



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

"The Pulse
of the
Student
Body"

Volume XCIX No. 1

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Roving Reporter

"What did you do over the summer?"

Photos taken by Stephanie London and Diane Yee



"What did I do? I grew a beard. I also spent a week camping in the Red Woods."
—Mr. Dyrland-Weaver, Computer Science teacher



"Luckily, I did not grow a beard. I went to the Bahamas and got a tan and went down crazy waterslides. I became a little obsessed with 'So You Think You Can Dance'. And now I am convinced that I can dance."
—Ms. Bernstein, Art Appreciation teacher

City Council Restores Planned Budget Cuts

By ALEXANDER SHIN

The New York City Council, the legislative body of the city, restored 129 million dollars in funding for education to the New York City budget on Thursday, June 26, cancelling the planned budget cuts for Stuyvesant's 2008-2009 school year.

"We have equal to or more actual dollars than we had last September," Principal Stanley Teitel said.

On Thursday, May 22, the Department of Education (DOE) released a list of 74 public schools whose budgets were expected to be cut by more than five percent for the 2009 fiscal year. Stuyvesant, whose budget was expected to be cut by 955,135 dollars, or 5.32 percent, was included on the list.

The 129 million dollars will be used to eliminate budget cuts for all 74 schools for the 2009 fiscal school year.

Classes and extracurricular activities will resume as normal. "All students will get all

their course requests, limited only by programming and academic issues," Teitel said.

"This was the best news for Stuy I've heard all summer," Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm said. "The lobbying and pressure put on the DOE and Chancellor by parents and students definitely paid off."

Last spring, Parents' Association members were vocal about their resentment of the planned budget cuts. Four Stuyvesant parents joined protesters at the High School of Fashion Industries on Thursday, May 22. Parents also attended a public hearing on the education budget at City Hall on Monday, May 27.

On Monday, June 2, parents, including Sex and the City star Cynthia Nixon, teachers and principals representing more than 50 schools citywide rallied outside Stuyvesant to urge the New York City Council to reject the budget cuts. On Tuesday, June 17, another protest was held outside City Hall.

"As a parent, I must say, I am definitely relieved that my child will be gaining the education she deserves. My daughter and I were worried that with the cuts she would be missing out on so many opportunities," Stuyvesant parent Frank Ventola said.

Last year, Teitel was considering limiting the number of classes each student can take to seven instructional periods and lunch because of the planned budget cuts.

Students are glad their schedules will not be limited. "It's a great thing since we get the normal benefits we are used to getting from the school," junior Justin Wu said. "I really look forward to taking my electives."

"Going into my senior year, I was a little upset that I wouldn't be able to take some of the electives other seniors enjoyed, but with the budget cuts gone, I am very glad. I feel grateful that Stuy offers all those courses," senior Gabriel Jung said.

Due to the success of the locker policy implemented last year, sophomores and juniors were allowed to select their own lockers through the school website from Tuesday, August 19 to Friday, August 22.

Last year, students could purchase assigned locks for 11 dollars. This policy was implemented because the administration hoped to reduce locker thefts. This system of payment prevented students from taking lockers to which they were not originally assigned. Principal Stanley Teitel said that if locker thefts were reduced, then students would possibly be able to choose their own lockers the following year.

According to Teitel, "there were only three thefts last year" and "students were sharing lockers" in all of these cases. "This is a marked improvement from the previous year," Teitel said. "On one Friday afternoon, we had three locker thefts."

Students will have to pay 12 dollars to purchase locks this year. Teitel attributes the one dollar raise to the overall economy. "The cost of everything is going up," he said.

Within 48 hours of purchasing the locks, students should receive their locker combinations online via e-mail.

Most students were glad to be able to choose their own lockers this year. Sophomore Kathy Lin said, "I'm happy we can choose this year, instead of being assigned by homeroom, which is pretty boring."

Other students were dissatisfied by the new policy. "I was on vacation when the lockers were selected," sophomore Konrad Wojnar said. "By the time someone told me, it was too late to pick a good locker."

Senior lockers were randomly distributed.

"I liked the meaning behind [the policy], since it was supposed to improve the safety of the school. I really don't agree with is that seniors get assigned random lockers. I think that is going to cause some problems at the senior bar," senior

Dionisio Rosario said.

"The reason that seniors were not afforded the opportunity to choose their

locker online is simply because of location," Assistant Principal Technology Services Edward Wong wrote in an e-mail interview. "The prime location which is the senior bar and part of the atrium accounts for less than 20 percent of senior lockers. In an attempt to be fair with the distribution of lockers, they were assigned randomly."

"It is fairer because the people selling the lockers got it randomly. When it's so random like this whoever gets the good lockers isn't dependent on who they know," senior Carmen Cheung said. "Last year when we had to choose lockers, only the people who had friends who signed up together or knew when locker assignments were out got the better lockers."

A recent Facebook group was created where seniors are exchanging their lockers or selling them for a cash payment.

"The selling and bargaining activity will always happen," Cheung said. "I don't feel that this policy will add to it."

"If they would let us choose the lockers there would be fewer issues," senior Olga Shihskov said.

Some seniors were unaffected by the locker distribution. Senior Paul Han, who received a locker on the third floor said, "I don't mind really. They're just lockers."

Despite the conflicting opinions, there was a general consensus that the selection process could be further improved.

Sophomore Andrew Park suggested that if the selection process were "at the end of the school year instead of in the middle of summer vacation," then people wouldn't get "random lockers in the middle of nowhere."

"It went very smoothly," junior Mike Kurfess said. "It would have been better if there were some kind of map though."

Valerie Piro Sues DOE, Ford and Others for \$300 Million

By KAITLYN KWAN

Valerie Piro, who is recovering from a Saturday, January 12 car accident that left her paralyzed, is suing the Department of Education (DOE), the City of New York, Stuyvesant High School, Race walking Coach Erin Taylor, Ford Motor Company, TRW Automotive and Avis Rent-A-Car System, LLC, for 300 million dollars in damages. Piro and the rest of the race walking team were on their way to a meet at Dartmouth College when the Ford E-350 van was overturned, leaving the passengers injured.

"Ford manufactures the vehicle, Avis rented it and TRW makes the seatbelt," the stu-

dent's father, Alfred Piro, said.

Taylor, who drove the van, is being held accountable for not receiving proper authorization from Principal Stanley Teitel and the DOE for the field trip. Taylor had sent out parental consent forms to all of the students, but had not asked for permission from Teitel to go on the trip.

Piro, who was wearing her seatbelt while in the van, was partially ejected out of the car's window when it left the highway and rolled over into the median. Piro's lawyers said that the van had been missing its side air bags, which, if present, could have prevented Piro's injury.

Piro's lawyers said that Avis should not have rented the van

in the first place due to its defective nature. However, according to the description of the Ford E-350 on the Ford website, the vehicle does not include side airbags.

Our sympathy goes out to victims of this tragic accident. The Ford E-350 is proven to be a very safe vehicle when operated properly," a Ford official is quoted as saying in "Paralyzed Stuyvesant H.S. student sues Ford, city for \$300 million," a Daily News article by Carrie Melago.

Teitel and a DOE representative declined to comment.

Valerie Piro is still recovering from the accident. After residing in the New York University Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation

Medicine for five months, she was transferred to the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore.

"Valerie was very ill when she went to Rusk," Alfred Piro said. "It was more of a care facility, whereas Kennedy Krieger is more focused on spinal cord injury recovery."

Valerie Piro spent a month at Kennedy Krieger, where she was given therapy, and is currently living at home.

"She has hospital bills, which are very expensive to pay, that will only increase after time," Fredric Eisenberg, Valerie Piro's lawyer, said.

"As much as I would like to not use a wheelchair, I'm pretty much confined to one," Valerie Piro said. "If all does not go well,

I will be stuck in a crappy loaner hospital chair. It has been taking the wheelchair company four months to get me a normal chair. I don't know what's going on."

Valerie Piro successfully completed her junior year classes, including three Advanced Placement courses, while in the hospital and is returning to Stuyvesant as a senior. Although she will be using a wheelchair, Valerie Piro is not worried about how she will travel within the building.

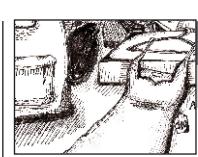
"The school is wheelchair accessible," she said. "Thank goodness for the elevators. Just as long as the elevators don't break, I should be able to get around."

Opinions

Article on page 5.

That Inevitable College Application Article

Struggling with your college applications? You're not alone.



Arts and Entertainment

Article on page 8

Easy on the Eyes, Easy on the Wallet

A guide for those who seek vintage fashion without the heavy price tags

Building Tour in Brief

By DANIELLE OBERDIER

Welcome to Stuyvesant High School, where students study, make friends and barely sleep. The transition from middle school to Stuyvesant is for most students disorienting on many fronts. From trying to stand out amongst a crowd of 3200 to managing an unfamiliar load of work, adjusting can prove stressful. However, knowing your way around can make managing life easier at Stuyvesant. Here's the guide you always wanted as a freshman, but were too shy to ask for:

Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Floors

The Biology, Physics and Chemistry Departments are located respectively on floors seven, eight and nine. However, you may find that some of your English classes take place on the eighth floor as well. Aside from having classrooms, there are some lab rooms on these floors in which you'll spend your double science periods.

Sixth Floor

The sixth floor, apart from having another gym and being the center for the English Department and the Speech and Debate teams, contains the library. Crowds of students visit the library to study, use the computers, or talk to friends. Keep in mind that since the library is a common hang-out spot, the opportunity to study quietly often fades after 1st and 2nd periods. Club interest meetings are often held there. Be on the look-out for signs advertising Open Mic and One-Act plays, also in the library. These are some of the main venues that exhibit artistic talent at Stuyvesant. Guest speaker presentations, such as the one by Jonathan Safran Foer last spring, usually take place there as well.

Fifth Floor

The fifth floor has more life to it, given that the cafeteria is located there. Be sure to get there early if you want to snag enough chairs or a table with a view. Though the fifth floor cafeteria is spacious and an easy place to buy lunch using the credit on your ID card (notice the money deposit machines near the entrance), don't limit yourselves to this option. There are many cheap getaways around Stuy where you'll receive not only a breath of fresh air, but also better food. Furthermore, the fifth floor is where you'll find the gym locker rooms, as well as the weight room, which you'll get a chance to use starting sophomore year. All the way on the left side of the fifth floor are the Foreign Language and Physical Education Department offices.

Fourth Floor

The fourth floor is rather straightforward. Your math and some of your technology classes will be on this floor. Though the sophomore bar is on the sixth floor, don't be surprised to see some groups of sophomores hanging out by the lockers that look out onto the junior atrium. Sophomores will also be sprawled out near the front of the escalators in the morning.

Third Floor

The third floor is mainly filled with social studies classrooms and the social studies office (room 305). However, you'll also find crowds of juniors on this floor chilling out in the junior atrium. In addition, a main gymnasium and gym are also located on this floor. Deep into the junior atrium is the nurse's office, where she'll treat any of your injuries.

Second Floor

Entering by the bridge every morning, you will find yourself on the second floor. A floor flooded with administrative offices, the second floor is home to the guidance suite, school store, the program office and the college office. A more fun place to be is the Student Union (SU), which contains the offices of ARISTA, The Spectator and Big Sibs. In front of the SU is the senior bar—the classic hot spot for seniors. The sight of a semicircle jutting out of the floor might seem a bit random, but it's a respected Stuyvesant tradition. Most Stuy students anticipate the privilege of sitting on the bar. Also, if you're in for a bit of time travel, check out the "history room," 229, which contains old, scratched up desks from the previous Stuy building. It is said that Lucy Liu, Stuy alumna ('86), has scratched her initials or name into one of the desks.

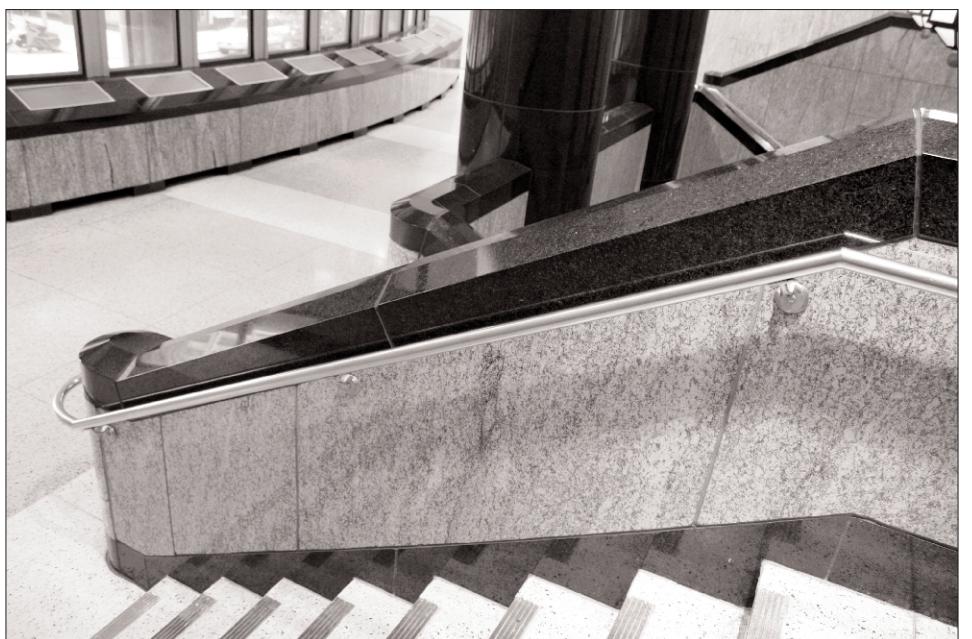
First Floor

The first floor is primarily known for being the headquarters of the Music and Fine Arts Department. There, you'll find the Murray Kahn Theatre, orchestra and chorus rehearsal rooms, media studios and Assistant Principal (AP) Music and Fine Arts Department Ray Wheeler's office. In addition, students enrolled in swim gym will use the pool entrance on the first floor to get to the pool and its locker rooms. A few steps away are Principal Stanley Teitel's office and Assistant Principal of Pupil Services Eleanor Archie's office; hopefully you won't visit the former too frequently. A recent addition to the first floor is the student lounge, which offers ping pong tables, couches and benches for hanging out during free periods. Lining the walls are many benches where you can peacefully study or take a nap.

Ten floors teeming with a variety of classrooms and offices may seem daunting. However, if you stopped reading after paragraph two, just know that you can visit any of the second floor offices to receive assistance. After you master the navigation of the building, the task of making friends and adjusting to class work will be a piece of cake.

Tenth Floor

After trekking up to the 10th floor, you'll be rewarded by the sight of several art and drafting classrooms. Expect to see quite a bit of this floor as freshmen and sophomores. Fortunately, it only goes down from there.



The half floor, which is located between the first and second floors, is one of the areas in which students often congregate.



Located on the fifth floor, the student cafeteria serves meals throughout the day.



The senior bar is a coveted locker area because of its convenient location by the bridge entrance and Student Union.

Photos by Diane Yee

The Eatery Directory

What you've been waiting for has finally come—lunch time.

Stomach grumbling, you desperately try to think of where to eat within your mere 45 minutes of freedom. You consider going for the relatively good food in the cafeteria for an easy fee of \$1.50, but brush it off quickly. Today, you'll be adventurous and venture out for lunch. Have a gander at your choices:

The Expensive Eateries



Stephanie London / The Spectator

Terry's Gourmet Deli (Chambers Street and River Terrace)

Stuyvesant students make up the majority of this deli's customer base. Right down the block from Stuyvesant, Terry's practically screams easy access—in terms of proximity and food selection. Some favorite food choices include pizza bagels (a bagel with melted mozzarella cheese and pasta sauce), salads (with all the toppings you can possibly imagine) and hearty sandwiches (some come with a free can of soda!). However, the deli's food seems to be its only redeeming quality this year. Most of their prices have been upped at least a dollar or two, much to students' and their wallets' despair. If you decide to frequent Terry's, be sure to have at least seven dollars on you. Beware of the

lack of seating here. Instead, Stuy students tend to head over to nearby Rockefeller Park.



Diane Yee / The Spectator

Zucker's Bagels and Smoked Fish (Chambers Street between Greenwich and Hudson Streets)

Zucker's is fairly new to the Stuyvesant area. The food is delicious enough to make you forget about the holes the prices burn through your pockets. Their selection ranges from lox on a cream cheese bagel to delectable blocks of milk chocolate. Zucker's specializes in bagels and fish in addition to other foods of the Jewish variety. Eating here with close friends is a must—the cozy atmosphere and soothing music provides the perfect opportunity to relax between hectic school periods.



Stephanie London / The Spectator

Pakistan Tea House (Reade Street and Church Street)

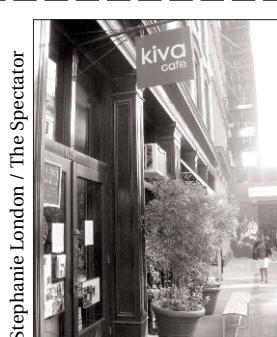
Though it's rare that you'll have enough time in a lunch period to sit and eat here, the Pakistan Tea House flaunts a wonderfully exotic menu that will make your mouth water. But the savory carte du jour clearly outshines the venue: the cramped space is quite stressful, and there is rarely enough room to sit, let alone eat. Most of the food the Tea House has to offer is on display, with main dishes mostly utilizing chicken or lamb. If you're vegetarian, have no fear: Pakistan Tea House features a handful of side dishes that only contain vegetables and spices. Those who can't take the heat should be wary of this restaurant. It's more practical to visit the Tea House after school hours with more time to savor each bite.



Stephanie London / The Spectator

The Amish Market (West Broadway and Park Place)

The Amish Market is quite the walk from Stuyvesant. If you have enough time in your lunch period, treat yourself to something from the Market's open food bars. Its salad bar is phenomenal, and the hot and cold food bars are sure to have foods that appeal to every member of your lunch party. The seating here is adorable and great for large lunch groups.



Stephanie London / The Spectator

Kiva cafe (Reade Street between Greenwich and Hudson Streets)

This Italian café is still relatively unknown among Stuy students, probably due to the fact that it's tucked in between a hair salon and a nondescript apartment complex along Reade Street. All worries pertaining to school simply dissipate in this intimate and cheerful setting. This might have something to do with the high number of customers under the age of five who tend to frequent the café, or the inspiring art decorating the eatery's small confines. My favorite item from Kiva cafe's menu is the genoa sandwich, comprised of sweet Italian salami and olive paste on a ciabatta roll—light, satiating and worth every penny. Plan to spend at least seven dollars here.

Attractively Affordable



Stephanie London / The Spectator

Gyro Carts

The gyro vendors are good for the starved student. Some good choices to try are the lamb over rice dish and any kind of gyro. I'd recommend going to one if you're in a hurry—there's usually one located in front of Barnes and Noble, and another located next to McDonald's.

China Red (Chambers Street between West Broadway and Church Street)

Eat here at your own risk. This Chinese food restaurant has been plagued with rumors of unsanitary practices, but for some reason this doesn't seem to deter Stuy students in the least.

Mike's Papaya
(Reade Street and Church Street)

With only five dollars, you can purchase a lot of food at Mike's Papaya. Hot dogs, fries with cheese and burgers tend to be especially good here. Though there aren't any seats here (only standing room and ledges) and the quality of service is questionable, the food really does make up for whatever this hot dog joint lacks. It's more fun sitting across the street in front of the Bank of America anyway.



Stephanie London / The Spectator

Gourmet Market (North End Avenue between Chambers and Warren Streets)

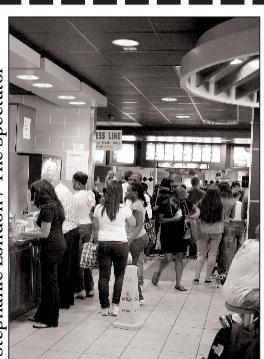
Gourmet Market, usually called "Fake Terry's" by Stuy students, is a less expensive version of Terry's Gourmet Deli. It's located practically across the street from Stuyvesant's lobby. The hot food bar here is reasonably delicious—their macaroni and cheese is quite tasty for a nice price of \$2.50. The employees here are friendly as well.



Portobello's Pizzeria and Sicilian Kitchen (Murray Street between Greenwich Street and West Broadway)

Portobello's is a great spot for freshmen to hang out in large groups and banter over copious amounts of food. The pizza spot seems to even take pride in the fact that it's located so close to Stuyvesant and the Borough of Manhattan Community College, adorning its walls in the schools' paraphernalia and photos. A popular student special offers two plain pizzas and a soda for just 5 dollars, and another grants a pizza pie with a free 2-liter soda for only 15 dollars. The pizza is relatively good—this restaurant is a great starting point for a freshman's lunch adventures.

The Franchises



Stephanie London / The Spectator

Blimpie, McDonald's, Taco Bell and Subway (Blimpie—West Broadway between Chambers and Warren Streets; the rest—Chambers Street between Greenwich Street and West Broadway)

These are good places to eat when you're too lazy to make a choice at somewhere like Whole Foods. While Subway may offer great deals (that are always unclear on its terms), it's habitually crowded so service is rushed. Blimpie may prove to be a better alternative this year, as its deals are generally cheaper than Subway's deals are.

Taco Bell and McDonald's are not nearly as crowded as Subway is. After its major renovation last year, this McDonald's is nicer than the other three fast food restaurants combined. It's spacious and there are always open seats. If you're in a rush, Taco Bell is closest by far and almost never has long lines.



Stephanie London / The Spectator

Whole Foods (Greenwich Street between Warren and Murray Streets)

Whole Foods has everything one could possibly imagine. Great soup, sushi, Indian food, picnic food—it's almost too good to be true. If you're willing to spend the extra buck, go here for lunch.

Jamba Juice and Starbucks (Jamba Juice—West Broadway between Chambers and Warren Streets; Starbucks—Chambers Street and West Broadway)

Even though these two drink franchises are outrageously expensive, the drinks are delicious. Jamba Juice is a fun place to hang out and wind down with friends. Starbucks is the place to get your quick fix of caffeine after that all-nighter. Moreover, you can get baked goods at Starbucks or chips and health bars at Jamba Juice. These two hot spots also have long lines, wide varieties and limited seating in common.

Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

What am I reading?

In this space, The Spectator publishes staff editorials, which are commentaries on current issues affecting the Stuyvesant community. Discussions are conducted by a Staff Editorial Manager, whose sole responsibility is to oversee the writing of these editorials. The Editorial Board consists of a group of 27 editors, including the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor and Department Editors from 11 departments, both writing and nonwriting, who contribute to the development of the editorial opinion. The points made during discussion are incorporated into articles written by members of the Editorial Board. Staff editorials do not have a byline because they are the collective opinion of the Editorial Board.

Out of the Red

Pew. We can breathe again. The New York City Council cancelled the budget cuts for Stuyvesant's 2008-2009 school year on Thursday, June 26. We'll get everything back—our classes and extracurricular activities are out of harm's way.

This change is a direct result of adamant student and parent opposition to the cuts. Parents joined together at schools city-wide and held multiple protests outside City Hall. During the school year, student rallying was just as strong. And, thankfully, this passion was heard on both the city and state levels.

Stuyvesant and the 73 other New York City high schools that were going to get hit hardest by the 2008-2009 cuts escaped this year. Yet this does not mean we will be safe in the future. Pause for a moment and think about how different Stuyvesant would be if the budget cuts had happened. The class you had been hoping to take since freshman year, gone. The club you wanted to be president of, gone.

The fire with which both students and parents protested the New York City educational budget cuts was admirable—keep it up. Students must fundraise for

their own clubs and teams to ensure that these extracurricular activities are not in jeopardy if, in upcoming years, budget cuts do go through. And, if the threat of budget cuts does become a reality next year, protest. We have the responsibility to our school and the students who will come after us.

Take advantage of the money we have this year—the classes and activities it allows. But be conscious that it may not last. There is no guarantee we will have all these options next year. Don't let the fire die down.

Prime Real Estate

Location, location, location—the key to a successful year at Stuy.

Principal Stanley Teitel's Trident, proposed in spring 2007, introduced a new scanner system, required faculty to wear identification and upturned the school's existing locker-swapping culture.

In past years, students would be assigned lockers within the building, then use their own locks to secure them. Many students abandoned their assigned lockers and swiped the most convenient ones, hoping not to get their lock clipped. Lockers, at the senior bar especially, were even purchased.

According to the administration, there were too many locker break-ins with this arrangement. Instead, beginning in fall 2007, the school purchased and placed locks on every locker in the building, whether or not it was occupied.

The administration tested an online selection process with the juniors, class of 2009, along with this plan. Students requested the locker of their dreams during the summer. Each locker

assignment was hard-and-fast—no swapping allowed. Since the system ran smoothly, the privilege was expanded to both juniors and sophomores this year. While the student body originally voiced much discontent regarding the new policy, it has turned out to be quite successful. There have been fewer break-ins with the heavier-duty, four-combination locks and less locker-related chaos overall.

Unfortunately, some students cannot afford to purchase a new lock for \$1—and now \$2—dollars every year. With each lock priced at \$10.88, replacing the locks yearly costs over \$30,000 dollars. To help alleviate this monetary burden, the school could lower costs by recycling locks and moving them to different lockers. The administration, after all, has the combination for every lock in the school and each lock does have its own serial number. "It would be a monumental task," Teitel said. But it would save a monumental amount of money.

Financial concerns aside, two groups were left out of the selection process: incoming stu-

dents and, surprisingly, the seniors. There is, the administration believes, too much competition for too few senior lockers to make online selection fair. It's true that many seniors want a senior bar locker, but there are favorite locations for the other grades as well. Juniors prize lockers by the third floor escalators and sophomores want lockers by the sixth floor bar.

But leaving the seniors out hasn't stopped them from scrambling for prime locations. They've moved online, forming Facebook groups to buy and trade unwanted lockers. If they're already swapping on Facebook, the administration should allow seniors to choose for themselves on a first-come, first-serve basis.

In the future, it would also be helpful to have a map of the lockers online. Instead of a blind shot in the dark, students should be able to know what their newly chosen locker numbers mean.

It's a tough market out there, but hopefully you don't end up with the bottom locker at the end of the hallway.

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



*"The Pulse
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We are looking for issues published before 1995.

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

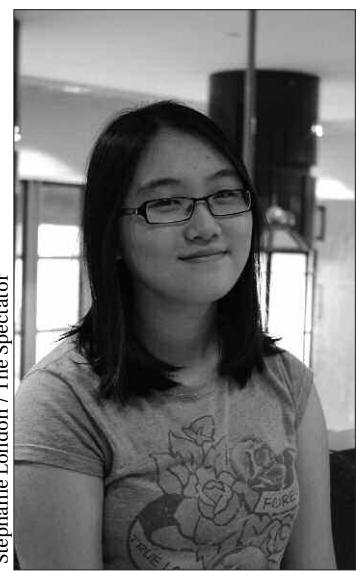
Write a letter to the editor and e-mail it to
letters@stuyspectator.com or drop it
in The Spectator box in the
second-floor mail room.

FOR THE RECORD

- In Issue 16, in the article "Student Union Caucus: Ray Hicks and Sophia Curran," junior Sophia Curran's surname was misspelled.
- In "Senior Caucus: Eunju Namkung and Aaron Ghitelman," senior Eunju Namkung's surname was spelled incorrectly.
- In the photo cutline of "College Postponed," Stuy alumna Hannah Temkin's surname was misspelled.
- In "The Year in Sports: Hitmen Stop Short After a Roller Coaster Season," boys' baseball team, the Hitmen, was misspelled.
- In "The Year in Sports: Mimbas Seeded Third After Perfect Season," girls' soccer team, the Mimbas, was spelled incorrectly.

Opinions

Escape into Reality!



By JUDY BAEK

Once I finished junior year, laziness was supposed to prevent me from doing any difficult work. I had previously sworn never to associate myself with the evils of idleness, but after suffering through SATs, Advanced Placement Exams and three years of Stuyvesant, I wanted to embrace senioritis. However, my summer job stopped all my hopes of becoming a couch potato. My ambitious inner self had volunteered for a research project at Queens College.

Despite the stereotype of research being mental work, I had to do manual labor such as washing glassware, making chemical solutions and reorganizing the lab. All the experiments were excruciatingly repetitive with procedures like pipetting a chemical five times and checking the measurements every half hour. My summer internship was mundane and possibly drearier than other paying jobs.

It wasn't until my mentor started me on an actual project that I began to appreciate the redeeming qualities of my job. He told me that the first step in my experiment would be to design primers for PCR, or polymerase chain reactions, which are used to create multiple copies of a particular DNA sequence. But he never told me how to make primers or what primers were. I researched on Wikipedia and other Internet sources, learned what the primers' purpose and mechanisms were in the experiment, and successfully created them using computer programs. This free and independent learning was what my mentor expected from all of his students. I had

found a different and better way of learning than the classroom-lecture style I had been accustomed to for the past 16 years.

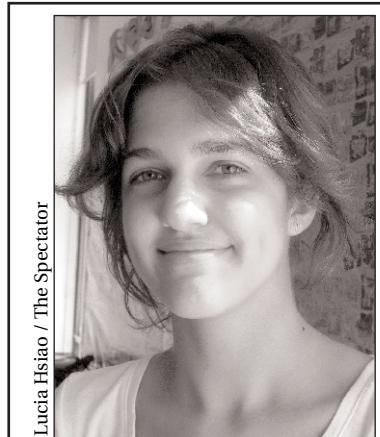
Within a month, I had developed enough knowledge of the subject and some experience to make my own decisions concerning the project and the lab. For example, I had accidentally left a full flask of gel in the microwave for four minutes, instead of one minute. The cap exploded off and the molten gel spewed over the top. I stared at this unintentional but perfect representation of a volcanic eruption for a moment and cleaned the microwave before the gel hardened. As he usually did with all my other mistakes, my mentor laughed and said, "Yeah, that can happen sometimes," but followed with a mini lecture on safety.

Research became enjoyable as I became used to the working environment. Other lab members and I often helped each other by asking for and returning favors like storing Petri dishes with bacteria in refrigerators and guiding a lab member in a wheelchair through narrow walkways. Striking up conversations always proved to be worth the effort. Discovering that my mentor had been a political science major at Swarthmore College before stepping into research, that the graduate student in the adjacent lab was a young mother and that the quiet graduate student, Anna, enjoyed going to Mets games replaced my previous views on research and the people involved.

The responsibility I had was stressful because, unlike a school assignment, the results would be evaluated and used by the scientific community. However, as a senior who will toil through the brutal college application process, having some control over my job (or over anything) was comforting. I now know from experience that in the real world, I am defined not only by my grades, but by my genuine enthusiasm for my occupation and my relationships with the people at the workplace.

Most students believe that spending the summer sitting in a classroom will help prepare them for another rigorous school year. However, immersing oneself in real life experience such as jobs and volunteer work, even for two months, can help us distance ourselves from schoolwork. Work is therapeutic.

That Inevitable College Application



By GEORGIA STASINOPoulos

Working three jobs this summer, I became a master at navigating small talk. Still, even such finesse at spare-time banter lost its usefulness when conversation shifted from the latest drinking party at the local bar (which I had not attended) to other topics of conversation more suited for the naïve high school senior in the office. Given time, the taboo question always surfaced:

The College Powers That Be want inspiration.

"Hey, where're you going to college?"

Silence. Then:

"Um, not sure." Hoping to nip this discussion in the bud, I explained that such things aren't decided until one has already applied to college.

Next question:

"Oh, so where are you applying? How are those applications coming along?"

I break out into a sweat. This must be what it feels like to get invaded by Russia; take it easy, Georgia, and think. The Stuyvesant answer involves patient waffling, and then a few well-chosen, vague sentences about completed applications from sophomore year. (Oh, and a casual Harvard mention with the obligatory, "My parents are making me apply.") My answer, executed with maximum nonchalance, mentions all of these elements, includes

the diary of a mad senior

a few schools I have not visited, and then hastily changes the subject to my co-workers' alma maters.

But the nasty, nasty truth is this (and fellow Stuyvesant seniors, gloat away): I haven't started my college applications, visited a single college or bought any college guides. Oh, I made an account with Commonapp.org; I took my SATs and SAT II's; I even hunted around for teacher recommendations. But the thought of putting fingers to keyboard means I get a sudden urge to reorganize my bookcase, clean my room or walk the dog.

This was alright when junior year was ending and the possibilities were endless. I had six beautiful weeks to hone my college applications, to write picturesque essays that would bring tears to the eyes of every college admissions officer. By October, I would be strolling the hallways in a blaze of completed-applications glory.

Except, with the summer sun bright on my face and my back no longer weighed down by the textbooks and backpacks of junior year, I did a little irresponsible thing—just a little one—and decided to actually enjoy my summer before entering the ninth circle of hell known as "first term, senior year."

Now, I hear you overachievers clicking your tongues. But I did my research: starting your college applications later is not only tempting, but pleasantly smart. Read through college applications and you start to recognize a common theme. They don't want your life's history. They don't want to hear about how many digits of pi you can recite. The College Powers That Be want inspiration.

After a junior year of dragging myself from home to school to debate practice to

SAT class to homework to school—lather, rinse, repeat, and notice the lack of sleep in this pattern—I felt anything but inspired. My short-sightedness—the "get a good grade in these classes and ace your finals" mentality of junior year—had crippled my ability

Starting your college applications later is not only tempting, but pleasantly smart.

to look at the long run. So when I sat down one weekend in early July and downloaded a college application, I was shocked to realize that I didn't know what the biggest influence in my life was. What I wanted to do in life. What career path I was most attracted to.

So I started working, hooking a legal internship, a job on a political campaign and a few tutoring gigs. I threw myself into 50-hour weeks with gusto and began to enjoy the latitude I was afforded as a member of the working world. With that breathing space came the recollection of what I actually wanted after high school: to publish a novel, to travel the world, to cultivate an interest in law that I had stumbled upon years ago. In short, I figured out the answers to the troubling little questions on college applications—not by studying a little bit harder, but by living my life a little bit more.

You conscientious seniors can avert your eyes all you like—I don't regret deciding to live out my summer without the nagging presence of college applications.

But, seniors with empty pieces of paper, listen up. The world of college applications is reminiscent of a very long lane in a very deep pool. The trick is to do your best Michael Phelps impression—focus, get your eye on the prize and start swimming. Maybe you'll win every race, maybe you won't.

But, I'll see you at the end.

OP-ART



Opinions



By JUDY CHEN

Americans demonstrated national pride when they swept all three medals in women's individual fencing at the Beijing Olympic Games. Everyone cheered when the U.S. men's gymnastics team took home an unexpected bronze. And many Americans partied when Michael Phelps won his eighth gold medal and broke the record for winning the most gold in a single Olympic Games.

For those two weeks, Americans were swept off their feet. But when the Pledge of Allegiance is broadcasted over the Public Address everyday, most Stuyvesant students remain seated. It is believed that those who don't say the pledge are less patriotic than those who do. Being from Canada, I remain seated because I want to remain as neutral as possible—loyal to Canadians and respectful of Americans. Other individuals have their own reasons. Some immigrants, for example, have a deeper appreciation for America. Those born and raised in the U.S. have spent most of their lives here and their Western lifestyles leave little room for comparison to life in developing countries.

Although it seems like American-born teens take their freedom and rights for granted,

it may not be their fault. The pledge has not been fully understood in most classrooms, leaving many confused about why they should respect the flag. The pledge is often emphasized by grade school instructors, but it is rarely explained comprehensively. Students in my elementary school felt obligated to stand up and say the pledge, but no one would understand why they were doing it because none of us knew the meaning behind the words. But as we got older, many of us started making our own decisions—some remain seated and others continue

The pledge has not been fully understood in most classrooms, leaving many confused about why they should respect the flag.

doing what they have done since elementary school.

For the many who don't say it, the pledge only represents values in words rather than values put into action. What does the promise of "liberty and justice for all" mean when our freedom is clearly limited and rights are based on biases? Since there is so much stereotyping in this country, "liberty and justice for all" does not stand true for everyone. So when people root for Team USA or wave the American flag with pride, even if they don't recite the pledge, it doesn't mean they lack patriotism or gratitude. You could be looking at some true patriots.



By REBECCA ELLIOT

Erwin, Tennessee—town of 500 known for hanging a circus elephant to death in 1916.

Murderous Mary, the first elephant in Tennessee, was undoubtedly unaware of the fame she would bring to the town of her final performance—or how stories of her killing would one day be told by a wilderness aficionado to a busload of whitewater rafting beginners.

Signing up to paddle solo through class three and four rapids, I was anticipating a physically and emotionally grueling day, a summer vacation experience to discuss for years to come. I was not, however, expecting to be less impressed with the water than with the god-fearing redneck who guided me down the Nolichucky River (Cherokee for "river of death").

I am, especially with the fast-approaching presidential elections, quick to pick up on individuals' political stances. Yet I often let my own preconceptions place individuals into constricting ideological boxes.

Traveling across the Bible Belt and into the depths of Appalachia, nearly everyone I

came across had a thick southern drawl, had never left his or her home state, was ultra-conservative and explained the world in terms of Christianity.

Josh, the rafting guide, seemed no different. After experiencing motion sickness from five hours of boating—I thought I'd grown out of this more than five years ago but apparently not—I ended up on Josh's boat for the final hour of the journey. Sadly I felt more like hurling than talking. But he kept calling me "princess" which made me feel guilty about mooching a ride down the river. So I talked and covered the basics of high school, music, television and sports.

One thing led to another and soon we were talking about the upcoming election. At the mention of Barack Obama, Josh scrunched up his face and we hit a rock. Because Obama wanted to take the Ten Commandments off public buildings, remove "In God We Trust" from dollar bills and did not put his hand over his heart during the Pledge of Allegiance, Josh deemed Obama the antichrist. I was not sure what to say. A political leader, he believed, must stand for the values upon which his country was founded.

At the mention of Hillary Clinton, all I got was a scoff in response. It took some prodding to get Josh to admit his aversion to the idea of women holding leadership positions. Responding, I'm guessing to my horrified expression, he quoted certain passages from the King James Bible. Yet Josh did not degrade women. He readily acknowledged their capability to lead, but thought religious texts ought to be carried out to the T.

Josh's religious faith was solidified after he survived being shot during his second tour in Iraq. Someone must have been looking out for him.

Even after two tours, Josh thought Iraq was a mistake,

something George W. Bush entered so he could finish what his father started. And he did not agree with many of Bush's or Senator John McCain's policies. Their one overriding positive quality, he believes, has been their constant support of the troops. Thus, McCain would get his vote in the upcoming election.

By the time we skirted the last rock of the 10-mile Upper Nolichucky, I had a newfound respect for Josh. Yes, he had political and religious views I will never be able to understand, but he had thought about everything. All his views had reasons.

Yes, he had political and religious views I will never be able to understand, but he had thought about everything.

He was willing to fight a war he didn't believe in just because he had faith—in religion and in his country's leaders.

I consider myself a liberal New Yorker who is open to many cultures and values. Yet I went into Josh's territory feeling superior. Ultimately I realized that this country must overcome its current quandaries together—through understanding and collaboration.

So as the donkey and elephant rush towards November neck and neck, I'm rooting for the donkey all the way. But now that I understand more about where the elephant's coming from, I have a little bit more respect for it.

Crouching in a Wooden Dragon



By GAVIN HUANG

On race day, it was 90 degrees, the sun blazingly bright with a nice comforting breeze. A steerer, a drummer and 12 paddlers were seated in a long colorful boat adorned with the head and tail of a dragon. We could hear the captains in the boats next to us giving pep talks. "Keep together," one said. "Remember the techniques we learned," said another. "Just don't stop," our coach jokingly said to us.

When the whistle sounded, all 12 of our paddles hit the water at once. We listened

It was an easy sport to pick up, though winning was another story.

intently to the drum and moved our bodies forward and back to its beat. As we neared the finish line, we moved faster and let out a loud incomprehensible roar. Crossing the finish line, we relaxed our arms and listened for the results. We lost.

My family and I have made the hour-long trek to Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens every year since I was six to watch the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival, a competition and cultural showcase. I always enjoyed watching the boat races and it was a chance to experience a part of China in New York

City. Although visiting the festival was an annual tradition, I had never looked into what dragon boating meant until I started participating in the competition. The race itself represents the frantic efforts to save a Chinese warrior poet, Qu Yuan, who committed suicide in protest of government corruption in 278 B.C. Since then, the races have been a symbol of friendly competition and teamwork.

I joined a team last year on a whim. I was working in an office and it was common for corporations to have their own dragon boating teams. I thought I should give it a try even though my friends found a scrawny freshman signing up for such an intense sport laughable. I went back this summer and I plan to do so every summer. There's nothing better than struggling to move a three-ton boat against strong currents on scorching Sunday afternoons.

It was an easy sport to pick up, though winning was another story. In the five years we participated in the competition, my team always finished last by a wide margin of at least three seconds. But no one complained

because there was no reason to be angry. We laughed off our failure and joked about beating the other teams next year who were clearly more prepared—and more buff—than we were.

Our coach gathered us together at the end of our race and congratulated us. He hoped we had taken something from the experience and that we would come back next year despite our foreseeable defeat. That was the lesson that stood out to me—don't let a little failure stop you. You'll get a challenging test once in a while and the pressures of life in general will get to you, but get past them. Learn to laugh them off

We become so focused on furthering ourselves that we forget to help those who might be struggling.

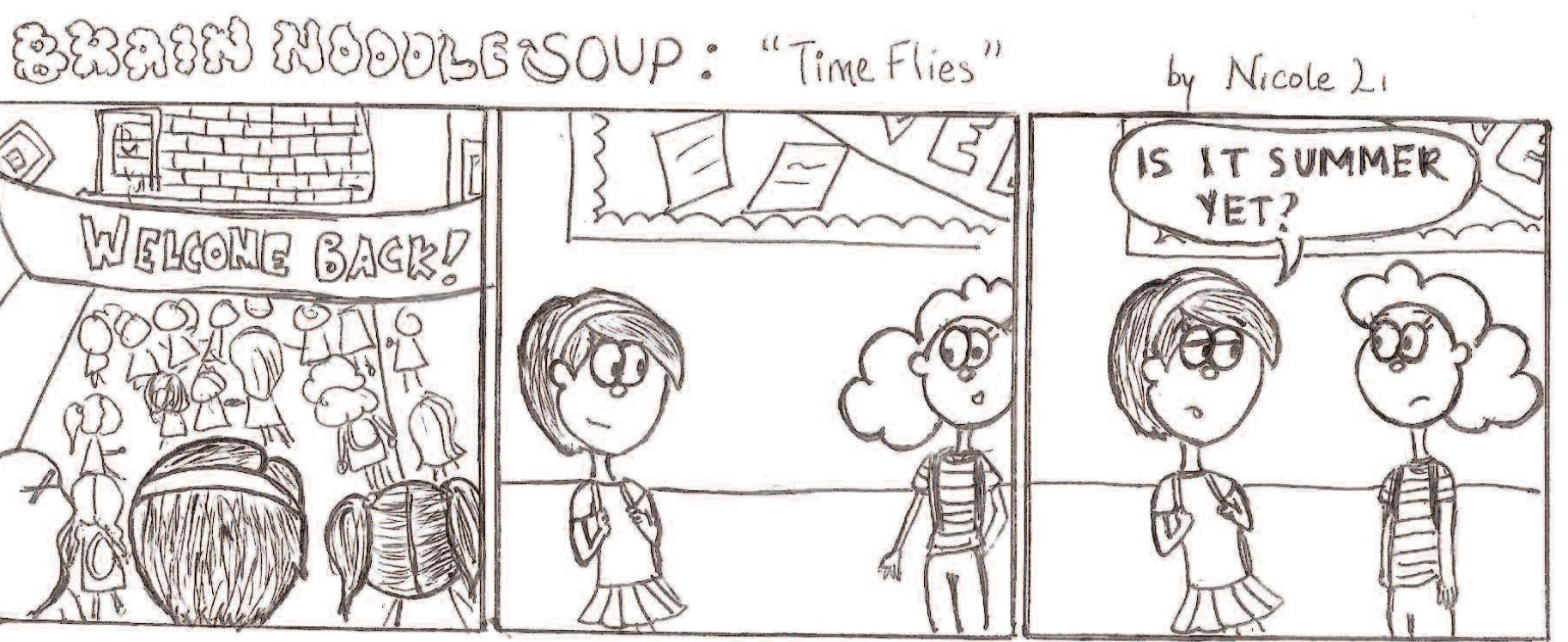
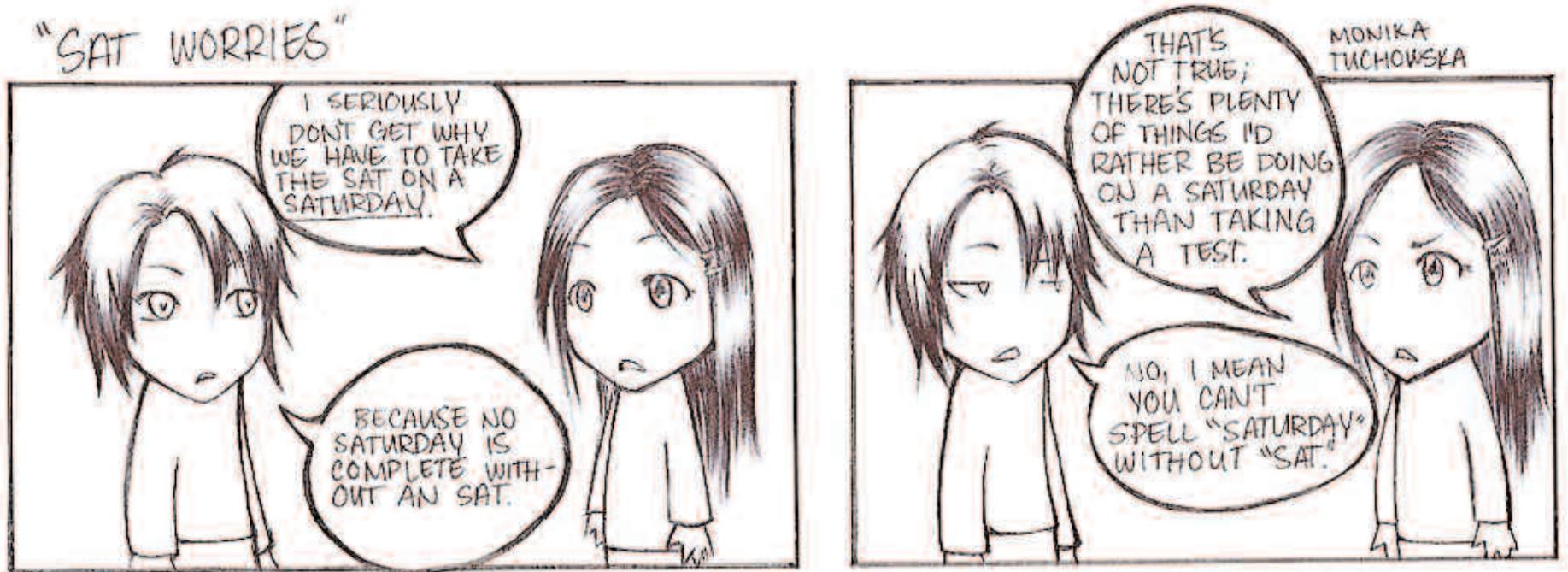
and, like my coach often said, be a man (or a woman).

Our team only practiced four times during the summer but it was enough for us to become friends. In dragon boating, there is nothing more important than being close to the people you work with. You can be massive and strong, but if you don't move with the people next to you, forces will literally collide and nobody will go anywhere.

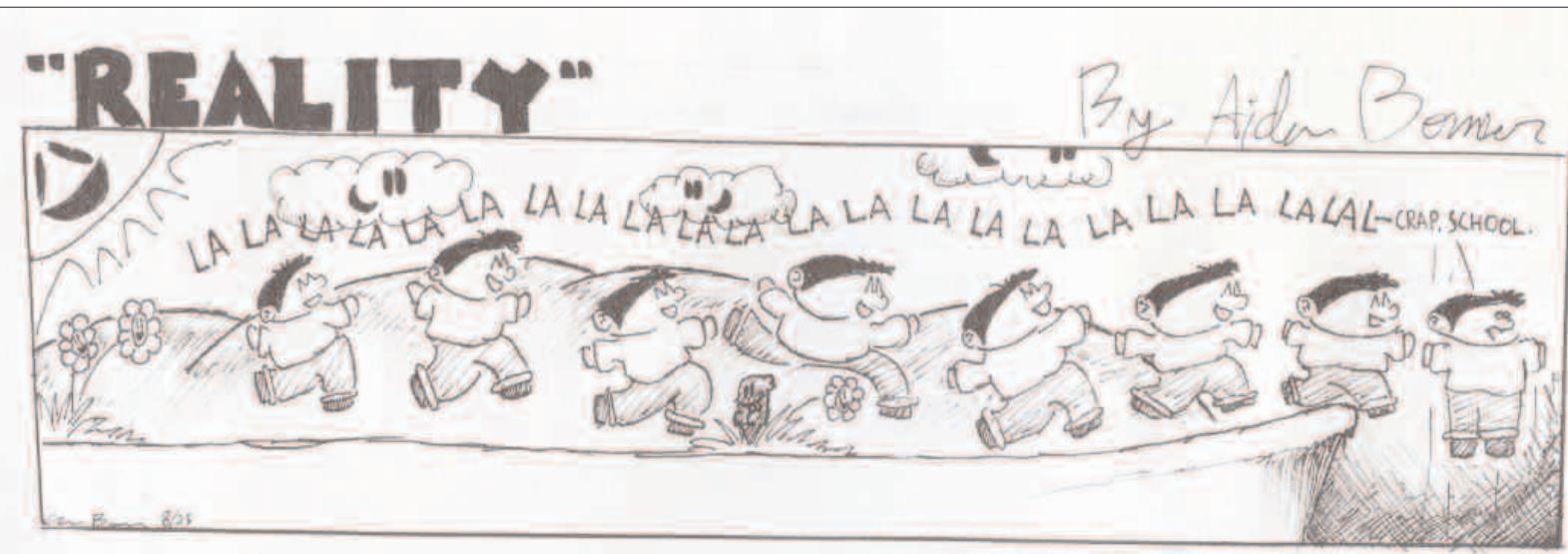
It was precisely for that reason our coach had us play more games of football than running drills. He wanted us to know that making friends and working as a team were important in both sports and life. It sounds obvious, but in a competitive school, we lose sight of what really matters. We become so focused on furthering ourselves that we forget to help those who might be struggling. Our school places an emphasis on individual achievements, but we are a learning community. We're going to be with each other for four years, so we might as well learn to work with each other.

The motto of the competition was "Hardwork, Teamwork, Network." Aside from the bad spelling, it wouldn't make such a bad motto for Stuy.

Cartoons



DON'T UNDERESTIMATE PRINCETON REVIEW BY ERICA CHAN



Arts & Entertainment

Hair's Got Life

By JAMES DENNIN

It's hard to imagine a moment in theater as exhilarating as the opening stanzas of "The Flesh Failures," the show-stopping finale of the revival of "Hair," currently finishing its run at the Delacorte Theater as part of "Shakespeare in the Park's" summer season.

However, "revival" isn't quite the right word. Director Diane Paulus has not merely revived the somewhat dated musical about hippies protesting the Vietnam War and experimenting with drugs, sex and rock and roll. Re-invented perhaps, for unlike the typical revival of shows from the era, the musical feels fresh and injected with life by an enthusiastic young cast and its new location, amidst the picturesque outdoor Central Park Theater.

"Hair," which was originally produced forty years ago as part of the Public Theater's opening season, was a sensation. However, certain elements of the controversial original production—audience participation, nudity, a general lack of cohesion—are now old news. The new "Hair" no longer relies on intrigue to reach its audiences. However, this version, which plays out during the tumults of an unjust war, does more than protest the times, but questions the value of protest itself. "Hair" remains so relevant, because rather than drawing on the obvious juxtapositions between Vietnam and Iraq, the show contrasts the youth of today with the youth of the sixties. This is because we, in contrast to the protest generations that came before us, seem lost and without a cause.

The play's loose structure is

centered on Claude—a Converse-clad native of Flushing, and the members of his Tribe—a collection of Hippies wandering around Central Park in search of money, food and mind-altering substances. Claude seems less caught up in the movement than his fiery and sometimes angry compatriots—hesitating as his peers burn and throw their draft notices into a garbage can (the only prop



used throughout the musical). What follows is a bad trip, as Claude envisions his future in the war. Like most of today's youth, Claude doesn't possess the passion of the protestors who surround him, and the concepts of right and wrong aren't always clear, as evidenced in his song "Where do I go?" In his eyes, the "cause" doesn't seem like a cause at all, but merely an excuse to party.

Indeed, as the youngsters engage in their stage antics, shedding their clothes and sticking it to the man, they seem like little more than a pack of kids. Why are they so intent on not cutting their hair anyway? In truth, the characters seem without direction or unity despite the fact that they

share a common cause. Paulus's staging is simple, almost primitive. She has a careful understanding of both the limitations and the benefits of the space, and uses the Delacorte's thrust stage and setting amidst the trees to great effect, but gives the audience very little to look at otherwise. There is very little choreography—for most of the songs, the actors stand in a line. However, the effect is more anthem-like than anything else. "Hair's" only flaw is that it gives the audience very little to cling to besides the music—there is no cohesive plot or set, and the characters are almost anonymous. However, unlike much of sixties theater, "Hair" is enlivened by a message—that youth could affect social change. Though the message is slightly different, this new revival is not without purpose.

Sitting in the audience watching "Hair," and looking around during some of the show's most memorable songs, you can see more than a fair share of aged hippies mouthing (not singing) along. It seems that "Hair" is merely catering to their nostalgia. However, in the show's final moments when the bouncers step aside and throngs of young people crowd the stage to sing and dance with the cast, it becomes clear that "Hair" has found a new audience. A new audience and a new voice.

"Shakespeare in the Park's performances are all free. Tickets are distributed outside the Delacorte Theater at 1 PM. The Delacorte is located in Central Park at the 81st St entrance, just below the great lawn. In order to guarantee that you will receive tickets, it is recommended that you arrive at the line before 9 AM.

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AMC 10 & AMC 12

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9th-10th: September 13 - late January (20 weeks)

11th: Will prepare for the Jan 2009 exam. September 13 - late January (20 weeks)

12th: Will prepare for the Dec 2008 exam. September 13 - late November (13 weeks)

Saturday Morning – Reading, Writing, and Math
9am-1:30pm. 5 levels (5 classes).

Saturday Evening – Reading, Writing, and Math
3pm-7:30pm. 2 levels (2 classes).

SAT I – Weekday classes

English

Reading and Writing: 6-8 pm

Tuesday/Thursday Group Starts September 16.

Wednesday and Friday Group Starts September 17.

Mathematics

Math A: Starts September 17

Wednesday 4:30-6pm.

Math B: Starts September 17

Friday 4:30-6pm.

SAT I Math: Starts September 17 Friday 8-9:30pm.

New Tribeca Whole Foods Goes Green



Stephanie London / The Spectator

The popular chain supermarket and dining area has a new location near Stuyvesant.

By KAITLYN KWAN
with additional reporting by
ALAN SAGE

Paper bags, organic products and wholehearted customer service can only match the description of one grocery store: Whole Foods. This entirely green company, devoted to the preservation of the environment, opened its newest chain store, which is located at 270 Greenwich Street in Tribeca, on Wednesday, July 9. From its seven different departments—Meat, Grocery, Bakery, Prepared Foods, Specialty, Produce and Whole Body—to its new venues, Shish! for Middle Eastern food lovers and Sweet for candy fanatics, the new addition to this neighborhood is one-of-a-kind, according to Marketing Team Leader Mary Thurber.

"The Whole Foods Markets in this region always try to do something unique and special in each of their stores," Thurber said.

Indeed, the layout of Tribeca's Whole Foods is impressive. Half-supermarket, half-buffet, the organic emporium seems to have something for everyone. Five buffet tables occupy the fresh foods section, one devoted entirely to dessert. Nearby, a pizzeria, sushi bar, a bakery and a display of grilled meats and fresh sandwiches entice connoisseurs. Tribeca's Whole Foods also offers more spacious aisles, conveyor belt checkouts and full size grocery carts—a first for all New York City Whole Foods Markets.

Unfortunately for Stuyvesant students, the prices are somewhat less enticing. While the buffet tables offer wide varieties of salads and ethnic cooking, the \$7.99 per pound price is sure to turn off many budget-wary students. The \$2.99 per 8 oz. bowl of soup may make the impressive selection somewhat less heartwarming, while the \$6.99 moz-

arella-caprese sandwich makes Whole Foods seem like little more than another pretentious, yuppie-friendly sandwich shop.

Yet Whole Foods makes itself stand out from the mold by being environmentally friendly. It has even strayed away from using plastic grocery bags to prove its commitment to conserving resources. There is also a newly established bag policy in which the store will pay the customers 10 cents if they bring their groceries home in their own shopping bags and not in the store's paper ones.

Naturally, the store continues its idealism in treating customers fairly. Even though Whole Foods is expected to be in high demand by Stuyvesant students and faculty alike, Whole Foods will not be offering any discounts to the school members.

"Whole Foods Market does not offer discount cards to specific customer groups predominantly because we are a company that strives to treat each and every one of our customers fairly," Thurber said. "So for schools, we support them in many different types of ways, but a discount card is not one of the ways that we do so."

"They won't do advantage cards," junior and Student Union Vice President Casey Griffin said. "But they told me that if we have any specific event that we would like them to help out with, they'd be happy to do that."

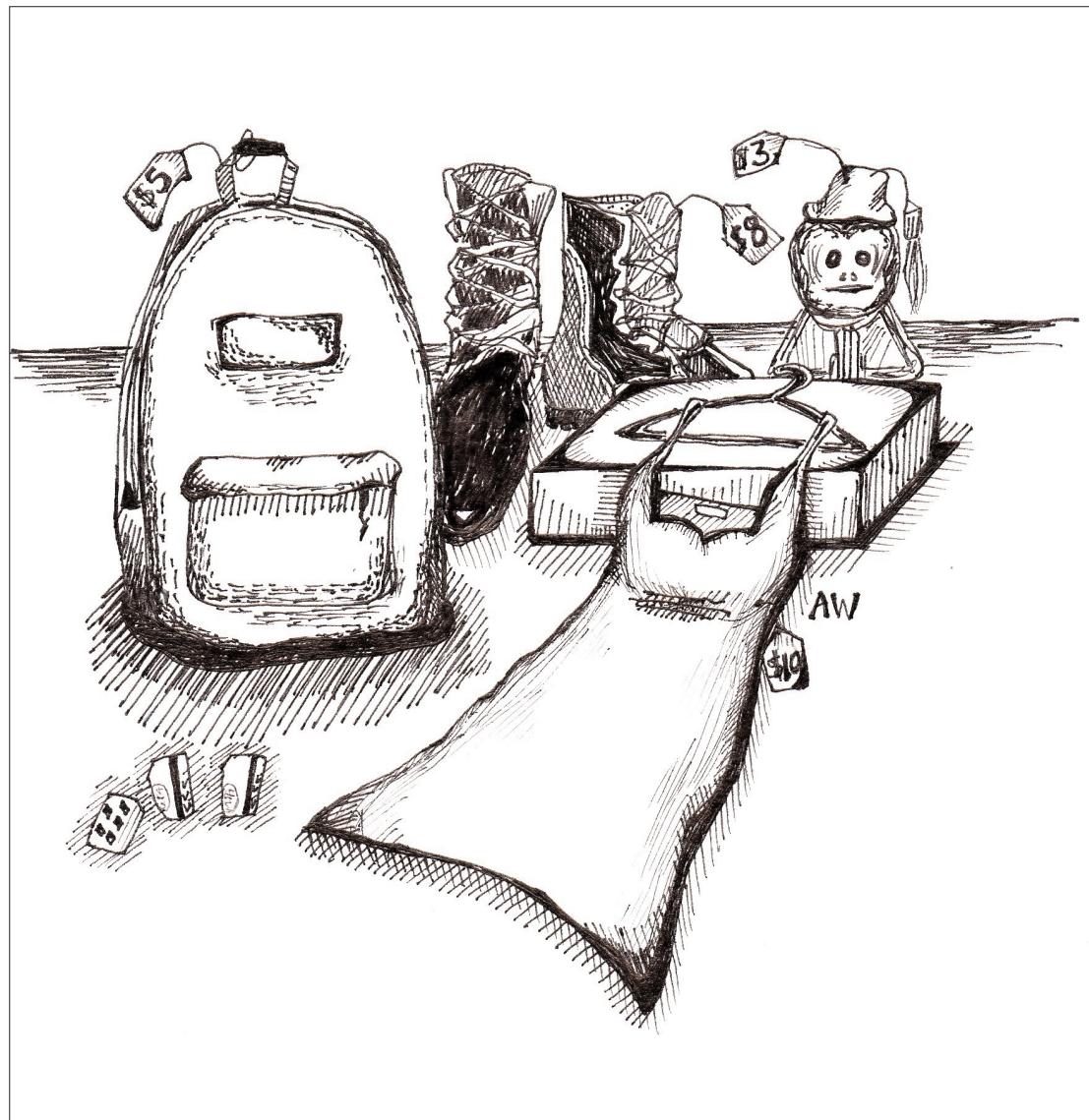
So far, the Tribeca Whole Foods has partnered with elementary school P.S. 234 to contribute to its neighborhood event, Taste of Tribeca, as well as the Manhattan Youth Organization to help with different events and fundraisers. In the future, Whole Foods would like to help out the students and faculty at Stuyvesant through "product support for fundraisers," Thurber said.

Arts & Entertainment

Easy on the Eyes, Easy on the Wallet A Back to School Shopping Guide

By ERICA SANDS and HYEMIN YI

As the school year approaches, it's likely that summer has taken a toll on your wardrobe. Jeans wear through and styles and change. If you're tired of the Gap and Urban Outfitters, don't fret. We've picked out three vintage stores close to school so that you won't have to worry about someone else having the exact same shirt. Start by taking the 1 train up a few stops to Christopher Street and walk a few blocks west to Housing Works for a few unique pieces. Then get back on the 1 and go up to 14th street for cheap vintage t-shirts, jeans, and boots at Rags-a-Go-Go. Finally, hop on the L train to Bedford Avenue and walk over to Beacon's Closet to buy a winter coat and anything else you could possibly want: this place has an extremely wide selection.



Rags-A-GoGo

It's the American Apparel of the vintage realm - gone western.

One step in and a woman wearing a vintage t-shirt cut into a tube top and a vest, eagerly asks the discount question of the day: Who did Obama pick as his vice-presidential candidate, what state is he from, and what percent of votes did he get in Iowa? Answering all three parts correctly (Joe Biden, Denver, one per-cent) is rewarded with a \$10 discount. Be prepared to find out how she feels about it as you engage in a possibly lengthy conversation about

where our country is headed.

In 1989, Joshua-Suzanne came to New York City "with a broken heart." She laughs at herself with an "Aww" before she continues. "[I had] two garbage bags and \$350 in my pocket." She soon became a manager for a massive vintage clothing venue a year later until she started her own booth of vintage jeans and cowboy boots. "The day I opened up that booth, I knew [I would have]... one of the best-known vintage stores in the city." Once she gathered enough money together, she opened up her own store: Rags-a-GoGo.

The store's emphasis is clearly on men, although there are a few dresses, shirts and accessories (such as purses and heels) for women. Everything in the store has been hand-picked from international warehouses by Joshua-Suzanne herself. Rags-a-GoGo has set prices for each type of item with vintage shirts for \$8, track jackets and heels for \$25, dresses for \$28, and boots at \$75 a pair. "This is the place you come to get street fresh vintage," she said.

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Beacon's Closet

This is the store where you will need to restrain yourself if you're short on time. Everywhere you look you will find beautiful, quirky garments to fit any style.

Located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Beacon's Closet is large enough to be a warehouse, in fact, many customers find they need to make two rounds through the store in order to sift through it all. As far as vintage stores go, this one is extremely organized; it has two rooms for women's clothing (with pants, shirts, and jackets in the front room and skirts and dresses in the back) and one room for men's clothing. The store is also organized by color, creating an organized rainbow effect. If you have the time to search for the perfect pair of cheap designer jeans, pants and shorts are organized by size. Accessories such as hats, wallets, bags and belts are located near the entrance. Shoes of every shape, size, and color rest along the walls and on top of the racks.

As the colder months approach, be sure not to miss the impressive selection of jackets, coats, and blazers. On a recent visit, finds included everything from a black Armani blazer for \$29.95 to a beige Marc Jacobs

jacket with maroon detailing for \$34.95 to a London Fog winter trench for \$54.95 - a steal for a coat of such high caliber. Not only does the section hold an immense number of finds, it is also one of the easiest to browse quickly, due to the fact that it does not require a visit to the fitting room.

The store buys its wares from the general public at a counter in the men's clothing section. Although they are rather particular about the items they accept, they will give you 10 percent of the total value of your clothes in cash, or 15 percent in store credit, which mostly amounts to a decent discount from the day's purchases, due to how low their prices are. Shirts are priced anywhere within the \$5 to \$30 range, mostly leaning towards the lower end of the spectrum. One pair of Betsey Johnson jeans went for \$24.95, as did a pair of jeans by 7 for All Mankind. Whatever your budget, you're sure to find something to suit your needs.

88 North 11 Street, Williamsburg,
Brooklyn, NY
2205 Avenue, Park Slope,
Brooklyn, NY

West Village Housing Works

On a recent visit to this Housing Works location, there were people standing waiting outside the store for it to open at 11:00 AM. Once inside, it's clear why the crowd was waiting: they want to make sure they can get the first look at the store's fashion offerings du jour. In fact, the store is mostly run by volunteers whose main incentive is to get a look at the wares before they hit the racks.

The small store is filled with everything from quirky finds such as a white Moschino wrap-skirt with closures that look like Band-Aids (\$30) to quality collared shirts for men ranging from \$20 to \$35 to three pairs of Cheap Monday jeans with rainbow pinstripes for \$5 (it should be noted however, that at a tiny size 24, these skin-tight jeans would most likely only fit the smallest freshmen). Also noteworthy is a wide assortment of belts ranging from \$3 to \$8, a pair of \$15 black leather boots, \$10 heels, and the wide selection of

books and music. CDs are cheap at a mere 50 cents each (four for \$1) and books range from \$2 to \$8 (finds include a hardcover copy of *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* by Gary Shteyngart (Class?) for \$4).

All of the proceeds from Housing Works go to helping homeless and low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. "Every [Housing Works] store specializes in something. This store specializes in clothing. The 17th street [location] specializes in furniture, being that it's bigger," said Lonnie Perry, who has been an employee at the Housing Works location in the West Village for the past year. "Basically, what we do is we sort through and decide what would be good for this location and then we send the rest to the warehouse where they sort through it and send it to the other locations."

245 West 10 Street,
Manhattan, NY

Roving Reporter

“What did you do over the summer?”

Photos taken by Stephanie London and Diane Yee



"I went to Jordan for six weeks, because my family is there. I go there every summer."
—Dr. Ali, Physics teacher



"I recorded an album with my country band. It'll be available in November. We're really excited. I also discovered that I had a long lost relative named Madonna."
—Ms. Moore, English teacher



"I took care of my daughter while studying for my PhD comprehensive exams"
—Mr. Polazzo, Social Studies teacher



"I traveled and took advantage of friends I have all over. I knew it was time to come back to work when I'd already seen the episode of 'Million Dollar Listings' playing."
—Dr. O'Malley, Chemistry teacher



"I watched my six month old daughter, and I wrote a textbook about teaching"
—Mr. Rubinstein, Mathematics teacher



"I answered a lot of man-on-the-street questions to Roving Reporters."
—Mr. Zamansky, Computer Science coordinator



"I went to South America and I visited Peru, Bolivia, and finally Ecuador. It sounded great on paper, but when we actually did it, it was exhausting. We took about 12 planes, altogether."
—Ms. Ambia, Spanish teacher



"I watched my baby son, went on a couple of short trips, Cape Cod, lots of "Cape" places."
—Mr. Kalish, Mathematics teacher



"For the first time in many years, I took a break from work. I traveled overseas to Mexico and England."
—Mr. Waxman, Foreign Language teacher

"I swam and I played guitar. At the same time. And it was an electric guitar, so I was frequently electrocuted."
—Mr. Grossman, English teacher

Big Apple Games: A Place for All Student-Athletes

continued from page 12

Education teacher and boys' swimming coach Peter Bologna was an instructor in the program and taught swimming techniques to children aged eight to 15, at the East New York Family Academy in Brooklyn. Bologna felt that the clinics were really aiding the students, and said that they became "more and more comfortable in the pool."

Senior Nina Chang felt the competitive atmosphere at the Big Apple really contributed to the overall experience. At the volleyball clinic in Bayside High School, the athletes separated into teams that competed against each other in a tournament.

The clinics provided a place for those of similar interests to meet and as a result, many friendships were formed. "The best part was meeting all the people," Chang said. It seems that through the Big Apple Games, the PSAL not only created an environment where athletic skills could be sharpened, but a place where memories could be made. Student-athletes can hone their athletic skills in preparation for the upcoming season. Supervised by experienced PSAL coaches, high school athletes focus on sport-specific conditioning and competition through drills and scrimmage play. With these methods, high school student-athletes often come away from

the clinics with more confidence in their skills.

The experience of the instructors in the program was a key factor in helping the athletes. Using drills and techniques that were proven to bring about results, the instructors improved athletes by teaching them the fundamentals of a sport. Physical Education teacher and boys' swimming coach Peter Bologna was an instructor in the program and taught swimming techniques to children ages 8 to 15, at the East New York Family Academy in Brooklyn. Bologna felt that the clinics were really aiding the students, and said that they became "more and more comfortable in the pool."

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Olympic Offenses



By SHALIYA DEHIPAWALA

The first goal of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), as stated by its Olympic Charter, is "to create a way of life based on [...] the educational value of good example and respect for the universal fundamental ethical principles." Instilling a sense of sportsmanship in the world's youth is a noble cause for the IOC, but the task becomes difficult when Olympians, the supposed "role models," fail to grasp the Olympic spirit themselves.

The IOC needs to become stricter and swifter when dealing with athletes who fail to respect their competitors. Being the best at one's sport should not be enough to qualify for the Olympics. Athletes who wish to compete at the Olympics should embody the Olympic Spirit as well. The IOC should team up with the National Olympic Committee of each country to send athletes that possess both Olympic character and Olympic skill.

The imperfect human element, which includes judges, officials and umpires, has been a source of frustration throughout the Beijing games. Poor and arbitrary judging and scoring was present in boxing, tennis, but most prominently in gymnastics. For example, American gymnast Nastia Liukin finished in a tie for first place with China's He Kexin on the uneven bars, only to be forced to settle for second place because of a nuanced and complicated tiebreaking

system. However, Liukin embodied the Olympic spirit in accepting the judges' unjust decision, understanding that other past calls had been in her favor when she won the gold medal in the individual all-around event.

Sweden's Ara Abrahamian was not so lenient with the judges. Abrahamian felt he received an unfair call during the 84 kilogram Greco-Roman wrestling semifinal. After Abrahamian lost the match, he threw the 84 kilogram version of a temper tantrum, stomping around and yelling at the judges.

The IOC should have intervened after Abrahamian's initial stunt. Even though he lost the semifinal, Abrahamian was eligible for the bronze medal match. He went on to win it, earning a spot on the coveted medal podium.

After Abrahamian received his medal, he walked off of the podium and dropped the bronze in the center of the wrestling mat. Abrahamian showed youth everywhere that sore losers exist even at the Olympic level.

The IOC responded weakly to Abrahamian's stunts, merely stripping him of his bronze medal. This punishment was more ironic than severe. Abrahamian's penalty for throwing away his bronze medal during the medal ceremony was the removal of his medal. (TK: how does the writer suggest they punish him?) The IOC decided unnecessarily to investigate the incident. Unless they find out Abrahamian is allergic to bronze, his motives are obvious to the public. He was unhappy and he wanted to draw attention to himself.

By not punishing Abrahamian and others who do not comply with the Olympic Charter with an appropriate degree of severity, the IOC is sending mixed signals. If it continues to go unchecked, there is potential for unacceptable conduct to increase in future Olympic Games.

The IOC charter also outlaws "Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise." The Spanish men's senior basketball team ignored that principle, when they posed for a picture with their hands pushing their eyes slanted.

Their pose mocked the eyes of the Chinese, the Games' hosts. China has spent billions of dollars and huge amounts of labor to prepare for these Olympic Games, making the teams' actions especially insensitive. Encouraging ethnic stereotypes at an event designed to promote world unity is shameful.

The Spanish team denies any malicious intent behind their pose. Even if it was intended to be humorous, that does not make it any less inappropriate. Regrettably, the IOC has not punished the team for its actions.

Demanding good sportsmanship will not lead to any loss of intensity in Olympic competition. Similar to the way American sprinter Wallace Spearmon and Jamaica's Usain Bolt joke and chat before facing off in the 200 meter dash, runners from Stuyvesant's and Brooklyn Tech's track teams joke around just minutes before races. But when it is time to race, we are able to change into the competitive mindset.

Fortunately, the behavior of troublemakers like Abrahamian has been overshadowed by Olympic moments that do exude the principles in the Olympic Charter. Even after swimmer Alain Bernard declared that they would "smash" the Americans in the 4 x 100 freestyle relay, the French men's swimming team showed great sportsmanship when they shook the American team members' hands after the Americans came out triumphant. That race will become an Olympic classic. Abrahamian will soon be forgotten.

"A Demanding Summer for an Exciting Fall"

continued from page 12

to complement team workouts with individual training sessions. Upon the end of her club team's season in early August, Okochi picked up running in Prospect Park and swam independently in the Stuyvesant

pool. Herrera's extensive self-training became so rigorous that he moved the meniscus in his left knee. He is now in a full leg cast and is expecting to miss most of the football season.

As school finally starts and with it, the fall season, the extensive training methods that Stuy's athletes practiced

throughout July and August will become an obvious advantage for teams, coaches and fans alike. Hopefully, the hard work the athletes did this summer will translate into an exciting season of fall sports at Stuyvesant.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday, September 5

*Boys' Football Season Opener
vs.
Information Technology H.S.*

6:30 p.m. @ Pier 40

Thursday, September 11

*Boys' Soccer Home Opener
vs.
Lab Museum United*

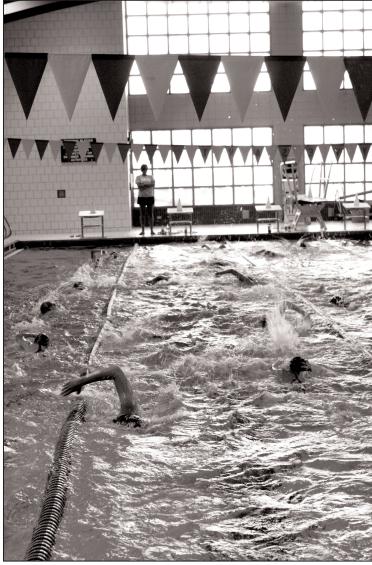
4:00 p.m. @ Central Park North Meadow

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

"A Demanding Summer for an Exciting Fall"

By EILEEN CONNORS

Whether it was vacationing in exotic destinations, taking classes at elite institutions, working internships, or serving the community, most of Stuyvesant's student body



The girls' swim team, the Stuyvesant Penguins, which had tryouts on Thursday, August 28, has been training throughout the summer at the Abbe swim club in Flushing.

seems to have had a busy and productive eight weeks off from school. Despite all of these typical summer endeavors, however, some of Stuyvesant's students were faced with yet another lofty goal: athletic training.

After a long nine-month hiatus, the fall season for PSAL athletics is finally back with full force. With the Peglegs kicking off the official start of the season on Sunday, August 17, fall athletes have been busy with extensive summer practices.

One of the more traditional, and popular methods of training is attending athletic summer camps and clinics. Senior football captain Dionicio Herrera went to a three day clinic at the University of Pennsylvania in late July, designed not only for getting into shape but also possibly being recruited by college coaches. "We practiced three times a day for about two-and-a-half hours each time. By the end of the second day, I couldn't feel my feet," Herrera said.

Both the boys' and girls' cross-country teams follow a steady tradition of attending the weeklong Winged Foot cross-



country camp in Copake, New York. "We ran twice a day, a minimum of four miles in the morning and two in the afternoon. The point is to get a solid foundation of mileage for the beginning of the season," senior and co-captain Molly French said. Defined by their "short and sweet" methods of training, camps and clinics offer athletes a small amount of time to complete intense workouts and get into shape.

Another common method of preparing for the fall season is competing on a summer or year-round (also known as "club") team. Especially popular

amongst swimmers, these teams offer workouts and schedules similar to those conducted in a regular Stuy season. "I swam for my club team, the New York City Aquatic Club, five times a week," senior girls' swimming team co-captain Kei Okochi said. "I did a half-hour of dryland exercises at each practice, followed by an hour and 45 minutes of swimming."

The Penguins' other captain, senior Abby Erickson, swam for the Asphalt Green Unified Aquatics (AGUA) team. "I swam two two-hour practices a day for a month, then swam single practices every day for the rest of the

summer" Erickson said. Working out with teammates and a coach for the summer is beneficial for swimmers because it exercises the same skills they would implement during the fall PSAL swim season.

To mimic the exact conditions of a Stuyvesant athletic season, some teams held unofficial summer practices throughout July and early August. The Peglegs' coaches offered optional conditioning sessions at school, where they focused on general strength and flexibility.

The boys' soccer team, the Ballerz, also held informal practices five days a week, increasing the intensity of their training as the weeks passed.

A final (and often tedious) method of summer training is the personal workout. "This summer, I used the 7/7/7 plan," senior football player Wardell Lee said. "I worked out seven hours a day, seven days a week for seven weeks." Lee's workouts included several miles of running, individual gym sessions and competitive dragon boating.

Many fall athletes also chose

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Don't Jump In



Sadman Islam / The Spectator

By AARON GHITELMAN

The Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) is not known for making great decisions. After video evidence proved that the score of the playoff game in which the Runnin' Rebels, Stuyvesant's boys' varsity basketball team, got eliminated in was in fact 40-40, the PSAL refused to hear the appeal. Last spring, when the baseball team was moving its home field to Pier 40, the PSAL forced it to pay \$11,000 for a new pitchers' mound. It continued this tradition of bad judgment late this July, when it decided to make double dutch a bona fide varsity spring sport.

Double dutch is a playground game where two people

stand 10 to 15 feet away from each other and spin jump ropes in opposite directions while others try to jump in between the ropes. That's right: the city is now sanctioning competitive jump roping. While they're at it, the PSAL ought to add competitive hula hooping and hopscotch as well.

It is true that the reasoning behind the decision to add double dutch, a particularly popular activity amongst girls, is well-intentioned. Shani Newsome, the double dutch coach at Brooklyn's Bedford Academy High School, explained that the addition will encourage girls to participate in an official sport. "Double dutch is a sport that gets girls involved, no matter what their condition is," she said to the Associated Press. "It's something that builds stamina." Other positives are that there is free gym space in spring, and that this activity is quite inexpensive. Nevertheless, this is not the right thing for the PSAL to organize.

Another sport, competitive cheerleading, is very popular amongst girls but still has not been made official by the PSAL. While Stuyvesant and many other public schools have cheerleading squads, they have to

leave the city to enter competitions. A sport like this that is already well established in schools should not be passed over for a street yard game.

If cheerleading was to be instated as a spring sport, as double dutch is now, it would not conflict with the squad's existing schedule which consists of cheering on the football and basketball teams during the fall and winter, respectively.

In addition, becoming an official PSAL sport would greatly ease the cheerleading squad's financial burden. They do not receive city funding like official teams do. Currently, they pay for their coach, transportation and tournaments' entry fees through a combination of the school's money and fundraising.

But instead of the plausible choice of cheerleading, the PSAL decided to take on the risky endeavor of becoming the nation's first league to sponsor a double dutch program.

If this ends up being a popular sport, I'll applaud the PSAL. But if, as I predict, the novelty wears off and the number of participants starts to dwindle, the PSAL can only look back and realize that cheerleading would have been a more proper sport to add.

Big Apple Games: A Place for All Student-Athletes



Chris Zhao / The Spectator

The Big Apple Games, which is a PSAL program, helps students to improve their athletic skills before the start of the season.

By OLUMUYIWA IDOWU

Little known to most athletes, the Big Apple Games is a PSAL program that provides New York City children with recreational opportunities during the summer. This past summer the six-week program lasted from Monday, July 7 to Thursday, August 14. The "Big

Apple" focuses on serving the recreational needs of students from grades five to 12, and correspondingly, the activities range from competitive sports such as wrestling, swimming, and volleyball to laid-back activities such as arts-and-crafts and video games.

For high school students, the Big Apple Games is where they can hone their athletic skills in preparation for the upcoming season. Supervised by experienced PSAL coaches, high school athletes focus on sport-specific conditioning and competition through drills and scrimmages. With these methods, student-athletes often come away from the clinics with more confidence in their skills.

The experience of the instructors in the program is a key factor in helping the athletes. Using drills and techniques that were proven to bring about results, the instructors improved athletes by teaching them the fundamentals of a sport. Stuyvesant Physical

continued on page 11

Coaching Switch Brings Offensive Changes

By JACK GREISMAN

At the Peglegs' varsity football preseason practices this summer, graduated seniors were not the only team members missing. Early last June, Brian Sacks announced he was stepping down as head coach of the boys' varsity football team to care for his newborn child and take a coaching job in Long Island to be closer to his home. Replacing Coach Sacks as head coach is Mark Strausser, the Peglegs' Assistant Coach from last season.

Last season, the Peglegs finished with a winning record of 6-4, finishing seventh in their division. The Peglegs are hoping for another successful season this year, with their new coach and new varsity members coming up from the junior varsity team. Also due to their



The Stuyvesant Peglegs have been practicing at Pier 40 for the week before the start of school with a new head coach, Mark Strausser.

winning season, the team plans to make limited changes to their game plays.

Coach Strausser plans to keep the Stuyvesant defense unchanged. "The defense is

basically the same. [Strausser] was our defensive coordinator last year, and he liked our system," senior captain Nick Goldin said.

Although the defensive system will be the same as last season, Strausser plans to change up the offense. Stuyvesant is steering away from their shotgun-stance offense, where the quarterback stands at least five yards behind the line of scrimmage in preparation for a quick, usually short pass. This type of offense enables them to utilize the tight-end and full back positions, which were previously unused. "We're going along with the changes. Coach [Strasser] has installed most of our offense, and it's been working out well," junior Gregory Dinkel said.

Strausser's new offense also gives new opportunities to

players that can play the new positions. "We have guys moving to tight-end and full back that would've otherwise been borderline guys. It's really an offense based around our personnel, so it works out for this year's team," Goldin said. The 'borderline guys' that Goldin refers to are players that wouldn't have seen so much playing time under the old system.

Strausser and the Peglegs are confident that their new offense will bring results. Since it is built around the current players' strengths, the team has adapted to it quickly and feels they can use this offense to consistently score points. Instead of letting the coaching change damage them, the Stuyvesant Peglegs have adapted to the changes in their offensive system.