagination Center, and planned to stay to watch the beginning of the Games.

Although Hu spent about seven hours a day working, he

also found time to actually watch the Games. Hu’s favorite sport to watch at the Olympics was field hockey. While certainly not the most televised of Olympic sports, the atmosphere appealed to Hu the most.

“The environment was very close-knit,” he said. “The spectators were excited about the matches, and it was the first time I ever saw a field hockey match.” Hu especially liked the sport because it was completely new to him, and he was grateful that his Olympics experience introduced him to unfamiliar sports.

Hu also enjoyed watching the track and field events, gymnastics, fencing and tennis. Because GE gave out passes to all its employees, he was lucky enough to get box seats for the track and field events at the National Stadium, also known as the Bird’s Nest due to the appearance of the stadium’s exterior.

Lu, a senior at Stuyvesant, lived in China until middle school. However, this year, his annual trip to Beijing was certainly more exciting than those of years past. With the help of his relatives, who were members of the Olympic Committee, he obtained a job working as a media translator at the Olympic Games. This put Lu right into the action for 10 days, and gave him many opportunities to play the role of a spectator at the Games as well.

Lu spent his entire summer in China. The original intent of his trip was to work on an Intel science project. He had made plans to work with a professor at the Science Academy of China. “I was working on climate physics,” he said. “The interesting thing was that some of the professors were hired by the Olympic committee to determine weather patterns before the start of the games.” Throughout the Games, Beijing’s climate and poor air quality were topics of controversy and debate.

Lu worked on his Intel project in July, and was hoping to work at the Olympics in August. Because he had experience with fencing (he is on the Stuyvesant team, and last year won 18 of his 20 matches), he applied for a job that would allow him to work at the fencing matches. Unfortunately, due to the popular demand, he was turned down. Despite this setback, Lu’s relatives helped him get a job at the Qingdao Sailing Venue as a media translator.

At the sailing events, there were three means to watch each race. Spectators could either buy tickets for the shore, or for a seat in 100-person boats that followed the action. Media personnel, however, got to follow the race in smaller boats, which sailed very close to the athletes’ boats. Unfortunately for Lu, he was not very well adjusted to the boats at first. “I was seasick the first few days, so I mostly stood at the back of the boat,” he said. However, “by the end I had adjusted pretty well, luckily.”

Lu’s job on the boat was to translate between Chinese and English for the reporters and camera crews that covered the races. He also communicated between the media workers, the boat crew and the directors of the sailing events. On one occasion, the King of Norway was on his boat to watch the race. “We didn’t really speak though,” Lu said. “His English was a little shaky.”

When he was not working, he enjoyed watched track and field events, swim meets, diving and, of course, fencing. “It was a great atmosphere at the [fencing] matches,” Lu said. “But most people don’t know how to watch fencing. I would explain when to cheer to the people around me. I couldn’t focus much on their actual fencing though, mainly because they were pretty far away.”

Watching the sports at the Olympics gave rise to a bit of a personal dilemma for Lu. “I’m Chinese, but I didn’t know which side to support, China or America,” he said. “I wanted to get a flag painted on my face, but I couldn’t decide which side to support. I was thinking that I might as well just get one of each painted on my cheeks.”

Both students agreed that the Olympics had been an overall positive thing for Beijing, and China as a whole. Hu returned to the United States with a very positive opinion of China and the Olympics. From his behind-the-scenes perspective of the Olympics, Hu felt that the Summer Games were a great step forward for Chinese culture. “The Olympics were a way for China to open up to the world,” he said. “A lot of people do not know too much about China. It allowed a look into the culture and heritage.”

Lu agreed. “Beijing had changed a lot. I was there in January, and after barely seven months I could barely recognize the city. There were more subway lines, and the cars were off the street. You could really enjoy the city,” he said. “Everyone was sacrificing for one goal—to make the Olympics successful.”

Fencing

Fencing Teams Get Olympic Advice

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want to be role models for students in the city of what you can achieve, maybe it’s fencing, maybe it’s something else. But if you believe in something and you want it, you can do it.”

Rogers, who grew up in California, encouraged members of the team to stick with fencing, even though it is not the most popular of sports. “It’s not a sport that’s going to get the cheerleaders to pay attention to you,” he said. “I had to figure out what I wanted from fencing, focus on that, and let all the other distractions fade away.”

The ceremony kicked off when Smart, also a member of the women’s foil silver medal team and the first African-American woman to win an Olympic medal in fencing, provided commentary on a demo fencing match between Rogers and Morehouse, and turned it into a competition between

“Having the people from Stuyvesant here was amazing.”
—Tim Morehouse, Olympic silver medalist

their respective boroughs, Queens and the Bronx. After a short, lighthearted match, Rogers won for Queens.

Mayor Bloomberg then took the stage, introduced each of the seven athletes and presented each of them with a silver apple from Tiffany’s. Other athletes honored included boxer Sadam Ali, an immigrant from Yemen. Although he didn’t win any medals, he had a meaningful Olympics in his own right, becoming the first Arab-American to take part in the Olympics. Cross and

Morehouse then spoke on behalf of the fencers, presenting Bloomberg with a saber that, Morehouse joked, “might come in handy with political rivals or the media.” The mayor accepted the gift, and replied with praise of his own. “The difference between us and them is that somehow or other, they always find the courage, drive and dedication to go out and do it, particularly on the days they don’t feel like doing it,” Bloomberg said in a press conference immediately following the ceremony. The fencing teams, along with Winston and Principal Stanley Teitel, posed for photos with the mayor and the athletes.

Stuyvesant students had mixed reactions towards the event. Many, including senior Carrie Xu, were excited. “I’d never met an Olympian before,” she said.

Others, however, had met Olympians many times before, often in more intimate and meaningful settings than a formal ceremony. “In private, we have a lot of chances to fence with the Olympians,” senior Muzhou Lu said. Lu, like many members of the Stuyvesant team, fences at a private club where Olympians, especially those from New York, visit often. Many members of the team had met Morehouse, Cross, and Smart previously.

“In most other sports, everyone’s like ‘Wow, I’m going to meet the Olympians,’” senior Ken Sin said. In fencing, on the other hand, “It’s a small community, so most of us know each other.”

Winston, nonetheless, believes that the event was a very positive experience for members of both teams. For the boys in particular, he felt as if the event motivated them to work harder, saying that they insisted on returning to school and holding practice after the event—even though it was an hour later than practices normally start.

“I want them to see what it looks like to be a champion,” Winston said. “I want them to come away feeling totally inspired and I think they did.”

My Encounter with a “Champion”

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understand a busy schedule more than I’d like to. But what I don’t understand is not taking time to share the things you care about. Let’s get real: if Mark Spitz had arrived without an introduction, no one would know who he was. An icon of the 70s could easily mean nothing to a 90s child. But here was an internationally recognized champion, whose mustache has outlived his times, given the chance to redeem his career and restart his standing in the modern swimming world. And after being given such a chance, he has 60 more people disappointed than he had before.

Aside from being a

pompous disappointment, Mark Spitz did let me reflect upon the meaning of being a champion. A winner is someone who exceeds the competition, whether through hard work or not. A champion is someone who takes a cause, absorbs the love, hate, pride, joy, dreams and impossibilities of that cause, and takes it to new heights in the minds of others.

Mr. Spitz, I gave you a chance to be my champion and you let me down. I hope you enjoyed your day of filming your commercial at Stuyvesant High School, and know that Michael Phelps will always be history’s greatest swimmer in my mind.

My Encounter with a “Champion”



Sadman Islam/The Spectator

By EILEEN CONNORS

The Boys’ and Girls’ Swim Teams will have a surprise function at the pool on Wednesday, September 3rd. You are to bring a camera and tell no one you are coming. This is all I know about this event.

As my eyes glanced at the words of boy’s swimming Coach Bologna’s email, I simply didn’t believe it. So I read it again. And again. And out loud. And to other people. And then I translated it:

I’M GOING TO MEET MICHAEL PHELPS!

It made so much sense. He had visited Stuy after the Athens Games in 2004, and I knew he was spending time in New York to appear on various morning news programs, host Saturday Night Live and kick-board with eight-year-olds in Chelsea. Yes, Michael Phelps was coming to Stuyvesant High School. And we were going to be best friends.

There were, of course, some Debbie Downers in this scenario. “It might not be Michael Phelps, you know.” “You do realize that this email actually says nothing at all, don’t you?”

Somehow, these “reasonable” thoughts didn’t mask my image of how eight gold medals would look on one skinny neck. It was Mike, definitely. That’s what I would call him—Mike. Not at first, naturally. But somewhere in between the part where he’d introduce himself as the world’s fastest man in the water and the part where we decided to get married.

Needless to say, that Wednesday morning was one of my finest. Dressed to impress and ready to be in total awe, there was little that could bring down my spirit, as I scanned in with a smile. Until I walked toward my

locker, caught a glimpse of some action on the pool deck, and saw him.

MARK SPITZ?!?

No. It couldn’t be. No, not Mark Spitz. But what about Michael? Our future? Eight gold medals? Why was this stranger on our deck?

My heart sank; my smile sank; my interest sank. This was not a surprise. This was a dirty trick. This was a 50-something-year-old man filming a commercial for prescription medication for a world which has replaced him. This was most definitely NOT Michael Phelps.

Obviously, discovering this disappointment at 8:00 am on the second day of school was a bit of a heartbreak. But I figured I had the whole day to get over it, and some surprise was better than no surprise, so I could definitely make the best of it.

So I got to thinking about meeting Mark Spitz. And the more I thought, the more I realized how great it could really be to spend some time

A champion is an icon, someone who takes a cause, absorbs the love, hate, pride, joy, dreams, and impossibilities of that cause, and takes it to new heights in the minds of others.

with him. He was a man who went against the odds—wearing a traditional Speedo with no goggles, no cap, a full head of hair, and that stylish mustache, all on a notoriously small stature. He captured the attention of people around the globe setting an unprecedented record of seven gold medals, making a name for himself in sports history as well as a recognition of swimming in a more respected light than it had been in years past. He looked on as the swimming world evolved thanks to devel-

opments in modern science, yet never stopped getting his feet wet and staying in impeccable shape. Mark Spitz was a name I had been familiar with for my entire swimming career and I’ve never found anyone who could deny his sheer talent as an athlete. Yes, Mark Spitz was a true swimmer, and someone who I would be honored to meet.

Luckily, the rest of the Stuy swimming community seemed to draw the same conclusion. With roughly 60 young swimmers waiting to meet probably the second most famous swimmer of all time, there was a sense of excitement thinking about what advice he could give us and how he would undoubtedly impact our swimming careers. So we sat and waited for this storied Olympian to enlighten us.

An hour later, the excitement was waning. An hour after that, we became anxious. At last, Mark Spitz’s camera crew came out and told us to arrange ourselves for a picture. Then, finally, the star himself appeared—we were really and truly meeting Mark Spitz!

He walked over to our “picture” and faced us.

“So is this the swim team?”

Okay—that’s not the greatest question in the world, but you’re Mark Spitz and you’re getting older. So it’s alright. “YES!”

“Did you see the Olympics?”

“YES!” Where was this going?

“Did you see that Michael Phelps guy?”

“YES! He was great! What an amazing swimmer! He’s so talented! He’s so intense!”

“Yeah, intense is a good word for it. Let’s take our picture.”

So Mark Spitz cuddled up to our picture arrangement and snapped about five shots. Then came the moment we had actually been waiting for—the meet and greet. We all grabbed things to be signed and cameras to record this moment, forming a straight single-file line to our V.I.P. with smiles spread across our intrigued and hopeful faces. Mark Spitz pointed to his watch, and walked out our door.

As a Stuyvesant senior, I

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Spitz Comes to Visit, But Nothing More

By LUC COHEN

Members of Stuyvesant’s boys’ and girls’ swim teams were treated to a surprise late in the afternoon on Wednesday, September 3. Shooting a commercial for Medco Pharmaceuticals in the Stuyvesant High School pool was none other than Mark Spitz, the American swimming legend who won seven gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. This stood as the record number of gold medals won by an athlete at a single Olympics until Michael Phelps, another American

Although Spitz spent a couple minutes with the team and took a group photograph, many were expecting more.

swimmer, won eight this past summer in Beijing.

Brian Cupps, a Medco representative, said that Stuyvesant was chosen as the location for the commercial because it has a pool that was modern enough to give the commercial its desired effect. Assistant Principal Health and Physical Education Martha Singer said that the facilities and design of Stuyvesant’s building often make it a coveted location for special events. The school usually gets something in return for letting companies use their space; in this case, the Physical Education department received a donation. “We’re fortunate, and most of the time we get what we want,” Singer said. Singer has not yet received the check, and was not sure about how much money the donation would be. She said that once the donation is received, it

would be used to meet the physical education department’s needs at the time.

But this time, Singer, as well as members of the swim team, did not get everything they had hoped for. Because the shooting of the commercial took longer than expected, Spitz had very little time to spend with the swimmers. Although he spent a couple minutes with the team and took a group photograph, many were expecting more.

“I was very disappointed. He didn’t spend, pretty much, any time with us,” senior and girls’ swimming team co-captain Abigail Erickson said. “We thought he would sign autographs, talk to us a little bit, meet the team, and he didn’t. He took one picture with us, and then he left.”

Sophomore Francine Foo also expressed disappointment, as she was looking forward to having Spitz “give us advice, give a pep talk to the team, sign autographs,” she said.

“It was a professional commercial,” Singer said. “However, I was under the impression that there would be time for the athletes.” Singer received this impression from phone calls with Medco representatives prior to the event. In addition, she felt that the event’s organizers should have been more sensitive to her wish for Spitz to spend more time with the swimmers because she had arrived at 5 a.m. to help set up. Spitz too expressed regret at not being able to spend more time with the athletes. “It was too bad I didn’t have a chance to do that,” he said. “It would have been fun.” If he had gotten the chance, he said, “I’d tell them some funny stories that happened to me along the way in my athletic career.”

Singer considered the event somewhat disappointing partially due to inevitable comparisons with a similar one four years ago, when, after the Athens Olympics, Phelps and the other three members of the gold-medal-winning American mens’ 4x100 Medley Relay team visited Stuyvesant. According to Singer, they got in the pool and swam with members of the swim team, in addition to taking individual photos with every single swimmer. “That was a great day,” she said.

Football

Peglegs Successful in Coach Strasser’s Debut

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er. If every player executes their job, the record will take care of itself.”

After serving as the defensive assistant coach last season, Strasser took over for former head coach Brian Sacks after he left to coach closer to his home in order to spend more time with his newborn baby. Senior and fullback Matt Baumel has found that this transition has gone smoothly. “The transition has been really easy because he was with us last year. A lot of

the things we did last year carried on to this season,” Baumel said. “I’m expecting as successful a season as last year.”

With senior, captain and running back Dionicio Herrera out with a displaced lateral meniscus and eight of last year’s 11 defensive starters graduated, the team will be looking for many players, mainly juniors that are new additions to the varsity squad, to step up and fill the void. These players did just that in their first victory.

The game started slowly,

“A record is not the defining statistic of whether you have a successful season or not.”
—Mark Strasser, head coach

with neither team scoring in the first quarter. But the Peglegs opened the second quarter with a rushing touchdown from senior quarterback Nick Goldin. The second touchdown was scored on a pass to senior receiver Nicholas Wheatley-Schaller. “The other team only had a few well executed plays on offense, which is good ‘cause we just started running our new 5-2 defense three days ago,” junior linebacker Ari Fima said. A 5-2 defense is an arrangement in which the front line consists of

five down linemen and two linebackers.

The lone two points allowed were actually given up on purpose as decided by Strasser. “We were deep in our territory, the opposing team had no timeouts left, there was only two minutes and 45 seconds left,” Strasser said. “Instead of trying to punt from our end zone and risk a blocked punt or a return for touchdown we took a safety.” The decision paid off, as the defense shut the door and the Peglegs started the season on a high note.

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

Football

Peglegs Successful in Coach Strasser's Debut



Courtesy of Nick Wheatley Schaller

The Stuyvesant Peglegs, the varsity football team, won their first game of the season.

By CODY LEVINE

After finishing last season with a 6-4 record, Stuyvesant's varsity football team, the Peglegs, is looking to build on its success. They started off on the right track with a 14-2 victory over Information Technology HS in their season opener on Friday, September 5 at Pier 40. The record, however, is not the most important

thing to first-year head coach Mark Strasser. "For me, a record is not the defining statistic of whether you have a successful season or not. If our student-athletes play to the best of their abilities, that would be successful to me," Strasser said. "We can only control how well we execute our offense and defense, and that is what I ask of each play-

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Fencing

Fencing Teams Get Olympic Advice

By LUC COHEN

Although the Beijing Games ended on August 24, the Olympic spirit is still alive at Stuyvesant. First, Mark Spitz visited the swim team briefly while shooting a commercial at Stuyvesant on Wednesday, September 3. Then, the boys' and girls' fencing teams met American silver medalist fencers Emily Cross, Timothy Morehouse, Jason Rogers and Erinn Smart as part of the New York City Athlete Appreciation Ceremony, hosted by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on Monday, September 8 in City Hall Park.

"This is an opportunity for Mayor Bloomberg and the city of New York to celebrate the accomplishments of all of New York City's Olympians," Andrew Gould, the Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Sports Commission, said of the event.

Photography teacher and coach of the boys' and girls' fencing teams Joel Winston first heard about the event on Friday, September 5, when he got a call from the Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) fencing commissioner. The mayor had extended an invitation to all Manhattan public schools with fencing pro-



Sean Gorden Lobel/ The Spectator

The Stuyvesant fencing team was invited to a an event where Mayor Bloomberg congratulated New York City Olympians and gave them gifts from Tiffany's.

grams, but only Stuyvesant accepted due to its proximity to City Hall Park.

Before the event began, members of the fencing teams got the opportunity to talk with the Olympians, in addition to getting their autographs and taking photos with them..

"I talked to them mostly about the Olympic experience in Beijing, just how much fun it was, and about growing up in New York," said Cross, a member of the silver-medal winning American women's foil team, and the first Asian-American fencer to win a medal in that

event. A foil is the type of weapon most commonly used in fencing competition. Cross, whose brother went to Stuyvesant, attended The Brearley School in Manhattan and now fences for Harvard.

Morehouse, who worked as a seventh grade teacher in Washington Heights, as well as for Teach For America, particularly understood the importance of setting an example to the students he spoke to. "Having the people from Stuyvesant here was amazing," he said. "All of us

continued on page 14

Girls' Volleyball

Perfection Still a Vixens Goal

By CHARLIE GINGOLD with additional reporting by CHRIS ZHAO

They aren't the United States Olympic team, but the Stuyvesant girls' varsity volleyball team, the Vixens, appear to be ready for another productive season. Last year's team went undefeated in the regular season with an 8-0 record, but lost an overwhelming seven seniors to graduation. In order to do well in the playoffs, this year's seniors and juniors must step up and fill the roles of those lost players. "Our team, unlike a lot of other teams, focuses on making sure everyone gets a lot of practice—instead of just the best players. And we're prepared for this season because even though we lost a lot of starters, everyone on the team is as prepared as those starters, so I'm not that worried at all," senior and captain Tina Khiani said.

Last year's 8-0 record marked the ninth straight year that the Vixens were undefeated. It gave them the fourth seed in the city heading into the play-



offs, in which they won third place. This year they look forward to doing more of the same.

Coach Phil Fisher said, "Our first goal is still to win the league, our second goal is to get a good seed and our third goal is to get to the final four and see what happens."

The Vixens will need some new stars to repeat the success of previous years. "Even though I have some girls who were on the team last year, a lot of them are inexperienced," Fisher said. This may cause trouble for the team, but Fisher speaks highly of junior Imelda "Mo" Ko. He said, "Mo is probably the most improved player on the team. She didn't get much playing time last year, but she is probably one of the top three female athletes in the school. I'm excited to have that kind of athlete to coach."

"I'm looking forward to hopefully starting this season and just playing with the team," Ko said. Though she only played in four matches last year, while recording two service points and two kills, she was a promising junior varsity player two years ago when she led her team in kills and service points.

Another player to watch is



Diane Yee / The Spectator

The girls' varsity volleyball team, the Vixens, played a scrimmage against Hunter High School on Tuesday, September 16 and are looking forward to another successful season.

Khiani who received much playing time last year and finished second on the team in service points, aces and assists.

The Vixens now have two new teams in their division, which are Norman Thomas and Baruch College Campus School. Norman Thomas went 2-6 last year, and Baruch went 4-4 in the same division. The Vixens, who

began practices on Monday, August 25, will play their first league game on Tuesday, September 23. The game will be against the Baruch College Campus School and will be held at Norman Thomas

"This season we're definitely going for gold, but we're going to take it one step at a time," Ko said.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Saturday, September 20	Tuesday, September 23	Wednesday, September 24	Thursday, September 25	Friday, September 26	Monday, September 29	Monday, October 6
Boys' and Girls Cross Country Marty Lewis Meet Van Cortland Park	Boys' Soccer vs. Martin Luther King Jr. H.S. Central Park—North Meadow 4:00 p.m.	Girls' Bowling vs. Seward Park H.S. Leisure Time Recreation—Lane 16 4:00 p.m.	Boys' Bowling vs. University Neighborhood H.S. Leisure Time Recreation—Lane 21 4:00 p.m.	FOOTBALL HOMECOMING J.V. vs. South Bronx H.S. @ 4:30 p.m. Varsity vs. South Bronx H.S. @ 6:30 p.m. Pier 40	Girls' Volleyball vs. Seward Park H.S. Stuyvesant High School Gym 5:30 p.m.	Girls' Golf vs. Bronx H.S. of Science Van Cortland Park 4:00 p.m.