



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

*"The Pulse
of the
Student
Body"*

Volume CII No. 9

January 19, 2012

stuspectator.com

Surkont Wins Wingate for Cross-Country Season

By ODREKA AHMED

Every sports season, the PSAL Heisman Wingate award is bestowed upon an accomplished athlete with impressive academic standing in each PSAL sport. Coaches, commissioners, and sports coordinators nominate those they feel qualify for the award. A select committee of PSAL staff then reviews each candidate, looking not only for outstanding athletic achievement, but also leadership, character, and scholastic achievement.

Senior and co-captain of the boys' track team Konrad Surkont was named the recipient of the prestigious award for the cross-country season on Friday, January 6. Surkont had a record-setting fall and is the best cross-country runner in the PSAL. However, he noted that the award and his successful season were never guaranteed.

"When me and coach [Mark] Mendes sat down before the season, the goal was to be the top runner in the city this season and [...] this was the award that recognized it. The season played out the way I wanted it," Surkont said.

Surkont was named a co-captain of the cross-country team during his junior year and has since emerged as one of the greatest runners in Stuyvesant history. He was the PSAL cross-country champion both his junior and senior year and is the current all-time PSAL record holder for the 5K race at the Bowdoin cross-country track, which he ran at the all-state cross-country meet. Surkont also holds the school record for the 5K, two mile, and mile run, with finishing times of 16:06, 9:22, and 4:16, respectively.

Surkont's teammates were not surprised when they heard that he had received the award. "Konrad is crazy dedicated. He'll push himself in practice beyond the point where anyone else on the team would have given up, and that's why he's the best," junior and co-captain Jack Stevenson said.

Surkont has come a long way since freshman year, when he initially joined the team only because he had missed the cut on the soccer team. Three years later, his teammates say he is a true leader with a genuine devotion to the Greyclucks. Last

continued on page 31

Behind the Scenes of Stuyvesant's Elections

By JENNY FUNG

While the nation was attentively following the Republican presidential race, Stuyvesant students stirred up some election controversy of their own. Last month, the disqualification of David Cahn and Jason Duong from the sophomore caucus election led to heated controversy, as the Board of Elections (BOE) stripped them of their win due to a few campaign posters they left around the building on Election Day. The student-run board cited the fact that the posters were not placed on bulletin boards, the designated areas for campaign posters, as an additional reason for disqualification. However, for most of the year, the BOE is an organization unseen and unheard. Its members decide upon campaign rules and organize the election process, but they are rarely put under public scrutiny due to the straightforward nature of most Stuyvesant elections.

The BOE is a subunit of the Student Union. However, according to senior and BOE co-chair Bumsoo Kim, "the Board of Elections is part of the SU but not influenced by the SU council. We work indepen-

dently and don't get any funding from the SU."

Elections happen twice a year: in the fall for the current year's freshman and sophomore class president and vice president, and in the spring for the next year's junior class, senior class, and Student Union president and vice president.

"The Board of Elections aims to guarantee fair Student Union elections by reducing inequalities, such as popularity and financial advantage," senior and BOE co-chair Cleo Nevakivi-Nevakivi-Callanan said.

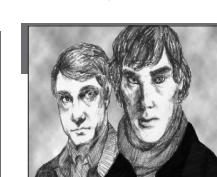
In order to become a candidate for the Student Union presidency or vice presidency, students must be passing all of their classes and must create petitions with 100 signatures from students in all of the grades. In addition, the presidential candidate must be from the junior class and the vice presidential candidate from the sophomore class. Caucus candidates must get 50 signatures from their respective classes. In addition, candidates have to write a short personal statement delineating their platforms.

continued on page 3

Spread on pages 15-18.

In Memory of Terence Tsao

Reflections on the passing of a beloved Stuyvesant student.



Article on page 24.

Arts and Entertainment

The Many Faces of a Timeless Detective

A history of the world's favorite fictional detective.

Stuyvesant Takes the Lead with 13 Intel Semifinalists

By ARIELLE GERBER

Thirteen Stuyvesant seniors were named semifinalists in the 2012 Intel Science Talent Search Competition (STS), according to a list published by the Society for Science and The Public on Wednesday, December 10. Stuyvesant had more semifinalists than any other school in the nation had, though Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and The Harker School came close with 11 semifinalists apiece.

"Stuyvesant always does pretty well, but this year we've done much better than many times in the recent past," said Dr. Jonathan Gastel, who teaches the Intel research course for Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Psychology. Stuyvesant produced five semi-finalists in 2011, nine in 2010, and 10 in 2009.

The Intel STS competition, which is run by Society for Science and the Public, is America's oldest high school science contest and is one of the most prestigious contests in the na-

tion. Students must submit independent research projects in science and mathematics for review by professionals in their fields of study. The competition considers the research project itself, as well as each applicant's academic record and essay submission in order to determine those who will be recognized.

From the 1,839 applicants for the 2012 competition, 300 semi-finalists were chosen. Each semifinalist receives a prize of \$1,000, and his or her school receives \$1,000 to invest in math, science, and engineering programs. Forty of the semifinalists will be named finalists on Wednesday, January 25, and go to Washington D.C. to present their work for final judging.

This year, Stuyvesant seniors Edward Cho, Angela Fan, Ian Grant, Yuebi Hu, Brian Kim, Robert Kim, Jeremy Majerovitz, Nicholas Rivera, Melissa Seto, Daniel Swift, Lucy Tan, Meisze Yau, and Mimi Yen were among the 300 semifinalists named.

Gastel attributes this success in part to "increased opportunities for [students] to be-

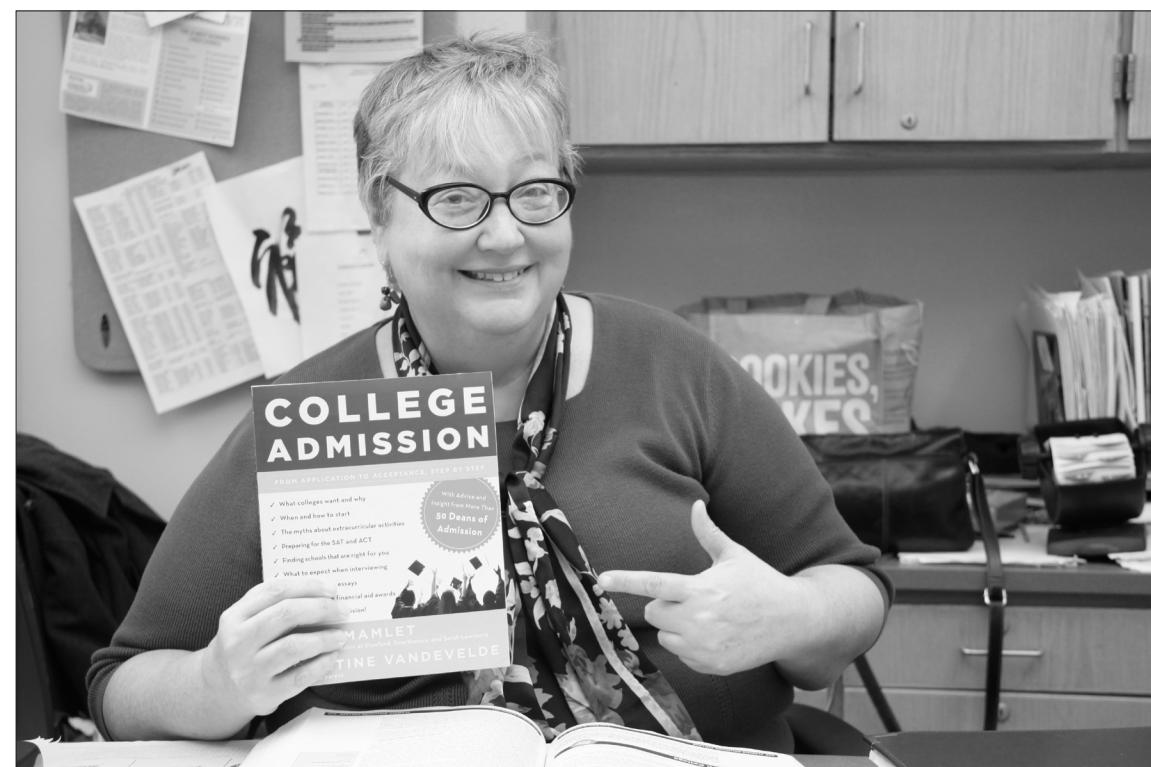
gin designing and learning how to do experiments at a younger age." These include making the Intel research class available to sophomores and making lower-level research classes available to freshmen.

The semifinalists are thrilled to be officially recognized for their work, though many were surprised by the news of their award.

"I still don't believe it," said senior and semifinalist Edward Cho, whose project was titled "Let There Be No Light! ESR Dating of Quartz from the Bytham River Palaeochannel." "I've been working on this project for over a year now, and it feels extremely good to be recognized. The last year and a half really had meaning."

While Dr. Gastel shares his students' excitement, he is disappointed that more students were not recognized in the competition. "There are so many people in this class who participated successfully in the research. Almost everyone really deserves recognition and respect," he said.

Cleary Recognized as Counselor of the Month



Patricia Cleary, college counselor.

By RISHAM DHILLON
and EDRIC HUANG

From providing juniors and their parents with information regarding the ins-and-outs of the college application process to helping seniors find the perfect fit school, Stuyvesant's college counselors are always busy helping students.

Recently, college counselor Patricia Cleary was recognized

as the Counselor of the Month by Robin Mamlet and Christine VanDeVelde, co-authors of the book "College Admission, From Application to Acceptance Step by Step."

"Ms. Cleary is an invaluable college counselor and mentor," senior Loulyana Saney said. "The support she has given me and countless other students these past few months has been unerring."

In order to be considered for Counselor of the Month, high school college counselors must be recommended to the book's co-authors and belong to a school that sends over 90 percent of its students to college.

Cleary, a member of the University of Chicago's Counselor Advisory Board, was rec-

continued on page 2

Joann Lee / The Spectator

News

Quiz Bowl Team Members Qualify for Nationals

By GEORGIANA YANG

Stuyvesant's Quiz Bowl team, Team TriBeCa, attended the Half Hollow Hills West Invitational at Half Hollow Hills High School in Dix Hills, New York on Saturday, January 7.

The tournament, attended by 102 teams, involved answering questions about topics ranging from art to geography to science.

Stuyvesant sent three teams, A, B, and C, composed of four students each, to the tournament. Teams B and C were eliminated in the first round of playoffs and tied for 17th place. Team A was knocked out in the second round of playoffs and tied for ninth place with seven other teams.

Though Team A was elimi-

"I was very pleased that all three teams demonstrated good team balance and were able to make playoffs,"
—Bernard Stanford, junior and Co-Vice President

nated, some members qualified for nationals, which will be held in May. They are: senior and Quiz Bowl President JiaJie Chen, junior and Co-Vice President Bernard Stanford, junior Lavina Lee, and sophomore Richard Yip.

All three teams received trophies for their performances.

"I was very pleased that all three teams demonstrated good team balance and were able to make playoffs," Stanford said. "I felt like all those who participated enjoyed themselves, which is the most important thing."

Model UN Hosts Scrimmage

By ELENA MILIN

The Stuyvesant Model United Nations Club hosted its first scrimmage event on Friday, January 6 from 4:30

"I was really proud of the quality of debate that I saw, especially to see how the new delegates interacted. That was great."
—Annarose Jacob, junior

p.m. to 7 p.m.

The club invited two fellow New York City schools: Xavier High School and Hunter College High School. Hunter and Xavier sent five delegates each, while Stuyvesant sent 80.

The delegates were split up into two committees; one discussed North Korean nuclear non-proliferation, while the other discussed election conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Each delegate represented a country and was required to network with other delegates, just as real diplomats do.

"Each committee went really well," junior Annarose "AJ" Jacob said. "I was really proud of the quality of debate that I saw, especially to see how the new delegates interacted. That was great."

Blood Drive Runs Efficiently



Two medical assistants extract blood from a student using the New York Blood Center's new Alyx machine.

By MARTA BAKULA and NABANITA HOSSAIN

Stuyvesant High School held its first blood drive of the year on Thursday, January 5. It took place in the first floor atrium and was organized by the Blood Drive Coordinators, seniors Lisa Qiu and Tong Niu, with help from Coordinator of Student Affairs Lisa Weinwurm and the Student Union. Doctors and nurses from the New York Blood Center handled the task of collecting blood.

Students had to be 16 years or older in order to participate, with 16-year-old donors requiring a parental consent form. Students were able to donate during the school day, from third to 10th period. Due to lengthy lines, students were asked to obtain permission slips from two teachers whose classes they would miss. Students were asked to reserve their lunch period and the period either before or after their lunch period, to ensure that they missed the least amount of class.

Donors had to fill out a 75-question form with their height, weight, and other medical information, and get their blood checked for appropriate iron and pressure levels, and pulse rate. Overall, 41 students were turned away. Those who met the various requirements had

to wait for medical personnel to prepare them for blood collection. Student were each expected to give one pint of blood. Afterward, they were escorted to

"I donated during periods three and four, and there was a fairly short wait time."
—Beatrice Huang, senior

a table with juice, snacks, and pizza. This year's Alyx donors also received teddy bears and candy for their participation in the drive.

Students with hemoglobin

count of 40 and above were eligible to give more than one pint of blood. These students were sent to the ALYX Component Collection System for donation. ALYX machines collect twice as much blood as is collected normally. The machines take blood and plasma from a donor, but separate the red blood cells from the mixture, returning the rest of the fluids to the donor's body. This year, there were a large number of ALYX donors, which greatly increased the total amount of donated blood. In comparison to the 159 pints collected at the last drive, 171 pints were collected this year; 54 of these were drawn using ALYX machines.

Advertising for this year's blood drive greatly impacted the final turnout. The coordinators posted many signs around the school, created a Facebook event titled "2012 Annual Stuyvesant Blood Drive!" and visited classrooms a couple weeks before the event to spread the word.

Unlike in previous years, when students had to wait for up to three periods to donate blood, this year's blood drive functioned at a fast pace through most of the seven periods. "I donated during periods three and four, and there was a fairly short wait time," senior Beatrice Huang said. "It all took just around 10 minutes."

During periods five and six, though, when the majority of the staff took a lunch break, lines grew longer. "There was a lot of buildup in waiting to get the medical forms checked," senior Viktoria Hallikaar said. "There were only six stations where one could get blood checked. If there had been more, the wait time would have gone significantly down."

This year, 184 students registered to donate blood. "It's the least I can do to help," Huang said. "It's not a big deal for me, but in the end, it's very worthwhile and rewarding to know that it can save lives."

Cleary Recognized as Counselor of the Month

continued from page 1

ommended for this distinction by James Nondorf, the university's Dean of Admissions.

"[Ms. Cleary] is a shining example of an excellent counselor and partner in the process of helping students find, apply to, and matriculate at their best college matches," Nondorf

"Her amiable personality and devotion to her students should deserve a better title than just Counselor of the Month."
—Donald Ho, senior

Cleary began her work at Stuyvesant 12 years ago. As the head counselor, she develops PowerPoint presentations about college admissions, interacts with teachers, and collaborates with the Student Leadership Team, in addition to helping students.

"She makes it clear which schools are targets, which are safeties, and which are reaches," senior Nader Daoud said. "It's not easy to be that honest regarding matters so important to students, but it's necessary, and she handles it well."

Furthermore, Cleary helps seniors in homerooms 7A through 7H become familiar with the application process through a series of lectures and information sessions. She also meets individually with these students, primarily through 20-minute interviews.

"When I get to interview these kids, I have said many times in meetings that I don't worry about the future of the United States," she said. "Our kids are very introspective, but they know that they have a lot of talent. They are great thinkers, and it's just a pleasure to read their backgrounds."

Students are appreciative of Cleary's efforts as their college counselor.

"Ms. Cleary has done everything possible to prepare me for college with her advice and help," senior Ariel Matalon said. "She has always helped students not only with the college process but has given them the foundation and mindset to deal with the difficult parts of life and build meaningful careers from their education."

Senior Donald Ho agrees. "During our brief interview, [Ms. Cleary] helped me polish my application by telling me to add this and that, stuff that I would have overlooked if not for her," he said. "Her amiable personality and devotion to her students should deserve a better title than just Counselor of the Month."

wrote in an e-mail interview. "She is a great listener, advocate, and infinitely fair-minded."

Mamlet and VanDeVelde interview the recommended counselors and publish interviews on the book's online blog, True Admissions!, so that people can benefit from what these counselors know about applying to college. Cleary is the fifth Counselor of the Month that has been featured on the blog. Her interview was published online on Tuesday, January 3.

"Being the Counselor of the Month is really just a sample of my work," Cleary said. "The interview is a summation of my philosophy as a counselor."

Councilman Mark Weprin Speaks to American Government Class

By SCOTT MA

Councilman Mark Weprin, who represents District 23 of New York City, spoke to social studies teacher Linda Weissman's sixth period American

"I learned that he had the highest attendance record on the City Council for attending meetings, so I thought that if I asked him to come, there would be a high possibility of him saying yes, because Stuyvesant is so near City Hall."

—Catherine Choi, senior

Government class on Thursday, January 5, about his position in government and the role of politicians.

Senior Catherine Choi invited Weprin to speak after she did

research on his career for a class project Weissman assigned. "I learned that he had the highest attendance record on the City Council for attending meetings, so I thought that if I asked him to come, there would be a high possibility of him saying yes, because Stuyvesant is so near City Hall," Choi said.

Choi introduced Weprin to the class and described him as an experienced member of the city council who advocated for education reform, and supported the needy and elderly. As a member of the New York City Council, Weprin works on issues in his district, as well as larger problems that apply to the entire city.

Weprin began by giving a history of his 17 years in public office, from his original election to the New York State Assembly in 1994 to his more recent rise to the City Council in 2009.

The City Council is a local form of government, and Weprin explained that its members have a considerable impact. Weprin led a discussion on two possible approaches legislators could take when making decisions: relying on their own judgment, or adhering to majority opinion. Weprin told the class he had tried to listen to those he was serving as councilman, while keeping hold of his own personal convictions.

"He was very straightforward, very honest as he talked about his own position," Weissman said.

Weprin described surveys he had given to residents of his district to help determine his own positions on policies, though he admitted that not all of them were successful, because the people who responded did not always represent his constituency as a whole. Recently, as

legislators debated a proposal to add bike lanes throughout the city, Weprin found that the more politically active individuals were mostly older than the majority of citizens in the district, and as a result, were not regular bikers, which skewed the results of his survey. Getting a variety of responses is important because "[the people] trust you to do what they think is best," Weprin said.

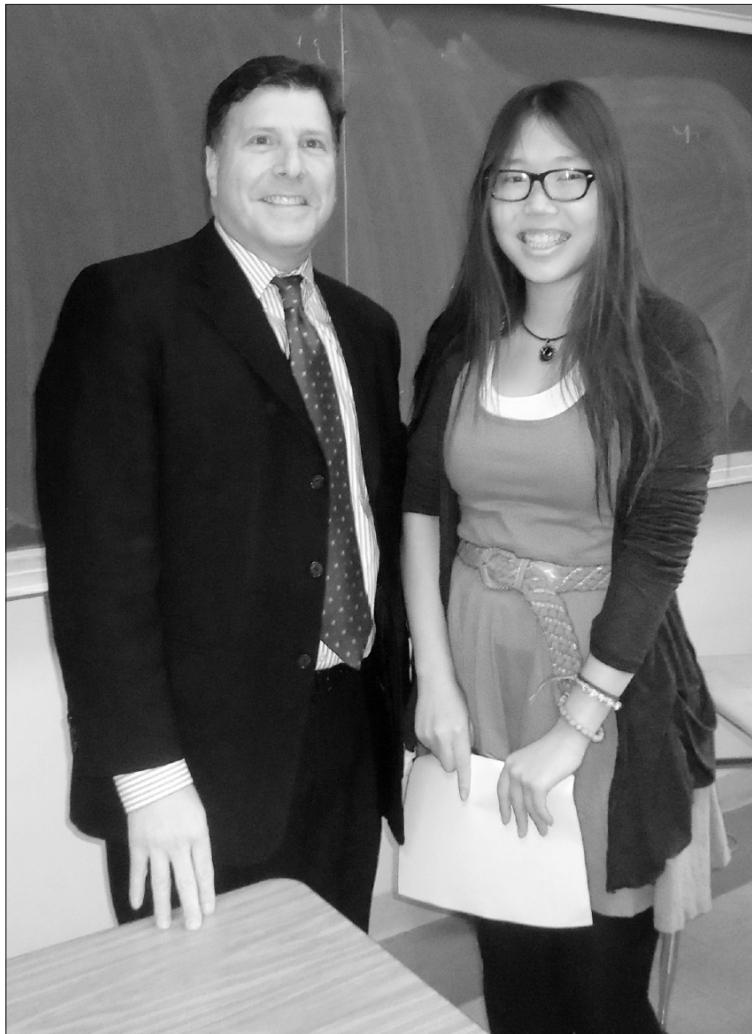
"Weprin changed my belief that many politicians were inaccessible or somewhat apathetic and cold."

—Kevin Zhang, senior

However, in some cases, he said, he chose to oppose the people he represented. In 2005, he voted against a bill that would approve the death penalty in New York, even though the majority of his district was in favor of passing the bill.

Some students agreed that government officials should take firm stands on issues, and not only follow the citizenry.

"People do not necessarily know what is best for them, and can only tell the politician what they want," senior Michael



City Councilman Mark Weprin (left) and Senior Catherine Choi (right).

Courtesy of Linda Weissman

Weiner's vacant seat in the 9th Congressional District, in part due to the fact that he openly supported gay marriage.

The class ended with a brief question and answer session.

"Weprin changed my belief that many politicians were inaccessible or somewhat apathetic and cold," senior Kevin Zhang said. "He proved to be very personable and relatable."

Behind the Scenes of Stuyvesant's Elections

continued from page 1

"We worked this year on improving the Board of Elections by publishing an election pamphlet to raise awareness, having members monitor SU meetings to record attendance for upcoming elections, and easing campaigning rules, which were extremely stringent in the previous years," Nevakivi-Callanan said.

The candidates have one week to campaign. They may only use the standard 8.5-by-11 paper as campaign material, and the posters may only be placed on bulletin boards. However, no more than three posters can be placed on each bulletin board, and the posters cannot contain profanity, slander, or other school-inappropriate messages or images.

Other than the candidates themselves, official campaign managers are the only people who may distribute campaign materials. No campaigning is allowed on Election Day, and no posters may be up the day before and the day of elections; these two days are known as "zero tolerance days" for this reason. Online campaigning is also strictly forbidden, but the candidates and their campaign managers are to make their Facebook profiles available to the Stuyvesant community.

"There is no online campaigning because it is difficult for us to monitor and allows more popular students to get elected," Nevakivi-Callanan said. A violation of any of the above policies results in a strike, and the candidate responsible loses a day of campaigning. Two violations result in a disqualification.

There are two rounds of elections. "In the primary elections, students can vote twice and [the] two pairs, president and vice president, with the most votes campaign for another week. Finally, there is a general election in which students can vote once. BOE counts the votes and sends results to Spectator and SU," Nevakivi-Callanan said.

The Board of Elections continues to find ways to improve the election process. Changes that may be instituted include requiring a teacher recommendation for nomination, changing zero tolerance days, and further relaxing rules for the campaigning period.

"They should refrain from guidelines that are just silly, like the no-tolerance policy," senior Suprita Datta said. "The posters don't really have an effect."

Students feel that having a Board of Elections in place to regulate the election process is a good idea, but many note that

Stuyvesant elections are not as legitimate as they should be.

"BOE is a good idea because there needs to be someone to oversee the whole process and someone to set the rules or else it is just going to be open-ended," senior Victoria Gong said. "However, I feel like most people know that the elections is about popularity. It would have been a good idea if they did have a debate that was broadcasted."

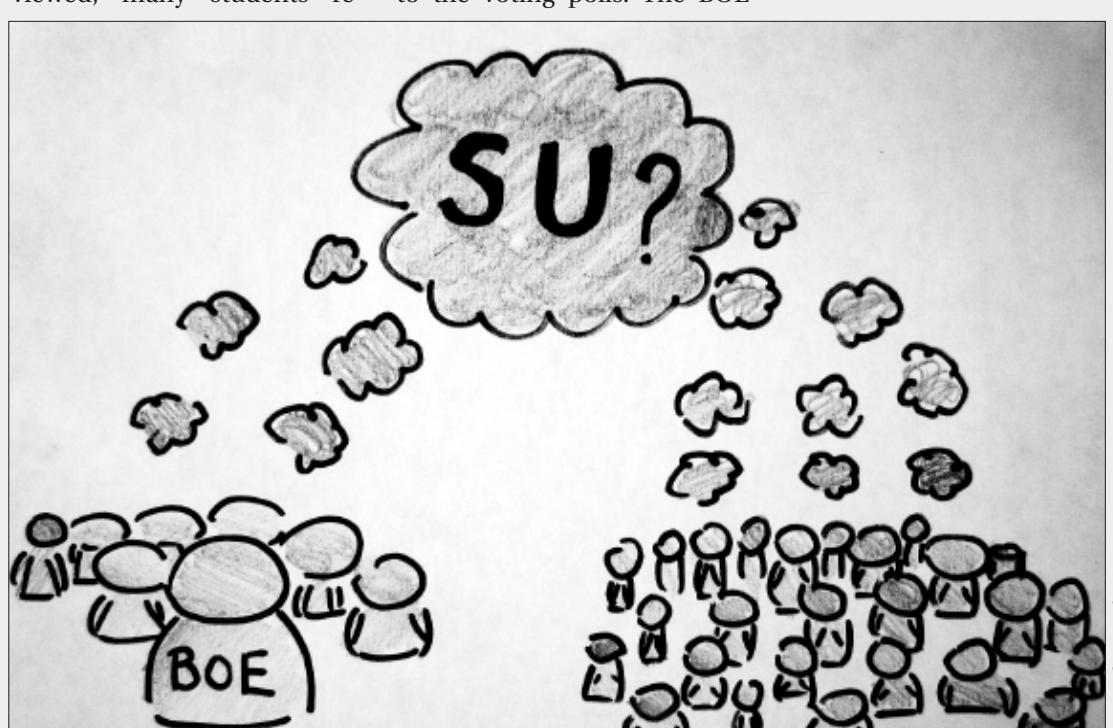
Furthermore, when interviewed, many students re-

sponded that they did not know a Board of Elections existed. "I did not know what role the BOE plays in student elections or any other school activities," freshman Steve Tam said. Tam added that he did not know how to vote or where to vote.

Every year, candidates dream up catchy slogans and print out Facebook profile pictures to put on their poster, but like in the rest of the nation, only a small percentage of the targeted population flocks to the voting polls. The BOE

members attempt to uphold the fragile school democracy but, in the end, despite their best efforts, elections often devolve into popularity contests.

"I do think that, at a certain point, candidates try to do their best to gain as many votes [as possible]," Datta said. However, she added that "a lot of people are just apathetic. They either don't know the platforms or what the candidates do, so it comes down to who you know and who you don't know."



Casey Ching / The Spectator

Features

Jewish History: From Egypt to the Lower East Side

By ARINA BYKADOROVA
and MADHURIMA
CHOWDHURY

While scanning the dropdown list of electives, cynical sophomores or jaunty upperclassmen may wonder what to do with the line that says "Wanderings: The World Through the Jewish Experience." The class seems a bit off the map compared to the usual history offerings, and many students, non-Jews especially, do not know what to expect.

Social studies teacher Robert Sandler has been teaching the Jewish History class for 11 years, covering several millennia each fall semester. The chunk of time from the biblical period to modern day Israel is colossal, but Sandler tries to focus on the turning points of Jewish history.

"In all honesty, we go quickly through the ancient and medieval periods to get a foundation. The real focus of the course is on the Jew of the modern world, I would say from the 18th century onwards," Sandler said.

A topic that students often discuss during the course is the conflict of the Jewish Diaspora, and its advantages and disadvantages.

"That's what I think is one of the most interesting aspects of the course, the Diaspora, which makes it even harder to



jeany Zhao / The Spectator

On Tuesday, January 10, guest speaker Tuvya Book addressed Robert Sandler's Jewish history class.

"We learn in history class about, say, Henry Ford and the huge contribution he made to the world with the automobile, but we never learn that he was a huge anti-Semitic and published anti-Semitic papers. It's fascinating, really."

—Kathryn Rafailov, sophomore

teach, because not only am I teaching a huge span of time,

5,000 years, but I'm also teaching about a group of people who have been dispersed, who have been living in so many different places," Sandler said. "There are so many different types of regimes with different degrees of freedom and different degrees of hostility, but that's what I love about it, that's the challenge of the course, to try and make it all come together."

Students learn about historical events from a Jewish standpoint. Sophomore Kathryn Rafailov said, "The class puts a new perspective on history class. For example, we learn in history class about, say, Henry Ford and the huge contribution he made to the world with the automobile, but we never learn that he was a huge anti-Semite and published anti-Semitic papers. It's fascinating, really. You can't learn this stuff anywhere else."

"We learn much more than just the history and culture of the Jewish people. We learn about everything they have affected, from Hollywood to Klezmer music. We're fully immersed," senior Pooja Desai said. "We're exposed to images, music, movie clips, recent news articles, and even food. We learn about Jewish History from all angles, and the use of multiple sources of media in the class really brings the topics to life. Especially as a non-Jewish student, the exposure to a different culture and having open debates on issues that still effect Jews, and on a larger scale, the world, has made me a more cultured and knowledgeable student."

The class also goes into the evolving relationship between the Jews and other religious

communities. They learn, for example, how Jews used to be generally well-treated in Muslim areas and ruthlessly persecuted in Christian countries, while in the present those roles have been practically reversed.

Another interesting point of comparison is the way Jews assimilate in their adopted countries. "Where the American history is confined within the borders of the United States [...], we talk about the Jews in Ottoman Turkey, we talk about Jews in Enlightenment Germany in the 18th century. There were Jews in Tsarist Russia. We talk about Jews in Charleston, South Carolina," Sandler said.

Some lighter aspects of the class include exploring Jewish comedy. Sandler suggests that stand-up comedy was invented by Jews, namely those from the Catskills' Borscht Belt and Woody Allen.

In addition to watching movies, debating, reading numerous primary source documents, and listening to visitors' lectures, the members of the class also go on field trips. "The first trip was a tour of the Jewish Lower East Side, where the Jews congregated for the most part upon entering the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries," Desai said. "[We] were able to acknowledge the significance behind small things that we would have easily passed on a stroll through the Lower East Side. We compared the different crowds certain synagogues attracted, and noticed the different styles and setups of the synagogues. Afterwards, we went to Katz's Deli, perhaps the epitome of Jewish food in NYC, and had their classic pastrami sandwiches. We also

visited Russ and Daughters, after learning about the history behind the shop." For the second trip, the class visited the Satmar Hasidic community in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

The class also visited the Museum of Jewish Heritage, which is located near Stuyvesant High School. "I had been there before, but got so much more out of the trip this time around," Desai said. "Having learned the topics in class already, it was easy to make connections between what I already knew and the artifacts I was viewing. At the same museum, we also went to an exhibit about eugenics called 'Deadly Medicine,' that was brought over from the Holocaust Museum in Washington."

Everyone is invited to take this course, and the students' backgrounds are as varied as the countries of the Diaspora. Sandler is very enthusiastic that so many students are open to learning about other cultures and that more than half of his class is not Jewish. He commends the "open, cosmopolitan population" at Stuyvesant and stresses that this course is a benefit to all who take it.

"The Jews have [...] lived all over the world, so the course material allows us to look at lots of different societies throughout time from one unique angle, which is fascinating," senior Batsheva Morarty said.

"Mr. Sandler always says, 'The past is never dead. It's not even the past,'" Desai said. "In the same way, Jewish history is never dead, and the class really makes the history and culture come alive."

"In all honesty, we go quickly through the ancient and medieval periods to get a foundation. The real focus of the course is on the Jew of the modern world, I would say from the 18th century onwards."

—Robert Sandler, social studies teacher

Features

Creative Fundraising Solutions

By YING YU SITU

Extracurricular activities, although diverse, all have one thing in common: they require funding. Competitive teams have to pay the registration fees for tournaments, social action clubs try to donate to organizations dedicated to their causes, and publications need to cover printing costs. The Student Union traditionally provides a portion of these funds, but as budget cuts allow less money to be spent on clubs, pubs, and teams, students have taken it upon themselves to raise money.

The DOE's policy on collecting money from students, however, has limited students' approaches to fund-raising. As stated in Chancellor's Regulation A-610, methods like selling raffle tickets—or anything resembling gambling—have been banned, along with the sale of homemade baked goods and anything that does not meet certain nutritional criteria, without the full-time presence of a parent. Stuyvesant students have managed to find creative ways around these restrictions.

Spin to Win

A colorful wheel set up by the bridge entrance is manned by a

student promising a candy bar for each spin, which only costs \$1. The wheel, which has been used in the past by Culture Fest and the SU, is currently being used by the Shakespearean Literature class to raise money for their upcoming performances of Shakespeare's tragedies "King Lear" and "Antony and Cleopatra." The wheel has several panels, with all but one panel granting a prize of one candy bar. Students whose spins end on the one panel win two candy bars.

"We're allowed to give candy as prizes, but we're not allowed to sell it," senior Yevgeniy Liverant, a student in the Shakespearean Literature class, said. "And since every spin guarantees a win, it's not gambling, so we're allowed to do it."

Frisbee Funding

While many sports teams sell custom merchandise, few sell the sports equipment they play with. The boys' Ultimate Frisbee team, the Stuyvesant Sticky Fingers, is a notable exception. Throughout the year, its members sell Frisbees with the team logo at their tournaments.

"It's a team tradition," senior Alex Chao said. "We've been selling them for years."

Every few years, the athletes

redesign the Frisbee and release the new design in the spring, when more fans attend tournaments and merchandise sales are typically higher.

"If you go to [Rockefeller Park] during the spring, you see a lot of people playing with our Frisbees," Chao said. "People enjoy the fact that it's different and less usual than a ball or other equipment. It's pretty unique."

Pride for Profit

This year, the members of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Spectrum (GLASS) have begun to sell pins, notepads, and other small trinkets in order to raise money for their cause.

"At the end of the year, we want to donate \$1,000 to Live Out Loud," junior and GLASS president Emma Lesser said. Live Out Loud is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support and opportunities to LGBT youth in the tri-state area.

The rest of the money goes toward funding events such as World AIDS Day and the club's participation in Culture Fest. GLASS also intends to donate to shelters that house LGBT youth until appropriate foster homes are found.

The merchandise itself, while it helps raise money, also pro-



Michelle Guo / The Spectator

motes LGBT awareness and acceptance. Popular items include notepads with rainbow covers, and "pride pins," which, according to Lesser, are the club's "most effective fundraiser." For instance, one pin features a de-

sign of a messily colored-in heart reading "Love Outside the Lines."

"The pins are new as of this year, and we weren't sure they were going to sell, but people like them," Lesser said. "They're adorable."

Hitting All the Right Notes



Stuyvesant's A Capella group performs everywhere from the Stuyvesant Bridge to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Tong Wan / The Spectator

By TERESA CHEN and KAVERI SENGUPTA

Harmonious voices ring out from Room 133 as Stuyvesant's A Cappella group practices for its next concert. Piano keys tinker softly, correcting a few pitches, as the group bursts out laughing at their mistakes.

"We're really close with each other. We do a lot of fun things together, and basically the atmosphere is really relaxed," senior Nelson Qu said. Originally established as an all-male caroling group in the early 1990s, Stuy A Cappella is one of Stuyvesant's only extracurricular activities for those who love to sing. With about thirty active members—a large number for an a cappella group—and more students auditioning every term, it is growing into a very popular club.

One of A Cappella's most distinguishing factors is that the club is almost entirely student organized.

"I love how [the club is] student run, and we choose the music, we teach the music, we organize performances," senior and A Cappella member Esmé Cribb

said. "It's like SING!, except on a smaller, monthly scale. Since I really enjoy singing, it's just a chance to do more of what I love with people who I actually enjoy hanging out with."

Senior Fayme Cai leads the group along with senior Daniel Lee, who conducts the group during their performances. The duty of making sure everyone is on task falls to them. "I feel like I have a sense of responsibility, because I'm president, and I have to get things done," Cai said. "[Lee and I] organize performances. We figure out who to contact, we call people, we e-mail people." Cai is also the pianist for the group and teaches singers their parts, while Lee is in charge of making sure that each member sings in time and that all the vocal parts fit together.

Recently, Cai has been trying to make the process of choosing songs a more collective one. This year, Stuy A Cappella conducted a poll in which members could pick possible song choices, which resulted in a final list of over thirty songs. The members then selected the most popular ones in order to determine what songs they would sing for Open

Mic every month.

Though originally established for the sole purpose of performing Christmas carols, the A Cappella group currently performs a variety of songs. They now sing a mix of old standards and pop songs in addition to their traditional holiday songs. "We'll sing older stuff, like 'My Girl' by the Temptations, or Billy Joel's 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight,' and then we'll sing more contemporary songs like 'Lucky' by Jason Mraz. We'll also sing all the Christmas-y stuff," junior and A Cappella member Batya Zamansky said.

Because A Cappella performs with no instrumental backup, making musical arrangements of the songs is a great challenge. To organize performances, Lee and Cai decide whom to contact to book venues. Before the performances, each student will learn the song, and the group will divide into sections by vocal range to practice. At the end, the sections rehearse together as Lee conducts and Cai plays the piano. Later, they eliminate all instrumental help. The other senior members listen and tweak

rhythm problems. "It comes down to crunch time before a performance," Cribb said. But their efforts certainly pay off.

A Cappella's range of performances includes more formal events, like the recent concert at Barnes and Noble and the annual Sloan-Kettering Hospital performance, as well as casual events, like Open Mic performances and Christmas caroling by the second floor entrance. The A Cappella group also performs during Open House for interested eighth graders and their parents.

"A Cappella performs with a great personality, and [the members] carry their voices with a good volume," said freshman Alicia Chen, who watched two of Stuy A Cappella's Open Mic performances.

Freshman Iris Zhao, who saw the holiday performance near the school entrance on December 23, agreed. "They take music to a whole new level with their voices," she said.

In fact, these performances are what persuaded many of the members of A Cappella to audition. "When I came [to the Stuyvesant] Open House, A Cappella performed, and I was just so amazed by how good they sounded, even without instruments," sophomore Sharon Chen said. "I didn't know you [could] just sing with voices alone like that."

"Last year I walked by, and I think that was one of the pivotal moments where I was like, 'You know what? I'm going to join A Cappella next year, because this is awesome,'" sophomore and A Cappella member Gene Gao said.

A special opportunity A Cappella offers some of its members is the chance to audition for and possibly sing a solo. Sharon Chen, who sings the female solo for "Lucky," has greatly enjoyed the experience. "I was really, really nervous in the beginning, and I didn't think I would get the part," Chen said. "It's kind of nerve-wracking when you're singing the solo, because you're responsible for the whole thing, because ev-

erybody's following you." Cai occasionally requires shyer members to perform solos in order to have them become more comfortable with performing.

Many of the singers feel indebted to A Cappella for helping them break out of their shells at Stuyvesant. "A Cappella taught me how to express myself more openly, because I came in last year and I was really shy, and I was basically a totally different person, because I didn't want to talk to anyone," Sharon Chen said. "But this year I'm a lot more outgoing, and also, performing for A Cappella decreased my stage fright a lot."

A Cappella helps students learn "how to get things done on schedule, because at some points we have performances that we have three days' prep for, and so you learn how to prioritize, how to manage your time," Cribb said.

To all the members of A Cappella, their club is not simply a group of students with a common interest in singing; it is a family.

"Once you get in [to A Cappella], you're consumed, like an ameba. We have really strong friendships with everyone. We're always talking and laughing, and we take a lot of time off to enjoy ourselves. A few times a year, we go to a member's house or go ice skating," Cai said.

"Like all families, we have problems and conflicts, and I've gotten a lot better with conflict resolution and things like that. It's taught me a lot with working with people," Lee said.

Through email and Facebook, the group also continues to stay in touch with its alumni. Even new members, who entered Stuyvesant after these alumni graduated, end up forming relationships with them, strengthening the unity of the group.

But this family is still looking to grow. With its already existing body of dedicated, talented members, that certainly won't be a challenge.

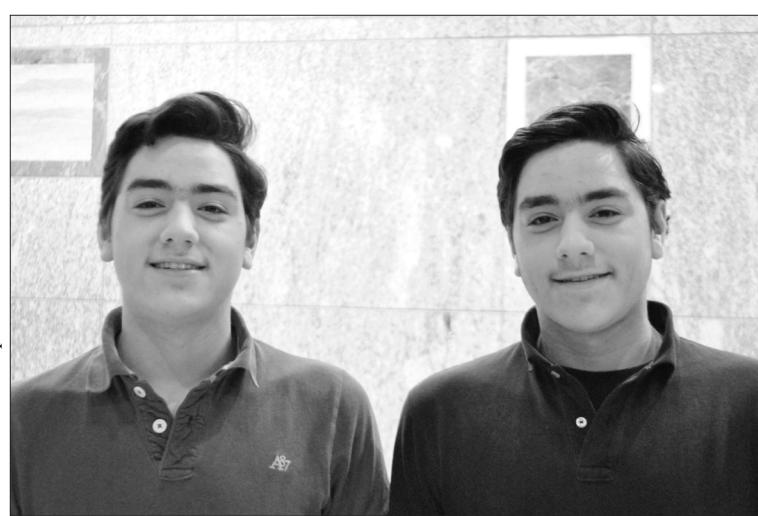
Features

Camaraderie and Competition: Stuyvesant's Twins

By REBECCA GAEBLER

The birth of twins is a very rare occurrence; the odds of fraternal twins being born are 60 to one, while for identical twins, the odds are 240 to one. But because of Stuyvesant's sizable population, the school has a number of students with an identical or fraternal twin. Though having a twin presents unique difficulties that few other students can relate to, many twins find that their siblings can be trustworthy allies and worthy competitors.

Jack and David Cahn



John Mennel / The Spectator

Sophomores David and Jack Cahn have been going to school together since Pre-K. As they have grown older, they have developed healthy competi-

"Having a twin is a built-in objective measure for how well I'm doing in school. It's a motivator."
—David Cahn, sophomore

tion with each other, which has been fostered at Stuyvesant.

"Having a twin is a built-in [metric] for how well I'm doing in school. It's a motivator," David Cahn said.

This year, the Cahns have

six classes together. "You can't image how irritating that is. Together we are overwhelming, and teachers tend to group us together," David Cahn said.

They have also participated in many of the same extracurricular activities. The brothers sponsored a bill together in Junior Statesmen of America, ran for Freshman Caucus together in 2010, and are currently public forum debate partners.

"Because I have a twin brother, I've never been afraid to challenge the status quo, or to fight for something I believe in, because I'm well supported," Jack Cahn said.

The Cahns have faced some



Sara and Dina Levy-Lambert.

that she "[doesn't] think people compare [them] that much."

When people learn that the LeGardeur sisters are, in fact, twins, they often jest, "But aren't you the same person?"

For all the times she's heard it, Bebe LeGardeur does not appreciate this question. "I get that it's a joke, but it's still just really annoying, because half the time people ask this, they have never met Lea, so they have no one to compare me to. Also, people always ask it as if they thought up something really clever to say about twins, which it isn't," Bebe LeGardeur said.

"Even though we go to different schools, I always have someone to talk to, and Sara is still basically my best friend."

—Dina

Levy-Lambert, junior

separate roads for high school. Such is the case of junior Dina Levy-Lambert, who no longer goes to school with her fraternal twin, sophomore Sara Levy-Lambert.

The Levy-Lambert twins went to school together in Frankfurt, Germany from preschool to elementary school, until Dina skipped a grade. Here in New York, they enjoy attending different schools, because it allows them to form their own identities. "When I tell people that I have a twin sister, they are surprised, because usually twins are in the same school, since they are so similar," Sara Levy-Lambert said.

They said that the divide has not disrupted their relationship. "Even though we go to different schools, I always have someone to talk to, and Sara is still basically my best friend," Dina Levy-Lambert said.

Still, Sara finds herself constantly explaining to people that she has a twin who skipped a grade on top of going to Stuyvesant. "I feel like even though I joke about it all the time, I still compare myself to her, and I still resent her sometimes for having skipped a grade and for the fact that she went to a better school than I did," Sara

rate groups of friends, in part to maintain this amiability. "She already knows everything that goes on in my life and that I can't really keep anything from her. Living with her causes enough arguments," Dina Levy-Lambert said.

Bebe and Lea LeGardeur

After 12 years of going to school together, the LeGardeur twins went their separate ways in high school, when junior Bebe LeGardeur chose to go to Stuyvesant and her twin Lea LeGardeur elected to go to Bronx Science. On top of going to rival schools, the twins also compete in track.

However, the LeGardeur twins do not mind attending different schools, even when these schools have a rivalry as strong as the one between Stuyvesant and Bronx Science. "With people that we have both known for a long time, we do sometimes get clumped together into one identity, but that has started to feel like it is happening less," Bebe LeGardeur said.

Even though they attend different schools, the urge to academically compete with each other is still present. "It's hard not to compare myself to Lea in

Another challenge the LeGardeur twins have struggled with is balancing spending time with each other with spending time with their respective friend groups.

"Most people don't have to deal with this in the same way because most people don't think of their sister or brother as a friend who they really want to hang out with. They are just their sister or brother," Bebe LeGardeur said.

Twins are often thought to have similar personalities, think the same way, or even be able to communicate telepathically with each other. While this may or may not be true and is still being debated and researched in the scientific community, even twins separated at birth and reunited in their adulthood have been found to have strikingly similar personalities and interests. While no twins are exactly identical in all aspects of their lives, having similar personalities written, on some level, into their genetics can make twins all the more likely to become close friends.



Courtesy of Bebe LeGardeur

Levy-Lambert said.

While the sisters enjoy a close relationship, Sara and Dina Levy-Lambert have sepa-

my head, [...] because I always want to do as well as she does at school," Bebe LeGardeur said.

However, she also notes

820

136.5

.44

5.28

201

1,163.22

Cost of Submitting College Application Supplements

Cost of Sending SAT Scores

Cost of Mailing Dartmouth Peer Review

Cost of Mailing a Supplemental Letter of Recommendation

Cost of Submitting CSS Profile

Total Cost of Applying to College

*Dollar amounts for one senior in the Class of 2012

Humor

These articles are works of fiction. All quotes are libel and slander.

Math Teacher to Front Boy Band

By EDITH VILLAVICENCIO

Mathematics teacher David Park announced on Friday, December 23, that he will be the lead vocalist and guitarist of a new boy band, which has yet to be named. Most of the band's details are still undecided, but Park has released several preliminary singles, including "A Bit of Humble Pi," and "A Fraction of My Love." The news has set the student population abuzz with excitement.

Park was inspired to create the band because of pressure from many of his female students, who know of his fondness for playing the guitar. "[My students] would ask me why I was just a math teacher, when I clearly had this other passion that I wasn't pursuing. They encouraged me, and assured me that I really had potential," Park said.

Though it seems that Park has tried to remain professional while at school, students and faculty have reported catching him taking posed photographs of himself during his students' tests. "I think he's trying to pick a trademark pose for when he's famous and has paparazzi all over the place," sophomore Savannah Jeffreys said. "But he's going to need a little more practice with the posing. All he does is make a 'shh' sign or smile next to the calculator or chalkboard. It's not cute."

Some speculation has arisen regarding the group's genre. Park himself has revealed that he is having trouble deciding whether to maintain an exclusively

mathematics-themed image, or whether to stick more to the typical style exemplified by today's popular pop groups. In an attempt to become more "mainstream," Park started coming to work in brightly colored T-shirts and hi-top sneakers. He also got a new haircut, which bears a suspicious resemblance to the signature side-swept locks of Justin Bieber.

Faculty members of the Mathematics Department have expressed concern over Park's new look. "We encourage math teachers to dress in a non-alarming fashion as part of the mission of our department. Our goal is to focus the students' attention on absolutely nothing but the formulas and numbers, which is why we try to have teachers dress in such a way that they will blend in with the classroom. Blackboard-colored clothing is preferred," Assistant Principal Maryann Ferrara said.

Park also plans to develop the group's imagine with a creative name. While he is still unsure what the final name of the group will be, Park is partial to "The Angle Angels." "I was looking for a name that would simultaneously reference my passion for the mathematical arts and my angelic good looks," Park said. "I'm just so excited to embark on this new stage of my life."

But not all the students are excited about Park's musical endeavor. "This is a school. All I want to do is focus in class. Mr. Park came in 15 minutes late to class, and said he was practicing being fashionably late. His new habits are detracting from our

education," said an anonymous freshman student.

To determine additional band members, Park is recruiting Stuyvesant students based on a math exam. He asked the student announcer to tell all interested students to report to the Murray Kahn Theater after school on Monday, January 9. He had all participants take the 2008 AMC exam sitting alone at a desk onstage while he and the rest of the students watched. Park claimed it was an accurate test of mathematical talent as well as the ability to perform under pressure, both of which are of the utmost importance.

For an anonymous freshman, the selection process seems unfair. "I can sing. I can dance. But math? No way. Does Mr. Park expect us to derive formulas during performances? If he doesn't, there's no reason I have to take that test to join the band. Come on, I totally have the hair for it," he said.

Other students are worried about Park setting the stage for other teachers to partake in activities usually meant for younger people. Park has already submitted a request to try out for Senior SING! as the lead dancer for the boys' hip-hop crew. "His idea for our theme was Math in Space, following the story of a student who calculates the volume and surface area of each planet, narrating his adventures through song and dance. It's even worse than the Soph-Frosh themes," senior Jonathan Lessinger said.

Administration Implicated in Coat Conspiracies

By DANIEL SOLOMON
and JOSEPH SOLOMON

On Friday, January 7, a school administrator took to the loudspeaker to make a peculiar announcement. "All students," the administrator said, "must wear a coat or jacket if they are to go out for lunch." The message, issued on a day when the temperature topped 50 degrees, befuddled many students, a few of whom were stopped at the bridge entrance and told that next time they would have to eat inside if they were not more heavily bundled up. "Why do I have to wear a coat? Why does the administration discriminate against sweaters? Besides, if I had a cold, I could get out of this place," said senior William Knight IV.

Now, a closer investigation has revealed a possible answer to Knight's question: Principal Stanley Teitel has allegedly been taking kickbacks from coat companies in exchange for forcing pupils to wear their products. The accusation came to the attention of The Spectator thanks to an unnamed student, who reportedly saw Teitel pocket a five-dollar bill that he received from a tall, hooded figure attired in apparel from The North Face. "Initially, after the money was exchanged via handshake, I thought that something else was going down, but then I noticed the guy's outfit, and just put two and two together," the unnamed student said.

The student's allegations, proved true by security footage, did not encompass all the illicit activity that Teitel had been involved in. Indeed, the video seemed to show a representative from the jacket and book-bag giant Columbia engaged

in the same bribery as his counterpart from The North Face, muttering under his breath about "cheap alternatives."

Both alleged payoffs were not above five dollars, thus not violating the Department of Education's gifts policy, meaning Teitel cannot be subject to disciplinary proceedings. Still, he declined to make a statement when reached for comment by The Spectator. For their own part, students have had a lot to say, some speculating about other suspected schemes. "If he got 10 dollars from those coat companies to make us wear jackets, he might have been bribed by the Health Department to void us so we would have to eat school lunch," said junior George Kaiser.

Another theory goes that the administration cares too much about the students, imbued with a sense of paternalism, or rather maternalism. "It's amazing how much the school looks out for me, taking my coffee away to stop me from burning my tongue, calling home when I'm absent, making sure that I know which periods I'm supposed to be at lunch and in class," junior Isabelle Clark said. "I can feel the love."

While the school has already taken the unprecedented step of protecting pupils against the common cold, it is now exploring ways to help the students in additional ways. "I rearranged the desks in my class into a circle and put a rug in the center. Then I started reading my new book, 'The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes'. After the kids, had oohed-and-aahed at the pictures, they nodded off on the rug. I guess I'll just call that nap-time," said math teacher, sleep guru, and author Gary Rubinstein.

Administration Cracks Down on Unauthorized

Elevator Use by "Injured" Students

By ROBERT MELAMED

After a series of complaints by Stuyvesant staff and teachers, new measures have been put in place to make riding elevators harder for students, even with a pass. Elevator passes have traditionally been given to students who were physically unable to get to their classes by using the stairs. However, recently many staff members have accused students of faking injuries and requesting a pass so they would not have to climb the stairs.

"How dare students even think about taking the elevator and wasting my precious time," English teacher Phillip Mott said. "I need space to breathe when I'm in the elevator and I don't need some punk in a fake wheelchair taking up my space."

In a meeting on Tuesday, January 3, Principal Teitel caved into faculty demands and appointed Physical Education teacher Rhonda Rosenthal as the new dean of elevation. "She is perfect for the job," said Principal Teitel. "Nobody has seen more phony injuries than Rhonda, and when it comes to spotting fake injuries she has always been one of our elite physical education teachers."

"I am excited to finally have the chance to give students the gift of physical activity both in and outside of the classroom," Rosenthal said. "Never again will a student miss a precious oppor-

tunity to climb the stairs."

Rosenthal began patrolling the elevators almost immediately after her appointment, and in an effort to "spruce up the environment to encourage activity," Rosenthal altered the elevators.

**"Never again
will a student
miss a precious
opportunity to
climb the stairs."
—Rhonda
Rosenthal,
Dean of Elevation**

Both staff elevators have been outfitted with speakers and a disco ball. "It's for the staff's fitness as well as the students," Rosenthal said. "Now they can be burning calories by dancing their way up."

Rosenthal also uses the new elevator design to easily catch students who are faking injuries. "I let the power of the music overcome them," Rosenthal

said. "The students who break out dancing are obviously not actually hurt, and as punishment they must attend a yoga session with me after school."

The new policy has fallen under harsh scrutiny by students who are actually injured. "I broke my leg last week," junior Joaquin Pinto said. "When I went in the elevator I was compelled to tap my finger to the beat of the 1977 classic "Stayin' Alive." I was immediately accused of faking my injury and ejected from the elevator."

"Rosenthal kicked me out of the elevator as soon as I started dancing," junior Andrew Xie said. "I have four broken teeth and an ingrown toenail. How does she expect me to make it to class on time without the elevator?"

However, some students have come to enjoy Rosenthal's new policies. "Ms. Rosenthal's yoga sessions have changed my life," sophomore Michael Sugarman said. "Girls never used to talk to me, but the group yoga lessons are a great way to force them to."

The Stuyvesant Faculty have been impressed by the success of Rosenthal's program. "I have never seen the students wanting to use the stairs more than they do now," said Principal Teitel. "I am now considering moving Rosenthal to the first floor entrance of the school. She will probably be more effective at keeping students out than the security guards anyway."



A student faking an arm injury was outed yesterday after being overcome by the urge to dance.

Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

Let Us Out of Here

Full.

It's a word that Stuyvesant students have gotten used to hearing and seeing around spaces they used to occupy. Finding a seat in the cafeteria during lunch periods is no easy task; the library has capped the number of students allowed inside each period, and has resorted to using barriers to keep in check the line of students waiting for an opening; we are restricted to three floors during our free periods, and even student spaces such as the half-floor have become crowded and noisy, often closed off due to trash left on the floor.

But for every crowded space, and every room packed to capacity, students often pass an open, unoccupied space: athletic facilities not being used by a class, the off-limits fifth floor balcony, the floors that students—even those sitting quietly—are told to vacate with the old refrain: "1, 2, or 5!" Furthermore, while many students struggle to find a place to spend their free periods, they are not allowed outside of the building and instead contribute to the noise, overcrowding, and mess.

In a school of 3,300 students, and with the population growing each year, overcrowding, to an extent, is an unavoidable issue. However, while some rules and regulations concerning student space stem from legitimate safety, academic, and legal concerns, many others are arbitrary and contribute unnecessarily to the problem. With some adjustments to school policy, the Editorial Board believes that the problem of overcrowding can be greatly reduced.

Fifth-Floor Balcony

From the cafeteria windows, students can see the currently-under-construction fifth floor balcony, with doors readily equipped to permit students to exit. However, permanently hanging on those doors is the sign: "No one is allowed onto the balcony." The space, originally meant for student occupancy, serves no real purpose now. Clause 47 of Article 47 of the New York City Health Code regarding child care services prevents the school from opening it to the student body: "Rooftop play areas shall be enclosed by a climb-proof fence, at least 10 feet in height with an additional 45° inwardly angled panel."

"[Students] were supposed to be out there. The problem is that when they built the building, they did not build the fence high enough," Teitel said.

The fence is half as tall as is legally required, and thus it is a legal and safety hazard to allow students to use the balcony. However, while the school may be strapped for cash, it does have some money to spend, as evidenced by the forthcoming library remodeling and the fairly new light board welcoming students and visitors. The administration should make heightening the fence, which would thereby expand viable student space, a priority if it wants to keep the hallways clear, and the cafeteria reasonably close to capacity. Not to mention the invaluable benefit of getting some fresh air during the school day, without having to leave the building.

The Library

Every day, hundreds of Stuyvesant students can be seen anxiously lining the sixth floor

hallway behind a set of velvet ropes, in fear of receiving another zero after forgetting to print their Biology lab or English essay. The library's recently implemented limit on the number of students it can allow in per period has only served to heighten this stress.

With a very low maximum capacity and approximately 12 computers, the library can easily become a frustrating place—if you are lucky enough to get in, that is. Students using library computers to type up assignments leave students needing only a printer waiting for a computer that they may not get to use until the period is over, causing even more stress.

A good solution would be to designate at least half of available desktops as "printing-only" computers. If the librarians enforced a five-minute maximum use period on these computers, many more students would get a chance to use them.

The Computer Labs

While waiting for one of the few desktops to become available, it's hard not to picture the empty computer labs a few floors below, seemingly the perfect place to work on a piece or print that Spanish assignment. So, why can't we use the labs? One surprising issue with this, the administration says, is theft, which apparently still occurs despite the Master locks on cables and computer CPUs.

"Mice walk, letters on the keyboard take a hike, who knows why? We're constantly replacing this stuff, and that's with stuff that is supervised," Teitel said. Teitel's claim is dubious, as there is very little appeal to stealing what is usually cheap, outdated equipment. Still, the issue of supervision remains. The administration would be hard-pressed to find a teacher who would be willing to supervise a packed room full of students without extra compensation.

The Student Lounge

Most current students are unaware that the back area of the first floor used to be a student lounge. The term itself, "lounge," brings to mind images of sofas and armchairs, with perhaps a Foosball table or even a television. And while the original lounge did not quite live up to this expectation, it used to be home to two couches and a ping pong table. Now that the administration has decided to eliminate the lounge, however, the area in back of the theater contains just a few benches and a lone table where ARISTA tutors work. The area is more or less untouched, so it is hard to imagine why the administration would feel the need to eliminate one of the few student spaces in Stuyvesant.

"The area was not kept clean, which bred vermin," Teitel said. "[The sofas] were destroyed."

Cleanliness was apparently not the only problem plaguing the student lounge, however. Students would often use it to cut, making it difficult to keep track of those who were allowed to utilize it and those who were supposed to be in a class.

Sofas in the student lounge have been tested out twice in recent years, and both times the furniture lasted less than six months before it was removed. As for the future, Teitel feels that if past experiences ended so neg-

atively, the student lounge won't be getting any more lounge-like for quite some time.

Though we understand why the administration feels this way, there are ways to successfully revitalize the student lounge. To ensure that students don't cut class to hang out in the secluded space, deans could routinely walk back there and check IDs—the lounge is already on their itineraries. Keeping the area looking ship-shape is a bigger challenge, but one worth undertaking. We recommend reviving StuySpace, an organization that used to task clubs with the maintenance of sections of the school, which has unfortunately fell into a state of inactivity. Provided that cutting and cockroaches could be put in check, we might all enjoy a real lounge.

Leaving the School

Students in good standing currently have the right to go out of the building for lunch, but unfortunately, for those students looking for places to spend their free periods, that policy does not allow students to leave during their frees. While this rule was put into place "sometime after 9/11," according to Teitel, as a measure to ensure the safety of students, it was not truly enforced until the scanner system was introduced in 2006.

While student safety is definitely a legitimate concern, there is no more danger during frees than there is during lunch. Out-to-lunch privileges are given because "we are not capable of feeding everyone in the cafeteria," Teitel said; clearly, the vast majority of students have proven themselves responsible enough to leave the building for lunch without sustaining or causing injury or damage. Furthermore, students are at no more risk for being victimized outside during the school day than they are on the way to or from school. The fact is, overcrowding in the building is just as much of a problem during free periods as it is during lunch, even more so because students are not allowed outside. The cafeteria was "never built to house the entire student body during lunch," Teitel said. When viewed in light of his previous statements, this presents a contradiction. If the cafeteria was never able to accommodate all students, there was an assumption that some form of out-to-lunch privileges would exist. This was a deliberate policy, not one thrust upon the school by overcrowding.

That being said, why isn't overcrowding in the library, the lack of an accessible balcony, and the off-limits nature of other school facilities good enough reason to let students out during frees?

The scanners already ensure that no student leaves during class, and can be utilized to make sure that students are not leaving the building to cut a class. Permitting students outside during free periods would greatly ease congestion in the building, as well as the noise, and mess produced during these periods. The reasons the administration gives for keeping us inside during frees are misguided. Letting students outside the building for free periods is something that we, as a student body, should be able to take advantage of, and a policy allowing us to do so should be enacted immediately.

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

 "The Pulse
of the
Student
Body"

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Maya Averbuch*

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Frankel*

NEWS EDITORS
Emma Lichtenstein*
Anika Rastgir
Devon Varrichione

FEATURES EDITORS
Jenny Fung
Arielle Gerber

OPINIONS EDITORS
Anastassia Bougakova
Daniel Solomon*
Leopold Spohngellert

ARTS &
ENTERTAINMENT
EDITORS
Shah Alam
Mollie Forman
Tong Niu*

SPORTS EDITORS

Phillip Godzin
Kris Lulaj

HUMOR EDITORS

James Frier
Eli Rosenberg

PHOTOGRAPHY

EDITORS
Joann Lee
Abe Levitan
Victoria Zhao

ART DIRECTORS

Linda Cai
Michelle Savran

LAYOUT EDITORS

Nasrin Akter
Ellen Chen
Nusrat Jahan

COPY EDITORS

Emmalina Glinskis
Jennifer Lam
Samantha Levine

BUSINESS MANAGERS

Nazifa Subah
Mark Zhang*

WEB EDITORS

Jong Lee
Vijendra Ramlall

FACULTY ADVISOR

Kerry Garfinkel

Please address all letters to:

345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282
(212) 312-4800 ext. 2601
letters@stuspectator.com

We reserve the right to edit letters

for clarity and length.
© 2012 The Spectator

All rights reserved by the creators.

* Managing Board Members

The Spectator

We are compiling an archive of past issues.

We are looking for issues published before 1995.

Please send any newspapers to:

The Stuyvesant Spectator
345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282

If you have any questions,
e-mail us at:
archives@stuspectator.com

A Note to Our Readers:

The Spectator will now accept unsolicited Op-Ed pieces written by outside students, faculty, and alumni. These columns, if selected, will be published in The Spectator's Opinions section. Recommended length is 700 words. Articles should address school related topics or items of student interest. Columns can be e-mailed to specreaderopinions@gmail.com.

Do you want to reflect on an article?
Or speak your mind?

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

FOR THE RECORD

- In "In Memory of Terence Tsao," senior Terence Tsao was struck by a car on Friday, December 16 and was pronounced dead on Saturday, December 17.
- In the Game Picks for Issue 10, the boys' swim team, the Pirates, was incorrectly referred to as the Penguins.
- Victoria Stempel's name was misspelled in the byline for the photo accompanying the article "The Not-So-Innocent Bystander."

Opinions

Hot-Wiring the DeLorean

By ADAM SCHORIN

On a recent 10-hour, super-delayed, red-eye flight, I couldn't get to sleep. Instead of working on any one of countless essays I had due the week we got back, I decided to flip through the overwhelming collection of in-flight movies to find something entertaining.

I eventually settled on "Beginners" (Christopher Plummer, Ewan McGregor. Not terrible.). Throughout the film, McGregor's character shows the viewer snapshots from 2003 (the film's setting) and 1955 (the year his parents were married). "This is what the sky looks

like in 2003," he says. "This is what it looked like in 1955."

Well, this is what an op-ed column looks like in 2012. And this is what a New York Times headline looked like in 2011: "Last Convoy of American Troops Leaves Iraq." And here's one from 1973: "U.S. Forces Out of Vietnam." This is the second time in the last 40 years that we've found ourselves leaving a war we had no business entering in the first place. Computers, cell phones, and other technology aside, not much has changed.

We find ourselves facing another post-war deficit like the one our parents faced in 1975

and, once again, we don't really know what to do about it. Once again, our growth rate is low, our unemployment high, and our national debt even greater. In fact, since we entered Iraq (a conflict that cost the United States almost \$5,000 per second), our public debt has increased by over \$500 billion each year. In layman's terms: when we start to pay taxes in the next few years, we will be completely, utterly, asphyxiatingly screwed.

Let's go back another 30 years to World War II, when the public debt reached its historic peak before being hushed down by American post-war expansion. We often cite World War II as the war that created enough jobs to rescue us from the Great Depression—but that is all it did. In reality, our post-WWII debt was as high as the current public debt. Layman-ish terms: in post-war expansion projects we found a short-term solution to convert our deficit into a surplus, but we never created a large enough surplus to eliminate our substantial debt.

Go back another 15 years and you stumble across the Great Depression, the indirect spawn of World War I. Before that, we had the Civil War, of which President Lincoln said, "It has produced a national debt and taxation unprecedented, at least in this country." The national debt after the Civil War was 40 times the size of the pre-war debt from just four years prior.

In fact, you could go all the way back to 1791, when the

recently implemented United States Constitution absolved, but failed to repay, some states' Revolutionary War debt. Older than baseball and apple pie, post-war debt has been part of our history since the foundation.

When I used to think of America, I usually thought of freedom and innovation and "sea to shining sea" and all that good naïve stuff that defined Whitman's America; now, recessions and mortgages and foreclosures come to mind. I am loath to look back and see war after war and deficit after deficit, forever expounding on the gargantuan taxes I, and my children and my grandchildren and their children forevermore, will have to pay because of previous deficits. (In that sense, our public debt at any given point in history is just the sum of prior generations' successes and errors.)

So shouldn't we be thrilled that we're finally pulling out of Iraq? Well, sort of. We should be—and I think we are, to some degree—but the truth is we've seen this movie so many times before that it's lost most of its excitement. We're spinning on a war-deficit carousel stuck in 1973 (or 1945 or 1929 or...) and we just want to get off, hop into our time-traveling DeLorean, and get back to the future where we won't be at war, and our debt will be in control, and we'll remember all that good stuff Whitman was talking about.

When Obama ran for president in 2008, my favorite campaign slogan was "Barack to the



Mark Zhang / The Spectator

Future." I liked that it was hopeful, and that it was a pop culture reference, and most of all that it was a reference that I got and that most of my friends didn't because they had never seen "Back to the Future" or heard of Marty McFly. Four years later, I can't help but feel that we've gone back to the past instead.

I don't have a solution. And that's not just because I'm not an economist, let alone a high school graduate—I don't think anyone has a solution. But the longer we put this off, the more we will have to pay. This is quite the hole we've dug for ourselves, and it may take years and years of economic rebuilding and non-war before we get to where we're trying to go. But for now, we're stuck in the past without enough electricity to jump-start to the future.



Linda Cai / The Spectator

Voting Valid

report, created by the New York University School of Law, the various voting restrictions will affect around five million voters, most of which demographically would vote for the Democratic Party.

Moreover, many of these restrictions are taking place strategically. The Republican legislators are specially targeting states that have been considered "battlegrounds" in past elections because of the lack of an overwhelming majority of support for any one party in their voter bases. These states are the most crucial wins for any party; thus, it is no coincidence that Republicans have already passed voting restrictions in five of the twelve states that are considered battlegrounds in the 2012 elections.

Examples of these restrictions are unsettlingly abundant. There are 19 different ways that these legislators are trying to restrict voters, and these restrictions have already been passed in around 14 states. In Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin, laws have already been passed stating that only those with state-issued licenses may vote. An additional 27 states are considering passing the same legislation. This law would also prevent the use of an out-of-state license as an I.D., preventing many students who will be studying out-of-state from voting.

Previously, only two states had such restrictions in place, making these new restrictions and the huge emphasis that so many states place on them seem all the more ridiculous.

It also eliminates the use of college I.D.'s instead of a state I.D., making it hard for students who don't have driver's licenses to vote. The laws particularly target minority voters, an overwhelming majority of whom

isolation has been passed that would prevent any attempts of registering during the week before and on Election Day. This measure restricts voting in general, but hits students and minorities, many of whom are busy studying or holding multiple jobs, extremely hard.

When Republican legislators put forth these laws, they're taking away our rights to our future. When young Americans vote, they're taking an active role in defining their own prospects. The next president of the United States will decide whether many of these students will be able to become employed once they leave college, or whether they will join the millions of college graduates who are staying home, jobless. The 2012 elections will decide whether Stuyvesant will be able to maintain the steady stream of famous alumni that it has cultivated in the past, or whether these brilliant minds will be forced to stagnate without opportunity. These elections will decide America's economic future, not to mention the number of other social issues—healthcare, abortion, and gay rights, among others—that are being debated in Washington right now.

The problem with most of our generation is that we don't take as much interest in politics as we should. Either we're too busy or politics is too boring and confusing to hold our interest. These legislators, instead of trying to build a strong and civic-minded voter base to take the place of the oldest voting generation, are exacerb-

When Republican legislators put forth these laws, they're taking away our rights to our future. When young Americans vote, they're taking an active role in defining their own prospects.

don't have the credentials to gain state I.D.'s. Other states are trying to prevent young voters on the basis that they paid out-of-state tuition. In Maine, Ohio, Florida, and Georgia, leg-

bating the problem by giving young voters, who may not really be wholeheartedly into the process, an amazing excuse not to vote. And those who do earnestly care about the issues of the 2012 election are being restricted through no fault of their own.

The problem with most of our generation is that we don't take as much interest in politics as we should.

Instead of encouraging us to vote, these laws are trying their best to focus themselves against our civil rights. These laws are an affront to the American ideals of freedom and the age-old right to choose our own leader. Let these laws and what they portend for the future of American politics be banished from our system as soon as possible.



Jenny Zhao / The Spectator

By NEETA D'SOUZA

An 18th birthday marks the gain of a significant right—the right to vote. During the 2012 elections, many high school graduates will be able to go out and vote for the next president of the United States. However, when many of these college students go out to the voting polls next November, they will be turned away for a multitude of petty reasons. They will be told that they have an out-of-state driver's license, or, if they don't have a driver's license, that their college I.D.'s are invalid. Through no fault of their own, their constitutional rights will be snatched from them because of the partisan nature of the 2012 elections.

This injustice is occurring through a wave of restrictions that are being ratified by many Republican state legislators. It affects not only the young, but also several minorities, especially Blacks and Latinos. According to a Brennan Center

Opinions

Jingle Bell Flop



By SUNG HEE HAN

"We need good seats," my mom said as she rushed me out of the house. It was 8 p.m. We arrived an hour early to an almost full house. It would begin at 9:30 p.m. I settled in for a long night at Church. As usual, I spent a majority of my time counting the Gucci and Louis Vuitton bags and mink coats. And as usual, I lost count.

The lights dimmed at exactly 9:20 sharp at St. Paul

I sang along with the rest of the choir from the rice-paper-thin books full of songs I didn't understand.

Chong Ha-Sang Roman Catholic Church's two-and-a-half-hour Christmas Eve mass. The service began, and we sat in holy silence for ten minutes. At approximately 10:10, my fellow church members and I lined up pew by pew to pay respects to a baby Jesus doll lying in front of an altar of serious priests and altar hands. Baby Jesus, bearing a startling resemblance to Alfie, my Health class Baby Project, down to its porcelain skin and piercing blue eyes, was clad in a stylish silk baby blue and pink Han-bok (traditional Korean clothing).

I sang along with the rest of the choir from the rice-paper-thin books full of songs I didn't understand. I sat through the first and second readings, the gospel and the homily, picking up just "Baby Jesus," "Christ," and "Amen" from the sea of religious Korean vernacular, which sounded almost nothing like the Korean I was used to at home and more like another tongue altogether. Easy to tune out. The clicks and blinding flashes of multiple cameras punctuated the rest of mass. I looked up occasionally to catch more than one choir member pulling Ashlee Simpson-esque blunders and frantically looking over at other members for

cues.

"Just think about your sins. Tell God you're sorry. Forgive," my mom told me.

Somebody should have apologized to me for making me suffer on Christmas Eve. I endured three hours in my crowded pew, counting down till Christmas, the jolly commercialized holiday of giving and receiving gifts.

America's commercialized Christmas is no better to me than the Christmas I am forced to celebrate in Church. A Charlie Brown struggling to find the meaning of Christmas, living in a chimney and fireplace-less condominium, and never having owned an actual Christmas tree, I questioned and then forgave Santa on every 25th day of December for having missed my house every year for as long as I can remember.

I watch as my friends joyously celebrate the happy holidays they spend with their families. I listen to them speak of gifts and Christmas dinners. To me, their warm holiday cheer is as foreign as the dialect of my church.

How did my Christmas become so underwhelming?

I had tried to celebrate Christmas like any other child. In fourth grade I decided that the Han family Christmas of 2004 would not go without a Christmas tree. If my family would not take Christmas seriously, I would take the reins, I told my young naïve self. I took a trip to Home Depot and brought home three low maintenance, pre-decorated Christmas trees that only needed to be plugged in. As I sat in awe at the Christmas spirit flooding my deprived home, the rest of my family sniffed. "It takes up too much space," they complained.

In seventh grade, after years of present-less Christmases, I decided to spend an alarming sum of money on what I thought were perfect gifts for my family members. In return, I received thoughtless presents from the apathetic members of my family.

I'm caught in a crossroad, and I can't go either way. I want the classic, carol singing, cook-

How did my Christmas become so underwhelming?

ie baking, Santa-worshiping Christmas. My family wants nothing to do with it. Unfortunately for me, you can't have a traditional Christmas if your family won't take part.

The 25th of December has been crossed off my calendar like any other day of the year. Someday, I'll get around to trying eggnog and getting to know what the excitement of waking up Christmas morning feels like. Maybe my Christmas won't be perfectly holy or wrapped in a bow, but it will be mine. I can't wait.

Student Auction Block

By GERALD NELSON

This fall, I packed myself into a neat little file, whose contents constituted all that I have become in my life up to this point in time. Call it a product description, if you wish, or a preview for prospective buyers. It contained all the necessary evaluative data to prove I was a well-built machine: grades, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, awards, and a few choice words of my own to remind myself that I was human. I fretted over every last detail, trying to fold and cut my life into an attractive little portrait on paper. The process was introspective, but oddly alienating, as I attempted to morph my subjective experiences into reviewable data, and pretended that somehow there was something spiritual about selling myself. Product Nelson hit the student market in the fall of 2011 along with thousands of other similarly processed and itemized lives vying for selection by leading academic institutions.

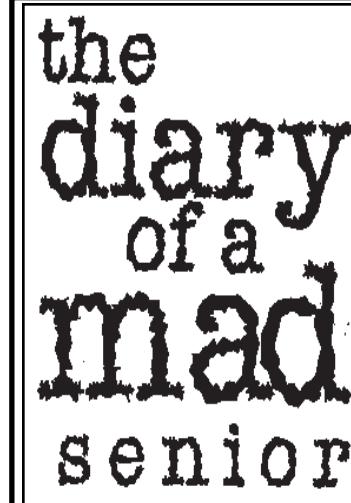
I assessed my stock and made a careful estimation of my chances when considering my applications. Throughout high school, all my labors were a process of price elevation. Each advanced class added value to my bid; every subject test jumped up my price tag; internships, volunteering, and extracurricular activities upped the speculation. A good recommendation ensured the integrity of the product, and every accomplishment raised the buyer's trust of my expected performance, in exchange for offered opportunity.

Both parties are looking for a fair trade. I had my scores and a couple of pretty words and they had—well, my future. It's all about the reconciliation of interests; shrewd students must understand what they want and what their colleges want, and then the imaginary negotiations can go on from there.

Careful market research is a must for success. A student must know what motivates today's academic institution—have a good handle on what influences that college's consumer tastes. In short, I had to make sure I wasn't selling onions to a school that was looking for potatoes. Every supplemental question had to be answered with an intimate understanding of my client's interest. I had to highlight the parts of myself that would fit their fancy. Simply put, I had to re-invent myself in the eyes of each new institution.

We have been taught to believe that choosing a college is a choice of such gravity that it stands to affect all other opportunities available to us for the rest of our life, so there was a lot riding on this sale; it was arguably the ultimate goal of my entire high school career. Years of product development could all be rendered meaningless without the right story to tell. It seemed as if every investment in my life had come up to this—the next few hundred words I wrote on my application.

After answering the twenty-thousandth question that asked me to somehow turn my life into an equation or relate myself to cubism, the whole college application process felt a little contrived. The act of be-



ing "deep" on demand seemed itself to be shallow. Answering each question was like doing a performance on paper, transforming my memories, feeling, and experiences into a consumable narrative. Such personal experiences don't



ture as everyone else. I would have loved to say my eagerness was the result of the die-hard scholar in me, but lying to oneself isn't healthy. No, my motivations were less pure. Like so many others, I wanted to be a collectible. I wanted to find myself in the collection of an elite school with a sticker that says "Limited Edition" and feel that sense of pride befitting of such an accomplishment. Though it may be seldom discussed, one's college acceptance is undoubtedly related to one's sense of self-esteem. We internally rate ourselves as academics, if not more as people, based upon where we get in. Contentment only comes as constellation to prestige.

Though all the seniors may rejoice once their college apps are finished in January, only one stage of the game is done. As strange as it sounds to speak of ourselves in this way, marketing oneself is a consistent requirement of modern society. Once I enter the job market, I will again assume my status as a self-distributing entrepreneur in the business of a new and improved Product Nelson with a college education upgrade. It's a never ending process that seems to suggest that market principles underlie everything we do. Perhaps we should all just major in economics.

But, in all seriousness, we have to be careful not to treat ourselves as objects rather than subjects. When selecting college we must be motivated by the desire for internal growth through development of our skills and abilities rather than simply all the external benefits like a good reputation and a high social standing among academics. So, to those of you who have yet to apply to college: when the time comes, before you completely give yourself over to the world of self-marketing, remember that you are more than just a product.

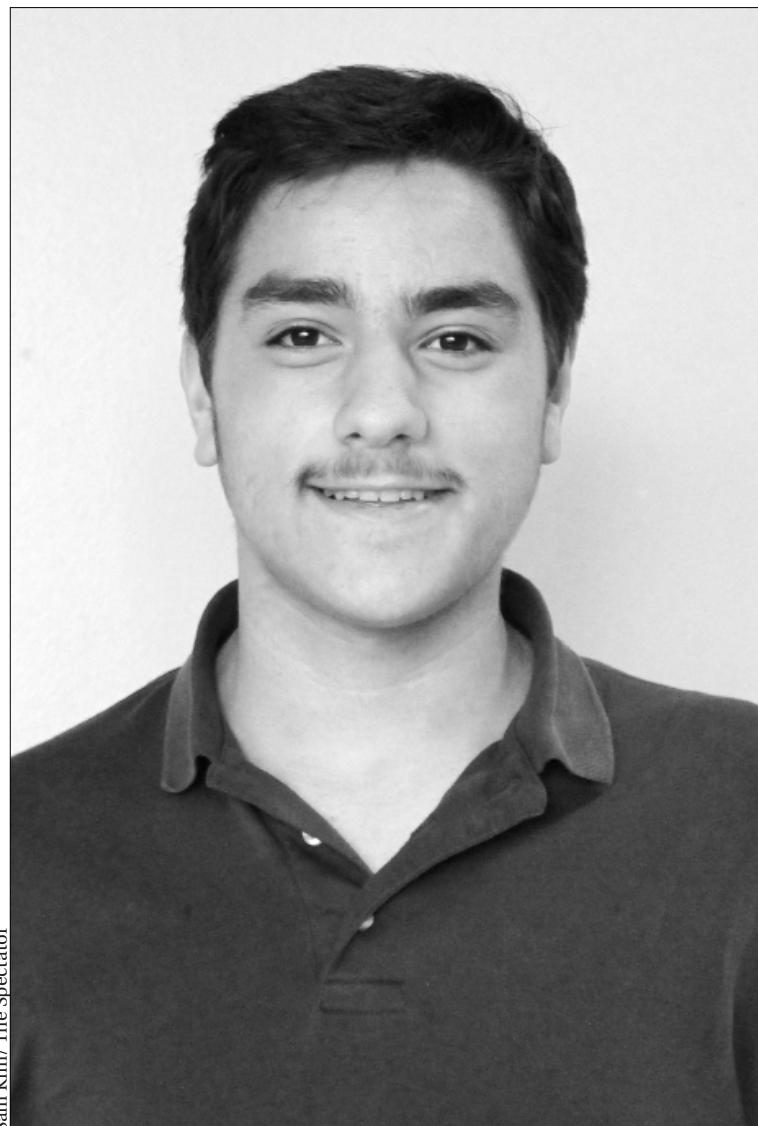


Victoria Zhao/The Spectator

Myra Xiong/The Spectator

Opinions

Just Do It



Sam Kim/The Spectator

By JACK CAHN

Students are often required to subordinate themselves to all adults and teachers, deemed too young and immature to actively participate in society. We are asked instead to accept our inferior status within the education system until we are "ready" for the real world. When I was thirteen years old,

a teacher explained to me that the world is broken up into levels, with young people on the lowest level, and we ought to accept our place on that level or face consequences. Although surprised then, I have since learned that this is in fact the reality of our society, having been commanded by some to "stop asking questions," and taught by others that "young people are too immature to be given responsibility."

A couple of weeks ago, Rita Goldwasser Meed, a guest lecturer in Mr. Sandler's Jewish History elective, inspired me by offering a refreshing outlook on the role of young people in society. She told the story of Mordechai Anielewicz, a seventeen year old polish Jew who led the strongest and longest-lasting resistance movement against the Nazis during the WWII Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. A picture of Anielewicz even showed him to appear younger than most Stuyvesant students. His dedication, passion, and actions inspire me, and draw me to reconsider the values of the education system. Are students in fact inferior, or do they have the potential to bring about change like the young Anielewicz did?

I've always wanted to bring about change in the world; I've wanted to take action to improve the quality of life for those who aren't fortunate enough to help themselves. And so thinking about the actions of Anielewicz I can't help but wonder whether I'm wasting my time in school. If I want to take action to improve a world which I find sick, why am I blindly following the system which that world has put in place? We go to school each day for more than seven hours, returning home to do homework, and subsequently going to sleep – only to wake up the next morning to carry out that same routine once again, rarely questioning its value to our lives. Of course we're gain-

Moreover, students should begin to acknowledge our own potential to bring about real change from a young age. Personally, I don't want to wait until I'm twenty-six to start bringing about change.

ing an education, but we are capable of so much more.

Students around the world have shown themselves able to bring about change. It was students who spearheaded the civil rights movement, the women's rights movement, the anti-Vietnam war movement, the movement to save the soviet Jewry and the Russian revolution. Today, it is young people who are changing the world, capturing world headlines. Young people launched the Arab Spring, and the Occupy Movement. In fact, a mere ten year old girl was able to launch an entire feminist movement in Yemen with her book, "I am Nujood, Age 10, and Divorced."

Outside of politics too, young people are being recognized for their admirable tal-

ent, with the Current Biography Yearbook citing 8 Presidents, 8 Nobel Prize laureates, and 25 billionaires who dropped out of school and performed phenomenally in their early years, launching them into the careers in which they would change the world. Many of us know the now famous stories of Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and Mark Zuckerberg who dropped out schools and not only made fortunes for themselves, but also revolutionized their specialized fields.

While not all of us are geniuses like these famous men and will continue our education to earn degrees before entering the "real world," we must acknowledge that young people really do have the potential to change the world. This is especially true at Stuyvesant, a school filled with unique, talented, and skilled students.

The attitude of adults must change. Students should not be treated as inferior beings, nor should they be subordinated by the education system, their teachers, or their advisors. Students are individuals with great potential, capable of changing the world, and if the goal of the education system is to be conducive of their future success, they should be treated as such. Educators should assume the role of an advisor, aiding students, their equals, along their educational journey, as opposed to instructors, force-feeding their students with information.

More importantly, the attitudes of students themselves must change. Instead of getting caught up in the routine of school, we must begin to see school as a means to an end, an education to facilitate for us to perform our future jobs and experiences with great care, quality, and efficiency. We must continuously look at the bigger picture, asking ourselves if what we are doing is conducive to our own goals, our own hopes, and our own endeavors.

Moreover, students should begin to acknowledge our own

potential to bring about real change from a young age. Personally, I don't want to wait until I'm twenty-six to start bringing about change. I started my first internship the summer before 7th grade, not for college, but because I want to get involved NOW, and since then, I have continued to avidly pursue opportunities in the real world.

There are so many brilliant students at Stuyvesant. Every one of us can start making a difference today. Whether you get an internship, begin practicing your hobby at home, or join the occupy wall street protests, it's about time you get out into the real world, get your hands dirty, get your feet wet, and just do it.

While not all of us are geniuses like these famous men and will continue our education to earn degrees before entering the "real world," we must acknowledge that young people really do have the potential to change the world.

Students around the world have shown themselves able to bring about change. It was students who spearheaded the civil rights movement, the women's rights movement, the anti-Vietnam war movement, the movement to save the soviet Jewry and the Russian revolution.



Linda Cai/The Spectator

Opinions

Diversifying the Language Department



Nicholas Fung/The Spectator

By BENJAMIN ATTAL

For the past few years, the NYC Department of Education has been about budget cuts galore. Schools across the city have been affected by these cuts, and most of the time subjects other than the core academics absorb the shock. The language departments in most city schools have had to bear the brunt of the cutbacks, and in many schools, all languages but one have been cancelled. Beacon, which offers only Spanish (with the exception of one section of beginner's French), and Staten Island Tech, which only offers Russian, are but two of many examples where schools have had to drastically cut down on their language departments.

Even at Stuyvesant, administrators have eliminated languages. In the fall of 2010, the Arabic program at Stuyvesant was cancelled due to budget cuts that the City had instituted the year before. The termination of Arabic at Stuyvesant was due to the small number of students who took the class, so few mourned or even noticed the loss. In the past four years, Hebrew and Ancient Greek have also been eliminated from the roster of language courses. Cuts such as these make me fear for the fate of some of the other less popular languages at Stuyvesant, such as German, Japanese, and Latin. Though they may not have as many students as powerhouse languages such as Mandarin and Spanish, prac-

ticality shouldn't be the only thing behind language choice. A thirst for knowledge in general is just as important a skill to have. As a Latin student myself, I can confidently say that taking a more unique language has improved my overall high school experience.

Though they may not have as many students as powerhouse languages such as Mandarin and Spanish, practicality shouldn't be the only thing behind language choice. A thirst for knowledge in general is just as important a skill to have.

Latin, with only two sections per level, makes it a relatively small and tightly knit community as opposed to language classes with higher enrollment. "Students can become very comfortable with each other and with their teacher," said Latin teacher Dr. Susan Brock-

man. "There is a community which forms as well." A much less intimate community and lack of opportunities for personal relationships may confront students of languages with multiple teachers and numerous sections. It doesn't matter that I'll be able to speak Latin to others in the future. Right now, all that matters is that I'm getting a fantastic language experience in an environment more nurturing than others you'll find at Stuyvesant. In a place with such varied language options to indulge in, it's a shame that more people don't take advantage of all of the choices and instead stick to Spanish and Mandarin.

The process of learning a language should be rewarding in and of itself, and it's unfortunate that a language's value is becoming more and more tied to its later usefulness as a spoken language. And it's not that less subscribed languages at Stuyvesant aren't useful today: Japanese is used widely in business, and German is important for engineering and is spoken in many European countries. As for Latin, though it may no longer be spoken, it is still very relevant to our society. Countless important works were written in Latin, it forms the basis for other Romantic languages, and it gives us an important look into past cultures from which we are still learning. And even if you're not focused on business, engineering, or the history of language, high school is one of those times in a person's life where one should be able to explore and develop one's interests, to follow one's curiosity, and to learn what one really wants simply because it's cool. I've heard students say that we shouldn't even keep Latin and Japanese. I hope this is not the majority position, as I value diversity in language offerings, and appreciate that Stuyvesant still has some very valuable

smaller language offerings.

In a school where it's all about the routine and it's dangerously easy to become just a face in the crowd, Stuyvesant's smaller language options allow students to increase their own sense of self. They provide opportunities for students to be involved in a smaller community within Stuyvesant, and they support the diverse interests of the student body. It's not

High school is a time where one should be able to explore their interests, to follow one's curiosity, and to learn what they want simply because they think it's cool.

that languages like Spanish and Mandarin can't also provide the opportunity to learn something interesting and useful – but when there are more choices, the whole student body becomes a more fascinating (and multilingual) place. And, as Dr. Brockman says, smaller languages like Latin "can be an anchor in an otherwise slightly impersonal school" – and who hasn't wished for something like that?

The Monthly Getaway



Christy Ku/The Spectator

By REMY MOORHEAD

I went to my first Stuyvesant Open Mic as a sophomore. Two friends of mine were performing that day, so I decided to go.

While waiting for my friends to go on, I became engrossed in the other performances. Each student got up from his or her seat, gripped the podium, bared his or her soul to the audience, and walked off into a sea of applause, one after the other. I'd passed by many of these people

dozens of times in the hallways and never thought twice about them, but here they all were, bravely and skillfully performing their own raps, poems, and songs.

Suddenly, the conveyor belt of students stopped, and a teacher, introducing himself as Mr. Weil, hopped on. Another dimension was added to the event as it extended from students sharing their angst, hardships, and loves, to teachers equating themselves to each person in the room and partaking in the intimacy. Mr. Weil opened up his notebook and read to us a piece about his father—about his life, his death, and his relationships. He gripped the podium just like the rest of us and spoke in a conversational tone. He invited us into his life and had me crying and laughing, sometimes both at the same time.

It wasn't until my junior year that I came to see another Open Mic. I wanted to go, but there always seemed to be a dentist appointment to make, a movie to see, or a party to go to. But once I began taking Mr. Weil's Creative Non-fiction class, I pushed my excuses

aside. He encouraged us to be a part of the creative community, to share our work, and to listen to other students share

In a school as large as ours, there is nothing more valuable than these two hours of unfettered intimacy and expression.

theirs. After hearing him read, I couldn't ignore his advice.

And so, I signed up to read

a piece I'd written for Creative Non-Fiction class. But I was faced with one small problem: I have pretty bad stage fright. Not just nerves but physical stage fright. My stage fright makes my heart beat too fast, it makes my lips quiver, and I feel as if there's never enough air in my lungs to force the words out. Two sentences in, I almost gave up. Four pages in, I realized it was too long. But somehow, I plowed through it, and I remember feeling prouder and freer than I ever had.

On the first Friday of every month, fifty students gather in the library and create a space steeped in acceptance and openness. Insecurity is nonexistent, even if that is the subject of a poem you wrote. There is no judgment; everyone listens and appreciates, and your voice is heard. From 2:45 to 4:30, nothing is relevant other than the people in front of you and the unspoken connections you've made. In a school as large as ours, there is nothing more valuable than these two hours of unfettered intimacy and expression.

On the first Friday of every month, fifty students gather in the library and create a space steeped in acceptance and openness. Insecurity is nonexistent, even if that is the subject of a poem you wrote.

Opinions

Respect the Republicans



Philip Shin / The Spectator

By DAVID CAHN

"Rick Perry, that voice inside your head is not God," reads the Hudson Highway advertisement for Manhattan Mini Storage. Another ad goads, "If you store your stuff outside the

city, it might come back Republican."

It seems that everywhere I go, from the crowded hallways of Stuyvesant, to Wall Street, City Hall, and even the subway, I constantly hear slurs against Republicans. "I don't hate

all Republicans, it's just that they're so stupid," commented a friend of mine casually, as we exited our first period class.

Similar comments are commonplace today, as Democrats and Republicans battle over unimportant issues (e.g., the recent payroll tax debate) and fail to address their constituents' deepest concerns. Just a few months ago, in the heat of the debt ceiling crisis, irresponsible behavior by Congress caused the downgrading of the United States' credit rating.

Rather than compromise, each party blamed the other, labeling their opponents as foolish and infantile. Rather than accepting their opponents' views as legitimate, and developing solutions that would be mutually acceptable, both parties disparaged each other, with some liberals calling Republicans "Tea Party Terrorists" and some Republicans calling all Democrats "Socialists and Statists." As an independent, I'm embarrassed by this partisanship that causes our government to have an approval rating of 11%, according to Gallop polling data.

All over America, people believe that their ideas and their peers' ideas are unquestionably true. News outlets no longer remain impartial, as Fox News caters to the conservatives and CNN to the liberals. We go to school where everyone agrees with us, and we are friends only with people who agree with us. We even live in communities that tend to reinforce our political beliefs. We become so

engrained in our own sheltered beliefs that we ignore what the opposing party is saying.

At a time when comprehensive overhauls of U.S. policy, new plans, and forward thinking are necessary to combat growing threats, from unemployment to terrorism, to China's rising power, to global warming, and the economic collapse of America, it seems like we're falling apart. Peggy Noonan of the Wall Street Journal explains, "the glue that held us together for more than two centuries has thinned and cracked with age." Yet, instead of closing the partisan divide in America through productive dialogue, we blame Congress.

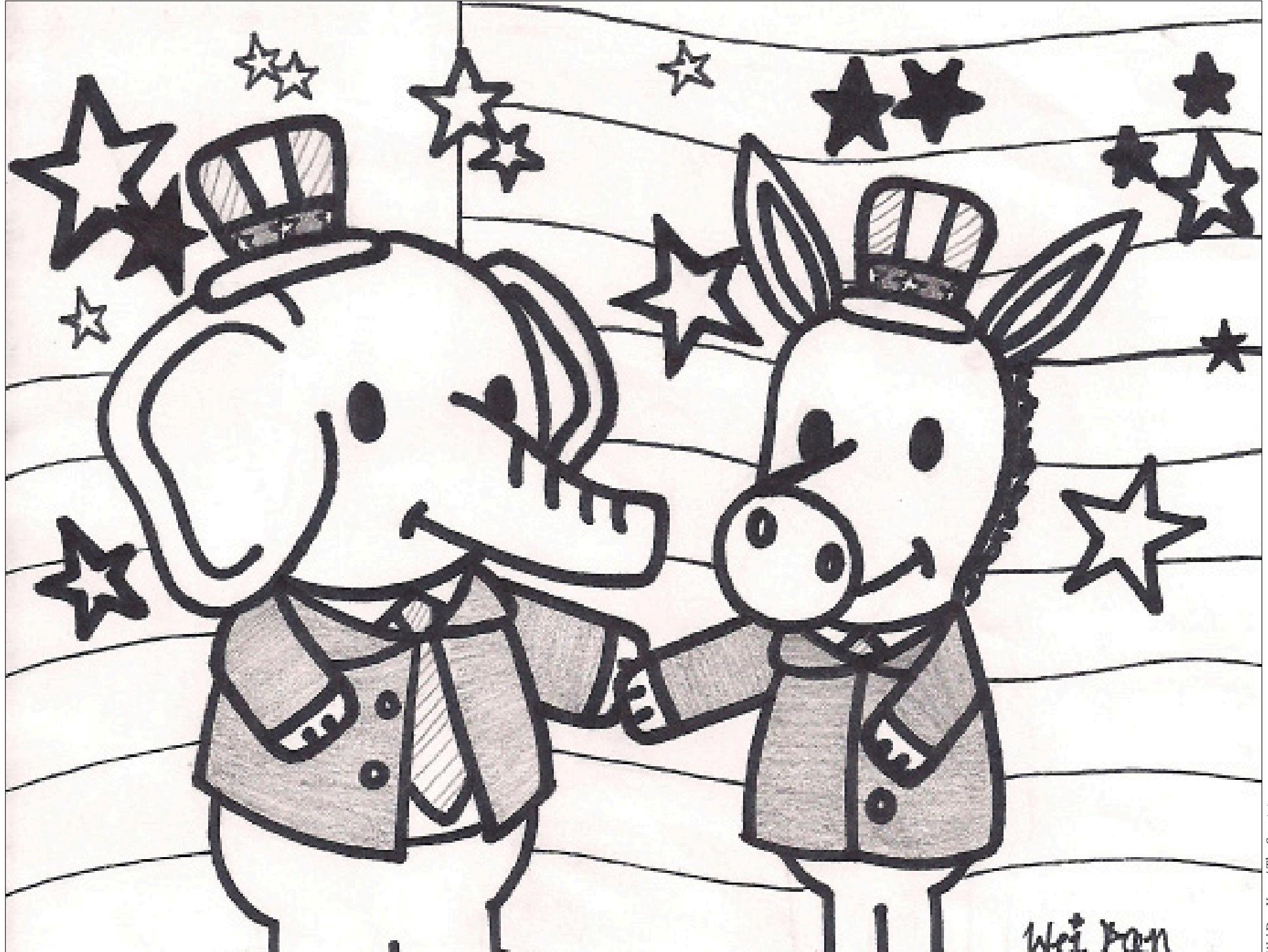
We shun politicians as being arrogant and hard-headed. We tell ourselves that if it weren't for all the crooked, good-for-nothing politicians who live off the money of lobbyists, our country would be better off. Better yet, we blame the other party. "If it weren't for the Republicans stopping President Obama, we'd be out of this recession," the left shouts. Meanwhile, the right claims that it is Obama who causes our incompetence.

Yet, how can we blame Congress when we too part of the problem? When students, the voice of change, hope, innovation and passion in America, fall prone to the same disastrous pandering as Congress, where is the hope? "The Republicans are so stupid, they're running a pizza man for President," one student shouts as she boards the 3-to-5 escalator. If we are

too ignorant to recognize and respect the opinions of others, then the doomsayers are right: America will fall apart. If we continue the disastrous trend of ignoring half our country, and disparaging them as "the ignorant masses," then America cannot survive.

What is the glue that has held America together? Noonan describes it as the idealistic quest for liberty, equality, and property; patriotism and the love of America; an appreciation for freedom that our ancestors never possessed. To reinvigorate America on a global scale, we have to unite around these common precepts. Regardless of their individual, party-based goals and idiosyncrasies, Republicans, Democrats, and even members of The Rent Is Too Damn High Party all have the common goal of improving America – continuing the tradition of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." That much we can accept.

As we watch Congress dig our country into deeper problems, and politicians attack each other for being bipartisan (for example, recent attacks on Jon Huntsman who had the courage to work for "the enemy"), we need to take it upon ourselves to cut the partisanship and adopt a more open-minded worldview, accepting the opinions of others, and using them to develop concrete plans for our future. We need to develop policy, not politics – to stop talking and start doing.



Wei Dan Yang / The Spectator

Opinions

The Solomon Column: No Preference



By DANIEL SOLOMON

This has been a trying month at Stuyvesant High School. It all began on December 8, when the Ivies and other top colleges released their decisions in the early round of undergraduate admissions.

As the universities' renderings wound up on Facebook and worked their way through the grapevine, I was sometimes shocked by the outcomes, but it wasn't too hard to put my finger on what had happened. Inherently, the college process is marked by risk and randomness, the decisions seeming almost a result of force majeure. Of course, though, they aren't. Elite schools, in addition to their commitment to the public interest, also must take care of institutional needs, a prerogative that leads to preferences in admissions for particular groups, specifically legacies, athletes, and underrepresented minorities -- categories that

few Stuy students fall into.

I have always been ardently against advantages for the children of alumni; I believe they privilege the privileged. Sportsmen and sportswomen - I have largely brushed them off, because like everyone else in this country, I know March Madness wouldn't be the same without them. However, I have wrestled over preferences for blacks and Latinos. Liberals usually support affirmative action. Nonetheless, as someone who has seen more than a few classmates ascend to the pinnacle of our own ivory tower, only to be slapped back down by a rejection from a first-choice college, I have arrived at my opposition to the practice as a simple matter of fairness.

In the real world, the most significant fault of affirmative action is that it makes outmoded assumptions about race, accepting as fact a dubious correlation between skin color and socio-economic sta-

tus. Take for instance the example of my classmates. Many of them come from immigrant backgrounds or belong to families that have overcome economic hardship. Meanwhile, the black and Latino students at Stuy and at other schools of its ilk are not representative of the overall national population, tending to have wealthier and better-educated parents. Furthermore, at Stuy, it is likely that the majority of blacks trace their roots to the Caribbean rather than the American South, thus benefiting from a system that wasn't designed to give them a leg up.

Beyond its practical problems, the legal and ideological justifications of affirmative action have serious flaws. Since Earl Warren's Supreme Court incorporated the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause down to the states, distinctions made on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin (suspect classifications, in legal parlance) have been subject to "strict scrutiny," the most rigorous form of judicial review, in which the burden of proof rests on the discriminator, who must show that the scheme he has established advances a compelling societal interest. Affirmative action, as the Court views it, has jumped this hurdle. In the 1978 case of University of California v. Bakke, the justices split the baby, holding that while no specific quotas could be set, institutions of higher education could take race into account when doling out admissions because

diversity was critical to the nation's welfare. That ruling, reaffirmed by the University of Michigan cases of 2003, defines diversity too narrowly. Diversity does not have to be racial; it

from a Texas public school than there is between a black kid and a white kid who both attended Groton or Andover.

Finally, turning to ideology, I have come to realize that those who champion affirmative action fundamentally misunderstand liberalism. President Lyndon Johnson, in a 1965 commencement speech at Howard University, said, "it is not enough just to open the gates of opportunity. All our citizens must have the ability to walk through those gates," adding, "we seek not just legal equity but human ability, not just equality as a right and a theory but equality as a fact and equality as a result." I admire LBJ greatly, but he is wrong on two counts. Liberals and socialists believe in equal opportunity, but tolerate unequal outcomes. Communists, at least the Marxist-Leninists, think equal outcome should be enforced by a government that has no respect for the sanctity of private property or human rights. By my estimation, admission to the Ivies or other top colleges is more an outcome than an opportunity; it gives the student a spot in an educational aristocracy that has significant overlap with this country's ruling class.

For liberals, the question becomes, "How do we create equal opportunity?" The answer is to do what we have always done: continue the fight for good schools and a strong social safety net, which allow people to scale the socio-economic ladder.

In the real world, the most significant fault of affirmative action is that it makes outmoded assumptions about race, accepting as fact a dubious correlation between skin color and socio-economic status.

can also be socioeconomic or geographic. Indeed, as my U.S. Government teacher pointed out to our class, there is more difference between a rich white kid from a Manhattan private school and a poor white kid

New Year's Eve by the Photo Department



Reflections

On My Beloved Son Terence

By TING MAN TSAO

It is with both cutting pain and everlasting pride that I write about my son Terence, whose life was cut tragically short by a drunk driver last Friday night. He was returning home after his usual board games club activity at Stuyvesant High School. But his weekly "fun" night routine turned out to be his last activity in this world. After the crash that threw him yards away from where he was standing, Terence was sent to Lutheran Medical Center, where my wife, my daughter and I later joined him while he was struggling for survival and to communicate with us by moving his hands and his left leg, despite his multiple internal and external injuries. My dearest friend and colleague arrived shortly to support Terence and us. A team of physicians operated on him for about five hours, trying to stop his bleeding but to no avail. Tearful and emotional, the medical team came out at about 5 a.m. on Saturday, pronouncing that he had just passed away. We went inside the operating room to see Terence. Though with many wounds and scars on his head and face, he looked exactly the same: a very handsome and innocent teenager. My wife and I touched and kissed him.

We were devastated, but we were nonetheless well supported by relatives, friends, and many, many people throughout the schools that he attended (Stuyvesant, IS 187, PS 105, and PS 101), the media, the city agencies, and the wider community.

And indeed we felt fortunate that Terence's organs (including cornea, bones, and heart valves), despite the deadly injuries all over the body, were successfully recovered by the New York Organ Donor Network for transplantation.

A serious scholar and thinker; a caring (albeit naughty) big brother; a lovely (yet sometimes drive-us-nuts) son; a generous friend who always wore a smile and said "hi"; a dedicated kung fu, tai chi learner; a promising Stuyvesant senior who already got accepted by Allegheny College with a Trustee Scholarship, Bard College, and UNC Asheville (also with a Trustee Scholarship); a young man who aspired to "make a difference in the world" by becoming an environmental scientist; Terence had unique personality, virtues, accomplishments, and life experiences. Even though Terence is no longer with me, I will share with the public his legacy so that his dreams will someday become other people's dreams as well.

My Brother Terence Tsao

By TERENA TSAO

The day ends when our family comes together to eat dinner and talk about what happened throughout the day. Terence needs to relax before doing homework. Homework time! My brother studies hard to get good grades and a better future. Whenever I go into his room, his nose is buried in a thick textbook or his homework. My brother goes to sleep very late. Sometimes he sleeps only one or two hours. To my family, my brother is sometimes not "here," because he seldom speaks and is so busy these days with school and applying to college.

Like all older children, my brother has to set a good example for me. My brother had photography homework where he had to take different kinds of photos (like flash light or portrait). He even asked me if he could take photos of my toys, and if I could pose for him so he could take a portrait. I saw that my brother was very into taking photos, and was enjoying it, so I took the other camera and followed him. Soon, my brother and I were walking around the house taking many photos. I enjoyed taking photos.

My brother and I enjoyed playing

together. We played all kinds of things. My brother created many games, like Sumo. In the game Sumo, we marked a ring. Then, inside the ring, we would wrestle. My brother comes up with all tricky moves. For example, he would skip around the ring. When I tried to push him out of the ring, he turned, and I fell out of the ring and lost. Sometimes, when I got hold of him and tried to push him out of the ring, he turned and pushed me out instead. How tricky he was! He could trick a fox into giving up his fur. If you played Sumo with my brother, you'd better watch out, or else you would lose!

I hope you have a brother like mine.

Father's comments: College application forced everyone in the family to write. Terence's sister wrote a peer evaluation essay in support of Terence's application to Dartmouth. Her essay captures both the serious and the lighter sides of her brother. After Terence's passing, Terena asked, "Who will play Sumo with me?"

Terence Tsao's College Essay

Between Sweet Home and Independence



Courtesy of Ting Man Tsao

Ever since I was a baby, I've had a particularly good relationship with my parents, who spent a lot of time interacting with me and patiently serving all of my daily needs and wants. With a happy family life and everything satisfied, I had little reason to become independent or to ever think about independence. I didn't think I needed to develop a life outside home. This changed when I entered high school. It no longer seemed to me that all my sources of happiness could be found at home, and I wished to explore new interests and make more friends. Home is still where I can always find comfort and warmth, but it continues to constrain my exploration of life beyond this environment.

A big part of me is owed to my parents. My first memories were of my father reading nap-

time stories. In the afternoon or at night, he read me a wide range of books—Monster Soup, Pokèmon, The Lost World, Monster Beach, The Paper Boy, and many others. He also taught me to recite Tang poetry in Cantonese. After he read me my first chapter book, I began to read on my own. Trips to the local library, accompanied by my father, were always joyous, and I would choose and borrow fifteen or more books. Although I enjoyed reading, I had trouble with writing and math. I would listen attentively to my father pointing out weaknesses in my composition, motivating me to write better. My mother thoroughly improved my handle on multiplication, division, fraction, ratio, and other basic math concepts until I could appreciate the inner mechanics of algebra. The guidance my par-

ents gave me at home made me more confident in elementary and junior high school, provoking my curiosity to learn more.

But sometimes it was the lack of parental guidance that motivated me to learn. My parents were immigrants from Hong Kong and retain Chinese culture. They speak Cantonese at home, read Chinese newspapers, cook Cantonese-style food, and often talk about their hometown. From a young age, I tried to express myself in my very limited Cantonese, which resulted in awkward pauses and unintelligible phrases. Worried about my language development, my father angrily tried to stop me from speaking Cantonese, but I was stubborn and continued to speak the dialect with a thick accent. I became more eager to learn Chinese because of annual summer va-

cations in Hong Kong. While I think I understood my parents most of the time, I had difficulty communicating with my cousins in Hong Kong, as they often used slang and jokes unique to their young generation. That's why I was obsessed with the thought of learning Chinese formally, until I started taking Mandarin classes in high school. The classes turned out to be very challenging. I found it difficult to master the four tones of Mandarin (Cantonese has entirely different tones) and memorize lists of characters on a daily basis. My parents' good-humored teasing didn't help. But I finally passed the Mandarin Regents Exam after attending extra hours of tutoring. My Chinese still needs improvement. I will continue to work at it so that I can one day joke with my relatives and friends in Hong Kong.

While I cherish fond memories of my childhood and am proud of my cultural heritage, I've started to notice, since high school, how a lot of the things that I want to do are away from home. I am interested in environmental science and aspire to explore different natural habitats that may not only be distant from home, but may also seem dangerous to my concerned parents. I've also made friends at the school with unique personalities, and have enjoyed hanging out with them after school. Even when I am at home, my parents often complain that "I am not there" because my mind is occupied with difficult school work, which my parents can no longer help with. I've also become aware that my parents can only represent their own perspectives on a matter. At dinner table, they often express cynicism about local, national and international problems, such as global warming, corruption in government, and

deteriorating education systems (both are educators). They are disgruntled with what is imposed on them to do unnecessary things in the classroom when they are powerless to say no. But I do not share their pessimistic views. I believe there is hope for resolving these issues if we take appropriate action. And I want to go to college to study the environment to make a difference.

While I strive for increased independence from home to fulfill my dreams, a part of me is concerned about the prospect of separating from my parents and my sister. Like most parents, my father and mother worry about their children living by themselves far from home. In addition, both my parents and I fear that our bonding may weaken as I become accustomed to independence, and I have a little sister (eight years younger than me) at home who will miss me as a playmate and big brother. As my parents grow older, it worries me that I won't be able to be with them when they need me. The recent passing of my grandparents made me realize the time spent with loved ones can be short. Although I have never had a lot of time to spend with family since the beginning of high school, I've at least had a constant presence at home. I see the three of them every day and help out with household chores. But leaving home is quite different, and I hope we will adjust.

Father's comments: The year before Terence's death, we kind of got adjusted to his leaving home for college as he was so busy every day with his studies and activities: we felt as though he were not "there" at home. But we never knew that he had actually prepared us for his eternal absence by keeping himself busy.

Terence Tsao's College Essays

My Interest in Deep Springs

I see Deep Springs as a place where I can explore nature physically and intellectually. I'm an active teenager practicing kung fu and tai chi under Grandmaster Zhang Yuan. Through martial arts training, I've found that different environments present their own challenges for my body movements. On cold, windy days, I want to practice kung fu more than tai chi. By kicking, punching, and jumping with speed and power, I can warm up and stretch my lazy muscles. Yet, the cold air still feels piercingly harsh when I gasp for oxygen, and I have to suppress the discomfort of feeling stuffy and sticky in my jacket, but cold everywhere else, to make quick and powerful movements. Hot, sunny days make me sweat even more, and I practice tai chi to relax myself. Gently waving hands like clouds, weaving my body like a shuttle, and standing on one leg, I concentrate on my qi (inner energy) and be calm while absorbing the burning sun rays and humid air. I believe I can further develop my growing interest in body movements by participating in the labors that form a major component of student life at Deep Springs. Farming, gardening, cleaning toilets, and herding—just like martial arts—will deepen my understanding of my physical interactions with the environment.

Beside physical activities, I

also have some experience in interacting with nature through scientific research. As I aspire to be an environmental scientist, I've participated with a team of other students in the Hudson River Project, an environmental survey of the river led by the Intel Research teacher at Stuyvesant High School, Dr. Jonathan Gastel. To collect water samples from a targeted depth, I had to lower a Kemmerer bottle attached by a rope into the river until the mark on the rope just reached the water surface. This textbook direction seemed easy to follow, but on the Hudson, the height of the water kept changing by inches because of the wind and the tide. The strong water current posed yet another difficulty: it dragged the rope underneath the platform I was standing on so that I could not see whether I had lowered the device to the "surface" at all. I always sought the assistance of another teammate standing somewhere else to check the mark. After reaching the desired sampling depth, I was supposed to release a weight into the water on top of the Kemmerer bottle, and then jerk the rope in order to let water pressure seal the container. But the bottle was heavy with water, making it tough to jerk and close it. There were times when the bottom remained partially open, and water gushed out when I lifted the container out.

One of the valuable lessons I learned from this project was that unstable conditions of the natural world pose challenges to carrying out scientific procedures with precision. Even with well-crafted tools, I cannot expect to accomplish a simple procedure without adapting to the unpredictable characteristics of nature. This kind of struggle applies to the self-sufficiency program in Deep Springs Valley, where I will have to complete tasks by overcoming the inconstant conditions of unfamiliar places like the garden, field, valley, mountain, and desert. Although it is going to be very challenging for me as a city kid to do various types of hands-on work with nature, I value these opportunities, because I will learn things and gain experiences beyond the science textbooks and labs.

Father's comments: After some research, I told Terence about Deep Springs College because it's free and good. But I soon regretted this, as DS became Terence's first choice (even before Dartmouth). It's a college in the middle of nowhere, and this would mean he would be away from home continuously for two years, with only a short break. Terence's sister said she would shred any letter from Deep Springs. But she didn't have to do so: he got rejected—to everyone's relief in the family.



Courtesy of Ling Man Tsao

On Friendship and Academic Studies

Since junior high school, my classmates thought of me as being quiet, dull, and stiff; although I actually wanted to be part of the fun and friendships my peers had together, I couldn't find a way to connect myself with them. I had no part in the fun activities my classmates did together after school, preferring to finish homework, and found it hard to have conversations with classmates free of awkward silences, because I speak and act with an unappealing stoic appearance, and can't reveal my feelings easily, resulting in my sensitivity to how people view me.

I only made a few friends in junior high school and looked forward to building up my social life in high school, but my stiff, nervous appearance in front of classmates presented

difficulties when I tried to make friends. While I devoted after-school time to homework, I perceived that classmates who frequently hung out or did extracurricular activities after school together tended to talk easily and happily with each other. I often tried to start conversations with classmates about school stress, but could never sustain them, and wondered if it was because my choice of topic presented me as a boring person, and if I should instead speak about fun I have after school, not convinced yet that the problem was my worry over trying to attract people's interest. I decided I needed to have extracurricular activities to develop new interests, and to spend enough time bonding with peers to be part of a crowd of friends.

Participating in extracurricular activities helped me develop interests (e.g. board games and environmental science) outside the school curriculum and make new friends, and made me realize that my stiff appearance and adherence to a fixed schedule rather than lack of time spent with classmates were my main social problems. I first joined the Board Games Club and enjoyed playing with game partners, who became my friends during all my high school years. The fun I had from Board Games Club drove me to try Science Olympiad Team, which offered an extensive teamwork experience. However, I failed to contribute anything towards finishing the team's projects, being unprepared for the time commitments team members needed for finishing work, and

became left out of friendships the team members formed with one another. Reflecting upon my disappointment, I realized that relaxing more of my devotion to studying after school would open up more opportunities to pursue interests and bond with peers.

I heeded this lesson and sacrificed time after school on a daily basis to participate in my school's environmental survey of the Hudson River, which sparked my interest in environmental science and got me acquainted with a few classmates I had hardly spoken to before. When I became a New York Aquarium docent and started giving educational talks to visitors, I became more conscious of my speaking manners and outward appearance.

Father's comments: Terence spent quite a bit of time last summer writing about his experiences with making and interacting with friends for his college essay. Helping him brainstorm and edit college essays, I gained more understanding of his personal struggles and dilemmas in school. Terence may not have been the most popular kid at school but at heart he yearned for genuine, lasting friendships. When reading comments on Facebook after his death about his smiles and readiness to say "hi" to friends and strangers, I was wondering about his difficulties in socializing. Were the difficulties his? Or were the difficulties part and parcel of the large and fast-paced school environment?

Disaster in a Chemistry Lab

During my junior year at Stuyvesant High School, I took a year-long AP Chemistry course taught by Dr. Steven O'Malley, and enjoyed the lab component of the class. It fascinated me to see chemistry in action before my eyes. I generally like all the sciences, but the AP chemistry classes helped spark my aspiration to become an environmental scientist applying chemistry and other sciences to the study of the environment.

I learned a lot from the chemistry lab experiments. One of the most important things I learned was precautions a scientist should take to prevent mistakes and accidents from ruining experimental results. Reflecting on my experiments, I found that many errors could have been prevented by careful observation and thinking before

acting. This is true for all science experiments, but it holds special meaning for me because of my future studies in environmental science. Slight errors in performing a procedure will alter my evaluation of the health quality of an environment.

The aspirin synthesis lab serves as a good example of how I gained experience from a simple but fatal error in my experiments. After reacting salicylic acid and acetic anhydride in a solution and cooling the solution, many aspirin crystals appeared, to my joy (and my lab partner's). In fact the crystals appeared more quickly than anybody else's. Now we only needed to purify the crystals. After filtering out the crystals, we poured them into a flask, but many clung to the inside of the flask's neck. Without thinking, I

added water to rinse down the crystals, not wanting to leave a speck. All the crystals were dissolved. The solution was reheated and placed in an ice bath. Confidently and happily, we waited for crystal formation.

But we were totally disappointed. After six minutes or so, when much of the ice melted, and other classmates started finishing the lab and handing in their crystals (almost all were shown pure by the teacher's iron chloride test), we got anxious, especially since success in the lab depended upon presenting pure crystals. Looking at the sample, I realized with horror that in my zeal to rinse down the crystals, I poured at least three times more water than I should have. Quickly, my partner and I packed the ice bath with ice and did that a few more times when

some ice melted, but only a few tiny flakes and nothing more appeared. Panicking, we took the drastic measure of decanting some of the solution to increase chances of further crystallization, but that failed as well. Even when the bell rang during the last few minutes of class in the now empty laboratory, we saw no success. We had to give up and acted on Dr. O'Malley's advice to separate as many crystals as possible from the solution, collecting them on filter paper, which nonetheless tested impure.

Looking back, I don't know whether the crystals would have been impure even if I hadn't made the mistake of adding too much water. But it's true that my mistake pushed me and my partner into a tight situation that forced us to take desperate

actions, possibly contributing to the bad quality of our results. Rethinking what I did wrong, I realize it is essential that whenever I attempt to mend an unforeseen difficulty in an experiment, I should remain calm rather than desperate. I should be even more careful and never be blind to what I am actually doing to my samples.

Father's comments: This piece was quickly written but it turned out to be Terence's writing at its best. Vivid and insightful, the essay captures science in action and his growing interest in hands-on research. Terence continued this research interest by taking Dr. Gastel's Lab Techniques, where he experienced more challenges. He became very moody after several lab failures, and I had to comfort him.

Reflections

Tribute to Terence

By GERALD NELSON ('12)

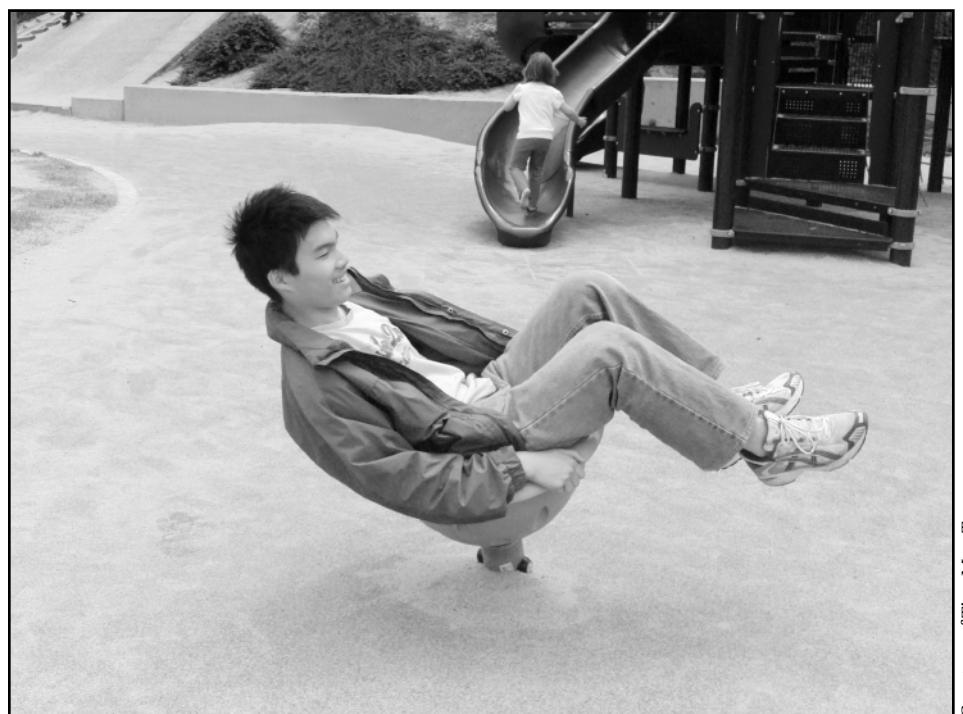
The world has grown older by your passing
We have traveled farther from Eden by your leaving
Lost your ancient kindness
Robbed of your rare virtue

The Earth is darker with your death
Dimmed by the vanishing of your glow
Our lives less lit by your life
We are left wanting of your light

Without you we are colder
Less heated by your passion
Lost without the fire of your drive
Deprived of your benevolent warmth

With you gone our world is quieter
We are longer listeners to your wise words
No longer students of your intellect
Over the memory of your mind we will lament

By the sight of your spirit
We have glimpsed true virtue
And by the scattering of your embers
We are ignited by the strength of your resolve



Courtesy of Ting Man Tsao



Courtesy of Deena Avigdor

Math teacher Deena Avigdor and her first period MC3X class put together a tribute for Terence on Monday, December 19.

Unlike many of the students, I didn't know Terence as that smart guy in one of my classes. I knew him from my martial arts school. Every Saturday, without fail, he and his family would show up early in the morning for tai chi classes. Then afterwards, he would attend the kung fu class. I happened to take the same class that he did. To my surprise, he recognized me from school and started talking to me first. Most of the conversations were about little things, like how school was and if classes were hard. But after a while, I realized that our conversations usually consisted of me complaining about life and him listening.

Terence was really patient and kind, and I owe him for teaching me some of my kung fu forms when everyone else couldn't teach someone as stubborn and slow as me. I even

remember how he was the only person to notice that I had hurt my leg, and he told me that I shouldn't push myself too hard. He also told me that I should go see a doctor if it got worse, because he also experienced some pains in his legs. That conversation probably sent off signals in my head: that he was the kind of person that would go out of his way to help anyone, even if it would cause him more trouble. I didn't need to know that he was this incredibly amazing person in school; all I knew was that he was pure and sincere, and that was enough for me.

So thank you, Terence, for listening to me and helping me out. It just sucks that I couldn't tell you this in person.

—BOBO CHIU ('13)

Terence was in my Chinese class for three years. Every semester in Chinese class, we had to recite Chinese passages in front of the class as part of our oral exams. He had a habit of saying "uh" a lot while he was presenting. Terence had to introduce the meaning of his Chinese name in class repeatedly because our teacher wanted him to stop saying "uh"; by now I have memorized the meaning of his Chinese name as well. I did not watch Terence present because I thought he was comical, I watched him because I saw how hard he was trying to refrain from saying "uh" after every other word. As he present-

ed his name again to the class at the teacher's request, I would sometimes hear a faint "uh" escape between his lips. Terence would always put so much effort into correcting himself, and it reflected the effort that he put into Chinese class too. His work ethic was admirable; that's why I watched him. Although we never sat close to each other in class, he would always say hi to me in the halls and ask me how I was doing. Terence was so selfless, diligent, and sweet. He was truly inspirational. Rest in peace, Terence.

—XINNI LIU ('12)

I met Terence freshmen year and since then, he enthusiastically waved and called, "Hi, Tiffany," regardless of how many people were around or where we were, and grinned every time we met. Although I hadn't spoken to him much recently, he was sweet whenever our paths crossed. Terence was patient and kind without bounds. Quite a few times, I

ranted about random things—typical Stuyvesant stress-inducers—and he would listen with a smile and say, "Don't worry, Tiffany," after my madness ceased. He was a classmate, a fellow senior, and a friend. He is missed greatly.

—TIFFANY WANG ('12)

Hey Terence,

I hope that you are doing well in whatever afterlife there is. I think I remember the first time we met; we were taking the D train to Brooklyn, and I'm not sure how, but we started talking. I kind of liked talking to you as I went home. Not too many people lived so far down in Brooklyn, and train rides got boring. I enjoyed talking to you once in a while about school and life and all that good stuff. I didn't even know that there was a Board Games Club or a Tech

Olympiad at Stuy. I think we talked about aspirations once. You wanted to go to Dartmouth? Heck, you would have been great anywhere.

After I moved, I didn't see you too much anymore. We still saw each other in the halls and said "hi." I liked that. I think we bumped into each other once in the bathroom. It was nice to talk again.

I won't forget you, man. Later.

—KEVIN TANG ('12)

Dear Terence,

It's difficult to comprehend why someone as honest, patient, and empathetic as you could have had his life end so abruptly. For the three years I have known you, you have shown me the many qualities of a true friend. Now, a huge chunk of our senior class is missing without you, but your memory lives on.

Once, during sophomore year, I missed school for an entire day due to a class trip. Since we shared two of the same teachers, I asked you a few days earlier if you would mind sending me the homework and class

notes. When I arrived home from the trip, you had already e-mailed me. I did not have to remind you even once; you just remembered.

Thank you for being a great friend. You were hard-working, you were amiable, you were helpful, you were motivated, you were understanding, you were empathetic, you were patient, you were honest, you were, and always will be, yourself.

Sincerely,

AMY CHEN ('12)

Reflections

I went to the scene of the crash yesterday. The biting frost around me managed to break through the protective layer of my coat and fit the atmosphere of the traffic island near which cars sped by. I looked for signs that *this* was where the life of a boy I knew, and had been around, had ended—blood, clothing, anything. Nothing remained as a sign of Terence's death—only scrap metal, an overturned bus stop, some spilled sand, and the side door of the car that was driven by a man who knowingly got behind the wheel heavily drunk. If I had had a Sharpie on me, I'd have wanted to mark the spot where Terence's seventeen years of kindness were unfairly terminated, but I couldn't find the right words. It's never fair when someone dies young, and especially by no fault of his own, but to those who would have walked by that gruesome scene, with its havoc-wrought remains of the accident, who never knew Terence, my permanent inscription would be no more than graffiti—a chance to make something important to me visible to the world, but often, not understood or seen as valuable.

We all probably worry about what people will think of us, or say about us, after we're gone. I do not know if Terence allowed himself to think about such things, but I am comforted only in this: that he needn't have worried because the outpouring of kind words and memories

about him seems to have no end. On the bar today hung a brightly colored banner, making Monday "Say Hi to a Stranger Day, in memoriam of Terence Tsao," and it's really pathetic that something that Terence did daily—sharing his sweet smile and friendly greetings freely—has to be made into an official day in order for us to go out of our way to imitate Terence's attitude on life. Terence's death has brought the Class of 2012 closer together than anything else I can remember. Maybe it's because of the terrible timing of the accident; Terence was already in college and enjoying the remainder of his senior year as a great student with a bright future ahead of him. Maybe it's because we've realized that in a school with 3,500 people, we interact with only a select few, letting countless others pass through our lives without recognition, as mere faces and bodies rushing past us. Whatever the reason, Terence is yet another innocent in the tragic list of deaths that have affected Stuyvesant in recent years, and if we can learn anything from so heartbreaking a loss, let it be that while the worries plaguing the us students today are insignificant, the people around us are not. Try to keep smiling for Terence. And don't doubt the power that a "Hi!" can have on someone.

—ELINA BYSTRITSKAYA ('12)

Terrence was a very intelligent person. He respected the beauty of animals and nature. He put in a lot of time at the New York Aquarium whenever he could. He loved touching and holding the animals that were in the touch pool. The animals we had in the touch pool were the horseshoe crabs, sea stars, channeled whelk; whatever animals we had in the touch pool at the moment, he worked with them. He talked to some people, including the public, disabled people, etc., to share all the

knowledge and love he had, knowing about the environment that these animals lived in. He showed a lot to his fellow docents, and taught them what they didn't know about the animals that lived in the touch pool. He was glad to help us out, and I was very glad to have known him. RIP Terrence.

—SEAN KELLY,
New York Aquarium Docent

Hey Terence,

We did tai chi exercises in my Modern China class today. I heard that you used to do tai chi, so I thought of you as we were doing the exercises. Lots of people giggled and couldn't keep straight faces as we did them. Admittedly, I also felt a little bit weird as I did them, but I tried to focus on the motions, staring at my palm as my arms traced circles in the air. You had a soul as light, gentle, and pleasant as those motions. You never would have hurt another human being. You were an introvert, too, peacefully engaging in your activities, paying no heed to the opinions of those around you, just like someone quietly practicing tai chi in a park. Tai chi is something that we youngsters don't really do, but you went ahead and practiced it anyway. It made you happy, and didn't hurt anybody else, so you never gave any thought to how others would feel about it.

Tai chi practitioners welcome others. Someone who is practicing his or her exercises will never shun another person who decides to follow along. You were the same. You received others into your life, and embraced them. I don't remember the full details of how we met each other. I think you said "hi" to me, even though I had never talked to

you before. We had a conversation. It was a simple conversation, about what I don't remember, but I'm sure that it had brightened up my day.

After that, every time we crossed paths in the hallway, you said "hi" to me. I would reciprocate the greeting. It became a daily activity that we shared in throughout our junior year. After a while, I became the one who always said "hi" first. It was as if you had passed something on to me. I was eager to learn your ways. We never had any classes together, and there were only occasional instances when we bumped into each other and could catch a conversation. I never got to find out if we had similar interests. Our relationship was largely without words. It was peaceful and coincidental. I was like a stranger following a tai chi master. You welcomed me without hesitation.

It feels like something is missing now that you aren't here. I don't get to say "hi" to you anymore. The tai chi master has left, but the disciple will carry on what he learned from his master. Thank you, master. Hey, Terence, and thanks a lot.

Yours truly,

ALEX WANG ('12)

Terence was always very polite and righteous; he always greeted everyone he knew, even people he had only ever exchanged a few words with. He was selfless and rational, always considerate of others' situations, and never burdened anyone, but rather tried his best to offer advice and encouragement. We occasionally ate lunch together, and he was never wasteful of food. Even when there would be just a few minutes before the start of our next class, he accompanied me, and would rather wait for me to finish my lunch than see me discard it to be on time to class. He was respectful of his an-

cestors and origin, always mindful of his actions and identity. Terence was always diligent and calm, seldom letting his emotions flood his interactions with others. I admire him for his steady and patient approach to everything he did, even in times of great stress. He placed happiness and health above all else, and I never witnessed one ounce of anguish from him. From Terence, I am reminded of how insignificant my daily worries are in comparison to the greater scheme of things.

—LUCY TAN ('12)

Fear Not

By DAVID WANG ('12)

If God exists
and there is a heaven,
then there you will be
in the warm glow of paradise.
But if the world is instead
lost and lonely,
fear not, for you do not die.
Here you will remain,
with friends and family,
in loving hearts
and the sweetest memories.
Like stars in the New York night,
you are not seen, but you exist, and shine bright.
You live not through the fragile thread of life
but the unbreakable chain that bonds all the lives you have
touched.
Without knowing it, you've changed the world in a million
ways at least,
and we will never forget you.
So fear not my friend, you will never die.



Arts and Entertainment

The Black Keys' New Take on a Retro Sound

Lindy Chiu / The Spectator



By MATTHEW DALTON

Feedback, like the rumble of a starting engine, plays as Black Keys vocalist and guitarist Dan Auerbach jumpstarts his new single "Lonely Boy" with a roaring, distorted, surf-rock riff. Patrick Carney's drumming soon picks up the momentum and continues to serve as the beating heart of the album throughout. As Auerbach's energetic, soulful voice quickly fills the room, one can easily imagine the duo coasting along the sepia-toned highway of their new album, "El Camino."

Released on Tuesday, December 6, "El Camino" represents the constantly evolving sound of the siblings from Akron, Ohio.

Last year, the Black Keys won a Grammy for their breakthrough rock album "Brothers." However, its softer songs did not transition well to the siblings' loud live shows. For their next album, the group needed louder, faster songs that were more consistent with the garage-band style that their growing audience was anticipating.

This is where "El Camino" comes in. While "Brothers" was consistently delicate, "El Camino" sends a swaggering, straightforward message: anything goes. It draws influence from a diverse range of retro rock acts, like ZZ Top and T. Rex. "Hell of a Season" features ska upbeats and a new-wave vibe while the album's clos-

ing song "Mind Eraser" is rooted in the blues.

In their new album, the Black Keys try something new; lyrics take the back seat to riffs, fills and good-old rock-and-roll noise. "Little Black Submarines," for example, begins with a pretty, acoustic melody—an element missing in all of their other songs—and Auerbach's lone voice. Carney patters out a light rhythm on his drums as the song slowly builds up to a pause before launching forward with a dynamic switch akin to that in the White Stripes' "300 M.P.H. Torrential Outpour Blues." Auerbach and Carney cut loose into a two-minute jam, trading powerful, improvised riffs and deafen-

ing drum fills that showcase their high energy and synchronization.

With the help of their producer Danger Mouse, who has been with the band since the release of its 2008 album "Attack and Release," the Black Keys have changed from a small-town group based on the vocals and raw electric guitar of Auerbach to a full rock band bordering on indie and mainstream, complete with a keyboardist, female background singers (a Danger Mouse specialty), and a newfound use of heavy distortion. Danger Mouse's influence can be heard during the flashy chorus of "Gold on the Ceiling" in which Auerbach's guitar perfectly complements the Motown vocals of the background singers. Even with a full band arrangement however, Auerbach's guitar still holds precedence; his solos are the highlights

In their new album, the Black Keys try something new; lyrics take the back seat to riffs, fills, and good-old rock-and-roll noise.

of this song and others, such as "Stop Stop."

"El Camino" opens a new door for the Black Keys both stylistically and opportunistically. It is their best-selling album to date and has spawned a supporting tour, including two gigs at Madison Square Garden alongside the Arctic Monkeys, the first of which sold out 15 minutes after being announced. Through its ambitious take on old-school rock-and-roll, the album easily hooks first-time listeners and rewards long-time Keys fans. By steadily increasing the size of the group's fan base, "El Camino" ensures that the Black Keys are up for one "Hell of a Season."

While "Brothers" was consistently delicate, "El Camino" sends a swaggering, straightforward message: anything goes.

ADVERTISEMENTS

EDUCAID

EXPERT PRIVATE TUTORING

AT YOUR HOME - 7 DAYS / YEAR ROUND

DON'T JUST
TAKE EXAMS
- ACE THEM!

• Talented, patient, Ivy League tutors who want YOU to succeed !
 • All Subjects / Exams : Regents / SAT -1 / SAT -2 / AP / IB
 • Algebra / Geometry / Trig / Pre-Calc / Calc / Linear Algebra
 • Computer Science / Statistics
 • Biology / Chemistry / Physics
 • Spanish / French / Italian & more
 • English, (Grammar, Essays, Literature)
 • History

(212) 766-5002 (718) 747-0173

www.EduaidTutoring.com

Herald Education

Invites you to a free educational workshop on
Friday, December 30 and Saturday, December 31 2011
when you present your Stuyvesant ID card. Space is limited.

The workshop will feature special tips and tricks
for mastering the SAT.
Full length simulation test and review,
EQ workshop
and a Q&A session with successful Stuyvesant Alumni



Our spring semester begins January 7.
Courses offered:

SAT	Bio, Chem, Physics
SAT II All Subjects	Algebra, Geometry, Trig and Pre-calculus
AP All Subjects	Intensive Writing

Inquire for availability.

718-799-8222

admin@aimacademyusa.com

Arts and Entertainment

If It Smells Like Chemicals, Dump It

By JOSHUA BOGATIN

Since "Godzilla," the first true giant monster movie, has been parodied in pop-culture to the point that it's lost any hope of ever being scary again, the distinctly Asian sub-genre seems due for a revival. Bong Joon-ho's 2006 movie "The Host" is just the movie to renew these films for the modern age. Taking notes from Japanese cinema, the film is very much inspired by "Godzilla," but with heart and humor thrown in alongside the scares to keep it fresh and miles above a simple retread.

Twenty years after the American government dumps chemicals into the Han River during the 1980s, a tentacled, amphibious beast awakens and raises hell on the city of Seoul. The beast kidnaps nine-year-old Hyun-seo (Byeon Hee-bong) while she is working at her family's riverside snack shop, and

when the government offers them no help, Hyun-seo and her family must hunt the creature down and save her themselves.

With an irresponsible dim-wit of a father (Song Kang-ho), wise old grandpa (Byeon Hee-bong), alcoholic uncle (Park He-il), and uptight aunt (Bae Doona) the family is your typical dysfunctional movie family. Yet the film keeps them from ever coming across as trite by making their defects genuine character flaws instead of mere quirks and comically showcasing their heroism and loving devotion as much as dysfunction, making the characters always come across as realistic and relatable.

Like many classic horror films, "The Host" comes with subtle political commentary hidden underneath the terror. The film takes aim against bureaucratic government authorities and the monster can be seen as one big critique of

America's military and cultural presence in Korea. Fortunately the film's leftist agendas never become heavy-handed or overly satirical and the movie is just as good for some light entertainment.

It's a popular trend in modern horror films to pump up the camp and gore factors to extreme levels to garner a few laughs. However, Bong's film presents the rare treat of providing genuine character based comedy that never detracts from the chills. He shows an incredible skill in maintaining the film's numerous elements, stuffing it with melodrama, tension, action, satire, scares, and political commentary, but never letting it becoming cluttered or schizophrenic. "The Host" tries to be a lot of things and succeeds at most, serving as an entertaining introduction to Korean cinema that shows the potentials of horror films beyond terrifying.

Korean

Hunting in the Streets of Seoul

By JANE ARGODALE

"City Hunter" shows perfectly how Korean dramas can take a well-known genre and completely refresh it. Airing in 20 installments from May to July 2011, "City Hunter" follows the adventures of Lee Yoonsung (Lee Minho), the masked City Hunter of Seoul, as he carries out his revenge against several corrupt politicians, including the president. His connection to the politicians is personal—they sanctioned the death of a soldier, his father, after a secret plot to invade North Korea went awry. Lee Jinpyo (Kim Sangjoong) is the sole survivor of the plot and has raised Yoonsung to be a killing machine. Yoonsung hopes to carry out a less bloody revenge and protect his love interest and eventual sidekick, presidential bodyguard Kim Nana (Park Minyoung) from Jinpyo.

Every episode has an excellent action sequence, with acrobatic martial arts, thrilling car chases, and numerous explosions, but violence is never gratuitous. Many of the drama's stomach-turning moments bring us closer to the characters. For example, when a masked Yoonsung is shot in the back, he goes to a veterinary clinic for fear of being recognized at a hospital. There, he removes his own bullet using veterinary supplies. This painful scene gives Yoonsung a humanity that Jinpyo lacks, and though they are on the same side, the ability to empathize with Yoonsung makes him the

true protagonist.

The action-packed "City Hunter" is a perfect introduction to Korean entertainment, taking a formulaic plot of action plus romance and making it resonate. A particularly moving scene is when a politician's cronies kidnap Yoonsung. Nana tracks Yoonsung down, fights the kidnappers with her karate skills, and takes a bullet for him. In the ten previous episodes, Yoonsung has pushed away Nana in hopes of protecting her in a decidedly one-sided courtship. This turning point in their relationship makes the drama's romantic storyline satisfying, and gives Nana a serious role in the story, instead of just making her a prize for the protagonist. By taking advantage of this genre's time-tested power, Lee Minho and Park Minyoung avoid making their characters one-dimensional. Their performances give depth to a show that could easily draw viewers with nothing but stellar action. Lee Minho shines as the drama's masked avenger with a heart, and Park Minyoung as the sweet but tough romantic lead.

Overall, "City Hunter" has the same effect as most well-executed dramas. The paired adrenaline and dopamine rush makes it difficult to want to do anything but watch the next episode. What makes this one special is that even several months and other dramas later, you'll still remember Lee Yoonsung and Kim Nana just as clearly as you did in the middle of the series.

More Than Just Kimchi

By CHRISTINE LEE

Nestled in the back of Food Gallery 32 is a stall called Hanok, whose dishes are a textbook for Korean history. Hanok, located near the back of the Food Gallery 32, sells traditional Korean food, which is defined by its spiciness and sharp flavors, brought out by seasonings like sesame oil, chili pepper paste, garlic, and ginger. Classic favorites at Hanok include Bibimbop (\$7.95 for regular; \$8.95 for Gop Dol version, LA Kalbi (\$15.95 for regular; \$9.95 for small), and Kimchi Jigae (\$7.95).

Known for its convenience of preparation and versatility of ingredients is Bibimbop or "mixed meal" of rice, meat,

vegetables, eggs, and red pepper paste. The contrast of colors and the almost creamy texture of the Bibimbop make it tantalizing to all the senses. Gop Dol Bibimbap is special type of bibimbop served in a hot stone bowl. The heat of the stone causes the Bibimbop to stick to the bowl, making a crispy, thin layer of rice called nurunji. The crunchy treat can then be scrapped off the bowl and eaten.

LA Kalbi is a more modern dish, originating in the latter 20th century. It is a type of Korean BBQ consisting of thinly cut beef ribs that have been marinated for several hours. The meat is tender and succulent, ripping off easily from the

bone. The very aroma of LA Kalbi is mouthwatering—a tangy mixture of soy sauce, garlic, sugar, and other ingredients.

However, a dish that truly has deep roots in Korean history is Kimchi Jigae, which originated in the mid-Joseon era in the 1700s. The stew consists of tofu, kimchi, vegetables, and pork. Its soup is a startling red, and the spiciness of the soup clears and refreshes the body. Its strong, bold taste and fresh ingredients makes Kimchi Jigae an excellent choice for first comers.

Customers will leave Hanok thoroughly satisfied and with a lingering taste of Korean history on their lips.

Confessions of a Frumpy Baking Queen

By CHRISTINE LEE

It's Christmas Eve, the day before one of the most romantic holidays in South Korea, when Kim Sam Soon (Kim Sun-Ah) walks in on her boyfriend, Min Hyun-Woo (Kyu-han Lee), cheating on her with another woman. Eyes blazing, she approaches the adulterous couple with murderous intent—only to snap out of her reverie, fall to the

floor, and beg for her boyfriend to stay with her. Typical Sam Soon.

"My Name is Kim Sam Soon" is a sixteen-episode South Korean drama that aired in 2005. Directed by Kim Yoon-chul, Soon after she gets dumped and scores a job as a pastry chef at Bon Appetit, a French restaurant run by the handsome Hyun Jin-Heon (Bin Hyun). The two, unsurprisingly, clash at first.

However, after a series of comedic plot twists and mishaps, the two begin to fall in love.

The two characters provide an intriguing contrast: devilishly good-looking and haughty Jin-Heon versus the frumpy, overly dramatic, and childish Sam Soon. Between the two, however, Sam Soon comes out as the stronger and more amusing character. Kim delves into the role of Sam Soon almost

casually, and acts out her far-fetched inner monologues and daydreams with natural ease. Whether she is fantasizing about seducing Hyun in a scandalous red dress or enacting revenge on her ex-boyfriend, each scene with Sun-ah is a hilarious delight. The splendid acting in this drama is definitely one of its strongest aspects.

This show, though laden with some clichés, is still enjoyable to

watch. While it is clear the two main characters will fall in love, audiences will still be captivated by the process. The cold-hearted stud thrown into ridiculous scenarios with the hot-tempered, but loveable main girl makes for a predictable plotline. However, the witty script, squeal-worthy romantic moments, and phenomenal acting set this drama apart from the others.

The Seasons of Life Through Buddhist Eyes

By EMRE TETIK

In director Ki-duk Kim's self-written film, "Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring," in which he stars, Kim gives us a taste of life through the eyes of a Buddhist monk apprentice as he passes through the different stages of his life. He learns lessons of love and suffering from his master and experiences youthful lust, evil, and atonement.

This movie isn't just about Buddhists. Its very production

evokes the principles of Buddhism. The film was shot exclusively on a monastery afloat on a lake and in the surrounding forest in the Korean countryside. There are exquisite scenes that show the dense, green forestry surrounding the monastery and its reflection in the clean waters of the lake. These shots reflect a profound admiration of nature that is key to the faith, while its sheer length lends the film a tranquil pace suitable for its spirituality.

The dialogue in the film is

spare but powerful. In the beginning, in which the apprentice is still a child (Jong-ho Kim), he discovers the suffering of all sentient beings when his master (Yeong-su Oh) ties a huge stone around him, a torture that he inflicted on some animals earlier. His master tells him he'll untie the rope only when the boy has untied the animals he has tormented, and admonishes him, "If any of the animals [...] are dead, you will carry the stone in your heart for the rest of your life."

The script, like the cinematography and location, also evokes Buddhist beliefs. In a later scene, when the boy has become an adult (Ki-duk Kim) who lives alone in the monastery after the passing of his master, a veiled woman arrives to leave her child there. For the ten or so minutes that she is onscreen, Kim teases us into desperately wanting to find out what she's hiding behind her veil. The face of a recurring character? A disfigurement, perhaps? To Kim and to Buddhist philosophy, in

which the abstract is paramount over the material, it doesn't matter.

Kim's masterful command of the film's technical aspects saves it from becoming an indoctrinating farce. Rather than obnoxiously throwing big religious terms and concepts at the audience, he makes his film embody such concepts. It shows, it doesn't tell. It observes, it doesn't preach. It's an understated masterpiece on one of Korea's most widely practiced religions, by one of its greatest directors.

Arts and Entertainment

Entertainment



Thomas Hsu / The Spectator

The SNSD Generation

By JANE ARGODALE

To most, it seems Korean pop music never quite progressed past the 1990s. In Korea, the mention of male and female pop groups doesn't call to mind amusing memories of the Backstreet Boys and Spice Girls, but countless current chart-topping idols—like the nine-member girl group So Nyeo Shi Dae (SNSD or Girls' Generation). Known for their infectious sing-along hits, vocal variety, and creative music videos, this fresh group appeals to a teenage female audience. Their international success has allowed them to experiment with a presentation and sound that breaks the mold of most Korean girl groups.

K-pop is just as much about spectacle as it is about churning out singles: high-budget music videos, perfectly synchronized dance moves, and the creation of a glowstick-waving fan base. SNSD justifies the fanaticism by producing music and videos that are impressive for any ma-

jor pop artist in the world today. Their video for "Hoot" begins with a 30-second introduction filmed in black and white in the style of a spy flick. A mysterious man with a gun searches an elevator and then leaves. The doors close, then opens to reveal SNSD's members in brightly colored, 1960s-style costumes. The choreography plays further on the video's 60s spy movie theme, with snappy movements and Charlie's Angels-style poses in formation. The soft lighting and eye-catching backgrounds are details that further enhance the retro feel.

Unlike many other pop groups, SNSD are difficult to categorize with a single adjective—cute, weird, pro-female empowerment, or even preteen silly. In their 2009 single "Gee," high-pitched vocals are set to a peppy and cheerful beat, while in the music video the girls are decked out in high heels and pastel colors, giggling over a boy. However, their more recent videos and songs have taken a dark-

er and more serious tone, as in the video for "Run Devil Run," a song about finding the strength to cast off a cheating boyfriend. "The Boys" continues this trend, and sets SNSD apart from the many Korean girl groups that never progress beyond an overbearingly cute image.

Their two consistent traits, however, are their danceable beats, which form an infectious, syncopated foundation for their songs, and the variety in their vocals that such an unusually large group allows. During the verse of a song, a new voice will come in nearly every 10 seconds, before they all join together for the chorus, capitalizing the overwhelming catchiness of their songs' choruses.

Among the countless American and Korean pop stars, SNSD's staying power is in their deft balance of quality pop music with flawless presentation. If airbrushed celebrities must be our idols, SNSD are at least slightly more realistic than the perpetually sweet and adorable.

Romance and Ramen

By JANE ARGODALE

Romance, comedy, and mouth-watering footage of food collide in the 16-episode Korean drama "Flower Boy Ramen Shop," which aired from October 31 to December 20 on tvN in South Korea. The series focuses on Yang Eunbi (Lee Chung-ah), a 25 year-old aspiring teacher just out of a bad relationship, and "flower boy," meaning pretty boy, Cha Chisoo (Jung Ilwoo), wealthy corporate heir in his senior year of high school. Eunbi attempts to initiate a relationship, before discovering both Chisoo's age and arrogance. The dislike is mutual—he too is initially repulsed by her lack of elegance. However, her unwillingness to tolerate his childishness because of his wealth slowly makes an impression on him. He falls for her, and when Eunbi decides to make some money working at a ramen shop run by Choi Kang Hyuk (Lee Kiwoo), making and selling delicious noodle soup,

he begins working at the shop too. The resulting romantic tension is as adorable as it is hilarious.

The matchup of a rich guy with a poor girl has been done before, but the added age difference keeps Eunbi from being an outdated damsel in distress, in need of a rich man to save her. She's much more self-reliant than Chisoo could ever dream of being. The performances of both lead actors keep the obligatory declarations of love from feeling trite. Jung's performance as a spoiled, immature boy with a soft side and Lee's as a jaded and disillusioned woman give the show heart.

The drama's lighter side is a plus too. Toilet and slapstick humor abound. Without comedy to lighten things up, it's easy for a romantic story to become unnecessarily heavy. This show strikes a perfect balance between heart wrenching and hilarious. Chisoo and Eunbi first meet in a bathroom stall, and in one scene, Chisoo pounces on

Eunbi when he sees her taking pills, thinking she's attempting suicide. When he sees the package, it turns out to be constipation medicine.

A downside of the show is its unwillingness to stick to simplicity. The premise is a good one. However, things become messy when a love triangle emerges between Chisoo, Eunbi, and Kang Hyuk, as well as another between Chisoo, his girlfriend, and a friend of Eunbi's. By the middle of the series, the love triangles merge into a love tetrahedron and the most stirring aspects of the drama lose screen time.

While "Flower Boy Ramen Shop" may not be the most innovative or exciting Korean drama of 2011, it is still one of the most entertaining and heartfelt. The perfect blend of over-the-top humor and slowly mounting drama will keep all viewers hungry for more.

Food Fusion of the Asian Persuasion

By CHRISTINE LEE

Fusion cuisine has created some strange mixtures of cultures, ranging from Korean-Mexican to the equally bizarre Chinese-French. One of the more intuitive combinations is Korean-Chinese food, since the two countries are so geographically close. Now a highly popular sect of cuisine in Korea, Jin Jia Roo is a stall at Food Gallery 32 at 11 w. 32nd street that epitomizes this blend. jia jang myon (\$5.99), jampong (\$7.99), and tang su yook with rice (\$8.99) are a few favorites.

Jia jang myon, called "zha jiang mian" in Chinese, is a dish that Korean cooks have modified this noodle dish to suit their tastes. It was first created in the heavily Chinese populated city of Incheon in the 19th century. The Korean version incorporates caramel, giving it a slightly sweet kick. The dish is made up of noodles served with a black bean paste mixed with bite-size pieces of pork and onion. The rich, creamy, and almost musky taste is extremely unique. The thick, dark brown sauce is a great complement to the chewy white noodles.

A more colorful dish, Jampong, with its bright red broth and yellow noodles, is derived from a Shandongnese meal

called Shao Mai mian, Jiampong is a spicy noodle soup made up of vegetables, seafood, and chili oil. Its flavorful soup is not as heavy as most Korean dishes, but packs an equally spicy punch. The delicate and light taste of clams and shrimp mixed with crisp vegetables serves as a great contrast to the striking flavor of the soup. Jiampong has a very clean, refreshing flavor that is rather cleansing.

In addition to noodles, rice is another important culinary staple shared by the two cultures. tang su yook with rice is the Korean version of sweet and sour pork, in which strips of pork are dipped into batter and then fried in oil. The crispy covering is not greasy, but rather light and crunchy. The chewiness of the pork with the combination of the tangy, sweet and sour sauce makes it thoroughly enjoyable. Though the sauce is similar to the Chinese version, what sets the two apart are the thinly cut strips of pork. Onions and sliced carrots are also mixed into the meal.

Though these are mere adaptations, Jin Jia Roo has incorporated its unique style into the traditional Chinese dishes. Their Chinese-Korean food is a fusion that will please taste buds from all nations.

"Oldboy" Surprises with New Violent Twists

By EMRE TETIK

The 2003 film "Oldboy," directed and co-written by Park Chan Wook, tells the story of Oh Dae-Su (Choi Min Sik), a businessman who is kidnapped and imprisoned with no clue as to why or who his captor is. Held in a hotel room resembling cell for 15 years, he copes with the isolation by shadowboxing, keeping a diary, watching TV, and masturbating. When he is suddenly released, his captor leaves him clues to find the many answers he's been looking for. Mido (Kang Hae-Jyeong), a sushi chef with whom he falls in love, aids him in his quest. We soon discover that the identity of his captor is only the smallest of several mysteries in the film.

To reveal much more than that would be to destroy the plot's many twists that await the unsuspecting viewer. Indeed, the plot of "Oldboy" is layered like an onion; the plot increases in intensity as each clue brings him closer to the harrowing truth.

Like Chan Wook's other films, "Oldboy" is ripe with gore and grisly violence, as well as downright disgusting scenes

(after being released, Oh Dae-Su's first meal is live octopus at a sushi bar). But the violence is never meant to provide cheap thrills. It gives us an idea of what drives the characters and what emotions underlie their actions. For example, toward the end of the film, a character severs his tongue and offers it to another character in hopes

that the latter won't enact a cruel revenge on the former. As he places his tongue between the two blades of a pair of scissors, the camera shifts from the tongue to focus, instead, on his eyes, which betray the character's abject despair.

The great achievement of the script is the way it ambiguously mingles between comedy and tragedy. The movie, filled with shocking moments of despair and anguish, is spiced with brief moments of dark comedy. While Oh Dae-Su rides in an elevator just after his release, a woman, the first woman he has seen in 15 years, steps in. A deadpan bird's-eye shot depicts the scene as he backs up as tight as possible into one of the corners of the elevator in fear. Choi captures the character brilliantly, in his moments of rage and his moments of kindheartedness, to give the script its necessary contrast of emotion, aided by the film's fantastic score. The melodies draw upon Oh Dae-Su's crazed obsession with revenge, the innocence of Mido and his love for her, and the suspense of discovering the truth behind his imprisonment.

Dramatically scripted, beautifully scored and poetically shot, "Oldboy" is a gem of a film, and one of the best to come out of Korea. ID magazine said that the film is "guaranteed a place in film history". If not in world cinema history, it's at least guaranteed a place in Korean cinema history.

Arts and Entertainment

Books

Making Dreams a Reality in “The Alchemist”



Christine Lee / The Spectator

By JOYCE KOLTISKO

Daring to leave behind family, a home, and heritage for the hopes of finding treasure in a foreign land is difficult to say the least. Yet, Santiago, a young shepherd from Spain, decides to risk it all when he learns that a potentially vast fortune awaits him in the great pyramids of Egypt. Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist" tells the story of Santiago, a boy who must journey

to Egypt if he is to find his place in the universe. "The Alchemist" traces an enchanting story of risk and uncertainty through the sands of Egypt.

A wise Spanish king teaches Santiago to never give up on his "Personal Legend," the name the king gives to a person's aspiration or purpose in the world. He tells Santiago that when given the opportunity to fulfill his dreams through discovering his identity and reaching his highest poten-

tial the only option is to pursue it. Following the king's advice, Santiago sells all his sheep in exchange for boat fare to Egypt. A naive boy with nothing but high hopes, Santiago is quickly robbed of all his money. However, instead of giving up he stays true to his endeavor and continues to journey across the desert searching for a purpose.

As Santiago moves across the sands of the Sahara Desert with a caravan, he comes upon an oasis where an alchemist is said to live. Although one man on the caravan is anxious to meet the alchemist to appease his greed, Santiago sees the alchemist as a guide. When Santiago finds love and plans to stop pursuing his treasure and Personal Legend, the alchemist teaches him not to despair over it as he can always return to his love if it is true. According to him, "Everything is written in the Soul of the World, and there it will stay forever." The alchemist, echoing the words of the king, also reminds Santiago that luck is on your side only once, and dreams must be achieved while you still have it.

Like most stories, "The Alchemist" asks us to look within ourselves for the strength to pursue our most imaginative dreams. However, the simplicity of the story can be considered the foundation for its charm and attraction. Readers are compelled

to keep turning the page not only for its plot, but also because of Santiago's infectious confidence and understanding of the universe. When speaking to the sun he confidently claims that "We were all made by the same

story makes readers feel vulnerable, as if they are learning about the world for the first time. When Santiago communicates with the sun he says, "If you know about love, you must also know about the Soul of the World, because it's made of love." "The Alchemist" does in fact bring this world into a new light, claiming that each object has a soul and that a superior being watches over all with care and love. At the same time, his perception of life's course isn't overwhelming, though it envelops the reader. Instead, Coelho offers shelter in Santiago's confidence.

"The Alchemist" makes readers rethink the world's purpose. In addition to following Santiago's life, readers can look forward to the advice and life lessons found within the book. Before reaching the last page, it's easy to wonder what your own Personal Legend is.

Coelho masterfully fleshes out his own understanding of the world through the determination of a young sheepless shepherd. "The Alchemist" offers lessons concerning love, trust and purpose. As Coelho says himself, "If you believe yourself worthy of the thing you fought so hard to get, then you become an instrument of God, you help the Soul of the World, and you understand why you are."

The simple language of the story makes readers feel vulnerable, as if they are learning about the world for the first time.

hand, and we have the same soul." Coelho guides the reader through how one can achieve his goals and fulfill his responsibilities as an individual using Santiago as a medium.

The simple language of the

ADVERTISEMENTS

KAPLAN
TEST PREP

Kaplan's got you covered.

Kaplan provides options to fit your budget, your schedule, and your college admissions goals. You'll score higher—guaranteed or your money back.*

Which option is right for you?

► Complete SAT® and ACT® Prep - \$499

Our most popular option!

Get 18 hours of comprehensive prep, led by an expert teacher. Choose from our On Site or Classroom Anywhere™ programs.

► College Prep Advantage - \$999

Unlimited access from now through senior year—PSAT/NMSQT®, SAT, ACT, AP and SAT Subject Test prep, plus help preparing your college applications and essays.

► Premier Tutoring - *from \$1,749*

The ultimate in customized, individual instruction! Prep in your home and on your schedule.

Pay your tuition in 3 installments!

1-800-KAP-TEST
kaptest.com/personalized

Arts and Entertainment

Books

Great Books

English Class Highlights



Judy Lee / The Spectator

By ZAHRA HAQUE,
DAVID KURKOVSKIY,
and NINA WADE

Finding the time for outside school reading is hard. Finding the perfect book deserving of your time? Nearly impossible. Thank-

The economy of Chopin's prose adds an exciting pace as the book traces Edna's transformation from bored housewife to lustful artist.

fully, the English Department has screened some candidates for us. Here are some highlights from Stuyvesant's classes that you can

refer to during your next library visit. While most English-class books aren't the beach read one may easily pick up, these are texts you don't need a teacher to enjoy.

"The Awakening"
by Kate Chopin
(American Studies)

"The Awakening" tells the story of Edna Pontellier, a young woman who refuses to be the traditional mother and wife she is expected to be in Victorian England. She cheats on her husband, moves from her grand manor to a small, plain house, and develops a flair for painting.

In her new life, the odd characters Edna meets polarize her world. While she finds comfort in her relationship with Mademoiselle Reisz, an unmarried and incredibly emotional piano virtuoso, she finds only hopelessness in her relationship with devoted mother and wife Madame Ratignolle. Edna's friendships illuminate her transformation—she shares her newfound creative zeal with Mademoiselle Reisz and sees the Victorian ideals that she wishes to cast away in Madame Ratignolle.

While Edna is impulsive and somewhat immoral, Chopin's almost whimsical tone makes the reader empathize with her. The

economy of Chopin's prose adds an exciting pace as the book traces Edna's transformation from bored housewife to lustful artist. Readers cannot pull away from the thrilling descriptions of her wildly self-destructive spiritual awakening.

"The Painted Bird"
by Jerzy Kosinski
(European Literature)

Jerzy Kosinski's "The Painted Bird" is a gruesome portrait of World War II-era Eastern Europe in all its violent, xenophobic

What makes this more than just another tragic war story is its unflinching depiction of the atrocities committed not by the Nazis, but by ordinary people living in fear.

glory. The protagonist, a young boy implied to be Romani, moves from town to town, trying to find sanctuary, but due to his dark hair and eyes, is only taken in by outsiders. What makes this more than just another tragic war story is its unflinching depiction of the

atrocities committed not by the Nazis, but by ordinary people living in fear.

Many of the people the boy lives with are often abusive to near-fatal lengths, and Kosinski pulls no punches with his descriptions. One guardian ties the boy up by his arms for hours and sets his dog upon him. Later, another caretaker's daughter seduces him, but it is not until the boy reminds us that he is only ten years old that the significance of her molestation sinks in. As he continues his descriptions of her advances with childlike, innocent expressions, it is hard not to recoil with disgust.

However, Kosinski's accounts of other's assaults are far more horrific. In one village, a vagrant woman seduces multiple married men, and the village women, swept up by mob mentality, beat her to death; the gory details, including shoving a glass bottle into her orifices and breaking it, are more disturbing than the tales of abuse. Another even more painful chapter describes a horde of horsemen who rape and pillage a town in such visceral detail that the reader feels physically sick.

The novel does reach a point where it seems to be simply piling on the perversities, but that point isn't soon to come. While it is a difficult read, "The Painted Bird" is astonishing and profound.

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time"
by Mark Haddon
(Freshman Composition)

Meet fifteen-year-old Christopher Boone, the autistic protagonist of Mark Haddon's "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." Set in the town of Swindon, England, the book follows Christopher as he embarks on an investigation to solve the murder of his neighbor's dog. Along the way, he decides to write a murder mystery novel that details his findings, which becomes the book itself.

During the course of his jour-

ney, Christopher meets many new people and learns a great deal about his parents and neighbors while he uncovers the secrets that they have been hiding from him. Told in the blunt, simplistic

Told in the blunt, simplistic language of its eccentric main character, the story captures the workings of Christopher's mind.

language of its eccentric main character, the story captures the workings of Christopher's mind. Haddon also incorporates diagrams that illustrate the boy's attempts at rationalizing all aspects of his life.

In a world that revolves around order and reasoning, Christopher even develops an absurd system to gauge the quality of the day, based on the colors of the cars he sees. As a result of his autism, his social interactions are awkward and frustrating, and, like his idol Sherlock Holmes, he finds security only in the calculations of his mathematical brain.

A first-time novelist, Haddon effectively crafts a work with nuance and subtlety, though his curious narrator cannot comprehend them. It is this insightful glance into the autistic mind that makes Haddon's book stand out from conventional murder mysteries.

TV & Movies

"War Horse" Gallops to Big Screen Success

By AMY ZHEN

With a bestselling children's novel and a Tony-award-winning play already attributed to its name, "War Horse" has certainly had its share of the limelight. Directed and produced by the legendary Steven Spielberg, the story's new film incarnation follows a boy named Albert Narracott (Jeremy Irvine), whose horse, Joey, is sold into the army at the beginning of World War I. The film follows Joey and Albert's parallel travels throughout the war as they attempt to find each other. This story paints an honest image of a society filled with sin and bad choices, tenuously held together by the bonds of brotherhood in the midst of war.

The plot is a constant cycle of tragic drama, uplifted with occasional scenes of hope and comedy. Spielberg effectively weaves Joey's meetings with various people into a single, captivating tale, as each owner's time with the horse helps lead him closer to home.

The movie opens with the Narracotts, who are at risk of losing their Devonshire farm to their cruel landlord, Lyons (David Thewlis), forcing Ted Narracott (Peter Mullan) to sell Joey to the English Cap-

tain Nicholls (Tom Hiddleston). Though the strong relationship between young Albert and his horse forms the central conflict in "War Horse," its lack of plausibility ruins the movie. The friendship

The plot is a constant cycle of tragic drama, uplifted with occasional scenes of hope and comedy.

is hastily formed over the course of a few weeks, and when Joey is sold, the tearfully whispered goodbyes convey more cheesiness than affection.

After being sold, Joey is deployed to France with Captain Nicholls, but is soon captured by the Germans and forced to pull heavy ambulance wagons. On

the other side of the war, Albert, now enlisted in the British army, fights in one of the goriest battles, the Second Battle of the Somme. Set in the most genuine scenery, frightened soldiers hide behind mounds of barbed wire as dirt spewed from the impact of enemy bombs blocks the dim light. Photography director Janusz Kamiński and production designer Rick Carter manage to make these battle scenes breathtakingly vivid—each is a cinematic gem with fantastic backdrops and meticulous details.

The score makes this intense battle sequence even more riveting, with its loud dynamics and racing tempos. The most chilling sounds are surprisingly not the machine guns firing or the horses moaning, but the eerie bagpipe melody played as the English army charges toward the German trenches.

While Albert fights for his life, Joey and a fellow war horse named Topthorn are slaving away on the artillery line, where animals are ruthlessly shot and tossed aside when they can no longer pull the heavy loads. After Topthorn, Joey's only source of comfort, dies of exhaustion and neglect, Joey escapes

to freedom, only to be trapped in barbed wire in No Man's Land.

Carter manages to make these battle scenes breathtakingly vivid—each is a cinematic gem with fantastic backdrops and meticulous details.

In the midst of the despair that has enveloped the plot, Spielberg shows a glimpse of hope for humanity as an English soldier and a German soldier set aside their animosity to help save Joey. Joey returns with the English soldier, Co-

lin (Toby Kebbell), to camp, where Albert lies recuperating from his injuries—the and where they beginning of their eventual reunion.

"War Horse" is about innocence destroyed and the flickers of hope in a world torn apart by war. Despite having a main character that fails to garner intrigue, the horses alone make this an emotionally moving film. The unbelievable settings, splendid supporting cast, and fantastic battle scenes ultimately make this film a riveting masterpiece.



Lisa Lee / The Spectator

Arts and Entertainment

Books

The Many Faces of a Timeless Detective

By NINA WADE

With a deerstalker cap perched atop his head and a pipe clenched between his teeth, the great detective plainly states, "It's elementary, my dear Watson." This image of Sherlock Holmes with his meticulous memory and unmatched deductive skills may have been wrought in Victorian London, but it continues to entrance audiences today. From their humble beginnings in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novels, and later his short stories published in *The Strand Magazine*, Holmes and his sidekick, Dr. James Watson, have appeared in all types of media, from classic television adaptations to testosterone-driven films to modern-day mysteries.

Pen and Ink

The great detective first sprang from Doyle's pen in 1887, in the novel "A Study in Scarlet." Doyle's full canon, consisting of fifty-six short stories and four novels, ends in 1927, with *The Strand's* publication of Holmes's last adventure, "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place." These tales are still popular today, and many writers have tried their hand at adapting them; author Neil Gaiman fused "A Study in

Scarlet" with H.P. Lovecraft's mythos of Cthulhu, an amphibious, godlike creature born from a hellish, mind-bending land, in his short story "A Study in Emerald."

However, the original adventures still stand strong, and though many have tried to emulate Doyle's style, few succeed. Through first-person narration, Doyle's Watson is not just a companion, but also an equal, unlike his portrayal in many rehashings as a bumbling tagalong. Seen through modern eyes, Watson's and Holmes's cohabitation and co-dependency seems, perhaps not unintentionally, more like a love affair than just an intense friendship. Holmes's use of cocaine to counteract periodic boredom is another unique detail that makes the original stand out.

Silver Screen Stars

In the 1930s and mid-1940s, Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce starred as the detective and doctor, respectively, in a series of films. While the first two adaptations were set in the Victorian era, after the series was dropped by 20th Century Fox and picked up by Universal Studios, they were set in the present, often involving matters of national security.

This iteration is well-known for Bruce's depiction of Watson, which introduced many viewers to a vastly different doctor than Doyle's characterization. Rather than the competent army doctor from the novel, Bruce's Watson is bumbling, klutzy, and more likely to step on a clue than uncover it. Director Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes," released in 2009 and starring Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes and Jude Law as Watson, returned the duo to the Victorian era. This film takes Holmes in a more aggressive direction for the sake of blockbuster success, emphasizing physical confrontation as well as mental gymnastics—but even in brawling Holmes exercises his intelligence. Each bout begins with Holmes targeting previously noticed weaknesses, such as a punch to the gut to fell an alcoholic guard, a characteristic he'd deduced from the hip flask and flushed face.

The modern plot is not that of a direct murder mystery, instead revolving around a secret organization and its nefarious plans. The movie also returns Watson to his role as a competent, willing participant in Holmes's adventures, playing up the "bromance" between the two by increasing their back-and-forth

needling and flirtation. This dynamic refutes past film iterations, and restores the pair to their original form.

The sequel, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," released on December 16, 2011, follows in its predecessor's footsteps, making the detective much more of a do-it-all action hero than in the classic version. The potential homosexual relationship of Holmes and Watson is also played up to a more comic degree, especially when Holmes disguises himself as a woman, decked out in blue eye-shadow, to rescue Watson from the antagonist Professor Moriarty's trap. After sending Watson's new wife to safety, the two end up on the floor of a cabin, locked in each other's arms, to avoid Moriarty's cannon-fire. Whether you believe their relationship is sexual or not, Downey Jr. and Law's electric chemistry makes this one of the most arresting sequences of the film.

Television Interpretations

While Victorian-era depictions of the detective currently reign supreme at the box office, recent television adaptations have drawn upon the character traits found in Holmes and Watson as well. Fox's "House," for example, is a Holmes-inspired show, as Dr. House (Hugh Laurie) uses his superior intellect to solve peculiar medical mysteries. "House" also includes subtle nods to its origins, such as Dr. House's living at 221 Baker Street, Apartment B—a reference to Holmes's famous abode of 221B Baker Street—and his addiction to painkillers. Even his name, a synonym for "home," is an allusion to "Holmes." Furthermore, Wilson (Robert Leonard), serves as House's Watson in this largely successful drama.

In 2010, BBC released "Sherlock," a twenty-first-century update of Sherlock Holmes, the second season of which premiered in the U.K. on Sunday, January 1. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Holmes and Martin Freeman as Watson, this miniseries, though containing only three episodes in the first season, promises to be one of the strongest adaptations. It includes many "Easter eggs" for fans of the original canon, such as a clue from

the original "A Study in Scarlet" being considered, albeit briefly, before being overturned as a red herring in the first episode, "A Study in Pink."

In another blink-and-you'll-miss-it reference, a young man who disappears is named James Phillimore. This alludes to a passing mention in "The Problem of Thor Bridge" of an unsolved case in which Phillimore, after "stepping back into his own house to get his umbrella, was never more seen in this world." Some of the episodes' plots are simply amalgamations of a few of Doyle's originals that have been updated to modern times. Even many chunks of dialogue are lifted directly from the books.

This series also features one of the strongest and most faithful representations of Holmes and Watson's relationship. Cumberbatch's Holmes is as dry and misanthropic as Doyle's, but when Watson enters his life, he noticeably opens up, a trait not readily apparent in transformations such as "House" or in Ritchie's films. Freeman's Watson, now blogging instead of writing about his friend's escapades, is the most appreciative of Holmes's deductions, muttering an "extraordinary" or a "fantastic" under his breath at each explanation.

Cumberbatch plays Holmes as ambiguously gay or asexual, often saying things like, "Girlfriends? No, not really my area." And his reliance on Watson for domestic and emotional support is almost husbandly. While Watson claims to be straight, his steadfast devotion and crystal-clear enthusiasm for their adventures, as well as his abandonment of multiple girlfriends to aid the detective, leads many characters to speculate otherwise. Cumberbatch's Holmes is clearly socially awkward or even mildly autistic, a detail Downey's Holmes ignores. "I'm not a psychopath," Cumberbatch tells a police officer. "I'm a high-functioning sociopath." He is not as flashy or as muscular as Downey Jr.'s Holmes, and his social ineptitude, arrogance, and even flat-out rudeness, merged with his exhilarating genius make him a more interesting anti-hero.



Which Sherlock Are You?

By NINA WADE

1. Your faithful companion is...

- a. Bumbling but endearing
- b. Intelligent and inquisitive
- c. Curious and sardonic
- d. Quick-witted and dependable

2. Others would most likely call you...

- a. A clever, patriotic detective
- b. A cold, chaotic master of deduction
- c. A roguish, hyper-intelligent charmer
- d. A psychopathic genius

3. What do you think of the world?

- a. It is a great treasure that must be protected.
- b. It is a curious place, and no aspect is more curious than those who inhabit it.
- c. There's always something to be done, people to observe, and mysteries to follow.
- d. The world is often boring, as

are the people, but there are always exceptions.

4. To what lengths would you go to solve a crime and capture a killer?

- a. Any length, even if it necessitated putting myself in danger of a trap.
- b. I could solve any crime without facing needless danger.
- c. Endangering myself may be necessary, but I must not risk others' lives.
- d. Sometimes lives must be lost. Sometimes lies must be told. But never will those I care about get hurt.

5. What type of case would you take?

- a. Any case for the good of my country.
- b. A case must be of interest to me, or to England's national security.
- c. If it has drama, high stakes, and a sensational solution, I'll take it.
- d. The world is often boring, as

d. So long as it is sufficiently interesting and poses an intellectual challenge.

6. How do you keep your home?

- a. Neat, organized, and rather spacious, in order to access everything quickly.
- b. While I know where everything is, others would be quick to call it "chaotic."
- c. The housekeeper keeps much of it in order, but my workspace is rather untidy.
- d. Messy and disorganized, much to Watson's annoyance.

7. Is the opposite sex a part of your life?

- a. I don't happen upon many of note, no.
- b. I don't have time for them. Besides, few, if any, have ever interested me.
- c. While there's no harm in admiring a beautiful sight, perhaps with some interaction, there's only one who has truly captured my attention.
- d. Not really my area...except for that one. She was tricky.

IF YOU CHOSE:

Mostly A's:

You are Basil Rathbone's Holmes, and are much more sociable than other versions might suggest. You work to solve the mysteries that imperil England, your glorious homeland, with your quick-thinking mind's myriad plans, with the sometimes-useful help of your companion Watson.

Mostly B's:

You are a purist, a Holmes straight from Doyle's mind. Others might call you "dispassionate," but your solid, capable, and ever-present Watson knows the twinkle you get in your eye when the trail goes hot. Then again, he's the only one you ever let in close enough to see it.

Mostly C's:

You are an impish, rough-and-tumble Holmes, portrayed to perfection by Robert Downey Jr. in the "Sherlock Holmes" film series. You may not always show it, but Watson is one of the most important people in your life, and you would go to great lengths to protect him; however, your definition of "a safe situation" would still be dubbed "insanity" by most.

Mostly D's:

You like your modern conveniences, and are happy to be Benedict Cumberbatch's Holmes. You prefer to be called a "highly-functioning sociopath" rather than a "psychopath," but you understand why some would refer to you as such. Watson, your ever-present companion, may be far more agreeable than you, but somehow, the two of you make a splendid, capable pair.

Arts and Entertainment

TV & Movies

A First Class Experience



By SHELLEY SHIN

Today, endless lines, delays, and crowded planes are all part of the expected, miserable experience of flying. An elegant, enjoyable, or even painless flight is completely unimaginable. However, at one time, flying was exactly that—glamorous. Airing every Sunday night at 10 p.m., ABC's recently launched TV series, "Pan Am," depicts the thrill of flying in the Jet Age of the 1960s.

Directed by Thomas Schlamme, "Pan Am" follows the lives and adventures of four stewardesses who work for the now-defunct Pan American Airways: Kate (Kelli Garner), Laura (Margot Robbie), Maggie (Christina Ricci), and Colette (Karine Vanasse). As the girls embark on their careers aboard the Clipper Majestic, they begin a journey of romance, adventure, and self-discovery. Through these four women, the audience catches a glimpse of the jet-setting life of a Pan Am stewardess and the glamour of a Pan Am flight as well as tidbits of the tumult and excitement of life in the early 1960s.

The uniqueness of the stewardesses' lives on in the air makes each episode undeniably entertaining. Executive producer Nancy Hult Ganis, once a Pan Am stewardess herself, brings great accuracy and detail to the sets and costumes. From the lounge area, galley, and bar, to the wallpaper, lighting, and dinnerware,

airline), sporting flirty day dresses and elegant evening gowns. However, the most accurate portrayal of the Pan Am stewardess' wardrobe is their uniform's mandatory girdle, which changes the way one walks, talks, and stands in order to maintain the Pan Am poise.

The stewardesses, decked out in belted pencil skirts, black court shoes, pillbox hats, white gloves, and signature blue Pan Am bags, are as '60s as it gets.

Much of the show's appeal also stems from the actresses convincing performances. Garner, Robbie, Ricci, and Vanesse have not only mastered the Pan Am walk and talk, but have captured the charisma characteristic of the actual Pan Am stewardesses themselves—best revealed when dealing with "handsy" customers or rude pilots. They contribute a great sense of humor, wit, and flirtatiousness that animates their characters.

However, beneath the seemingly shallow story of glitz and glamour lies a powerful story of female empowerment. "Pan Am" depicts the onset of a new age of women through the travails of the stewardesses. Maggie, headstrong and outspoken, is the epitome of female empowerment as she challenges age-old female stereotypes that often place her at odds with her superiors. Laura represents the change of traditional female roles as she runs away from her wedding to escape the life of a housewife for one of adventure in the air. Similarly, Kate leaves home to see and experience the world. Through her travels, she is offered and accepts an opportunity to spy for the C.I.A.

Despite the show's success in capturing the Jet Age mystique, "Pan Am" casts an overly romanticized light on the 1960s, a time that witnessed internal and external conflicts in our country. Though the show does lightly touch upon Cold War tensions, it should encompass more of the social movements and events of the 1960s other than the Jet Age. The show's target audience (almost entirely female) is also limiting. Nonetheless, for what it is, the show is crisp and polished—a true first class experience.

Airing every Sunday night at 10 p.m., ABC's recently launched TV series, "Pan Am", depicts the thrill that was flying in the Jet Age of the 1960s.

the show's plane set perfectly replicates that of the original Boeing 707. The convincing set not only strengthens the 1960's vibe but also incites a longing for the days when passengers flew to destinations with elegance and class.

The costumes are also completely spot-on. The stewardesses, decked out in belted pencil skirts, black court shoes, pillbox hats, white gloves, and signature blue Pan Am bags, are as '60s as it gets. Off duty, the four girls enjoy the life of luxury (compliments of the

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo Hits Hard Again

By MEG PALMER

People often mark their skin with names written in swirling script and colorful winged creatures, but rarely are they defined by these indelible marks. This does not hold true for Lisbeth Salander, who has become known around the world as the girl with the dragon tattoo.

A story about an attempt to find 16-year-old Harriet Vanger, who went missing in 1966, Stieg Larsson's "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" (titled "Men Who Hate Women" in the original Swedish) examines the intertwined forces of misogyny, power, and love in modern-day Sweden. With bleak narration, graphic descriptions, and realistic characters, Larsson brings to life a world filled with greed, deceit, and murder.

In 2009, Swedish director Niels Arden Oplev took Larson's characters to the big screen for the first time. Noomi Rapace starred as the snarky, sarcastic Salander, a young ward of the state who was deemed incompetent after attempting to kill her father, and who now works as a computer sleuth. Michael Nyqvist plays Mikael Blomkvist, a journalist whose career and life are put in jeopardy after he is unjustly convicted for libel. Hired by Henrik Vanger (Christopher Plummer), who purports to have incriminating evidence about Blomkvist's accuser, Blomkvist works with Salander to discover what happened to Vanger's niece Harriet. Though Oplev left some characters, like Blomkvist's daughter, out of the movie, his adaptation was well done and well received.

American director David

Fincher took his vision of "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" to American viewers in December last year. Rooney Mara and Daniel Craig co-star as Lisbeth Salander and Mikael Blomkvist and do their best to recreate the chemistry Rapace and Nyqvist brought to the original. Craig, best known for his role in the James Bond movies, portrays Blomkvist as well as, if not better than, Nyqvist did in the Swedish version. Mara is a phenomenal Salander, easily conveying her weaknesses and strengths and solidifying Salander's bizarre personality onscreen. Unfortunately, the costume and makeup departments grossly exaggerate Salander's peculiar look, making her seem churlish and crude with skull jewelry and torn t-shirts. She is described by Larsson not as goth, but as independent of society's fashion, something the costumes do not accurately depict.

The movie earned an R rating from the Motion Picture Association of America, with good reason. The two controversial rape scenes are done as tactfully as possible, but the amount of nudity in other scenes and the constant use of profanity contribute to the film's notoriously hard-hitting style. If you don't think you can endure it, don't see it.

The supporting cast is very good, though different from the Swedish film's stellar one. As Henrik Vanger, Christopher Plummer is fantastic, expressing his character's fears and doubts far better than did his Swedish counterpart, Sven-Bertil Taube. On the other hand, Swede Peter Andersson portrayed a superb Nils Bjurman (Salander's abusive

lawyer), appearing slimy without being overly crude, while Yorick van Wageningen in the American film lacks believability, especially in some of his interactions with Mara. Finally, Fincher's Stellan Skarsgård is as likeable a Martin Vanger, Harriet's brother, as Peter Haber was in the original.

Fincher does make great use of the actors and scenery at his disposal, but he fails to take into account the fact that not all viewers have read the books, which makes the ending confusing for many viewers. That being said, the movie is still very good and has been nominated for multiple awards, including the Oscars for Best Editing and Best Soundtrack. It is a striking adaptation of the first Stieg Larsson novel, giving life to some of the most lovable, detestable, and interesting characters in modern literature.



Christine Lee / The Spectator

Searching for Closure in the Towers' Dust

By TAHIA ISLAM

"Dad had a spirit," says a tired-looking mother (Sandra Bullock) in the midst of an argument with her 9-year-old son.

"He had cells, and now they're on rooftops, and in the river, and in the lungs of millions of people around New York, who breathe him every time they speak," the boy yells in protest.

The innocent maturity of the child, Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn), is what makes the movie adaptation of New York native Jonathan Safran Foer's best-selling novel "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," in short, incredible. Directed by Academy-Award-nominated director



Lindy Chiu / The Spectator

Stephen Daldry, the film will be released worldwide on Friday, January 20. However, it is already accessible at two theaters (Regal Union Square Stadium 14 and AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13) in New York City.

The film follows Oskar as he tries to find the lock for a rustic key he discovers in his father's closet two years after his father's death in the World Trade Center attacks. Horn's performance captures the desperation of the child as he clings to this physical remnant of his beloved parent (Tom Hanks). Through Oskar's Asperger's-afflicted mind, viewers also observe his difficult relationships with his grieving and hardworking mother (Sandra Bullock) and his two grandparents.

While the adaptation is ultimately a laudable interpretation of the book, it strays from some of the novel's key aspects, choosing to focus more on the tragedy of 9/11. While Foer's beautiful nonlinear text alternates between Oskar's journey and unsent letters that his grandparents wrote to their deceased son, the film cuts out the narrative embedded in the latter part, a wise decision for the sake of a two-hour film. The omission, however, does bring confusion to those unfamiliar with the story; the grandfather's tattooed hands and his sudden re-appearance in the Schell life are left unexplained.

Where the film falls short in its portrayal of the grandparents, it sheds a great deal of light on the endearingly awkward, inquisitive protagonist. Thomas Horn, whose only previous on-screen experience was an appearance on Jeopardy, captures his character's joys, frustrations, and sadness through captivating narration. Unfortunately, most of the film's other characters are, like the grandparents, given short shrift; Oskar's mother, for example, is reduced to a grieving background figure.

Though the movie's depiction of the book's complex plot is praise-worthy in some parts, it is problematic in others. In the beginning, the action switches from Oskar's discovery of the key to flashbacks of 9/11 and his experiences with his father, with little to no transition. This device may have been intended to create a sense of chaos, but it creates too much confusion in the process. Luckily, the transitions become cleaner throughout the rest of the movie.

"Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" is a compelling film that strays from the original book in almost all the right places. Though it has some glitches, it brings a tragedy that filled international headlines close to home, and ultimately leaves viewers with the sense of closure that Oskar searches for.

Arts and Entertainment

TV & Movies

Sadness and Suicides in Sleepy Suburbia



By NINA WADE

White picket fences and sexual repression aren't what come to mind at mention of the 1970's, but Sofia Coppola's 1999 film, "The Virgin Suicides," takes an unconventional look at the tight-laced side of the decade that most associates with free love. The film, based on Jeffrey Eugenides's 1993 novel of the same name, examines a quiet upper-middle-class suburb in Detroit, Michigan, and how a group of teenage boys and its community were affected by the suicide of 13-year-old Cecilia Lisbon, followed by the simultaneous suicides of her four sisters.

Dunst's face, still young and innocent but with exhausted expressions, paints a portrait of a girl who feels used and lost, and seems older and sadly wiser beyond her years.

The unnamed narrator (Giovanni Ribisi), one of the boys in the group, recounts the story as an adult, remembering how he and his friends had loved the girls, but had never found an explanation for their deaths, and "will never find the pieces to put them back together." The Lisbon sisters are revered and admired from a distance by the boys of the town, highlighting the girls' struggle with their overprotective parents as they make their way

through adolescence.

Though titled "The Virgin Suicides," the film revolves around a single death. The girls—Cecilia, Lux, Bonnie, Mary, and Therese—are fiercely overprotected by their deeply religious parents, who forbid them from socializing, let alone dating. When Cecilia (Hanna R. Hall) attempts suicide, by cutting her wrists in the bathtub, her parents try to cheer her up by throwing a party for the girls, to which they invite the neighborhood boys, but she leaves the party, goes upstairs, and jumps to her death from her bedroom window. While her reasoning is never explained, her blank, tired expression as she tells the hospital psychiatrist, who asks her what in her young life could be so bad as to drive her to first attempt at suicide, "Obviously, you've never been a thirteen-year-old girl," suggests an extreme reaction to the suffocating nature of her life. After Cecilia succeeds in taking her own life, the Lisbon family becomes even more reclusive, and the daughters become the subjects of even harsher scrutiny.

At this point in the film, fourteen-year-old Lux (Kirsten Dunst) becomes the real star. In the wake of Cecilia's death, Lux's three sisters cut themselves off from the world, but Lux throws herself into it with reckless, almost self-destructive abandon, romancing the neighborhood heartbreaker Trip Fontaine (Josh Hartnett). Dunst plays the perfect ingénue, flirting sweetly with bitten lips and breathless smiles, looking for the entire world like a little girl trying to grow up.

After Lux skips curfew at the Homecoming dance, she and her sisters are taken out of school and placed under house arrest by their parents. It is now that she—Lux finally seems to break down, sleeping with a string of men on her rooftop, and sitting and smoking, under the stars. Dunst's face, still young and innocent but with exhausted expressions, paints a portrait of a girl who feels used and lost, and seems older and sadly wiser beyond her years.

Coppola's strength lies with her ability to evoke moods, a skill

which can be seen even here in her filmmaking debut. Most of the movie is slightly rosy, creating a warm, gently feminine feel to the whole film; the scenes without this glow center around the boys, emphasizing how separate they and their world are from that of the Lisbons, though they are just across the street.

In addition, the narration heightens the curious, somewhat disengaged perspective, making the whole sordid affair seem otherworldly; when the boys happen upon Cecilia's diary after her death and bring it to the neighborhood brain for analysis, he tells them, "What we have here is a dreamer... she probably thought she would fly." But it is the boys who truly fantasize, grasping at fragmented windows—photographs, journals, tubes of lipstick—into the world of these untouchable young women.

However, the film also belies Coppola's inexperience, as elements that create its phantasmagoric quality also give it very little gravitas. The onlooker's point-of-view lends a detachment from reality, which, though ethereal, makes it difficult to be invested in their emotional wellbeing—apart from Lux's, which is shown so clearly disintegrating by Dunst. While this distance mirrors the gap between the Lisbons and the boys, the boys are already fascinated by the girls, but we have to be drawn into the film's reality.

The film also belies Coppola's inexperience, as elements that create its phantasmagoric quality also give it very little gravitas.

Also, sisters Therese (Leslie Hayman), Mary (A.J. Cook), and Bonnie (Chelse Swain) are barely touched upon, and serve only to further the close-knit, impregnable bond the daughters have.

"The Virgin Suicides" may be an imperfect film and hard to connect to, but it eventually draws in viewers as deeply as the boys are by the Lisbon girls. Though the subject matter is difficult to tackle, it does so tastefully, and succeeds nonetheless as a darker look at coming-of-age stories and childhood nostalgia, burgeoning womanhood, and in-the-dark outsiders. If the delicately wrought, melancholy, and teenage ennui pique interest, then this quiet film is more than likely to please.

A Circus of Spies and Lies

By JOSHUA BOGATIN

James Bond's daring adventures and flashy gadgets may have provided the basis for many childhood fantasies of espionage, but in the world of "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy," a movie directed by Swedish director Tomas Alfredson, these adventure-filled fancies seem as realistic as becoming a space pirate. Filled with technical jargon, lengthy dialogues, and emotional subject matter, "Tinker, Tailor" defies the farcical antics of 007, replacing them with the cold, stark world of 1970s British Cold War operations. Though the film aims to be an intellectual thriller, it is often overly didactic with a plodding plot, and even the considerable acting talent on display can't raise it above these faults.

Based on John le Carré's 1974 novel of the same name, "Tinker, Tailor" details the inner workings of the Circus, a British spy organization trapped in an intense chess-like game of espionage at the height of the Cold War. When former head of the Circus George Smiley (Gary Oldman) discovers that a Russian mole has infiltrated the organization, he comes out of retirement at the request of Control (John Hurt), the head, and teams up with rookie Peter Guillam (Benedict Cumberbatch) to root out the spy. Soon after starting the hunt, they discover that the traitor is one of the organization's heads and find themselves amidst a complex web of political intrigue and betrayal.

The plot is overly dense and convoluted; one revelation is hardly made before Smiley moves on to interrogate the next person, and it is rarely clear why each person is important. Thanks to the film's reliance on dialogue filled with incomprehensible spy terminology, scenes that should throb with suspense are often just confusing. This puzzlement is worsened by sporadic and inadequately cued flashback sequences that are hard to distinguish from the present. Through his use of atmosphere and camera-work however, Alfredson keeps the audience reasonably interested and emotionally in-sync with the film. Smiley's turmoil under duress is easy to sympathize with, even if the source of his anguish is un-

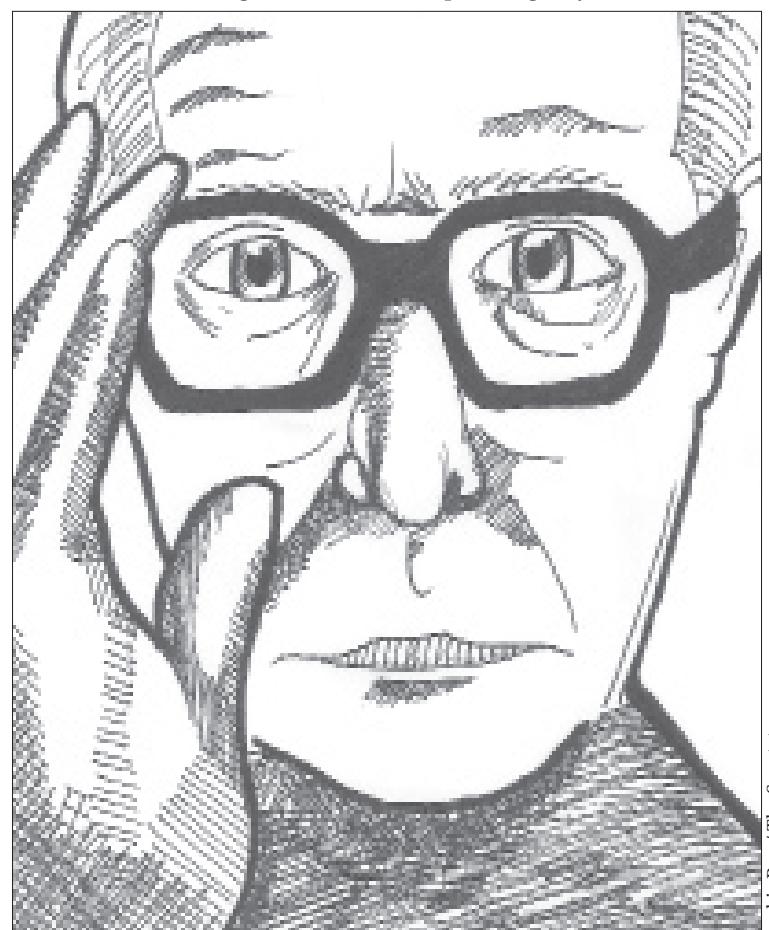
clear.

The weak handling of the plot is disheartening, since every other aspect of the film, from the cinematography to the performances, displays the significant talent of the people involved. Cinematographer Hoyte Van Hoytema's drab gray and brown palette sets a somber and purposefully flat tone while nuanced camera angles create an increasing sense of dread. Despite his inelegant handling of the narrative, Alfredson shows skill as a director, creating taut scenes of conversation between Smiley and potential traitors. Every word feels as lethal as a gunshot, and an increasing sense of tension builds with every breath.

In one of the year's best performances, Gary Oldman reinvents the conventional spy hero, transforming him from a Bond-esque action hero to a calculating Holmesian detective. Oldman portrays his character with subtlety, giving us a meek Smiley who is internally suppressed by his drab lifestyle, even though his position gives him great power. Smiley knows his wife, who never appears in the film, is having an affair, and Oldman expertly maintains a silent rage, even when taunted by his wife's lover.

The film sports an A-list cast of British talent, including Colin Firth, Tom Hardy, and Mark Strong, and none disappoint. Hardy is charming as Ricki Tarr, a British defector who gives Smiley his first clue. Despite a dearth of screen time, his pompous and cocky portrayal makes the role memorable. Firth gives a skillful performance as Bill Haydon, the confident and controlled leader of the Circus. Haydon emerges as a clear foil to Smiley, and Firth and Oldman, both understatedly powerful actors, play off each other brilliantly.

Skillful film adaptations of other le Carré novels, including "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold" in 1965 and "The Constant Gardener" in 2005, prove that his intricate work can be successfully adapted for the screen. Even though "Tinker, Tailor" and its muddled plot do not live up to these precedents, the film's fine performances, nuanced direction, and superb design make for a captivating labyrinth.



Sophie Pan / The Spectator

Arts and Entertainment**Food****Nickel and Dine: Pop-Culture Pies**

By JOSHUA BOGATIN

An average, by-the-slice New York pizza place uphill must battle ahead if it ever wishes to rise above the level of simple corner pizza joint. With some interesting and funky varieties of the triangular favorite, inspired by pop-culture and presented in a vibrant, trendy atmosphere, "Two Boots" has taken a strong foothold in the New York City pizza scene. Fusing Italian pizza with Louisiana's Cajun flavors (the name is a reference to the boot-like shape of both regions), the restaurant has not only has become a local favorite, but has also has branched out to Baltimore and L.A.

Founded by two indie filmmakers, "Two Boots" sends customers into a pop-culture incited sensory overload. A vibrant display of indie and cult film, TV and music posters, as well as fan art, complements a steady stream of rock classics from bands like The Velvet Underground or The Rolling Stones.

With a long and creative list of mouth-watering options, each going for \$3.50 a slice, choosing a slice can be a struggle. Those craving the Cajun styling of the second "boot" are best off ordering the spicy "Bayou Beast," which comes topped with shrimp, crawfish, smoky Andouille sausage, and jalapeno peppers.

Another must-have option is "The Dude" (named in honor of the protagonist of cult film "The Big Lebowski"), a mouth-watering cheeseburger-like pie with Cajun Tasso ham, Andouille sausage, and ground

The chain also offers site-specific varieties—the Two Boots in the West Village makes a "Village Vanguard" slice, named for the nearby jazz club of the same name and topped with home-made meatballs, ricotta, and fresh basil, named for the nearby jazz club of the same name.



beef atop a layer of cheddar and mozzarella.

Another favorite is the "Mr. Pink," named after Steve Buscemi's character in "Reservoir Dogs." "Mr. Pink" which is topped with juicy plum tomato slices, flavorful marinated chicken, and garlic. The "Mr. Pink" It provides a great option for those averse to spice.

The chain also offers site-specific varieties—the Two Boots in the West Village makes a "Village Vanguard" slice, named after the famous jazz club nearby and topped with home-made meatballs, ricotta and fresh ba-

Founded by two indie filmmakers, "Two Boots" sends customers into a pop-culture incited sensory overload.

sil, named after the famous jazz club nearby. For a side dish, the spicy Cajun garlic bread (\$2.95) goes well with any order and the homemade chocolate chip cookies, which are 75 cents each, are a perfect after-dinner dessert or midday snack.

There are more than enough typical pizza places in New York, but even with their seven Manhattan locations, there just aren't enough of "Two Boots," a true haven for those looking for more than the average greasy slice.

ADVERTISEMENTS



What's up Stuy High?
Did someone say study break?

SHAKE IT ON OVER!

215 Murray Street
(between West Street & North End Avenue)

www.shakeshack.com
www.facebook.com/shakeshackfans

Rip me out and present when you order.



Complimentary cup of frozen custard.

IVYBOUND PREP

**GROUP,
ELITE &
PRIVATE**

TUTORING

for the SAT, ACT and SAT II

ivybound.net 1.212.920.7581

Sports

Boys' Basketball

Rebels Face Trouble on Way to Division Title

continued from page 32

period, assisting Choudhury with his third three-pointer, and managing two offensive rebounds and a layup in one possession. The team capped off the quarter with Cui knocking down a three-pointer from well beyond the arc at the buzzer. Stuyvesant led 36-34.

The Tigers continued to push the tempo in the final quarter, scoring five points on fast breaks, and jumping out to a three-point lead. The Rebels responded with driving layups by senior Kenny Yu and Choudhury, and a three-point play by Hood. The situation soured once again for Stuyvesant when Cui took a bad shot, leading to yet another fast break layup by the Tigers, stretching their lead to 46-41.

In the final minute, the Rebels executed a well-designed inbounds play to perfection, which led to a layup by Hood off a pick-and-roll, narrowing the deficit to 47-45. After giving up a layup, Vlcek launched a deep three-pointer to cut the margin to 49-48. A Tigers' missed free-throw gave the Rebels a chance to win, but Vlcek got double-teamed, and missed a difficult shot.

"That was only the second time we were in the situation where we had to close out a game," Hood said. "We learned that we must execute down the stretch on both ends of the floor in order to win."

"If we execute, we can play with anyone. The problem is we haven't beaten any teams yet that we weren't supposed to beat. But we're close," Fisher said.

Runnin' Rebels 56, Bayard Rustin Titans 45 By ALEN MAKHMUDOV

The Rebels secured their sixth win this season on Wednesday, January 4, after beating the Bayard Rustin Titans. By playing hard, they were able to bounce back from their loss against Norman Thomas.

The game started off poorly for the Rebels, as they were down 6-0 in the first few minutes. The team was not moving the ball well, had too many holes in the defense, and did not hustle for rebounds. However, the momentum swung in Stuyvesant's favor as they changed their game plan and began to move the ball with ease, took good shots and drew fouls. The first quarter ended with the Rebels up 17-10.

This positive momentum continued in the second quarter as the Rebels took away the paint defensively, and the Titans were forced to shoot outside shots, the majority of

which they missed. The rest of the game went this way, and in the end the Rebels came out on top.

A key factor in this was Hood, who had one of his best games of the season. With a double-double, he put up a total of 22 points and grabbed 16 rebounds.

"The passes were really great today, especially those from Debanjan [Roychoudhury]," Hood said. Roychoudhury was tied for the team lead with four assists. "This game felt really good. We really clicked on both sides of the ball today," Roychoudhury said.

Vleck also played a huge role in the game, putting up 16 points. "We really played as a team," he said.

Despite the win, Fisher saw many areas that the Rebels needed to improve on. "I loved the effort today. Still, there were too many turnovers, and we got lucky because the opponents were not able to capitalize on our mistakes," he said. "We still have not reached our full potential."

Runnin' Rebels 74, Julia Richman Warriors 35 By KRIS LULAJ

The Rebels jumped to a very quick 36-13 lead at halftime. They continued to outscore the Warriors in every quarter en route to a 74-35 win, improving to 5-1 at home, and 7-3 in the regular season. Senior and co-captain Quinn Hood led the team in both points and rebounds with 16 and 11, respectively.

Runnin' Rebels 62, Hunter College Hawks 70 By LEV AKABAS

The Runnin' Rebels lost yet another close game on Monday, January 9, this time to the Hunter College Hawks.

Stuyvesant opened the game with many miscues, which included several missed layups in the first period. In addition, the team committed five turnovers in the quarter, which, combined with poor transition defense, led to six fast break points by the Hawks. The last of these turnovers by the Rebels led to a dunk by Hunter senior Kadeem Nibbs, which excited the home crowd, and extended the Hawks' lead to 17-11.

The Rebels began the second period in the same sloppy manner in which they played the first. Shortly after a Hunter three-pointer, Stuyvesant missed three layups and turned the ball over four times in a three-minute span. Matters continued to get worse when Stuyvesant failed to defend Hunter's best three-point shooter

on several different occasions, letting the Hawks cruise to a 31-19 advantage.

Trailing by only five coming out of the locker room, the Rebels out-scored Hunter by seven points in the third quarter. Vlcek hit a three-pointer off of good ball movement, assisted Choudhury with his layup, and then drove through the defense for a layup of his own to cap off a 17-2 run for the Rebels.

After benefiting from numerous open threes missed by Hunter, the Hawks eventually began to make their shots, and retook the lead by one. However, the Rebels displayed great poise on offense by working the ball around for over a minute, and eventually finding Choudhury for a three-pointer. Stuyvesant was on top 48-46 heading into the final period.

With Hood having fouled out with six minutes to go in the tight contest, Vlcek swooped in for a layup, but was called incorrectly for an offensive foul. The entire game changed following the play as Hunter went on to make two wide-open threes, en route to an eight-point lead.

"We did nothing well," Fisher said. "We weren't sliding our feet on defense, and we weren't hustling. We think we're better than we are, and these guys are going to get a real gut-check in practice tomorrow."

The team surrendered 15 offensive rebounds, missed countless layups, and shot just 63 percent from the foul line. Three players fouled out, including Hood, Choudhury, and senior Erick Wong.

"The [referees] really gave this game away. We haven't had anybody foul out in any of our games this whole season, and we had three people foul out today," Vlcek said. "I hate to blame it on them, because at the end of the day it's our performance, and we've just got to play better."

Runnin' Rebels 63, Seward Park Bears 42 By KRIS LULAJ

After a slow start against a sub-par team, the Rebels picked it up in the second half when they went on a 20-7 run to increase their lead to 18 and turn the contest into a blowout. Seniors and co-captains Quinn Hood and Roy Vlcek led the way with 16 and 13 points, respectively. Senior Abid Choudhury added 13 points on 7-7 free-throw shooting, and junior Thomas Cui finished with 11 points, including three three-pointers.

said.

With only two meets left, the Pirates are close to another undefeated regular season. They have trained hard in and out of the water and improved their times in every single meet. Now, they look forward to the playoffs.

"I think we're going to be one of the top [teams] in the city. If not number one, then number two," Bologna said.

As in previous years, the team will most likely get a bye for the first round. Later in the playoffs, the Pirates expect another city championship showdown against the Brooklyn Tech Engineers. "This year, Brooklyn Tech has acquired some really exceptional swimmers and they will undoubtedly be our strongest rival," Qiao said. "As a team, we will continue to train, and when its time to face Brooklyn Tech, we will be ready."

starting to acclimate themselves to the races that they are swimming," Bologna said. "They're starting to incorporate the proper breathing technique, proper glide underwater, and the dolphin kick, which are all important for racing."

Part of the Pirates' overall success is due to their intensive training sessions. During the week of winter break, which the teammates call "Hell Week," the swimmers started practice at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 26; Wednesday, December 28; and Friday, December 30. On Friday, the Pirates swam freestyle sprint sets in descending order (800 yards, 600 yards, 400 yards, 200 yards), and then did 12 25-yard sprints to and from the diving blocks.

Bologna is pleased with his team's work ethic and progress. "I'm proud of what they're putting in and what they're getting out," he

said.

With only two meets left, the Pirates are close to another undefeated regular season. They have trained hard in and out of the water and improved their times in every single meet. Now, they look forward to the playoffs.

"I think we're going to be one of the top [teams] in the city. If not number one, then number two," Bologna said.

As in previous years, the team will most likely get a bye for the first round. Later in the playoffs, the Pirates expect another city championship showdown against the Brooklyn Tech Engineers. "This year, Brooklyn Tech has acquired some really exceptional swimmers and they will undoubtedly be our strongest rival," Qiao said. "As a team, we will continue to train, and when its time to face Brooklyn Tech, we will be ready."

Indoor Track

Greyducks Celebrate Speedy Qualifications for Cities

By EAMON WOODS

Boys' Indoor Track

Hindered by various injuries and a taxing cross-country season, the boys' indoor track team, the Greyducks, though successful, has yet to reach its full potential.

"The distance guys have just been basically training easily. We'll do better later in the season," coach Mark Mendes said.

The Greyducks need to recover from a strenuous cross-

ready set a school record, and Surkont set the two-mile record at nine minutes and 22 seconds at the Bishop Loughlin Games on Tuesday, December 17.

As the Greyducks continue to improve, they will have to count on more than just conditioning to win. "There's been a mentality to persevere. If you have a winning mentality, good things are going to happen for you. So, I think that's what we've adopted, and it's worked out so far," Surkont said.

Girls' Indoor Track

The female Greyducks have started out the season with some quick wins. "We've been doing really well so far, because it's already this early in the season, and we've already had a lot of girls qualify for cities for multiple different events, and that didn't happen last year," senior and co-captain Yan Lin said.

The improvement from last year is evident in the performances of both underclassmen and upperclassmen. "We've already gotten [sophomore] Vera [Petrovskaya] and [junior] Zhenqing Nie qualifying for the 1500-meter run in cities, and have [junior] Bebe [Legardeur] qualifying for the triple jump, and [junior] Alicia [Vargas-Morawetz] for the long jump, so I think we're off to a good start, and I think it'll only get better from there," senior and co-captain Emily Bram said. The race walkers have also qualified for the city championship.

In some ways, the Greyducks are even more successful than they dared hope to be. "Our new girls are very good, and I think we have exceeded our pre-season expectations, and I think we're also setting the team up for some good seasons down the

"If you have a winning mentality, good things are going to happen for you."
—Konrad Surkont, senior and co-captain

country season. "We also have a few kids who have been sick and hurt. [Senior] Mark Schramm has been quite ill. He's getting better now. [Junior and co-captain] Jack Stevenson had a little bit of an Achilles problem, and he's just rounding into shape," Mendes said.

However, the relay team members, including Stevenson, Schramm, and senior and co-captain Konrad Surkont, are optimistic about their prospects this season. "We've had a rocky start," Stevenson said. "But we're looking to get back in shape in time to qualify for Penn [Relays]."

One bright spot so far in the season is the sprinters' performance. "They qualified for cities really early. Again, you usually expect to hit those qualifying times in February," Surkont said. "But the fact that we're hitting [them] now is a really good sign."

Surkont has already qualified for the city championships in the two-mile run, as Schramm has in the one-mile run. The 4x800-meter and 4x200-meter relays teams have also qualified.

The upperclassmen's strong start has been complemented by underclassmen's success, sophomore Jeremy Karson's in particular. "Jeremy has definitely run some very fast times. He's also qualified for the mile. We didn't expect him to do it so early in the season, so to see that in the first month of the season is definitely a great sign," Surkont said.

Spectacular individual and team performances have highlighted the start of the season, with various school records broken in the process. The sprint 4x200-meter relay team has al-

"We're off to a good start, and I think it'll only get better from there."
—Emily Bram, senior and co-captain

line in the next few years," Bram said. "You lose the seniors as always, but I think the girls are really stepping up to take their places."

The Borough Championship in February will be the defining meet of the season, but as of now, the Greyducks feel good about where they are. "We want to finish this year better than the last year. So you can ask me again after the Borough Championship, but so far girls are doing very well," Coach Anna Markova said.

Boys' Swimming

In Battle of Undefeateds, Pirates Defeat Rivals

continued from page 32

backstroke, in which sophomore Brandon Koo beat the Hawks' star swimmer Richard Dong, 56.91 seconds to 57.06 seconds, to win the race.

"Before the race, I never expected to actually win, or even beat my best time," Koo said. "When I was in the water, I felt as if I was in control of the race until the last 25 [yards], where I struggled but managed to hold onto the lead for the win."

The Pirates' four freestyle relay teams finished first and second in both the 200-yard freestyle and 400-yard freestyle events. Bologna was impressed by the performances of all of the first-year swimmers.

"I notice that a lot of the rookies, who don't have a lot of swimming under their belt, are now

starting to acclimate themselves to the races that they are swimming," Bologna said. "They're starting to incorporate the proper breathing technique, proper glide underwater, and the dolphin kick, which are all important for racing."

Part of the Pirates' overall success is due to their intensive training sessions. During the week of winter break, which the teammates call "Hell Week," the swimmers started practice at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 26; Wednesday, December 28; and Friday, December 30.

On Friday, the Pirates swam freestyle sprint sets in descending order (800 yards, 600 yards, 400 yards, 200 yards), and then did 12 25-yard sprints to and from the diving blocks.

Bologna is pleased with his team's work ethic and progress. "I'm proud of what they're putting in and what they're getting out," he

Sports

Girls' Gymnastics

By MATTHEW MOY

The Felines, Stuyvesant's girls' gymnastics team, beat last year's division winners Dewitt Clinton 93.5-84.9 in its season opener on Thursday, January 5. Since last season, the Felines has become a more balanced and consistent team.

"The team is a little bit more rounded this year. Last year, we had Chloe [Hirschowitz ('11)], who was spectacular and everyone was just okay. Now everyone is middle to upper-middle level," gymnastics coach Vasken Choubaralian said.

The Dewitt Clinton team began the meet with vaulting. They all did a basic straddle jump over the vault, except one, who attempted a front handspring. The simple routine gave them a total score of 27.9. The Felines' top four gymnasts all did front handsprings with good landings. Sophomore Anna Ruta and junior Zofia Kaczmarek both received scores of 8.0, and the team's total score was 31.7.

On the uneven parallel bars, Ruta and senior and captain Shelby Hochberg both swung powerfully and quickly before back flipping off the bar. Ruta and Hochberg re-

ceived scores of 5.6 and 5.1, respectively. The Felines' total score for the event was 20.3.

Meanwhile, Dewitt Clinton's gymnasts seemed very insecure, and some even fell off. Only one gymnast swung powerfully enough to do a back-flip, and she received Dewitt Clinton's highest score in the event, a 4.8. Dewitt Clinton's total score for the event was 17.5.

Afterwards, the Felines took to the balance beam. Many of the gymnasts looked nervous and were visibly shaken after falling off the beam. "A couple of the girls fell three or more times," Choubaralian said. "That was a big disappointment, but at the same time we really haven't been working on the high beam that much, so in a way it's to be expected."

Hochberg led the team by holding tough poses, hitting many jumps, and falling only once. She received a score of 6.1, making the Felines' total score 22.1 among the four participants. Dewitt Clinton's gymnasts did not fall off the beam as much, but they also did not attempt any risky maneuvers. The judge gave Dewitt Clinton a total score of 19.0, due to the lower dif-

ficulty of the moves.

Finally, in the floor exercise event, Dewitt Clinton had several gymnasts that were very flexible and good dancers. One gymnast attempted an aerial—a no-hands cartwheel—and stumbled on the landing, but, nevertheless, received a long round of applause from the audience. Dewitt Clinton's total score was 20.5.

The Felines were not as well-prepared for their routines. However, the highlight of the event was when Kaczmarek chained together a round off and two back handsprings. The Felines's total score in the floor exercises was 19.4.

"I expected to do probably a little worse than we did, but I was pleasantly surprised with the results," Hochberg said. "Traditionally, we've always done better than they [Dewitt Clinton] have, so I expected them to do about the same as they did."

The team fell a few points shy of its average score last season. However, some of the gymnasts complained about the cold temperature of the room and the hardness of the floor, which could have explained the lower scores. In ad-



Junior Florence Gafanovich competes in the floor exercise event.

Victoria Stempel / The Spectator

dition, some gymnasts were competing for the first time, whereas others were attempting moves with little practice.

Choubaralian hopes that the team can iron out its issues and perform at its full potential.

Also in attendance was the team from Fiorello H. LaGuardia,

which did not compete against Stuyvesant. LaGuardia's gymnasts attempted more advanced techniques that did not execute well, which explains why it received a final score of 84.5, losing to Dewitt Clinton.

The Felines will face LaGuardia on Friday, January 13.

Girls' Basketball

Phoenix Clinches Playoff Spot, Sits Atop Division at 9-2

**Beacon Lady Demons 59,
Stuyvesant High School
Phoenix 44**

By LUKE MORALES

In its toughest game of the season, the Stuyvesant girls' basketball team, the Phoenix, missed the mark, falling to the 7-1 Beacon Lady Demons 59-44 on Wednesday, December 21. The Lady Demons had the edge in every quarter of the game, the first loss of the Phoenix's season.

In the first half, both teams started off shaky, making poor passes and missing many of their shots. However as the game progressed, the Phoenix found its rhythm and began to run smoother plays.

Late in the second quarter, Beacon began to pull ahead, converting on multiple fast breaks following Stuyvesant turnovers. However, the Phoenix rallied back, as senior and captain Lisa Qiu drilled a couple of threes. At the end of the half, Beacon led Stuyvesant 29-24.

Defense was on display in the second half, as the Lady Demons pressed Stuyvesant, forcing several turnovers that resulted in even more fast breaks. "We never practiced the press breaker at practice," Qiu said.

Beacon's constant pressure proved too much for the Phoenix, and Beacon began to pull away with a 13-point lead at the end of the third quarter. The Phoenix battled back again, but it proved to be too little, too late. Towards the end of the game, senior and captain Yiru Luo got a cramp in her right leg, forcing her to leave the game.

With their highest-scoring player out of the game, the Phoenix could do little to cut down the deficit. Luo led the team with 13 points, but no other player had more than 10 points.

"Keep your heads held high. You all played very well," coach Michelle Fleming said to her players in the post-game meeting.

"Obviously we were upset that we lost," Fleming said. "But overall it was a good effort, and it was nice to play against a competitive team."

Stuyvesant's high-powered offense has led the Phoenix to victory against every school it has faced this year by at least 11 points. However, in this game, the Beacon defense seemed to be too much.

"Previous years we have played against teams with as good a de-

fense as Beacon," Luo said. "This year, we haven't, which is why we struggled a little bit towards the end. It wasn't something we were used to."

**Stuyvesant High School Phoenix
61, West 50th Street Campus
Lady Seahawks 58 (OT)**

By NOAH HELLERMANN

Last season, the Stuyvesant girls' basketball team, the Phoenix, lost by 10 points to the West 50th Street Campus Lady Seahawks. In the teams' rematch on Thursday, December 22, Qiu and Luo got their revenge against the 4-4 Seahawks.

The Seahawks have been better than their .500 record shows, as they come from the Manhattan A West division, which includes talented teams such as the Beacon and Lab Museum United.

"I thought it was going to be a very even game," Qiu said.

The Phoenix came in with a gameplan to shut down its opponent's best player. "We always check their team stats before we play them, and we knew we had to concentrate on number 10," said Flemming, referring to junior Erica Fabre, who has averaged over 15 points per game.

Both Qiu and freshman Lauren Sobota hit three pointers in the first quarter to tie the game at 12, before gaining a lead that they would hold until the fourth quarter. The first half ended with another three from Qiu, to put Stuyvesant up 30-26, and the third quarter saw the Phoenix continue to roll. Junior Zambeta Tsapos made a shot from beyond the arc, and junior Elektra Oates picked up the next two plays with an offensive rebound and four points, ending the third quarter with a 44-35 lead for Stuyvesant.

Once the fourth quarter began, the tide turned. "We didn't do so well, and they caught up," said Luo, referring to the nine-point comeback by the Lady Seahawks. With 20 seconds on the game clock, the score was 50-49 in Stuyvesant's favor. Sobota dribbled up the court, and missed a shot with four seconds left in the game.

A foul on the floor against the Phoenix in the last seconds as the Seahawks inbounded the ball for the final time gave the Stuyvesant point guard, junior Josephine Diaz, two free throws; one successful shot would tie the game, and

two would win it. After hitting the first, the crowd heaved a sigh of relief as the second bounced off of the rim.

In the four minutes of overtime, momentum swung back and forth, as Luo scored four points in the opening minute to make the score 58-57. On a breakaway layup, fed with an assist from Sobota, Luo scored again to make the score 60-57, and Stuyvesant wound down the clock in the last minute, ending with a 61-58 Phoenix win.

Even though Stuyvesant came out on top, Oates noted that the team could learn from their performance. "We could have done a lot better and we made a lot of little mistakes, but those are the things we're working on every day," she said. "If we ever play them again, we're going to kill them."

**Stuyvesant High School Phoenix
47, High School of Graphic
Communication Arts Devils 44**

By GABRIELLE GILLOW

A close game was highly anticipated when the High School of Graphic Communication Arts Devils came to Stuyvesant to play the Phoenix on Wednesday, January 4.

"Comparing their stats to our stats, we knew going into it that we were both good teams and that it would be a physical, fun, toe-to-toe game," Fleming said.

The Devils started off strong, scoring first when sophomore Valerie Nunez was able to steal the ball and gain points on a breakaway layup. The Devils scored again, and then kept a 4-0 lead for the first half of the first quarter, as the Phoenix had difficulty scoring. The tide turned when Qui shot a three-pointer, and the Phoenix players finally started to find their rhythm. The quarter ended with the Devils scoring two three-pointers in the final minute, and Phoenix down 12-9 at the end of the first.

Stuyvesant came back stronger in the second quarter, starting with a layup scored by Oates. Qui then scored an uncontested three-pointer to give Phoenix a 14-12 lead. Qui was one of the most consistent shooters of the game for Phoenix, finishing the game with 16 points.

The Phoenix also began rebounding much more consistently, and its defense shut down the Devils, ending the half with a 27-20 lead.

The tide turned again, as the Phoenix started off the second half with sloppy plays. The Devils' Nunez hit a three-point shot just 30 seconds into the second half, and then junior Amanda Graham stole the ball when the Phoenix regained possession. The Phoenix gained momentum, however, when Sobota blocked Nunez's shot; the Phoenix regained possession and capitalized on the scoring opportunity when Luo made a shot from the outside.

In the end of the third quarter and the fourth quarter, there was a great deal of a back and forth between the Devils and the Phoenix. The intensity was high, and each team played well on both defense and offense. However, in the final two minutes, the Devils fouled the Phoenix four times, and the Phoenix ultimately won the game 47-44.

"It was a good team effort. Our defense was definitely strong, which helped us win the game," Oates said.

"There were points where we turned the ball over a lot and we didn't seem to be working well together. It was frustrating, but we got ourselves together, and in the end we were able to come out with the win," Luo said.

**Lab Museum United Lady Gators
46, Stuyvesant High School
Phoenix 35**

By NOAH HELLERMANN

Rumors flew about the 9-0 Lady Gators prior to their game on Monday, January 9. One of their players looked to be over six feet tall. Another might have already committed to play college basketball. However, none of that fazed the Phoenix. The starting five took the floor, and held their own in the first quarter.

Oates started the game explosively, with a steal on the Lady Gator's first possession, and she followed suit with the first basket of the game just moments later. She scored once more in the half, and Qiu closed out the first quarter with a three, giving the Phoenix an early 11-9 lead.

Luo also scored in the first quarter, hitting a shot from under the boards. "I came in knowing it was going to be a really tough game, and I felt like we got off to a pretty good start," she said.

However, as the second quarter

opened, the momentum quickly swung in Lab's favor. Beginning a nine-point run, the Lady Gators hit a free throw to open the half. A tight press and four steals led to four more baskets for Lab Museum United, and the score was suddenly 18-11.

Flemming attributed the loss of momentum to sloppy play. "We had too many turnovers when we needed to put up some buckets or play better defense," she said.

To shift the tide of the game again, Qiu drained a three-pointer to put the Phoenix within four points at 22-18, with 2:31 left in the first half. The half ended with Lab Museum United leading 26-8. They never relinquished their lead.

Applying a tight press in the third quarter, the Lady Gators pulled ahead by 15, giving them their biggest lead of the game. In the fourth, Stuyvesant began to close the gap, bringing the margin back down to four. Qiu made another three-pointer to open the quarter, and junior Katie Mullaney entered the game from the bench. Mullaney followed Qiu with a two, and Oates and Mullaney combined to score the next three baskets for Stuyvesant, putting the score at 39-35 before the Lady Gators ran away with it.

The final score, 46-35, does not show the intensity of the game, or how the momentum seesawed back and forth. Qiu explained why they were such a hard team to beat: "They really cut and passed perfectly today," she said.

**Stuyvesant High School Phoenix
65, Thurgood Marshall
Academy 49**

By JORDAN WALLACH

The Phoenix improved to 9-2 in the regular season with a dominating win over Thurgood Marshall Academy on Wednesday, January 11. Though its lead going into the fourth quarter was only 41-37, a 24-point outburst in the final eight minutes put the game away. The leading scorers for the Phoenix were Qiu and Tsapos, who each had 15 points. Tsapos also had her second double-double of the season, as she finished with 11 rebounds. Junior Sarah Duncan was Stuyvesant's leading rebounder, as she contributed to the Phoenix's domination of the boards with 19 of its 47 total rebounds.

Sports

Game Picks

Boys' Basketball

Stuyvesant High School Runnin' Rebels vs. Murry Bergtraum Blazers
 Wednesday, February 1, 2012 @ 4:30 p.m.
 Stuyvesant High School Gymnasium

The last time the division rival Blazers and Rebels met, on Wednesday, December 14, the score was consistently close, down to the final minute of the fourth quarter, when the Blazers took the game and the division lead from the Rebels with a 67-64 victory. In order to win the rematch, the Rebels will first need to start the game strongly, contrary to falling behind early, as they did in the first game. More importantly, they will have to limit their turnovers and improve their defense against a potent Bergtraum offense. Blazer senior and forward Travon Wright was especially good in the last matchup, scoring a total of 24 points—10 points above his per game average. Rebels' seniors Quinn Hood and Roy Vlcek did well against the Blazers, scoring 24 and 20 points respectively, but it was mainly a two-man show, with the rest of the Rebel team making only 20 points. In order to beat the Rebels again, the Blazers will need to continue scoring points off turnovers and in transition to bust through the Rebel defense. But look for fortified Woo-Peg support after the end of the fall term, a stronger Rebel defense, and fewer Rebel turnovers to provide the margin of victory in a rematch that will likely decide the Manhattan A Southwest Division title.

Pick: Rebels

Issue 8 Picks Record: 3-2

Boys' Basketball

Stuyvesant High School Runnin' Rebels vs. Washington Irving
 Friday, January 20, 2012 @ 4:30 p.m.
 Stuyvesant High School Gymnasium

Stuyvesant clobbered Washington Irving on Monday, December 12, by a score of 68-40. The Rebels overpowered their opponents with good ball movement, exceptional rebounding—47 total versus 20 total for Irving—and consistent hustle. To win on Friday, January 20, the Rebels will continue to use their size advantage on the boards to exploit Irving's defensive faults. They will also need to stop Irving's junior Thomas Joseph, who was the team's leading scorer in the first tussle, with 10 points. Though the rematch should be closer, if Stuyvesant continues to play with hustle and aggressiveness, it should win this game by at least 10 points.

Pick: Rebels

Girls' Basketball

Stuyvesant High School Phoenix vs. School of the Future Bulldogs
 Wednesday, January 18, 2012 @ 4:30 p.m.
 Stuyvesant High School Gymnasium

This is the second time that Phoenix and the Bulldogs will face off this season; the Phoenix won the first matchup, 60-47. But that was the first game of the season for both teams, and the two have both evolved since then. The first time the two teams played, it was clear that the Bulldogs had one key player, senior and captain Mecca Norfleet. In their last matchup, Norfleet scored 30 of the Bulldogs' 47 points, outscoring everyone else on her team by at least double the amount. Now averaging 25 points per game, Norfleet is the center of the Bulldogs' offense. The Phoenix's hopes of winning the game lie in shutting down both Norfleet and junior Sade Sullivan, the Bulldogs' next highest scorer. The Phoenix is especially strong on defense, which should give it the edge in this game. To win, junior Elektra Oates and senior Yiru Luo need to continue to take advantage of their height by dominating the boards. And the Phoenix must concentrate on maintaining possession of the ball, thereby giving Norfleet and Sullivan fewer opportunities to score. As long as the Phoenix can stay strong on defense and hit most of its shots, it should come out on top.

Pick: Phoenix

A Pioneer in Sports Journalism

continued from page 32

professionally what I wanted to do."

Marchiano continued onto Columbia University, not wanting to leave New York and all of the sports teams the city is home to. She continued to work for Fischler and cover the Rangers in her freshman year of college, but also worked at Columbia's radio station and for its newspaper, *The Spectator*.

She later became sports editor of *The Spectator*. While she was editor, Columbia's football team received national attention for setting a record for the longest losing streak in National Collegiate Athletic Association history. Marchiano became acquainted with some of the many professional sports reporters reporting on the streak, and was offered a job at Newsday covering high school sports. She took the job, and during her junior and senior years she worked for Newsday while continuing serve as editor of *The Spectator*.

One article that she wrote about allegations of the Columbia football coach having an affair with a trainer was simultaneously published in *The Spectator* and Newsday. "You don't usually get that kind of attention [in college]. If I had gone away to school, that wouldn't have happened," Marchiano said.

After graduating from Columbia in 1989, Marchiano began working at the Daily News as a beat reporter for the New York Islanders, a job that she got because of her professional

experience on Newsday. But during her time at the Daily News, there was a long journalist strike, so in 1991, she took a job as associate producer with Inside Edition, a television news program, in order to maintain a steady income. Her position required her to do re-

took a job at Sportschannel, now known as MSG Network, to cover beach volleyball and roller hockey on screen. "It was what it was. It was a chance and I took it," Marchiano said. She moved up in the network and began to cover more widely popular sports.

Due to her success at Sportschannel, Marchiano was offered a national correspondent job at Fox Sports Net in 1997. She traveled around the country, doing television reports on professional and collegiate football, basketball, and baseball, including Super Bowls and World Series, as her father had done.

One of the most exciting stories she covered was St. Louis Cardinal Mark McGwire's quest to break Roger Maris's record of 61 home runs in a single season in 1998. Marchiano followed McGwire around the country, reporting on every game he played in when he had between 55 and 70 home runs.

"[The memories are] so tainted and bittersweet now [after he admitted to using performing enhancing drugs on and off for a decade], but everyone was rooting for him then. To me, he seemed like a likeable guy. He seemed so sincere in terms of his respect for history and the game," Marchiano said.

Later, after the Yankees had won a World Series in the 1999, Marchiano had the opportunity to report on the Yankees ticker tape parade from a float, standing with Darryl Strawberry. "To go down the Canyon of Heroes and to experience what he was

experiencing was so much fun," Marchiano said.

After five years and many memorable moments while working for Fox, in 2003, Marchiano wanted to settle in New York, so she started working for MLB.com. She liked being able to focus on one sport and the stability that the job offered. At

ball Excellence at the Baseball Hall of Fame Film Festival. The documentary explores the roots of baseball through English bat-and-ball games. "That was my greatest joy," Marchiano said. "I think that more than anything else I did would have made Frank [McCourt] say, 'Wow, she did alright for herself.'"

After McCourt died in 2009, Marchiano began to try to produce a documentary about his teaching legacy, but was not able to receive enough funding. It is something she would still like to do, if possible. "Thinking about him and his influence, it'd be great to pass that along," Marchiano said.

Marchiano left her job at MLB.com and the sports journalism industry in 2009 after 20 years as a sports reporter to focus on being a mother. She is married and has two children—a seven-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son. She does not plan on going back into reporting.

In a tribute to McCourt, she has also recently received a yoga instructor certification, and will start teaching yoga in January 2012. "Teaching is a really exciting thing to do," Marchiano said. "It seems funny that I can pass along what my English teacher taught me in a yoga class, but I absolutely think that it is completely relatable."

Looking back on her career, she recognizes the influence she had as a female sports journalist. "It was a very unusual thing to be a female sports writer," Marchiano said. "It felt significant. Now it's not even unusual, and that's really cool."

"Being at Stuyvesant, I was able to work at what I wanted to do at a really young age in the best city in the world."

**—Sam Marchiano,
former sports
journalist**

search and conduct interviews for segments on the show.

From Inside Edition, Marchiano moved on to ESPN in 1992. There, she became the New York Bureau producer. However, she decided she no longer wanted to be behind the scenes and, in 1995, she

"It was a very unusual thing to be a female sports writer. It felt significant. Now it's not even unusual, and that's really cool."

**—Sam
Marchiano,
former sports
journalist**

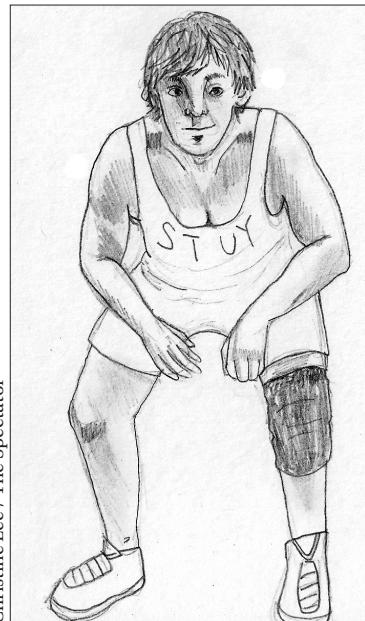
MLB.com, she was an anchor for daily breaking news stories, and also produced two Emmy-nominated projects, "Baseball's Best Moments" and "Vintage Baseball."

At MLB.com, she also wrote, produced, and directed "Baseball Discovered," a documentary that won the Award for Base-

Sports

Boys' Wrestling

Forfeits Lead to Two Losses for Spartans



By ODREKA AHMED

The Stuyvesant High School Spartans faced the Brooklyn Technical Engineers and then the Bronx Science Wolverines in two long-anticipated non-league meets on Wednesday, December 28.

The underdog Spartans went into the first meet with little faith in their chances against the talented Engineers. "Tech is the number one seeded team in the league, so I don't really expect to win. But I'm expecting a few good [individual] wins from us," senior and co-captain Joseph Cheung said before the meet.

The Spartans did indeed have several impressive individual wins, and even started out with the lead against the Engineers. Halfway into the meet the Spartans were on top 21-17, thanks to sophomore Jae Bum Ahn who pinned his opponent with seconds left in the second set. Senior Showaab Kamal, back from a six-meet suspension due to excessive lateness to school, was the only other Spartan to pin his opponent. He dominated for all three two-min-

ute sets before pinning his opponent with six seconds left. Junior Phillip Lee also garnered points for the Spartans. Though he was unable to secure a pin, he won his matchup by points.

After Lee's match, it was Engineers all the way, as the Brooklyn Tech team dominated during the rest of the meet. Two of the top wrestlers on the Stuyvesant team, Cheung and junior Matthew Moy, lost to seniors and co-captains Cristian Masaya and Zin Lynn Htoo, respectively.

The Spartans won several individual matches in the lower weight classes, but faltered when they had to forfeit key matches against larger opponents.

"We gave up [the 152-, 182-, 220-, 285-pound] weight classes right from the start because some people were on vacation or still on [Athletic Director Larry] Barth's suspension," Cheung said. "Forfeits play a huge role in matches. Each forfeit counts as six points, equal to the amount of points won if the wrestler had just pinned the other. We were already down 24 points because of the four missing weight classes."

The points lost due to these missing wrestlers proved too much to overcome for the Spartans. Though the team performed better than they had expected against the Engineers, they were unable to score enough points to make up for the deficit, and lost 54-21.

Unfortunately, the missing wrestlers continued to plague the team in the subsequent match against the Bronx Science Wolverines.

Despite their low odds, the players continued to give their all. "After Tech, a lot of us were motivated to redeem ourselves against Bronx Science. Although we didn't get the win we wanted, our guys wrestled better than that match," Kuang said.

Once again, the Spartans started out ahead, as the team built a

33-30 lead against Bronx Science. Kamal effortlessly pinned his opponent again, as did junior Paul Ma. Both wrestlers were clearly more experienced than their opponents from the start of their matches. Moy won by forfeit, adding another six points to the team's total. Co-captains Cheung and Natalie Kuang, pinned their opponents in stellar performances.

Kuang's pin against a male Wolverine was the highlight of the meet for the Spartans. "I didn't know anything about either of my opponents going in, so I didn't know what to expect. But after wrestling him in the first period, I felt that I could beat him," said Kuang, who pressured her opponent for almost a minute before pinning him. Kuang was suspended for the first four meets of the season. Since her return she has earned two wins, the first in a meet against the Hunter High School Hawks that the Spartans won by one point.

The Spartans and Wolverines were neck and neck most of the time. The Wolverines were boosted by four pins, one of which took their premier wrestler, senior Jorge Dominguez, only 57 seconds to complete. Unfortunately, the 16 points that the Wolverines received solely from forfeits proved to be the deciding factor, and gave them a 52-33 win.

Losses due to forfeits have been an unfortunate trend for the depleted Spartan team this season. "We had [13 starting seniors] graduate last year, so it left a lot of spots open on the team," Cheung said. "We tried extensively to get the word out about wrestling. We recruited people from football, lacrosse, even bowling. However, we just can't fill the heavier weight classes. The team deals with what it can get, which makes every match at every weight important. It just goes to show that we still need to improve our game in every aspect, whether it's conditioning or more technique."

Stuyvesant Gets National Mention on SNL

By JORDAN WALLACH

Jokes about Stuyvesant's contact sports teams have apparently escaped TriBeCa and have immersed on the national stage. In episode 11 of season 37 of the long-time NBC staple "Saturday Night Live," Stuyvesant received some national recognition. The episode, which aired on January 7, contained some choice words about Stuyvesant High School's wrestling team in the skit, "ESPN Bowl Madness."

The skit itself was meant to mock the seemingly meaningless college football bowl games between relatively unknown colleges, which are backed by the most random collection of spon-

sors. Just one obscure bowl game of the 35 played in the 2011-2012 bowl season was the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl between Florida International University and Marshall University on Tuesday, December 20.

Andy Samberg, a seven-year veteran on the "Saturday Night Live" cast, who performed the cold open and said the requisite, "Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!" at the beginning of the show, channeled his inner tough-guy voice to narrate the skit, which referenced the wrestling team in the fourth of six made-up bowl games: "And at four a.m., the winless Delaware Valley Aggies look to salvage their dignity against the Stuyvesant High

School wrestling squad in the Visine Dog #%^*! Dilbert Bowl."

There was also a picture of two wrestlers in red singlets shown to illustrate the Stuyvesant wrestling team, but the photo was not of real Stuyvesant wrestlers.

"We were really excited. It actually created a big reaction. Alumni started sending it to each other," senior and co-captain Natalie Kuang said. "It was a morale boost."

The Spartans, Stuyvesant's actual wrestling team, finished its 2011-2012 regular season with a 5-2 record (excluding non-league meets), a step back from the 2010-2011 season, when it made the playoffs with a 7-3 record.

Boys' Cross Country

Surkont Wins Wingate for Cross-Country Season

continued from page 1

summer, for example, he held captain's runs prior to the official start of the cross-country season.

"Konrad is always there for us, always looking out for the younger runners and helping them im-

prove. He's really trying to help the team be better in the future, even though he'll obviously be in college," sophomore Andrew Puopolo said.

According to Surkont, he owes much of his own success to the guidance he received from Men-

des, who recognized his abilities early on and pushed him to reach his current level of excellence. "This is a testament to Coach Mendes' expertise and knowledge and his ability to get the most out of his runners, both on the track and in life," Surkont said.

NY Enters 2012 Single: Teams Just Couldn't Put a Ring on it in '11

continued from page 32

Tyson Time

The Knicks realized that their cap space in 2012 would not be enough to bring Chris Paul to New York, and instead made a three-way trade with the Dallas Mavericks and Washington Wizards to acquire center Tyson Chandler, signing him to a four-year, \$56-million contract. Chandler was a significant contributor to the Dallas Mavericks' championship season and playoff run, and will hopefully continue his success with the Knicks.

New York Jets

Plax Bullets to Gang Green

The Jets signed Plaxico Burress after their marquee free agent, cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha, unexpectedly signed with the Philadelphia Eagles. The former New York Giants wide receiver, who caught the winning touchdown in the Giants' Super Bowl XLII win against the New England Patriots, had missed the 2009 and 2010 seasons while serving a 22-month sentence in jail for gun charges.

AFC: Another Failed Championship

After defeating the Indianapolis Colts and the New England Patriots in tense road games last January, the Jets reached the AFC title game for the second straight season. However, in the conference championship, Rex Ryan's crew fell behind 24-0 to the Pittsburgh Steelers after the first half, eventually losing 24-19, and were not able to make good on their coach's ambitious promise to end the team's 42-year Super Bowl drought.

Jets Get Tebowed

The Jets were handed one of the worst losses in their history on Thursday, November 17, when they were defeated by the Denver Broncos 17-13. With six minutes left in the game and the Jets up 13-10, and the Mile High Stadium crowd steadily losing faith in their pious quarterback Tim Tebow, he ended a miraculous Bronco drive with a record-breaking 20-yard scramble for a touchdown.

Captain Jumps Ship

The shenanigans of former Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes added salt to the Jets' wound caused by the disappointing finish to a tumultuous season that Ryan promised would end with the Lombardi trophy. Holmes, who was made a team captain by Ryan in the beginning of the season, got into a heated argument during the huddle, and was subsequently benched. Following Holmes's unsportsmanlike performance, Ryan plans to remove the captain position from the Jets in 2012.

New York Giants

"Elite" Eli

Causing scoffs when he declared that he was in the same class as Tom Brady and his big brother Peyton, Eli Manning put together the best season of his career. His 4,933 total passing yards, record-breaking 15 touchdowns in the fourth quarter, and only 16 interceptions in 589 attempts quieted his critics and proved his doubters wrong.

Cr-u-u-u-u-u-z

Losing wide receiver Steve Smith to the Philadelphia Eagles left the Giants with no apparent replacement. However, Victor

Cruz became the breakout Giant of the year. After a rookie season spent mostly on the injured reserve, Cruz had a spectacular sophomore year, setting a franchise record for receiving yards and riling up the crowd with his signature salsa dance after scoring touchdowns.

Big Blue Christmas

In the National Football League version of the Subway Series, the New York Giants proved to be the big brothers at MetLife Stadium. After enduring a week of the Jets' claims of superiority and Ryan's patented trash talk, the Giants put Ryan's favorite foot into his team's collective mouth with a 29-14 Christmas Eve victory.

New York Rangers

Clutch Clinch

Last April, in an effort to avoid missing the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the second year in a row, the New York Rangers put in extraordinary effort to defeat the Devils 5-2 in the final game of the season. They then awaited their playoff fate, hoping for the Tampa Bay Lightning to beat the Carolina Hurricanes. The Rangers got the help they needed when the Hurricanes lost 6-2. The Tampa Bay victory gave New York the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Capital Punishment

After their momentous playoff clinching, the Rangers were defeated by the Washington Capitals in the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs, four games to one. The toughest loss in the series came in Game 4 at Madison Square Garden, when the Rangers squandered a three-goal third-period lead, and lost 4-3 after two overtimes.

The Broadway Hat

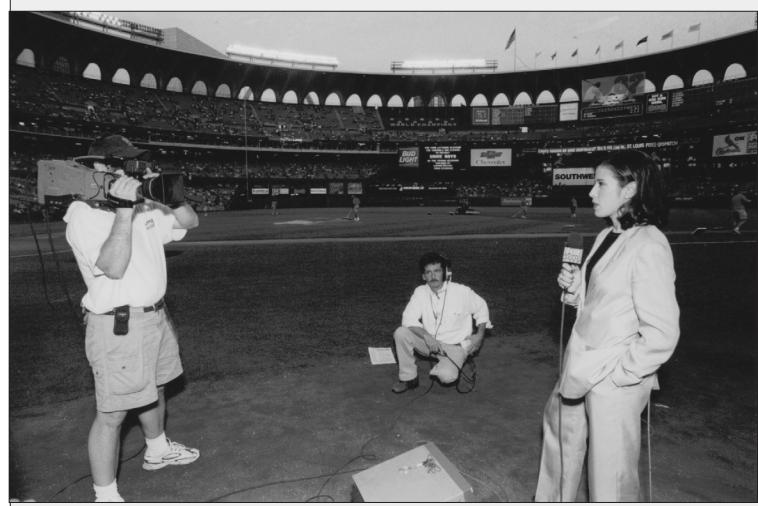
National Hockey League teams have given everything from shovels to belts to their players-of-the-game after wins. This season, the Rangers are using an old fedora that Brad Richards found during a Rangers preseason in Europe. The Most Valuable Player of each Ranger win in the 2011-2012 season now has the honor of donning the "Broadway Hat."

Though none of the pro teams in the Metro area came close to having a parade in the Canyon of Heroes, 2011 had no shortage of commotion and fanfare, fitting for the City that Never Sleeps. Personal milestones were reached, with Derek Jeter's 3,000th hit and Mariano Rivera becoming the all-time leader in saves. New players arrived in the Big Apple, with the Knicks acquiring Carmelo Anthony and Tyson Chandler, and the Rangers signing Brad Richards. And there was never a drought of dramatic games, from embarrassing Jet defeats to season-saving Giant victories. The 2011 season for New York sports was a media fantasy, containing an abundance of action that dominated back-cover headlines. Hopefully, 2012 will be more successful, as the Giants compete for another Super Bowl ring. The Rangers are the hottest team in the NHL and find themselves atop all 29 other teams in the standings as of Sunday, January 15; the Knicks are showing promise with a revamped roster; and the Yankees will expect to win the World Series as always.

Let's just hope that the tides will really turn this year, and the Mets and Jets will finish their respective seasons over .500.

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

A Pioneer in Sports Journalism



Sam Marchiano reported from Busch Stadium in St. Louis in 1998.

Courtesy of Sam Marchiano

By KATIE MULLANEY

Stuyvesant alumna Susan Anne "Sam" Marchiano ('85) knew that she wanted to be a sports reporter even before she reached high school. Her father, Sal Marchiano, was a sports-caster at ESPN and at numerous New York television stations, most recently WPIX, from which he retired in 2008. From an early age, Sam went to work with him and watched him cover games, including Super Bowls and World Series. "Sports were a huge part of my life. I got to do some really amazing things that made me interested in going into it as a profession," she said.

After growing up on the Upper East Side, she opted to attend Stuyvesant, where she dedicated herself to numerous extracurricular activities. She was on the tennis team in her freshman and sophomore

years, and wrote for *The Spectator*. Furthermore, she co-wrote the script for a winning SING! performance in her senior year, after being an assistant SING! director in her junior year and on stage in her freshman and sophomore years. "It was an amazing feeling to see something I had written come to life," Marchiano said.

Marchiano says she owes much of her sports reporting success to one of her junior year English teachers, Frank McCourt. She fondly remembers an occurrence in which she read a poem that she had written aloud to the class, and after, McCourt told the class, "That, ladies and gentlemen, is going to get published." He worked with her to send her poem to several magazines, and it eventually got published in *Seventeen Magazine*, which was "thrilling," Marchiano said, and asserted the fact that she

"could tell stories for a living." McCourt became her mentor and she even elected to do an independent study with him after her junior year.

During her senior year, she enrolled in the Executive Internship, a school-sanctioned program in which she only had to take two classes at school in the morning, so that she could work as an intern in the afternoon. One of her classes was Physics with current principal Stanley Teitel. "I remember that very distinctly because I was very intimidated," Marchiano said. "He was a really nice teacher but physics was just not how my brain works."

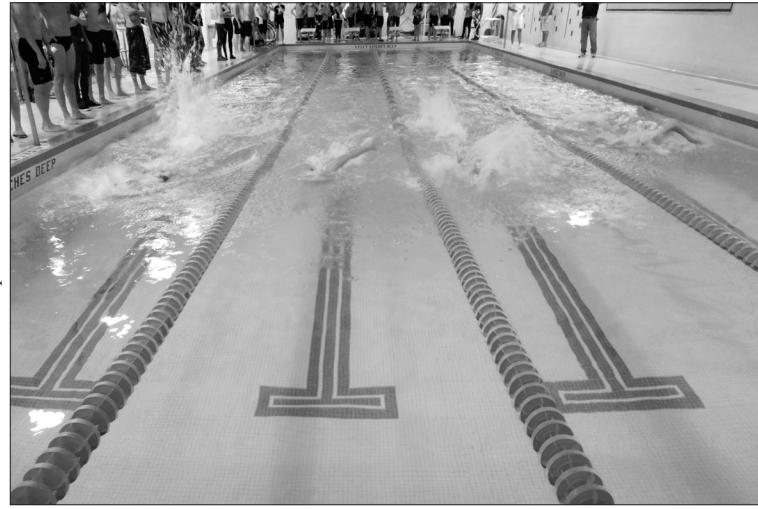
After her classes, Marchiano would take the subway to Stan "The Hockey Maven" Fischler's office. Fischler, who has written multiple books and articles about hockey, was a reporter at the time. As an intern, she did research for his reports during the day, and went to Madison Square Garden to report on the New York Rangers at night. This included going into the locker room and acting as a professional reporter by interviewing players and coaches. "I was too young and naïve to realize how significant that was at the time," she said.

Marchiano is grateful for the freedom her school gave her. "Being at Stuyvesant, I was able to work at what I wanted to do at a really young age in the best city in the world," she said. "I feel like my childhood fast-forwarded really quickly into

continued on page 30

Boys' Swimming

In Battle of Undefeateds, Pirates Defeat Rivals



The Stuyvesant Pirates beat the Hunter Boys' Swim Team at Hunter College on Thursday, January 5.

By MAGGIE YEUNG

Stuyvesant's boys' swim team extended its win streak to eight meets as the Pirates defeated the Hunter High School Hawks 59-34 on Thursday, January 5 at Hunter College. Despite the absence of one of its key swimmers, En-Wei Hu-Wan Wright, the Pirates held on to their undefeated season.

The meet started off rough for the Pirates, who lost the 200-yard medley relay. It was a very close event, as both relay teams had four strong swimmers, but the Hawks managed to out-touch the Pirates by 0.68 seconds. However, as the meet progressed, the Pirates bounced back and won almost every event.

"There were numerous [personal] best times that helped our team seal the victory," senior and

co-captain Kevin Lin said.

Senior Harrison Zhao and junior Glib Dolotov swam their personal best times of 2:00.89 and 2:02.23, respectively, to finish first and second in the 200-yard freestyle.

The rest of the team members also finished first and second in many other events. Junior Han Chen swam his personal best time of 23.13 seconds and out-touched his competitors in a very close 50-yard freestyle race.

Coach Peter Bologna made the 100-yard butterfly a captains' race, turning it into one of the more interesting events. Lin took first place and senior and co-captain Andrew Qiao took second, both finishing in less than one minute. The closest event was the 100-yard

continued on page 28

NY Enters 2012 Single: Teams Just Couldn't Put a Ring on it in '11

By ALISON FU

*New York Yankees***DJ-3K**

Derek Jeter was one hit away from 3,000 after a first-inning single against the Tampa Bay Rays at a full Yankee Stadium on Saturday, July 9, and he did not disappoint. Captain Clutch became the first Yankee to reach 3,000 hits with a home-run in the third, and he finished the game five for five.

Gotta Go To Mo

Yankees closer Mariano Rivera became baseball's all-time leader in saves with 602, passing Trevor Hoffman on Monday, September 19, to preserve a 6-4 lead against the Minnesota Twins at Yankee Stadium. With this feat, he added yet another notch to his storied career, making his inevitable induction to Cooperstown even sweeter.

Bombers Bombed

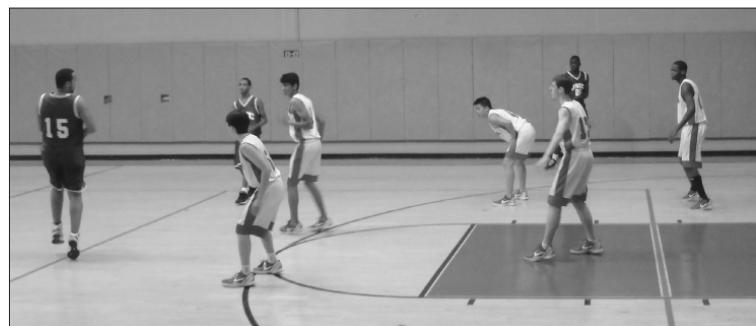
The Yankees clinched the AL East with a 97-65 record, but were defeated in the first round of the American League Division Series by the Detroit Tigers in five games. This early exit put manager Joe Girardi on the hot seat going into 2012.

*New York Mets***Yo, Where's Johan?**

The Mets were able to sign Johan Santana, one of the biggest pitchers in baseball in 2008, but Santana missed all of 2011 due to shoulder surgery. In the first four years of his deal, Santana won 40 games and received a \$78 mil-

Boys' Basketball

Rebels Face Trouble on Way to Division Title



Stuyvesant's Runnin' Rebels sailed to a 74-35 victory against the 1-9 Julia Richman Warriors on Friday, January 6.

Maggie Wu / The Spectator

quarter strongly, with a layup by senior and co-captain Roy Vlcek, which put Stuyvesant on top 12-6 at the end of the quarter.

In the second quarter, the Rebels became impatient on offense, which led to bad shot selection. "All I'm asking you to do is not break down the play after one pass," Fisher said to his team during a timeout.

.

On the other side of the court, Stuyvesant struggled on defense, allowing drivers to get to the rim, giving up offensive rebounds, and getting beaten on the inside. The Rebels had 14 total rebounds, and just two offensive boards, compared to the Tigers' 28 total and 14 offensive.

Despite the tough task ahead of them, the Rebels came out of the gates with ball movement, which led to two open three-pointers by senior Abid Choudhury. Stellar defense also contributed to a 7-0 lead halfway through the first period.

.

"We did a good job coming out strong at the beginning of the game and not being intimidated," Choudhury said.

The team cooled down, however, missing two layups within a 20-second span and allowing three inside scores to the Tigers. Nonetheless, they managed to finish the

continued on page 28



New York Knicks

Carolyn Kang / The Spectator

Melodrama

After weeks of uncertainty, the Knicks beat out their soon-to-be city rival New Jersey Nets in the sweepstakes for Brooklyn native Carmelo Anthony, who joined the team last February. Team owner James Dolan was determined to acquire Anthony, and did so by trading away most of the team's young and promising players.

KOed by K.G. and Celts

For the first time since 2004, the Knicks made the playoffs last season. However, injuries to point-guard Chauncey Billups and power forward Amar'e Stoudemire resulted in the Knicks' being swept in four games by the Boston Celtics, marking an end to a season that not even Carmelo Anthony could save.

Reyes Pulls a LeBron

Jose Reyes felt disregarded by Mets brass when general manager Sandy Alderson didn't bother to give him a concrete offer, so the All-Star shortstop, who had just finished a season in which he won the batting title, left the team to sign a six-year, \$106 million contract with the Marlins, who now call South Beach their home.

continued on page 31