



# The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper  
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*"The pulse  
of the  
student  
body."*

Volume XCIV No. 13

April 1, 2004

To The Stuyvesant Community

## The Ins and Outs of Logging On

By JON EDELMAN

Stuyvesant computers can be incredibly handy. They can be used for printing out homework, doing online research, typing papers, saving documents, or programming classes. Before a student can do any of this, however, he or she is confronted with a small obstacle: the login screen, where a student must type his or her Stuyvesant username and password. While some view this as a necessary inconvenience, others see it as a burden.

Freshmen encounter the most trouble with the login system. Said freshman Samantha Sgveglia, "We weren't sent our passwords until a few weeks into the term. My history teacher made us print out a lot of stuff, and I couldn't use the school computers, so he got mad at me."

Since others are simply confused by the system, they do not use it often. "Wait, we're supposed to use our password?" asked freshman Bethany Berkowitz. "The only time I ever used it was to buy SING! tickets."

Some have trouble recalling the nonsensical passwords initially provided by the school. Said freshman Ben Wexler, "My password was 'tahteik'. How am I supposed to remember that?" Wexler later changed his password to something easier to remember.

Others find no need for the login system on school computers. "The login system is unnecessary," said junior Cheryl Tse. "You shouldn't save something on a public computer."

Students sometimes forget to log off after they finish using the computers. When encountering an already logged-in computer, most students take the easiest option. "I don't log them off. I just use their account," said junior Nami Sung.

Technology Program Coordinator Mike Zamansky, who designed the login system, believes it is absolutely necessary for both the individual and the school's security. "There are many reasons for it. You don't want anyone else to have access to your files, and it allows students to access files from anywhere in the building. There have been students who have tried to hack into outside systems, and outsiders try to hack into this system," he said.

Zamansky points out that such a situation would prove especially disadvantageous when submitting assignments or programming classes online.

"I know some people who have lost their original passwords, and have had some trouble registering for courses," said senior Ernest Baskin. "It's a necessary inconvenience

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## SING! Attempts to Skate Through Financial Troubles

By EUGENE THEODORE

Ice shards were flying within the Chelsea Piers Skating Rink as about 100 Stuyvesant students enjoyed themselves. Although tickets had originally been priced at 10 dollars, low demand reduced their price to five. Students were given free skates and food was for sale. Although the event was possible through a \$2,250 donation from an anonymous Stuyvesant parent, the profits made from this endeavor were about \$800-\$900.

Junior SING! stage manager Matt Ginther, who helped organize this event, said that the organizers "really wanted more. The tickets were excessively cheap and we were hoping for more people, around 250, but the interest wasn't as high as expected."

Despite this setback, students who went were very satisfied. "The skating was fun," Junior SING! tech crew member Mike Loeb said.

As of now, SING! Coordinator and Phil Fogel is not planning for other such

events. "We're really depending on donations," he said. According to SING!'s budget release, the Parents' Association contributed \$5,000 and Stuyvesant's Alumni Association donated over \$2,000.

The donations are offset by the added costs of this year's performances. The Student Union will be paying six faculty advisors at \$30 an hour for their supervision of SING! practices as well as of the nightly performances. With other costs such as staffing, technology, judges, and other programs, the SU is expected to spend around \$33,000 this year. The SU will not be making as much of a profit as in previous years—around the area of \$17,000 to \$19,000—which could prove detrimental, considering SING! is its main annual fundraiser.

The main profits will be made from the ticket sales. "We should be making \$12,000 whereas previously it was much more," said Fogel. However, even that is not ideal. "We have

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## Regime Change for a Day



Naomi Gordon / The Spectator

Upon visiting the drafting rooms, Len Berman said that his drafting class had been "very very difficult, impossible to pass, and brutal, just brutal."

By JANE SUSSMAN  
with additional reporting by  
ANNIE THOMS

Wednesday, March 31, marked the tenth anniversary of the city's Principal for a Day program with celebrated playwright Wendy Wasserstein and NBC sportscaster and Stuy alumnus Len Berman. They split the school day, each talking to students in the hallways, touring the school, and stopping to speak to classes.

Wasserstein took the morning shift, starting with breakfast and an introduction to

Stuyvesant's layout and routine with Stanley Teitel, Rene Levine and various assistant principals and student representatives. Wasserstein's father went to Stuyvesant, class of January 1939, and Wasserstein was asked by Stuyvesant to come for the day because of her keen interest in the school. She stopped in on Annie Thoms' Women's Voices class and spoke about her time in college, her experience in the literary world, and her own works, as well as feminism in literature

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## A Shock to SING!



Naomi Gordon / The Spectator

The mirror in the sixth floor dance studio was cracked on March 30 during a Senior SING! practice.

By THERESA LANGSCHULTZ

On Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> senior Elliot Herman received quite a shock.

While setting up the radio for Senior SING! Boy-Girl Hip Hop in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor dance studio, Herman was shocked by exposed wire, jumped back into and cracked a mirror.

Herman was not hurt, receiving only a red mark on his arm. The accident, according to Herman, occurred because the wire of the boom box "had a cut on it."

According to Coordinator of Student Affairs Matt Polazzo, the accident happened before Senior SING! faculty advisor Undeen Guthrie arrived at the rehearsal space.

As soon as the glass was cracked, the seniors went in search of Guthrie, Polazzo, senior SING! faculty advisor Annie Thoms, and Senior SING! director Tim Drinan to handle the problem.

"We looked for Ms. Thoms, Tim, anybody to come

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## SING! Tix Goes Online

By ANITA MA

Getting SING! tickets has never been this easy. Students no longer have to wait in agonizing lines; the only line that is necessary is online.

For the first time in Stuyvesant history, the Stuyvesant community can use the Internet to reserve tickets for SING! performances, which will be held on April 14, 16, and 17 this year. Junior and SING! Coordinator Victor Danau collaborated with junior, SingTix Administrator, and SING! Internet Technician Daniel Katz to launch a Web site, [www.singtix.com](http://www.singtix.com), last month. Here, students logged onto the site using their Stuyvesant username and password to reserve tickets.

SING! cast and crew members obtained tickets during an early registration period, from March 12 to March 17. Other students and faculty were able to reserve tickets during the period for general ticket sales, March 20 through 24.

Cast and crew SING! members had priority over general sales. According to Danau, the ticket reservations of the cast and crew members were run

through a lottery system, in which the computer randomly sorted and filled the orders. Meanwhile, for general sales, tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

According to Katz, there is a ticket limit of two tickets for Friday and Saturday combined, and eight for Wednesday night's performance. For cast and crew members, this reservation can be made in addition to what they receive from their ticket orders.

After reserving tickets, students printed out a ticket voucher and received their tickets by showing their ID cards and submitting payments in Lecture Hall A throughout the day and after school, between March 24 and April 1.

Bringing the ticket process online has raised some concerns over the security of personal information. Katz said, "Security was a key issue for us. The SingTix ticketing system implements a robust security system, keeping all of the data safe. All information is backed up on a nightly basis, and the server is constantly monitored."

So far, the online process

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**SING! Diaries, Page 8.**



# Regime Change for a Day



Principal for a Day Wendy Wasserstein, and Assistant Principal of Social Studies Jennifer Suri at a breakfast meeting to introduce Wasserstein to the layout and daily routine of Stuyvesant.

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and culture.

She spoke of playwriting, and the thought that goes into writing emotionally charged, complex characters. “The joy of it is dividing yourself up into different characters,” said Wasserstein.

Berman, class of ‘64, began his day with a quick lunch, and proceeded to tour the school from the top down. Starting with the drafting rooms, he worked his way downstairs, continually remarking on the similarities and differences between the Stuyvesant of ‘64 and the Stuyvesant of ‘04. Though the last time Berman

was at Stuyvesant, he was on East 19 Street in a school of only boys, he said that much remains the same.

Berman shared the dispassion for certain subjects, such as drafting and higher mathematics, that Stuyvesant students today still grapple with. “I mean, who would want to spin a parabola around an x-axis,” he said of calculus.

Competition in Stuyvesant is also an old phenomenon, according to Berman. He recollected an incident when he talked to a peer in class and his teacher asked him, “Why are you talking to the guy next to you? He’s your competition!”

# Student Union Looking Forward to the Spring Season

By REVAZ SURGULADZE

The sky is clear, the sun is shining brightly, and temperatures are no longer subzero. Spring has finally come around, and the Student Union is hard at work organizing events to make the season enjoyable for Stuyvesant students.

## Spring Fling Plans Are in the Air

Among the events scheduled include Spring Fling. The SU is working with the Stuyvesant Centennial Committee to throw this “student party,” scheduled June 2. “It’ll be a half-day, where everyone goes to the park next to Stuy and just hangs out and relaxes,” said junior and SU Vice President Meredith Gringer. “We are hoping to have some bands play as well.” Possible bands include Me and My Shadow and Sasha and the Possibilities, which are comprised of Stuyvesant students and teachers. The SU is also trying to have MTV sponsor the event.

## Sports Tournaments Continue

In addition to Spring Fling, the SU is working on a second junior/senior sports tournament scheduled for April 26. A referendum will determine whether students prefer volleyball or basketball for the tournament. “Volleyball would be cool, since it has never really been done before,” said Junior Class President Taresh Batra. “But we’ll see where there is more interest.”

According to Sophomore

Class President Stephanie Bazell, the sophomores will have their basketball tournament on April 30.

## Junior and Soph-Frosh Events

Junior prom and soph-frosh semiformal are highly anticipated. This year’s junior prom theme, as chosen by the prom committee, is James Bond. Those attending the prom will receive James Bond memorabilia.

This year’s soph-frosh semiformal will be held in Club Lobby, according to Bazell. “It’s a cool place, very chic,” she said.

According to Gringer, this year’s fundraising for the prom will not be limited to bake sales or candy sales. The sophomore and junior caucuses are organizing a battle of the bands between sophomore and junior bands to raise money for prom night.

“The prom planning is ongoing,” said Batra. “For Battle of the Bands, we are getting a lot of positive feedback from the bands and it looks as though it will be a big success.”

Bazell agrees, adding that since semiformal will occur before the battle of the bands, half of the proceeds may go towards prize money in future sophomore sports tournaments.

Though the ground has barely thawed, the SU is attempting to prepare a season that many students will look forward to. Batra said, “Even with all the hassles of junior year, I’m glad that through the SU I have some really unique and cool things to look forward to. And I’m glad that I help provide others with that as well.”

# AP Government and Comparative Government, Together at Last

By SAM HAUSNER-LEVINE

Students wishing to take AP American Government next year will receive more than they bargained for. In addition to AP American Government in the fall term, prospective candidates will be automatically programmed for the AP Comparative Government class in the spring term.

As a part of the new annualization policies, these two single-term government classes, which traditionally have been offered separately, will be combined in the 2004-2005 school year. This change is receiving mixed reactions. Although some support the annualization as a way to increase time for teaching, others criticize it as a limitation of students’ options.

“People are always complaining that there’s never enough time to learn everything we need to,” said freshman Lisa Poliytian. “Now there will be more time.”

On the other hand, senior

Jake Haskell said, “It sounds unfair. It doesn’t make sense that they can force people to take two different classes, which are very different, linked as one.”

Concerning the new policy, AP Government teacher Matt Polazzo said, “The two classes are really meant to be taught together. Hopefully if a student is interested in government, they’ll be interested in both US and Comp[arative] Government.”

“I don’t like that my flexibility in choosing classes is being reduced,” said sophomore Abraham Uchitelle. “It seems like the ability to adapt your schedule is being taken away.”

Another debated aspect of interlocking classes is the requirement for one teacher to teach both the AP American Government and AP Comparative Government classes.

“If you have a teacher who you hate, it’s really not fair to make you stick with that teacher

for a whole other term,” said junior Lowell Kuper. “Of course, I love my global [history] teacher, so I would be fine with it.”

Annualizing the courses may also prove to be a burden to teachers. Social studies teacher Eric Wisotsky said, “Although social studies teachers are qualified to teach both AP American Government and AP Comparative Government, they may have certain preferences about which class they would rather teach. [Annualization] may inconvenience teachers in terms of their preferences.”

Polazzo noted that the annualization of the class would solve several problems AP students face. “Since the AP comes in May, it means that I won’t have the problems I do now. My first term AP kids have to remember all their knowledge four months [after the fall term ends], while my second term kids have far less time due to the test being in May. So for me, annualization is a good thing.”

# A Shock to SING!

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upstairs,” Herman said.

Though students quickly handled the situation by looking for advisors, according to senior Boy-Girl Hip Hop member Sphoorthi Jinna, many crew members remained in the studio without direction.

“We all sat there, shocked. We were like, ‘Oh my God, what are we going to do?’” Jinna said.

When Polazzo heard of the accident, he went to the studio to assess the situation.

“First, I was concerned about the kid. When everyone said he was fine, I said ‘lets look at the damage.’”

Repairing the damage, according to Assistant Principal

of Physical Education Martha Singer, will require the replacement of the entire mirror panel.

Rather than take the money out of the Senior SING! budget, SING! has offered to pay for repairs out of a ‘cushion fund’ created last year, said SING! Coordinator Phil Fogel.

“SING! created a cushion fund of \$1500 to deal with situations like this. Last year we didn’t need to use it, so we wound up putting it towards fixing the stage,” Fogel said. “This year the money will go towards the mirror, and we have extra money if need be.”

SING! Coordinator of Organization Krishna Sury feels that SING!’s offer to pay for the repairs was necessary, given the circumstances.

“The damage was done—accidentally—by a SING! member, so SING! will pay for it,” she said.

Singer was not particularly upset about the broken glass.

“I guess I could be angry, but sometimes accidents just occur. It happens,” she said. Instead, Singer was upset that the students began setting up without a teacher present. “The students took it upon themselves to start. That is the crux of the situation.”

Though Herman did not require medical attention, SING! Coordinator Victor Danau still had concerns over the broken mirror.

“I sure hope this doesn’t lead to seven years of bad luck for SING!,” he said.

# Chair Sculpture Graces Stuy Library



The Stuyvesant library has recently been struck by a vicious epidemic of broken chairs.



## SING! Tix Goes Online

*continued from page 1*

has been met with favorable reviews. Senior Lisa Kim said, "Bringing the ticket process online makes it more convenient since we don't have to waste time waiting on lines. It's nice and orderly."

Soph/Frosh SING! Step Crew Director and sophomore Diana Sandy said, "It's better and efficient. We save time since we won't be losing a day of SING! rehearsal [to buy tickets]. Also, since the ticket process is random, it doesn't matter when we reserve the tickets."

Junior SING! Stage Manager Matthew Ginther said, "It's great that people are able to streamline the process. It is much more effective and fair. Previously, all the best, front-seat tickets were the first to be given out and sold, but now, with the randomization of tickets for the students, it doesn't matter when you go to reserve and get tickets."

"It's especially advantageous for cast and crew. Before, they'd usually have to stay after

school in a crowded room for hours to get a ticket. But now, they can get their tickets whenever they please, provided they reserve before deadline. This is a tremendous advantage," Ginther said.

The ticket process isn't the only noticeable change students have encountered. There has been a considerable jump in SING! ticket prices. For Wednesday, the price has risen to \$8 from last year's \$5. The prices for Friday and Saturday increased from \$8 to \$18.

According to Danau, the increase in prices is due to the significantly lowered SING! budget. "The reason the prices are higher is simple. The administration usually pays for a lot of SING!—faculty advisors, security, supervision during performances, etc. This year, however, the SING! budget was severely cut. This meant that the SU would have to find a way to make up for over \$10,000. We tried getting a fourth performance and corporate sponsors. We did receive some aid from

the Parents' Association and some donations. Raising ticket prices was the last option."

Junior SING! Producer Timothy Eng said, "This increase might deter ticket sales to a certain few who would have trouble paying for an \$18 ticket, but there's not much that anyone can do about that."

Nevertheless, there are high hopes for both SING! and SingTix. Said Ginther, "SING! is one of the few things that Stuyvesant has that can pull the entire school together. I have no doubt that every ticket will be sold weeks before SING! starts."

As for the future of SingTix, Katz said, "We are already planning ahead, and are looking into an in-house ticket printer for future performances. I don't foresee online payments, as many people do not have credit cards and many would be unwilling to use them for tickets. The ticketing system for SING! 2005 remains to be seen, but as the developer I am aiming for nothing less than perfection."

## In Laughter, Unity

By EUGENE THEODORE

The lights dimmed, the techno music died down, and the voices went silent on 34 West 22nd street. Students of Stuyvesant's junior class assembled at the Gotham Comedy Club on Thursday, March 11 to enjoy 90 minutes of laughs and good fun featuring stars ranging from Steve Byrne of *The Late Late Show*, Comedy Central's Jessica Kirson and Karen Burgreen, and Tim Young from *The Jim Bruer Show*.

Steve Byrne laid out his ethnic jokes about Italian-Americans and a few demeaning his own appearance. He went on to talk about his own high-school career and relationships. He was followed by Kirson who came up on stage and started with her voice and mimicry routines, mocking everyone from the elderly to the British.

The club filled quickly with 140 Stuyvesant students taking up every available seat, stool, and even the floor. Because of the attendance, Junior Class Vice President Maria Cheung believes that the night fulfilled its purpose, "to bring the different cliques that make up the

junior class together as one body." Cheung said, "It made me extremely happy to see a lot of our grade laughing and having fun together in the same room. This rarely happens."

Junior Class President Taresh Batra also felt that the event helped to bring students together. "While running, we had a platform of increasing the communication within the grade to provide us with more unity. It was amazing to see the different cliques of Stuy all gathering at the same place voluntarily. I like to believe that we made some progress towards our goal," he said.

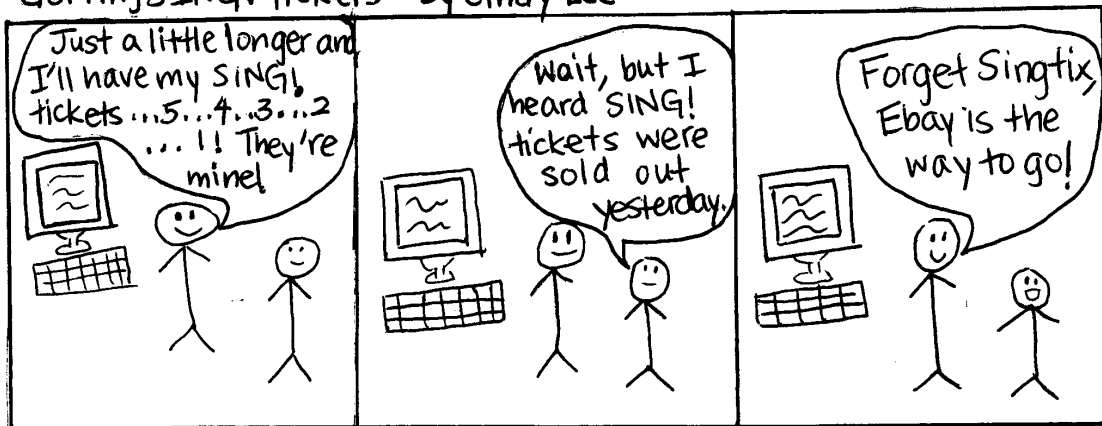
Among those present were members of Stuyvesant's various sports teams such as the football and swimming teams, religious organizations such as the Seekers, and other academic and recreational clubs such as the German and DDR clubs.

Many students enjoyed the event. "I thought the comedy club was hilarious," said junior Marissa Galizia. "My abs were aching by the end."

Junior Tony Wong agreed. "It was a lot of fun, you know? I spent some nice relating-time outside of school with friends," said Wong.

**"It was amazing to see the different cliques of Stuy all gathered in the same place voluntarily."  
- Junior Class President Taresh Batra**

Getting SING! tickets By Cindy Lee



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# Fate of Arabic Classes Undecided

By ERICA ANDERSON

Even after much effort to establish an Arabic language elective at Stuyvesant, the fate of the class is still unknown.

Last year, several members of the Muslim Students Association proposed the addition of Arabic to Stuyvesant's foreign language program. Assistant Principal of Foreign Language Dr. Rolf Schwagermann informed the students that in order for the class to be established, a certified teacher had to be found, sufficient student interest had to be expressed, and \$20,000 had to be raised.

In order to demonstrate student support, a petition was passed around and signed by members of the Stuyvesant community. Exploration of an unfamiliar culture and an unfamiliar language was a major reason for support of the class.

"It is not only the language. With language comes culture, and people, and all the other parts of language study. It's way beyond the grammar and vocabulary. It's like opening up a new world," Schwagermann said.

Students echoed the sentiment. "It would be nice to learn more about other cultures," said senior Daniel Jaouen.

In order to raise funds, students appealed to outside sources. Donations were made by local mosques, parents of students, and other individuals.

"Most of the support we got was from our own relatives," said MSA president and senior Naazia Husain.

In early February, the Parents' Association took notice of student efforts.

"We did discuss it at meetings and decided as a consensus to support the students in their effort to start [the Arabic language class] up" said PA co-president Lori Pandolfo.

This year, the PA's official letter welcoming parents of incoming students included contact information for those interested in supporting the Arabic elective. The PA sign-up sheets at the Open House included an option to be contacted with updates about the Arabic course.

After a formal request for financial help was submitted, "We put our money where our mouth is," said Pandolfo. To date, the students have raised over \$14,000. Once the students have raised \$15,000, the PA will contribute \$5,000 to the Arabic language program to fulfill the \$20,000 requirement.

The largest obstacle to the Arabic language elective now is

finding a state-certified teacher. Although there are there are volunteers with experience in teaching, finding an Arabic teacher with the state-required credentials has been a difficult task. "That's going to be the major stumbling block for the class," said Schwagermann. "This is where the whole thing will stand or fall."

One possible candidate is Jeffrey Sacks, a former colleague of Assistant Principal of Social Studies and MSA faculty advisor Jennifer Suri. Sacks, who possesses a Master's Degree in Middle Eastern studies, is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Arabic. Sacks is currently in Lebanon on a fellowship, but plans to return in time for the fall term of next year.

The reactions to the proposed Arabic elective have been mixed. While some applaud the course as a window into another language and culture, others doubt its ability to succeed.

"I'm definitely taking the Arabic class," said junior Asif Dipon. Dipon wants to take this class to explore his own culture and religion more deeply.

While some applaud the [proposed Arabic] course as a window into another language and culture, others doubt its ability to succeed.

# Are Two Lines Really Better than One?

By ROBIN LIPP

The implementation of the new kiosk machines in the Stuyvesant cafeteria has left some students feeling confused and annoyed, while others are happy and relieved. "They need more machines to make the system more efficient," said junior Dokyon Lee. "A lot more machines," he said as he waited on a growing line to put money onto his ID card.

Freshman Romeo Alexander gave a more positive view as he waited for an open kiosk. "In theory the new system should be great...we should encourage people to put money in [the kiosks] at times other than lunch time so we don't have to wait...It's always a pain when a machine breaks," said Alexander.

Some students agree that the kiosks are a benefit to the school. "I think the new system is better since you don't have to

carry around change," said junior Chris Kim.

Junior Peter Pottier said, "We have to wait on two lines now [one to deposit money and another to get lunch] every day." Pottier brought to light another problem: students who deposit just enough money for one day are forced to wait on line for the kiosks every time they eat lunch.

When asked how much he deposits each day, Pottier responded, "I put in a dollar-fifty each day...I pay one day at a time." This leads to longer lines for the kiosks.

When asked about such behavior, Principal Stanley Teitel said, "That's just foolish. If you eat in the cafeteria every day you should deposit seven dollars and fifty cents in your account each Monday."

Nonetheless, the school has devised a response to this issue. Starting on March 29, "we're going into a new phase of the

system...parents will be able to go online and put money into their students' accounts," said Teitel.

Still, many students aren't prepared to embrace the new system. "I haven't bought school lunch since they instituted this new policy," said sophomore James McDowell. "It makes everything much longer and I don't understand how the system works."

Sophomore Sidney Li agreed. "I don't want to wait here every single day. It's too much," said Li.

For many students, the benefits of the kiosks are outweighed by the inconvenience of the extra line. "First you get in line over here, and then over there," said senior Chetan Mehta. "The lunch line moves at the same speed, so things aren't any faster."

In spite of this, Teitel feels that the system has experienced

relatively few problems, mentioning only several minor concerns. "The very first day we learned that some of the early senior ID cards didn't work," Teitel said. "Some students didn't realize that the machines didn't give refunds, and there were a few students who tried to get lunch with some else's ID card but were refused."

As for the problem of machines recognizing pennies as quarters, Teitel said, "We fixed that very quickly...nobody put in any real money anyway and I took all that money away." In the event of future broken machines, Teitel explained that the people responsible for installing the kiosks are prepared to come in and fix them within a day.

Some students don't seem to mind the new system at all. "It's fun," said junior Raymond Liu, "it gives us something to do!"

# The Ins and Outs of Logging On

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since the school does need some sort of security. You can't have random people picking courses for you or looking at things that are only restricted to the Stuyvesant community."

"It's a necessary inconvenience since the school does need some sort of security."  
-Ernest Baskin, senior

Others, such as sophomore Olivia Lau, feel that the login process is not at all a hassle. "It actually makes programming easier. I mean, how else are you supposed to go about and select your courses?" she said.

For now, regardless of how they feel about logging in and out, students will have to utilize the system with heightened caution, as there are no other options for individual and organizational security.

# SING! Attempts to Skate Through Financial Troubles

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960 cast and crew members participating in this year's SING! For the first time ever, we are managing the ticket sales online, but still no one is guaranteed even one seat. The good side is that we've never known the exact demand for SING! before, but now we will."

There are 840 seats available for the Friday and Saturday night performances. The April 14 New Haven performance, however, only has 600 seats available since traditionally the balcony is not used for that show. After distributing tickets to the participants of SING! as well as to the judges and the administration who must supervise the event, there are 340 free seats to be distributed between the three-night performances.

"We've thought of moving SING! out of the building. The Town Hall Theater on 42nd Street would charge us \$6,000 each night but would seat twice as many and double our profits," said Fogel. This idea was proposed lately as a result of the high tensions that have built between the SU and the school administration. "They are continuously trying to curtail SING! to a minimum," he said.

## Eleventeen Period Day By Eric Lee

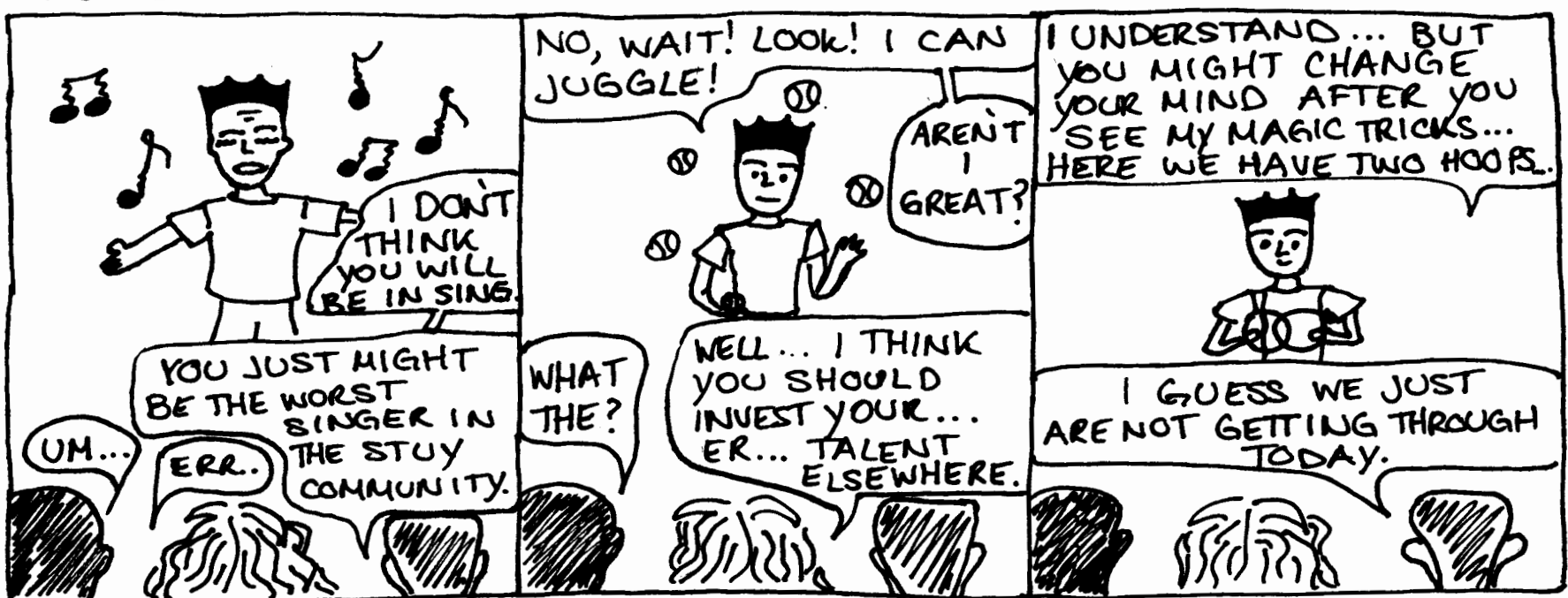


# Cartoons

STUY STUDENTS by John Liu



TO SING OR NOT TO SING by Courtney Chin



Class Pet by Brigid Black



STUY GUYS: SING! Script by Alia Hasan





## *Editorials and Opinions*

# Online Tickets Take SING! Stress Down A Notch

Picture this: A mob of students wait impatiently in a hallway, trying to maintain their places in line and be first in the classrooms, to purchase tickets for a show. Other students are actually barring the entrance, trying to keep order and prevent chaos from erupting.

This is how Stuyvesant used to sell SING! tickets.

The newly implemented online system of purchasing tickets for SING! performances provides a far more organized method of ticket distribution. In previous years, ticket purchasing was accompanied by unnecessary disorder and stress. This year, the new system is proving itself fairer, and more practical.

By having students order tickets online, SING! ticket lines are reduced in size and strain. Tickets can now be picked up over the course of several days, instead of in one crowded afternoon, spacing out the volume of students. Furthermore, by the time students have gotten on line, their seats are guaranteed. Previously ordered online, tickets are merely being picked up and paid for.

Instead of having students aggressively compete for the best seats, ticket distribution

is now random. No student can gain a seating advantage over others, except by being involved in the show, or by sheer luck.

This effectively eliminates seniority in ticket distribution. Previously a deciding factor in determining seating, this gave seniors precedence. Allowed to purchase tickets before other grades, seniors were sold the best seats, leaving sophomores and freshmen at a disadvantage.

As students can no longer fight their way to the front of a line and be assured the best seats, ticket scalping will be more difficult this year. Some students have scalped the best SING! tickets in the past, selling front row and orchestra seats for many times their value to less location-endowed students. With no guarantee of good seats to would-be scalpers, the fairness of the new system may put an end to this illicit practice.

Efficient, just, and pragmatic, online ticket sales are quite an improvement on the frustrated mobs of past years. SING! is entertainment, after all, along with the difficulty and effort of production. The last thing it needs is more stress.

# Fundraising By Skating

This year, given the slashing of the SING! budget, coordinators found their resourcefulness put to the test. New fundraising efforts were in order, to raise the necessary money so that the annual show could go on.

With a \$600 cap on fundraising to prevent the more experienced seniors from gaining an unfair financial advantage, SING! coordinators showed their metal by creatively raising money. SING! Skate was an innovative way to raise funds and for the cast and crew to have some well-deserved fun, extending a hand to all students, and not just those on cast or crews.

Made possible through generous outside donations, SING! Skate managed to raise between \$800 and \$900, despite a turnout that did not meet expectations. It would not be amiss to make SING! Skate an annual event,

drawing upon the resources of not only those directly involved in the show, but those who want to offer indirect help as well.

This year, the Parents' Association and Stuyvesant's alumni contributed thousands of dollars to SING!. However, these contributions are an unreliable source of money, and a temporary solution to what may become a permanent budget problem. While this money is greatly appreciated, it will eventually run out and the persistent budget issues will not be solved.

Schoolwide activities like SING! Skate will provide a dependable source of income for the show if continued annually. They may also help rally school spirit, by including all students in what is arguably our largest annual event.

# A Green St. Patrick's Day

I woke up on March 17 like I do on any normal school day—exhausted, unprepared, and behind schedule. After I took a quick shower, I reached into the very back of my closet and pulled out a pair of pants that I only wear once a year. They are my father's bright green khakis, and whoever made them deserves to be eternally shunned. But every year, on this particular day, they are extremely fitting. I finished dressing and went downstairs. I poured milk into my cereal only to find that my mom had put green food coloring in it. After breakfast, I grabbed my reversible jacket, switched it to the green side, and proudly walked out the door.

I live in a primarily Italian Roman Catholic neighborhood, right next to a Catholic school. That morning, as I was walking towards the subway, I passed hundreds of uniformed Catholic school children who stopped to gawk at this 6'3" kid dressed completely in bright green. I could tell they were asking each other "Why is that oversized leprechaun running down the street?"

When I got to school, I turned on my boom box and started to blast Irish music in the hallway near my locker. Some students did a little half jig on their way to class, while oth-

ers had a look of utter confusion on their faces. Others seemed quite irritated and quickly packed up their stuff and left. One girl even angrily confronted me and told me I had better turn the music off, OR ELSE. When I got to class, my math teacher allowed me to turn on “Flogging Molly” while we were solving problems. Toward the end of class, however, he asked me if I didn’t have anything less irritating that we could listen to.

Even my lunch period was somewhat different from the

were already buying alcohol.

Unfortunately, few people at Stuy are fully Irish. Most are half or a quarter, a combination with German, Jewish, or Cuban. But even though there isn't much Irishness at Stuy, the few people who have Irish pride feel so strongly about their heritage that they make up for the lack in numbers. I wanted to see if the same was true for the faculty, so I asked a couple of my teachers, who have extremely Irish names, where their green was or what their plans for St. Pat's were. Sadly, most of them seemed unenthusiastic.

What made me happiest were the students' ingenious ways of celebrating St. Pat's. Some sported IRA T-shirts, some "Made in Ireland" T-shirts from Urban Outfitters. Some painted their faces in green and some were just happy!

St. Patrick's Day may come only once a year, but each year on March 17, as you watch the tides of people ebb and flow between classes, you see an occasional flash of green and the smiling faces of those who celebrate my favorite holiday of the year.

Until next year, laddies and lassies!

– Nick Greenough

**The Spectator**

The Stuyvesant High  
School Newspaper



*"The pulse  
of the  
student  
body"*

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# You Jump, We Suffer

**By DEAN JAMES**

A while back, I saw a cartoon in *The Spectator* about a girl who had an unfulfilling relationship with an escalator. What she didn't realize was that her relationship with the inanimate object was an abusive one.

The girl was complaining because at the time, most of the escalators served as nothing more than express staircases. It was a rarity to find any working. Students changed their usual routes between classes just to make use of the few escalators that were functional. Many of them complained, begged the escalators to work, and verbally abused them. But only a few students actually cared why the escalators were so often stationary.

When our beloved school was being built, a lack of elevators compelled the construction workers to move heavy equipment on escalators. The rollers, which support all weight placed on the escalators, wore out prematurely and our moving stairs were damaged.

So we can blame the constructors for our daily misery. Right?

Wrong actually. In the beginning of March, all the rollers on all the escalators were replaced. This was not an easy task, considering that there were over a thousand of these specialized (meaning expensive) parts that needed replacement.

Even now, after the escalator repair process has been completed, it's still more likely for the nine planets to align

## C O R R E C T I O N S

- Please excuse the errors on the sports page in the last issue. They were not the fault of the newspaper staff.
- The Committee mentioned in “Boys Track Win off the Field” was misnamed and is called the Olympic Committee.
- In “The *Passion* Fuels Passions at Stuy,” junior Ariel Gros-Warter was mislabeled as a senior.



# The Rise of the Machines

## Kiosks Take Over In Cafeteria

By SAM RUDYKOFF

Posters of cartoon-like kiosks with smiling faces have been pasted up in the Stuyvesant lunch room.

The actual kiosks, first used on March 16, are part of the new automated lunch system at our school. Stuyvesant is being used as a pilot school for this new program. Students deposit money into electronic lunch accounts through these kiosks and run their IDs through a scanner at the cafeteria register, much as one would use a credit card.

Besides the fact that electronic gadgets look reasonably cool, it is hard to find justification for this new system. Why exactly do we need our money to be put into an account before buying lunch?

In a letter sent out to Stuyvesant parents on March 9, and currently available on the Stuyvesant Web site ([www.stuy.edu](http://www.stuy.edu)), Principal Stanley Teitel stated that the kiosk system "eliminates paper tickets and cash on the serving lines." Parents can now pre-pay for their children's meals online, through their credit cards.

However, for this to be a beneficial change, one must

assume that all Stuyvesant parents own and use credit cards, and have the time and interest to regulate their children's school lunch.

One must also assume that the elimination of cash is a good idea. On the contrary, it's practical to carry money. As a matter of safety, students may have to pay for transportation in unusual situations or emergencies. As a matter of freedom, having money on one's person lets students buy food after school, or take care of miscellaneous book fees, club dues, and other general expenses that come up over the course of the day.

If students stop carrying cash to school, they lose both the safety and the freedom of money. If they continue carrying money, then the new system's supposed benefits are being ignored.

Besides these inefficiencies, new problems are always created when person-to-person interactions are replaced by machines. Mechanical devices in public places get broken easily through unintentional mistakes, defacement, or vandalism. Anyone who has used a mouseless computer in our library, or walked up our infamous escalators, knows and recognizes this.

If the kiosks were to break, students would be out of lunch, hungry, and frustrated. It will be difficult to make the transition back to cash, even for a period or two, once the new system has set in. As an even worse case scenario, imagine the machines malfunctioning and erasing student accounts. Money can disappear without a trace inside machines.

On this note, the kiosks open up the possibility of theft. Obviously, anything in which students are depositing money all day makes an excellent target for the more unsavory characters of Stuyvesant. Though the equipment is well protected, we can't forget the fact that they are essentially big boxes of cash and change. Either by breaking the kiosks open, or electronically 'hacking' other students' accounts, money can be stolen.

The system may not be a major inconvenience, but it stands as an unhelpful change. It is an example of the unfortunate tendency to prefer anything with a screen and several buttons, regardless of its usefulness. Those who eat in the cafeteria have altered their routine. But it's doubtful that they are better off now than they were before.

# Sweet Dreams Are Made of This

By JOSEPH NGAI

It starts with a heavy feeling behind your eyes. Slowly, you drift away from the lesson and your teacher's droning voice begins to wane. Before you know it, your sleeve is moist with drool, and the room is filled with the laughter of your fellow students. You wake under the disapproving eye of the teacher.

Falling asleep in class is a serious problem, which happens far too often at Stuyvesant. Off in dreamland, with your eyes closed and ears shut, no learning is taking place. And without this learning, school becomes meaningless. Grades drop, teachers are insulted, and everyone feels miserable.

Looking for a place to rest their heads between classes, students make due with what they have. It's not uncommon to see bodies lying in the hallways or in the back of the library, trying to catch some coveted Z's before the bell rings. However, this leaves students completely open to theft and ridicule. Numerous times, the backpacks and jackets of exhausted students have been stolen as they try to sleep.

Students are tired. This cannot be altered without changing

Stuy's workload and philosophy. But there is no safe, comfortable place in the building for students to rest. Consequentially, we nod off in class, impairing our learning and the productivity of the lesson.

So what can be done about this dilemma? A safe, quiet, monitored place needs to be set

**There is no safe, comfortable place in the building for students to rest. Consequentially, we nod off in class.**

up in Stuyvesant, where students can sleep during lunch and frees and have energy to make it through the day. Call it a 'nap room', if you like.

I envision a classroom with cots or mats where students can sleep in peace. A teacher or faculty member should be on duty to monitor belongings and books, and to check student's program cards to prevent cutting. If cots and mats are too expensive or deemed unneces-

sary, students can just snooze at desks. We have practice with that.

This 'nap room' would provide students with a chance to refresh themselves and catch up on some of the rest they missed after nights spent on piles of homework, without sacrifice or distraction.

This 'nap room' would be infinitely beneficial to Stuyvesant. Nobody wants listless students in their classroom. It makes the lessons unproductive and the teacher irate. If students had a place to refresh themselves, free of distractions and larceny, we'd emerge more lively and more awake. Our attention spans, unblurred by yawns and tearing eyes, would be improved, as would our academic performance.

For teachers, supervision of the 'nap room' could potentially result in overtime pay. But the real reward would be having alert students. Personally, when I feel tired, I don't want to participate; I'd much rather stay quiet and let the other students answer all the questions. But with a little rest, I could be awake and interested and involved in the lesson.

And wouldn't that just be better for everybody?

# Administration Sells SING! Short



By MAIREAD MAGUIRE

Every spring, SING! members are overcome by a wave of satisfaction as they get to see their hard work and dedication finally pay off in an unforgettable performance. After weeks of working separately, each crew sees the final product come together. For years, this has been possible partly because of the time allowances the administration has made, giving extra rehearsal time and letting students miss class for an all-day rehearsal.

This year, things will be different. The administration has been less than supportive and has cut down on the liberties SING! previously enjoyed. More precisely, all-day rehearsals in school were indefinitely cut.

SING! is unlike any other Stuy theatrical production. It needs more time for everything to come cohesively together, mainly because of the number of people who are involved. The intensive all-day rehearsals are essential to prepare the cast and crew for the actual show. They all need to synchronize and the performances cannot come together without this final push.

While it was traditional to have an all-day rehearsal during school around the day of New Haven, the administration is now allowing only one all-day rehearsal during spring break. From their point of view, the new policy may seem like a better alternative to missing classes, but for the students it is inconvenient and does not make up for the lost tradition.

After months in school, students deserve to rest for their entire spring break. Many go away on vacation and are upset that their time will be cut short because of SING!. Others will

simply not be able to attend, which completely defeats the purpose of an all-day rehearsal.

The students performing in SING! aren't the only ones concerned about the all-day rehearsals. The crews also need extra time to finish their jobs. The costume crews need to make costumes for hundreds of people. In the past, they've used

**SING!...needs more time for everything to come cohesively together, mainly because of the number of people involved.**

the all-day rehearsals to make final adjustments and personalize the costumes. The lighting, sound, and prop crews need to see the final product come together so that they can coordinate their work

accordingly. All these students need time to get everything together and they can't accomplish everything during after-school rehearsals when everybody is scattered around.

In addition, a show needs the most work right before it opens. Everyone involved in it needs to feel prepared to perform without a safety net. With fewer rehearsals, Stuy students might not get to that point before they have to perform in front of an audience. Especially after taking a long break, they need to refresh their memory and get back into the rhythm of the show. Making the opening of SING! the day we come back from Spring Break makes it nearly impossible to squeeze in last minute practices.

SING! needs this extra time. If the administration takes it away, it is only going to hurt the students. So much dedication and hard work go into this show that when it is not recognized, it undermines these students' achievements. While it is advertised as completely student-run, SING! cannot be a success without the support of the administration.

## Interested in writing for Spectator Opinions?

Come to the *Spectator* recruitments on Wednesday, April 28, and Thursday, April 29 in Lecture Hall A after 10th period.





Arts & Entertainment

The Creation

Let me tell you a story about how I came to be the Stage Manager of Senior SING! 2004. In the beginning, there was only a stage, but the stage went unmanaged. Actors frequently missed their entrances, and they were often not seen for the lack of lighting. Sound effects were mistimed! Scenes were not changed! Jibber-jabber went



unchallenged! It was a dark time. It was into this maelstrom of chaos that Senior SING! 2004 was born. And the slate of this production, besieged by anarchy, said, "How will our show survive?" And the slate members brought in the wisest men from all the world to hear what they had to say. Some thought that the task was far too great; the pandemonium of the stage could never be tamed. Others believed that if the right individ-

ual were found, then perhaps there was the slightest possibility that it could be done. But where to find a character of such strength, such wisdom, such skill, and so much free time? The slate decided a contest was in order. And word was sent to all the second floor that a person of great moral fiber was needed to bring order to SING!. One by one they came, pillars of society, leaders of industry; truly the best of the best arrived to test their valor. Though all were brave, they were devoured by the enormity of the task. The slate was at a loss. "What shall we do?" they cried. "Truly we are lost!" While wallowing in despair, the slate was struck by a vision. A blinding light appeared and a voice said, "The long-haired one is that whom you seek." The slate knew that the voice spoke the truth, for who else had the capacity, the will, and the dedication? And so, on that day, Executive Producer Shahed decreed, "Let the stage be managed, and let it be done by Greg Hill-Ries." And on that day, Greg assumed management of the

CRACK! I am suddenly on the floor with the remnants of two day's worth of hard work around me. The stage piano that I helped to construct for the production "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" had disintegrated only moments after I had laid back on the piano and told a doubtful producer, "It's certainly strong enough. Even I can lie down on it." At that point I had the scariest feeling of my life. IN A WEEK, I WOULD BE A JUNIOR SING! TECH DIRECTOR! I, along with my fellow directors Jonathan Juli and Jakob DeWeerd, would be expected to know how to build tall platforms and to know exactly what goes where onstage during the show. I would also have to pretend to know exactly what each techie should be doing at any given point. That's the wonderful feeling of responsibility that all the SING! directors have. Still, I wouldn't give it up for all the candy in Hole-in-the-

Screwing Around



Wall. The excitement of designing a huge set with intelligent and committed people, of being among the first to view the top-secret Junior SING! script (a full

five minutes before all the seniors had their hands on it), and of working with my crew makes it all worthwhile. What does a techie do? We, along with art and slate crews, design the set, build it, and then take it all apart so wood and screws can be reused after the show. To put it simply, we think it, make it, run it, and then do it all over again. Running, arguably the most exciting thing that a techie does, entails doing scene changes during black-outs—it's like interior design in total darkness. Oh, by the way, I rebuilt that piano, on which I still regularly nap. — Matt Ritter Junior SING! Tech Director

Photo by Rachael Scharf

the birth of stage managing. So that's my story, nothing too fancy. I'm just preventing SING! from being reduced to a quivering, gelatinous mass.

— Greg Hill-Ries Senior SING! Stage Manager

Photo taken by Avery Singer

It's Not My Fault. The Original Script Was Funny.

SING! is treacherous. Everyday, I get home around 6:30, only to start my homework at 7:00. I am occasionally bombarded with SING!-related Instant Messages. Lately, I've been getting about seven hours of sleep per night, and I haven't been keeping up with the recent misadventures of Seth and Anna on The OC. Woe is me. Wah. Waaaaah. Actually, I would say that the hardest part is counting all the hits on my super-popular Web site, which everybody checks for updates every half-hour, always. And they all love me because of it. Right? Actually, I don't really know what my esteemed colleague, Josh Weinstein, was talking about. SING! isn't nearly as stressful as it is aggravating. When you write the script, you have certain images of the production. You envision it: the way the set looks, the way the lines are delivered, and the way the band plays. You imagine all of these to look and sound a certain way. These images are all

inscribed in your mind. In reality, though, when the script is performed, a wide range of factors affects the actual outcome. While the basic idea remains the same, some of the scenes are unrecognizable from the way they were imagined. I suppose that, ultimately, it's all for the best. When a group of people come together to work on a single performance, there are a multitude of conflicting ideas about what should be going on. Usually, we all work together for the greater good. When ideas clash, though, we start an argument that could rival the Civil War. For example, here is an imaginary conversation among the members of our SING!. Person A: I have an idea for the scene...how about we— Person B: No, that's stupid and wrong. Here is what we should do. It starts off with— Person A: But you didn't even listen to my idea. Person B: That doesn't matter, because I am more qualified to

make this decision. Person A: Can you just listen to the idea? Person C: Guys, let's just stop arguing! Person D: I'm hungry. Let's discuss this over sandwiches. Person B: Sandwiches? What?



That's the worst idea I've heard since the last time Person A spoke. Person D: What do you propose? Person B: Well, considering that I am always right, and that saying otherwise would be a direct contradiction of everything

humanity has fought for since the beginning of time, I say that we get burritos. Person D: Fine, we'll get burritos. (Later, at Burritoville) Person B: So anyway, I was thinking that we should have platforms on stage, thousands upon thousands of platforms...and sparkles...and rainbows and ponies and Cheerios and sunflowers and— Person A: Are the rest of you listening to this? This is horrible. Can't we do anything to stop this? Person E: Well, we can, but we won't. Let's just keep the peace. Person A: Oh, okay. That's fine, whatever. Everyone's nonchalant attitudes don't lead to the result that would be best for the show. I may sound (incredibly) bitter, but that isn't always the case. For the most part, we all get along fine. The Partition Postulate is put into effect;

everyone's various ideas are put together to make the whole even greater. Frankly, I'm proud of myself for remembering math that I learned one year ago. In spite of all the arguing, the crew directors—particularly the dance directors—managed to do an amazing job and showcased a lot of talent. Josh Siegel. He wanted his name mentioned in this. The point is, SING! is a learning experience. Although sometimes we lose track of the fact that everyone is here to have fun, and although we push them to insane limits, in the end everyone works together to put on an impressive production. And if not, Junior SING! 2005... we know what's up now. — Eugene Podborits Soph-Frosh SING! Scriptwriter

Photo taken by Avery Singer

"Green" Day Concert a Success



Joseph Tamosaitis conducts the jazz band in the March 17 musical showcase.

By MAREK MERY

Saint Patrick's Day in New York City is characterized by its annual parade, lots of green...and a Stuyvesant concert? Wednesday, March 17, 2004 boasted a musical showcase intended to satisfy more than the Irish—in fact, most of the tunes didn't sound Irish at all! Nevertheless, the concert bands, orchestras, and jazz ensemble shared some cool jams with a large audience. The show began under the direction of Assistant Principal of Music and Fine Arts Dr. Raymond Wheeler with the intermediate concert band,

which played *Highlights From Harry Potter* (Williams arr. Story). The band captured the well-known selections that have come to be synonymous with magic and mystery. Although the music was performed accurately, it could have been more fluid. *The Great Locomotive Chase* (Robert W. Smith), a faster, more exciting, and more striking piece, followed. Wheeler continued his direction with the advanced band's performance of *Highlights From the Star Wars Saga* (Williams). The music was definitely nostalgic for the older audience members, and the piece was consistent with the

powerful and glorious sounds of the *Star Wars* soundtrack. This particular presentation would have been better if each highlighted selection had been longer, as the abruptness of each selection seemed to leave the audience somewhat dissatisfied. The advanced band then played a contrasting tune, a "Yankee-Doodle"-like piece entitled *The Trail West* (Milford). The piece was very American and evoked feelings of pride. The band ended on a minor, less impressive note (no pun intended), with Robert W. Smith's *Into the Storm*. There was a brief intermis-

sion before the string orchestra appeared on stage. Orchestra conductor Joseph Tamosaitis directed the orchestra through the gentle, harmonious melodies of Mascagni and Vivaldi. The most well-received performance was *Concerto for Four Violins in B minor*, a 10-minute piece that highlighted violin talents junior Ekaterina Orekhova, sophomore Michelle Cho, junior Andrea Mak, and sophomore John Passaro. Tamosaitis also directed the other orchestra, which played *Pasacaille* and *Le Rejoissance*, both very exciting, cheery tunes by Handel. Violinists Aaron Shortell (freshman) and David Park (sophomore), cellist So Yung Park (sophomore), and Karen Claman (freshman) on the viola played the lengthy first movement from Mozart's *Divertimento K. 137*. The piece was typical Mozart—sweet melodies at a brilliantly quick pace. A second quartet of students followed with Borodin's *Quartet #2 in D major* (mvt. 1). This quartet played accurately until it tried too hard to electrify the audience with energy. After over 30 minutes of violin solos

and quartets, the audience seemed bored, though the pieces were well executed. The audience had thinned by the time the jazz ensemble walked on stage, but those who stayed were pleasantly surprised; it seems that the best was saved for last. The ensemble performed *Basie Straight Ahead* by Sammy Nestico, which was a relaxing piece. It was followed by Harold Arlen's *Stormy Weather*, which paired senior Carla Kessler's elegant and powerful voice with a smooth tune. For the few minutes of this piece, students who stayed seemed to stop worrying about tests and the thought of waking up early for school the next morning; this Wednesday night felt more like a Friday. The jazz ensemble ended St. Patrick's Day at Stuy with *Fly Me to the Moon* (Bart Howard), which was so calming that one could have sighed and slept till morning, right in the Murray Khan Theater. All in all, the music selection was varied and interesting, and the performances were of grade A quality.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Chinese Artist Finds Warm Western Welcome



Courtesy of <http://www.asiastudios.com>

By COURTNEY CHIN

Who comes to mind when you hear the words “global sensation”? Perhaps Madonna, Gloria Estefan, Mariah Carey, Britney Spears, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, or Whitney Houston. There is another name that does not come to mind immediately, the name of a woman who is slowly approaching global stardom in the pop music industry. Her name is CoCo Lee. Lee has released numerous albums in both Chinese and English since her 1994 music debut. She has sold millions of records worldwide, earning her respect in the international music scene.

Lee was born in Hong Kong as Ferren Lee-Kelly in 1975 and immigrated to the United States with her mother and two older sisters at the age of 10. Originally, Lee did not intend to be a singer; she wanted to pursue a career in medicine at the University of California at Irvine. In 1993, while on vacation in Hong Kong, Lee decided to enter an annual singing competition called New Talent Singing Contest, the Asian equivalent of Star Search. Lee

became the show’s only contestant to sing in English (singing Whitney Houston’s “Run to You”) and captured second place. The next day, she was being contacted by Capital Artists. The recording company was attracted to her voice because of its sharp contrast with those of many other Asian artists. Thus, Lee decided to take a chance in the recording industry.

Having developed a largely Asian fan base with her earlier music, Lee sought to bring her Asian heritage to an English-speaking audience, especially since she is much more fluent in English than Mandarin. This desire, combined with her musical talent, has allowed her to be the first Asian singer to break into the mainstream American pop music market. Lee brings an R&B/hip-hop vibe to her Chinese music and a slightly Asian aesthetic to some of her American songs. According to Lee, her eclectic sound stemmed from a personal dislike of Taiwan’s then-conservative pop music.

However, Lee is still not known by most Americans. After signing a recording contract

with Lee in 1996, Sony has promoted the singer using guest appearances on *The View*, *Access Hollywood*, and *The Queen Latifah Show*. In addition, Lee was cited in numerous magazines. One of her songs, “A Love Before Time,” was nominated for Best Original Song by the 2000 Annual Academy Awards.

In her American album *Just No Other Way*, which has sold a total of two million copies, Lee used this sound to enhance the emotion of her lyrics. She hits high and low notes with ease and complements this ability with appropriate material. Lee brings her own essence to the songs and uses the songs to convey a saucy, upbeat, and sexy image.

*Just No Other Way* features already successful artists such as rapper A-Butter, from Natural Elements, in “Do You Want My Love” (the first single from the album) and Kelly Price in “Can’t Get Over.” This has proved to be a successful tactic. Lee skillfully makes transitions from cheerful to sultry and seductive and even to sad and reflective tones. Also featured on this particular album is the song “Before I Fall In Love,” originally from the *Runaway Bride* (1999) soundtrack. All of the songs reflect Lee’s personal touch with hints of catchy, fast-paced dance rhythms.

Lee is soon to release a second American album, which she sees as showing a much more mature and romantic nature. Judging from Lee’s past successes in China, Taiwan, Europe, and the United States, this upcoming album, which should be released in the summer of 2004, will be a definite must-have.

## Murder, She Baked

By MAREK MERY

Swenson. Hannah Swenson—professional baker, amateur sleuth. In the novel *Fudge Cupcake Murder*, Joanne Fluke’s newest addition to her Hannah Swenson series (which also includes *Strawberry Shortcake Murder* and *Lemon Meringue Pie Murder*), Swenson returns to investigate a crime, using a mix of modern and classic techniques, and even great pastry recipes!

Set in the small town of Lake Eden, Minnesota, the reader is immediately drawn into the cozy life of Swenson. Her family includes her irritable mother and her sister Andrea, who is invasive and presumptuous, yet irresistibly cute. There’s also Moishe, Swenson’s orange furball of a cat and best friend.

Swenson’s sweet, simple life becomes a bit complicated when she finds Sheriff Jim Grant’s dead body in a dumpster. The situation becomes even more disturbing when her brother-in-law Bill (Grant’s opponent in the election for sheriff), is accused of committing the murder. Swenson now finds herself with more recipes on her hands and more clues in her trusty notebook than ever before. Unfortunately, Swenson has her own share of problems, despite leading the seemingly

appealing life of an attractive and successful baker. For one thing, her busy schedule never leaves time for much-desired romantic relationships, and her pregnant sister, Andrea, becomes involved in a family dilemma.

*Fudge Cupcake Murder* successfully captures typical small town life—gossip, gossip, and more gossip. It’s a town where everyone’s nose is in everyone else’s business, always at the worst possible times. However,

readers will feel at home in Lake Eden and with its inhabitants, who are realistic, complex, and entertaining. The novel also relates an intriguing mystery with an unexpected ending.

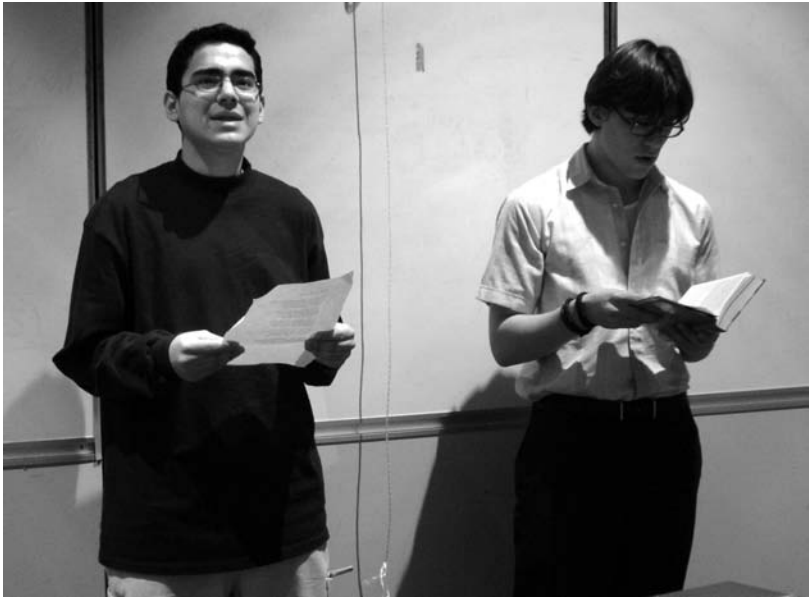
Included between chapters are various cookie recipes, including Hannah’s Bananas, soft, warm banana

nut cookies with a tangy and sweet taste. Among the best cookies are also Cherry Winks and Boggles (cinnamon, oat, and cranberry cookies in 30 minutes). They’re all wonderful ideas for fast, simple, homemade snacks.

If you’re on a mission to cure your sweet tooth or just in the mood for an easy, enjoyable read after months of homework, tough exams, and lengthy research papers, pick up *Fudge Cupcake Murder* and the other appetizing Hannah Swenson mystery novels.

Swenson returns to investigate a crime, using a mix of modern and classic techniques, and even great pastry recipes!

## Pablo Neruda



Ashik Siddique / The Spectator



Ashik Siddique / The Spectator

March 22, 2004 marked the 100th anniversary of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda’s birth. During that week, Stuyvesant’s foreign language department, led by Spanish teacher Milton Diaz, celebrated with poetry recitals, speakers, and open mics. From left, sophomore Jonathan Pomboza, junior Andrew Andrzejewski, and junior Asya Izraelit recite Neruda’s poems in Lecture Hall A on Tuesday, March 23.

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# Sports

## Boys’ Spring Sports

### Boys’ Handball (2-0)

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 3/26/04  |   |  |
| Stuyvesant   | 5 |  |
| HS Environmental Studies   | 0 |  |
| Game Highlights: Senior Tiankan Li won his match 21-2, recording six aces.   |   |  |
| 3/29/04  |   |  |
| Stuyvesant   | 5 |  |
| Park West  | 0 |  |
| Game Highlights: Senior Chengzh Gao won his match 21-5, recording four aces. |   |  |



### Boys’ Tennis (2-0)

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 3/23/04   |   |  |
| Stuyvesant  | 4 |  |
| LaGuardia   | 1 |  |
| Game Highlights: Doubles team Ilya Tsinis (junior) and Theodore Jurlano (sophomore) won their match by a score of 10-2. |   |  |
| 3/26/04   |   |  |
| Stuyvesant  | 3 |  |
| Hunter  | 2 |  |
| Game Highlights: Senior Magdy El Mihdawy won the number one singles match 10-6.   |   |  |



### Boys’ Volleyball (1-0)

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 3/30/04   |   |  |
| Stuyvesant  | 2 |  |
| LaGuardia   | 0 |  |
| Game Highlights: Freshman Peter Chuang recorded 10 assists and nine service points. |   |  |



## Co-ed Spring Sports

### Golf (1-0)

|   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| 3/30/04                                     |     |  |
| Stuyvesant                                  | 999 |  |
| Kennedy                                     | 0   |  |
| Game Highlights: Stuyvesant won by forfeit. |     |  |



## Girls’ Spring Sports

### Girls’ Handball (1-1)

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 3/26/04   |   |  |
| HS of Humanities  | 3 |  |
| Stuyvesant  | 2 |  |
| Game Highlights: Doubles team Annie Chang (sophomore) and Kathy Shi (junior) won 21-11, recording ten and five aces respectively. |   |  |
| 3/30/04   |   |  |
| Stuyvesant  | 5 |  |
| Chelsea   | 0 |  |
| Game Highlights: Annie Chang recorded eight aces in her match.  |   |  |



### Girls’ Soccer (3-1)

|  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
| 3/22/04  |    |  |
| Stuyvesant   | 11 |  |
| Kennedy  | 0  |  |
| Game Highlights: Senior Paige Fern scored three goals and recorded one assist. |    |  |
| 3/24/04  |    |  |
| Bronx Science  | 1  |  |
| Stuyvesant   | 0  |  |
| Game Highlights: Goalie and sophomore Alixandra Schneider recorded 13 saves.   |    |  |

|  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
| 3/26/04  |    |  |
| Stuyvesant   | 12 |  |
| Truman   | 0  |  |
| Game Highlights: Junior Josie Pratt scored five goals and recorded one assist. |    |  |
| 3/29/04  |    |  |
| Stuyvesant   | 11 |  |
| Dewitt Clinton   | 0  |  |
| Game Highlights: Josie Pratt and Paige Fern both scored three goals.           |    |  |



### Girls’ Tennis (3-0)

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 3/22/04   |   |  |
| Stuyvesant  | 5 |  |
| HS of Humanities  | 0 |  |
| Game Highlights: Stuyvesant won all five matches 10-0.              |   |  |
| 3/26/04   |   |  |
| Stuyvesant  | 4 |  |
| HS Economics & Finance  | 1 |  |
| Game Highlights: FreshmanNatalie Rynczak won her singles match 7-0. |   |  |



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# Advantage: Stuyvesant



Howard Barbin, the new coach of the girls' varsity tennis team, demonstrating a bicep curl for his ninth period junior gym class.

By JESSE ROSENTHAL

"We didn't lose a game, despite the wind and cold," said senior Madeleine Gray, co-captain of the girls' varsity tennis team, after the squad defeated High School for Humanities on Monday, March 22, despite the howling winds and tempera-

tures that were as low as 28 degrees.

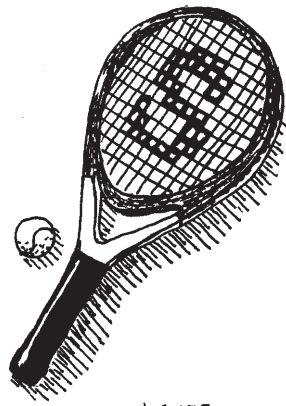
Although the team recently made its second coaching change in as many years, it appears their performance remains unaffected. In the 2002-2003 season, Larry Barth took over for retiring coach Florence Buschke. Barth had already quit

coaching basketball and softball (which he coached from 1985-1997) in order to spend more time with his children and family. He reluctantly volunteered for the girls' tennis coaching position, but only on an interim basis. The 2003-2004 season has seen a coach to relieve Barth, one who is well-versed in the sport and willing to dedicate his time and energy: physical education teacher Howard Barbin.

Coach Barbin's first year at Stuyvesant is also his first year as a high school coach. However, Barbin has plenty of tennis experience, having run an adult tennis program at Kingsboro Community College in his prior employment. The players appreciate his dedication and expertise. Barbin reciprocates the sentiments, saying, "The girls are really great and helpful as a first year coach."

Leading the way for this group of girls are co-captains Madeleine Gray and senior Maryann Chu, both four-year varsity players. Barbin expects Gray to continue her dominance in the doubles bracket with tentative partner junior Victoria Portnoy, while Chu asserts her control in the singles matches, along with promising freshman Margarita Krivitski. Krivitski has impressed both coaches and teammates alike.

Perennially, Stuyvesant has been known to hit a road block as it runs into Cardozo High School and Midwood High School. Last year the team was knocked off by Midwood in the finals of the qualifying bracket. In 2002, they lost to Cardozo in



KATIE ZHUANG

the quarterfinals. Over the past three years, Stuyvesant has gone 26-0 during regular season play, though only 7-3 in the playoffs. One of the reasons for their poor postseason showings is the lack of practice space, as is the case with most teams at Stuyvesant.

Unlike some schools, Stuyvesant does not have access to any soccer field, baseball

field, or tennis court. Their practices are limited to what little time they can arrange to meet either on the FDR Highway Fields or at Riverside Park. Assistant Principal of Physical Education Martha Singer has recently paid for indoor court time at the Midtown Tennis Club. However, the team was restricted to one court for one hour with 15 girls. This was clearly not enough practice time for a team that usually plays two or three matches per week.

Having seen her team turned away in the playoffs for the past three years, Gray understands the ability needed to do well in the playoffs and believes that her team has what it takes. "In four years I haven't seen such a good team across the board, from starters to subs," said Gray.

The girls look to make their 27th straight win on Friday, March 26 as they take on High School of Economics and Finance at the East River Park. The forecast is sunny and clear with a high of 65 degrees. They look forward to a season with a new coach, a new group of players, and hopefully a new ending come playoff time in May.

## Athletes of Past and Present Strike Back: No to Unification

continued from page 12

Aside from individual attachments to their team names, there are several other issues concerning the unification of them. One concern is what the unified name would be. The traditional "Peglegs" would not be well received by most athletes. As Becker noted, it is "the worst team name in the city." Furthermore, finding a non-gender specific nickname appears to be an arduous task.

Former basketball star and

junior Ula Kudelski agrees. "I don't think there is a name that will fit all the teams. I mean Brooklyn Tech[nical High School] has the Engineers, but that is horrible." Kudelski does not believe in the notion that a unified name among all of Stuyvesant's teams would improve school spirit—one of the major arguments for nickname unification. "That is just not possible. There are some sports that nobody watches at Stuyvesant. Changing the name will do little to combat this," she

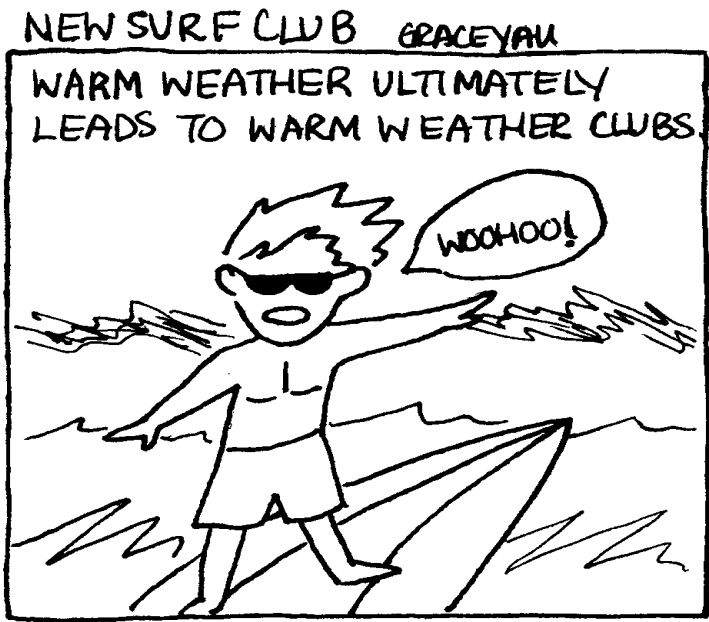
said.

Though this is a passionate topic of discussion, surely to be debated between athletes and coaches, Russo put the entire conflict into perspective. "I am the chair of the 2000 five-year reunion committee, and on my committee are Peglegs, Hitmen, Penguins, Pirates, and Mimbas. At the end of the day, it does not matter what you are, 'cause we are all from Stuyvesant and we all share a certain bond, regardless of team identity."

## Ripping Through the Waves

continued from page 12

"there aren't a lot of people at Stuy who know how to surf." Though this may be true, Rip received some attention at the Club/Pub Fair according to Campbell. When asked why, she said, "Well, it helped a lot that I went in full wetsuit."



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## The Furies are Off and Flying

By JOSH ZHOU

The Furies, the Stuyvesant girls' handball team, find their way to a great season blocked by a rival in the division. Last year, the team finished with a 6-2 record, second only to Bronx High School of Science in the Bronx/Manhattan II division. This time around, the Furies find the road to a division title going through Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School due to a division change. Stuyvesant and LaGuardia are the two favorites to be competing for the division and representing Manhattan in the playoffs this year.

Intense training for the season has already begun. The girls practice three to four times a week in the Stuyvesant gym and the Central Park courts. In addition to constantly playing, the girls have incorporated other programs into their physical training routines, such as using yoga as a way to help improve their flexibility. Though tiring,

many team members find this whole training experience to be rewarding in many ways. Senior captain Dana Tong said, "This season is going to be the last for some of us, yet it will also be first for some of these new players. However, we all have one common desire in mind and that is to win. All the hard work we put in now will show up later."

The team will rely on Tong and senior Jessica Tsang to anchor the starting lineup and train the newer additions of the team. However, the rookies have very strong games to begin with and the team has made a huge improvement in general. Coach Eric Connolly commented, "The seniors are the leaders of this team. We'll be counting on them this year."

The season opener starts on March 26 at High School for Humanities, and the Furies are geared up. "We're definitely a team leader this year," said Connolly.

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## S P O R T S

## Ripping Through the Waves



President of Stuyvesant's Surf Club, Rip, Molly Campbell

By WYNDAM MAKOWSKY

Why would a girl be running around in the Club/Pub Fair in a wetsuit? That girl was freshman Molly Campbell, and she was in a wetsuit to promote her new club, Rip. According to Campbell, this method paid off as her club garnered a lot of attention and there are now 15 members.

This past summer, Campbell found love in the form of an 8-foot surfboard. "I took lessons over that time in Fire Island," she said. After a summer of lessons, Campbell came to Stuyvesant and immediately started up a surfing club. She named the club Rip after a surfing phrase used to describe someone taking a wave. Rip is the second extreme sports club in Stuyvesant; the other is the Aggressive Inline Skating and Skateboarding Club.

Rip was created so Campbell could share her passion for surfing with the Stuyvesant community. "I plan to help people learn to enjoy surfing, and perhaps teach some of them myself," Campbell said. She plans to show the club surfing movies like *Point Break*, *Endless*

*Summer*, and *Blue Crush*. She also plans to have people read surfing magazines.

As for actual surfing? Campbell isn't quite sure yet. Ideally, she'd like to go to Hawaii to surf because "the water's warm and they have all different waves." However, she is not sure if they will be able to surf. Weather plays a big factor, so there won't be any trips until the weather gets warmer. However, her club members seem to have interest in a trip. Freshman and club treasurer Tiffany Wong said quite bluntly, "We're going to go to the beach and people will learn how to surf."

Wong herself is a beginner surfer who is "going to get better." This is not unusual because the club was created so that even those who have never tried surfing will learn. "You don't need to be an experienced surfer to join. It's for people who want to learn how to surf," said Wong.

Wong said that she hoped that the club would be able to receive more interest within Stuyvesant. However, she said,

*continued on page 11*

## Athletes of Past and Present Strike Back: No to Unification

By DAVID FELTON

"Honestly, when *dictionary.com* says 'mimba' isn't a word, it shouldn't be the name of a team, especially a Stuy team. I say all the team captains sit down with [Assistant Principal of Physical Education] Ms. [Martha] Singer and come up with one name." This opinion of junior and soccer player Josh Weinstein reflects the sentiments of a growing movement to unify the nicknames of Stuyvesant's athletic teams. Unifying team nicknames will not be an easy task, as a powerful faction consisting of current and former athletes has emerged in support of allowing individuality to reign supreme with team nicknames.

The focus of this heated debate is an eclectic assortment of nicknames that originates from a wide range of sources, each having its own unique history. The team name that has been criticized most frequently by advocates of a single nickname has been the Mimbos, the girls' soccer team. Detractors point out that "mimba" is a word defined in American culture.

However, to many former Mimbos, the name will forever hold a special meaning. In a game at Wagner High School during the 1998 season, several hecklers on the sideline referred to one of the players on the team, Kristin Mendez, as a mimba. It became a running joke with the team that they were "mimbos," even though nobody knew what it meant. Coach Phil Fisher refused to call the team the Mimbos at first, but

he eventually gave in.

The name stuck, which carries a meaning in Creole-speaking cultures referring to a girl born on Saturday. According to Christen Russo, captain of the 2000 girls' soccer team, "It was one of the things that unified us into a strong, contending team in the city."

Russo, also captain of the track team during her Stuyvesant career, insists that having varied team nicknames is beneficial for the school, stating that it had a lasting effect on her. "The significance of the name 'mimba' to me, and to everyone else on my team and in that class was just irreplaceable. I am a Mimba, and no one can ever take that way."

Alumni such as Russo are not the only athletes who believe the individual nicknames carry important, specialized meanings for their members. Senior Billy Becker, captain of Stuyvesant's baseball team, the Hitmen, as well as a key member of Stuyvesant's boys' swimming and diving team, the Pirates, said, "I strongly disagree with team name unification. Both team names, Stuyvesant Hitmen as well as Stuyvesant Pirates, carry a distinct meaning to both myself and my teammates. These two names are unique within our school, which provides us with a great sense of pride."

This sentiment was echoed by Singer, who previously noted, "It is my belief that the teams are attached to their names, as the different names motivate the teams."

*continued on page 11*

## The Sky Is the Limit

By TODD SCHER

One of the best teams Stuyvesant has to offer is also one of the most underappreciated. Under the tutelage of Coach Robert Sandler, the Dragons, Stuyvesant's boys' handball team, have gone undefeated the past two regular seasons. And this year's team looks better than ever. "The team is strong, athletic, and devoted, and if the team stays focused, we should be able to compete for the city championships," said Sandler.

The Dragons have many talented seniors who "are students of the game," according to Sandler. They make up the core of the team. This core includes seniors Tiankan Li and Lok Tin Tse, who were the best doubles team in the city last year, and singles player senior Gian Florendo, who is among the best small ball players in the city. Third singles player senior Chengzh Gao, and juniors Brian Yuen and Ricky Cheng are all much-improved players who help carry the load.

Li commented, "Many of our players have improved from last season. Lok Tin Tse, our current singles, has developed a powerful serve and his hits are much more consistent. Our subs from last year, [sophomore] Seungbo Choi, Brian Yuen and Ricky Cheng, have also improved significantly and have earned themselves spots as starters."

With Sandler's unique style of coaching, in which he plays alongside his team in practice, his players have greatly improved over the last couple of years.

The league's use of the "Red Ace," which is smaller and harder than the usual handball, makes the game much faster and requires more skill. Sandler's hands-on approach to coaching is especially beneficial in helping his players develop their skills in a harder and faster paced game.

Sandler says the team's "biggest accomplishment last year was knocking out the second ranked team in the city, Midwood High School, and making it to the final four in the entire city." The Dragons breezed through its regular season last year, eventually winning the Manhattan Division, led by a group of tremendous juniors.

According to Sandler, one of the teams' greatest improvements is that "most of the team is ambidextrous, which is key in handball because the opposing team cannot go after our players' weak hand." Gao added "If your opponent sees you consistently returning his shots with both your right and left hand, his morale will break."

## Men of Steel Ready to Have Their Mettle Tested

By LIZ LIVINGSTONE

Despite a new coach and many new faces on the team, Stuy's boys' volleyball team, the Men of Steel, hope to continue their streak of three consecutive undefeated seasons in division play.

New coach Stanislaw Kaps has built a new team having only six returning players and only one starter from last year. With much experience in volleyball, including playing in high school, college, and even in the U.S. Open, he has gained the respect of the team.

"He really knows what he's talking about," said returning starter and senior Jonathan Kim. "I think he's a great coach with really good credentials."

Kaps feels that his competitive experience gives him an "advantage over coaches who never played volleyball, especially in teaching and demonstration of volleyball skills."

After losing many of their starters from last year, this team

has had to work harder than most. They have fielded 14 committed players. Although inexperienced, this squad has a lot of potential and room to grow. They have some very important talents and skills under their belts. Much of the team is fast, tall, and smart—important qualities for volleyball that will give them an edge over the competition.

The roster includes three seniors, Kim, Ten Zen Guh, and Robert Poon; six juniors, Chong Lee, Lylekar Leslie, Igor Radovitskiy, Mark Stonehill, Jackie Wong, and Valerio Russo; two sophomores, Marek Mery and Leon Rafailov; and three freshmen, Peter Chuang, Kevin Hsu, and Sang Wo Yi.

The team has focused so far on honing the basics. At each daily practice, the players do lots of drills, including bumping, setting, and serving. They also run up the down escalators at school to better their conditioning for long matches.

"We're working hard and



Sophomore Leon Rafailov and junior Igor Radovitskiy of the boys' volleyball team watch LaGuardia warm up as they wait for their match to start on March 30.

I'm just waiting to see the great effects," said Kaps.

With all their hard work, they hope to do as well as in previous years. They want to get to the playoffs and go as far as the quarterfinals.

"Stuy has always been undefeated, and hope to keep it that way," said Kim.

Their first match is Tuesday, March 30, facing Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School.