



The Spectator

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*"The pulse
of the
student
body."*

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To The Stuyvesant Community

The Passion Fuels Passions at Stuy

By NAOMI SOSNER

The Passion of the Christ, directed by Mel Gibson, was the subject of heated debate long before its release on February 25, Ash Wednesday. Allegations of anti-Semitism and prejudice were lobbed between Gibson and the movie's critics, usually in very public forums. However, some at Stuyvesant feel that for the most part, the controversy seems to have been given little attention.

"I haven't heard that much discussion about it in school," said senior Ariel Gros-Werter. "I guess most people have other things to talk about, besides Mel Gibson's movie."

However, other students feel that *The Passion* has been the object of many discussions. "I've heard many people talk about it here," said freshman Alex Denines. "It's been bothering people everywhere, even at Stuy."

As a piece of cinema, the movie has received varied responses. Though some hail it as an extremely moving and sensitive piece, others describe it as tedious and overly-violent.

"I know lots of people who saw it," said sophomore Sophie Laurent. "Some of my friends cried because they were so touched. Other people cried because it was so appalling, seeing Jesus Christ being beaten in so much detail. I felt physically sick, both because of the violence and because I was so sad."

"It was so long," said junior Marla Kang of the 126 minute movie. "So much of it was spent on torture and beatings that it made me think now that that's what Mel Gibson wanted to make a movie of, lots of blood and torture, with an occasional part about Jesus's preachings. To me it wasn't really about Jesus, or his teachings. It didn't make me care."

Gibson has said that by making this movie, he found his faith anew, and returned to it devotedly. It is therefore somewhat fitting that faith, the catalyst for *The Passion*, is also at the center of the controversy.

"The reason everyone is talking about it is because passion plays used to cause anti-Semitic feelings," said Denines. "People are afraid that [*The Passion*] will make that happen again."

"I don't think the movie was anti-Semitic," said senior Dorcas Eng, president of the Stuyvesant chapter of The

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Kiosk Waiting to be Fed



Naomi Gordon / The Spectator

The new school lunch kiosks, located in the dining hall, began operating on March 15.

Senior Awarded New York Times Scholarship

By ALEX JAMES
and SARAH SOFFES

Most high school students would feel privileged to win one scholarship for college. Senior Dado Derviskadic was doubly blessed, having recieved two prestigious award scholarships. He is the winner of *The New York Times* scholarship and the POSSE scholarship.

The *New York Times* scholarship is awarded to only twenty high school students every year out of the roughly 1200 applicants. It is awarded to students who have demonstrated "outstanding academic achievement, a commitment to learning and community service, and success in the face of financial and other obstacles," according to the program's brochure. Winners are awarded \$7,500 annually for four years, a computer, a paid summer internship at *The New York Times*, and access to a mentoring and alumni network.

The POSSE scholarship is rewarded to "New York City non-traditional student leaders," Derviskadic explained. It

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Strike Three, You're in—for Lunch

By REVAZ SURGULADZE

A Stuyvesant student strolls past the security desk at the bridge entrance on his way to lunch. With one foot already out the door he swiftly flashes a program card, not giving the security guard the chance to take a good look at the name and picture on the ID. The student continues on his way and manages to leave the building without being stopped. There is one problem: It is not his lunch period. The ID/program card he showed the security guard did not belong to him.

"We have had many incidences of people stealing and using other people's ID cards to go out to lunch," said Assistant Principal of Technology Services Edward Wong. "Students were swapping ID cards in order to go outside when they didn't have a lunch period."

This is the problem the school administration addressed as it drafted the new ID/program card policy in November. The new policy was finalized in January with the goal of maintaining school safety and security, while prevent-

ing students from acquiring duplicate ID cards.

According to the policy statement, students must now fill out an application signed by their parents in order to obtain a replacement ID card. Students who have lost their ID card must wait two days before receiving a replacement, during which they will be given a temporary ID card, which cannot be used to go out to lunch.

If a student loses three ID cards, his lunch privileges will be taken away for the rest of the term. A fourth program card with the word "VOID" printed over the lunch period number will be issued to these students.

Wong thinks that three cards, the original and two replacements, are more than enough for students for a given term.

Some students, however, disagree with the new policy, arguing that it is too severe a punishment to take away going out to lunch privileges for the duration of the term.

"The policy is rather unreasonable because it punishes

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Stuy Sets Example at National Consortium

By ELIZA HERSCHKOWITZ

On the afternoon of Thursday, March 11, as many Stuyvesant students took advantage of a Friday off to relax, about 200 adults gathered in the large, bright hallway of the Embassy Suites, a hotel located a few blocks south of Stuyvesant.

Many were strangers to each other, but by 4:45 P.M. they had all boarded small, yellow school buses and were driving to the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History.

This year, Stuyvesant High School, in celebration of its centennial, and the City College of New York (CCNY), co-hosted the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology (NCSSSMST).

This three-day event began on March 11 and brought together education representatives from 85 schools and 28 states who discussed ways of improving their own schools.

According to its Web site, the mission statement of the NCSSSMST is "to create synergies among schools engaged in educational innovation by shaping national policy, fostering collaboration, and developing, testing, implementing and disseminating exemplary programs."

The NCSSSMST commenced at the American Museum of Natural History's Rose Center. Among the introductory speakers was Principal Stanley Teitel, as well as Gregory H. Williams, the president of CCNY. In his speech, Williams said, "You will agree, as we do,



Anna Wiener / The Spectator

Principal Stanley Teitel addresses the audience at the opening ceremony of the NCSSSMST at the American Museum of Natural History on March 11.

why this is really, truly becoming one of New York's educational icons."

Two other speakers, Miles Gordon, the Vice President for Education at the AMNH, and Mordecai Mac Low, Ph.D., Association Curator for Astrophysics at the AMNH, gave small speeches to the crowd. Mac Low is a Stuyvesant graduate himself, and he received a warm round of applause from the eager crowd.

"Looking at the dark night sky tells you that the universe is finite," Mac Low said in his

speech. "I welcome you, as a New Yorker, to the center of the universe, and as an astrophysicist...every point was once of the center of the universe." Gordon added in his speech that the museum has "a twin mission of science and education."

Teachers, principals, and educators from all over the country took part in the consortium, and many came this year for the first time, hoping to receive knowledge and support from other specialized high

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Communicating Through Cyber Space

By ELIZABETH KESTER

In the past, the Student Union has been criticized for not reaching out to the student body at Stuyvesant. But the SU is finding new ways to communicate with its peers and one that has emerged successful is their use of the World Wide Web.

In October, a Web site was launched specifically for the junior class. The Web site, *www.stuy05.com*, offers polls, news about junior class events, a calendar, photos, and a message board.

"Since we began in October, we've had about 110 hits a day, so about one-eighth of the class visits the site," said Junior Class Vice President Maria Cheung. She and Junior Class President Taresh Batra frequently post

information about upcoming junior class events, and the site is updated regularly.

"I think many people in committees go to stay informed. It's an outlet to see what they've been working on," said Cheung.

Junior and co-head of Student Union Communications Katie Shelly agreed that the Web site has been a success, "Any branch of communications is good to have. The Web site is a good place for juniors to go to stay informed. It also gives people an outlet for suggestions and complaints because Maria and Taresh are very open to feedback."

Batra and Cheung recently posted information about March 11's junior trip to the Gotham Comedy Club which was not SU sponsored. According to

Cheung, there will be many more events to come. "There's an upcoming sports tournament and we are going to hold a concert for junior bands in which [chemistry teacher] Ms. [Sasha] Alcott agreed to play. And, of course, there's prom," Cheung said.

As for news, the juniors now have another way to learn about what's happening within their class. "This is the first year we've had a junior newsletter and it comes out every three weeks," said Cheung.

The junior class will not be the only grade venturing into cyber space. Sophomore class President Stephanie Bazell says that a Web site for the class of 2006 is currently in the works.

"It's really hard to communicate with people but we

redesigned our Web site and it will be up on Monday, March 8," said Bazell.

The Web site, available at *www.sophstuy.com*, will include a calendar, updates about sophomore events, photos, and perhaps a section for outlines and class notes. The site will also contain a section for the Sophomore Advisory Council so that members don't have to rely as much on e-mail contact.

"Stuy is a very competitive school and when a big test comes up it's important for students to have resources at their disposal," said Bazell. She advised sophomores that the best way to spread the news of the Web site is through word of mouth. "Make an announcement about it in class or homeroom and it'll spread. Everyone

at Stuy is interconnected," she said.

Besides Web sites, the SU is implementing other methods to reach out to students. "The newest thing in communications is the information booth on the second floor—the bookcase by [Assistant Principal of Organization] Ms. [Randi] Damesek's office. What it does is bring SU documents and applications out of the Student Union office, where many underclassmen can be intimidated to go," said Shelly.

"Communications only had room to improve from last year. It's definitely not perfect, and no where near what we want it to be, but we're getting better," Shelly said.

No ID? Three Strikes, No Lunch.

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students for doing something that many teenagers do, lose things," said junior Nick Lerangis. "I have lost my wallet once and had my wallet stolen once, so after these two thefts I wouldn't be able to go out to lunch."

In addition the new policy calls for requests for replacements to be entered into the school's database and be available for review by school administrators. In this way, students who swap ID/program cards can be more easily identified. If a student is actually found to have another student's ID card in their possession, both students will lose their lunch privileges and may face suspension.

Wong also points out other advantages of the new policy.

He insists that the making of ID/program cards is a tedious and costly task.

"We get inundated with requests for new ID," said Wong. "It's very time consuming and expensive."

Wong speculates that the cost of materials that are used to make a single ID card, which is sold for \$3, is \$2.71.

Assistant Program Chairperson Sophia Liang agrees, noting the effort put in to making the ID cards by AP Technology Secretary Angela Figliolo.

"It's one thing to be taking ID pictures for 3200 kids once a year, but to take new pictures for these kids every time someone loses a picture is another," said Liang. "And worst even when kids are stealing these ID cards. It's really a waste of Mrs. Figliolo's time."

"Students were swiping ID cards in order to go outside when they didn't even have a lunch period."
—Edward Wong, AP of Technology

Using Homeroom for a Cause

By COURTNEY NG

At Stuyvesant, homeroom can seem like a useless part of our day—ten minutes used to take attendance and hand out notices. One homeroom, though, is using those ten minutes to make a difference.

Students of homeroom 3R have been donating money to various charities since they were freshmen. Their homeroom teacher, biology teacher Roslyn Bierig, has been collecting money from her homerooms for more than 10 years.

"The environment at Stuyvesant fosters excellence in education. Students work extremely hard and become super-involved with themselves, their grades, and their aspirations. But there has to be more than just 'me,'" said Bierig. "I felt that in addition to everything that's going on here, students should learn the wonderful gesture of giving."

Even though Bierig wanted her students to reach out to

those in need, she never doubted that they would have done it on their own. "It's not that I ever thought they wouldn't be involved in such activities, but I wanted every student in my homeroom to have the opportunity to be involved," said Bierig.

Bierig admits that it hasn't been an easy job, but collecting the money is just a small part of the process. The students in her homeroom have contributed more than just money; they have been the driving force behind most of the decisions.

"Initially they voted to do the project and then chose the amount per month, and the charities [the money] would go to," said Bierig. "At first, it was a hassle for everyone concerned, but when the thank-you letters came in, [we] were extremely touched."

The students of homeroom 3R are also very satisfied with the results of their actions.

"It's very rewarding," said sophomore Amy Labar. "The letters they write back to us are

comforting."

The homeroom has donated money to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants the last wishes of terminally ill cancer patients; and to Meals-On-Wheels, which brings food to the homes of elderly people. They have also donated money to a breast cancer foundation, an AIDS foundation, and the Smile Train Foundation, which pays for reconstructive surgery for children with cleft lips or palates.

"It warms our hearts to know we're helping people," said sophomore Emma Storm Herr. "We're changing lives, one smile at a time."

Bierig and her homeroom would like other homerooms to use the weekly gathering as a venue for similar types of charity work. "I would love to see more homeroom teachers think about instituting such a project in their homeroom. It does take time, but it is all worthwhile in the end," Bierig said.

Teachers Sharing Knowledge at the Consortium



Anna Wiener / The Spectator

Stuy Holds MUNC for First Time



Members of the Model United Nations gather in room 615A for the Model United Nations Conference hosted at Stuyvesant on March 5.

By ANDREW SAVIANO

On March 5 and 6, students of Stuyvesant and other schools in the New York City area gathered at Stuyvesant to discuss issues ranging from the spread of AIDS in Africa, to the state of education in Iraq, to the sex tourism in Southeast Asia.

These students, part of the Model United Nations (MUN), were participating in Stuyvesant’s invitational Model United Nations Conference (StuyMUNC), a first in the history of the school.

MUN is sponsored by the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) an organization that, with the help of the United Nations (UN), helps to create MUN clubs in schools around the country.

Sophomore and Director General of StuyMUNC, James McDowell, said, “Stuy has a long-standing MUN team and UNA-USA thought it would be a good idea to hold a conference here to provide training for delegates.”

Stuyvesant delegates attend

about seven conferences each year, including ones held at Brown, Columbia, Harvard, Yale, and even the John F. Kennedy School in Berlin, Germany.

“MUN, in general, allows students to come together to simulate the UN and form solutions to the world’s problems,” said McDowell.

In MUN, each delegate is given a country and a topic of discussion, such as AIDS in Africa. They then research the country’s position on that issue and prepare to defend his or her stance.

“It is a way to learn about global issues and debate them from another country’s perspective,” said senior and Secretary General of MUN Sabrina Howell. “A wealthy, Caucasian student could have to embody Zimbabwe and defend its policies. They come to identify with their country...It becomes their crusade to get a certain resolution passed.”

“It gives you a sense of this monumental task and an appreciation for the policies,” she said.

MUN participants expertly

simulate the workings of the actual UN, even in its rules of procedure. Said MUN co-chair and junior Gabriella Grisotti, “Students gain a taste of the diplomatic finesse found in the real UN. At many conferences, students from all over the world participate, creating a true global community.”

MUN member and freshman Charlotte Austin said, “We attempt to find ways to resolve problems, but it’s not just about the committees. You meet a lot of people that come from all over and speak different languages.”

MUN offers a unique chance to learn about people and issues from across the globe. “It’s great. How often do you get to talk to people about politics?” said MUN member and junior Patrick Alexander.

“Kids do it for the love of it...These are some of the smartest and most interesting people, hands down,” said Howell. “Also, participation consists mainly of conferences, so you can do it in conjunction with other activities.”

Faculty advisors for MUN are also dedicated to the club, as they are often expected to give up their own time to accompany students to conferences. This year’s faculty advisor, history teacher Brenda Garcia, was even a member of her own school’s MUN when she was in high school.

“Joining MUN isn’t a big deal. It’s not very exclusive,” said member and freshman Sharel Itzkovich.

At the StuyMUNC, committees were relatively small, which allowed everyone to voice their individual perspectives, something that is not found in committees with hundreds of delegates.

There is another perk to MUN: the awards. After conferences, the award for Best Delegate is given in every committee to the delegate who was

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Seekers club. “People who already feel anti-Semitic may use it as an excuse for feeling that way, but I don’t think the movie itself is anti-Semitic. I think it was very true to the story.”

However, Gros-Werter disagrees. “I think the Gospel of John is anti-Semitic, and since the movie is solely based on it, I think it could really promote anti-Semitism,” she said.

The Passion has been debated since its inception, and perhaps even more heatedly since its release. The core of its controversy may lie within the different base assumptions people make regarding the movie.

“To some people it may just be a movie,” said Eng. “But it’s more than that, it’s the truth.”

“At the end, it’s just a movie,” said Kang. “It’s not going to change the world.”

most active and most convincing in their arguments.

After the success of this year’s conference, members of MUN are hoping that the conference will be even better next year.

“The delegates were really prepared this year even though it was a first conference for most of them,” said senior and co-chair Chetan Mehta, “Next year they could add more schools so the committees can be bigger.”

Stuy Sets Example at Consortium

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schools in the nation. Said Betsy Willis of the School of Engineering at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, “I’m having an opportunity to meet people who work in schools like Stuyvesant across the United States, and that’s wonderful...and finding out, in my role at the University, how I can help them, and how they can help me, and how we can all work together. This is one of the best opportunities for us to do this, and to help you all achieve your dreams.”

For many, such as Sandra Wehmeier of the Milwaukee Academy of Science, the knowledge gained at the consortium has great value. “We are in the process of starting a new high school...We’re going to be doing pilot project starting in August,” said Wehmeier.

Randy Asher, the former Assistant Principal of Brooklyn Technical High School, was also in attendance. Now the principal at the CCNY High School, Asher appreciates his involvement with NCSSMST, and feels that it benefits his school significantly. “It gives us a chance to talk about the things that make our schools unique...it gives us a chance to see what’re they doing around the rest of the world,” Asher said.

“Especially for myself as a newer principal in a brand-new school; whereas Stuyvesant is 100 [years old], we’re only 2. It gives me a chance to help build our programs to the level that they should be, so that someday our name is spoken in the same reverence as Stuyvesant,” said Asher.

Said Willis, “I think it’s certainly very unique. Any organization that brings together people with a common interest...that’s very important to have, and it’s a great organization to be a part of.”

Mice Mooch Off Students’ Messes

By MARTHA MCGILVRAY

Quick! Did you see something running across the hall? If you did, you’re in good company. Several Stuyvesant students have taken to trading tales of dark shadows scampering by walls and cabinets, examples of the mouse infestation in school. However, these seemingly small problems may affect the current lunch policy in a large way.

The epidemic of mice in Stuyvesant has not been limited to hallways. Instead, a so-called “network” of hiding places has been observed throughout the school. “There’s one that lives in the piano back stage,” said sophomore Elisa Orr.

In the classrooms, the appearance of mice can cause notable disruption. “All the guys were jumping on top of their

desks,” said sophomore Hemwattie Ramnaraine. Senior Leo Li said that his class becomes chaotic when mice make an appearance. The Spark students have affectionately nicknamed the mouse frequenting the Spark office “Zippy-Bob.”

A main cause for the multitudes of mice seen is food left behind by careless students. “A crumb to us is a sizeable portion of food to a mouse” said biology teacher Dr. John Utting.

Principal Stanley Teitel said that although the custodians at Stuyvesant make up a wonderful staff, it is difficult to keep up with the students. In order to relieve the mouse problem, Teitel may be forced to instate a new lunch policy.

Currently students are allowed to buy food outside and

bring it back into the building, provided they eat it in the cafeteria. However, many students never make it to the cafeteria. Instead, they eat in the halls and classrooms, often leaving food behind. If students cannot clean up their act, then the lunch policy may become more rigid. Students will be required to remain outside the building for the entirety of their lunch period, or eat lunch in the cafeteria.

Alternatives to changing the lunch policy are being explored. In an effort to reduce the mice population, glue traps have been placed around the school. The main objective is to keep the building as free of crumbs as possible. Otherwise, said Teitel, “once you’re out, you’re out.”

Derviskadic Awarded New York Times Scholarship

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contributes \$28,000 of scholarship money annually for four years of college education.

Derviskadic certainly fits all of the criteria of such honorable awards. He is the manager and assistant coach of the Stuyvesant gymnastics team, serves as budget director on the Student Union, and has participated in many facets of Stuyvesant theater productions, including SING!, for four years straight. He has worked as a Budget Director, Prop Director, Publicity Director, Producer, and as an actor.

Impressive as this all sounds, it is even more mind blowing when you add the fact that ten years ago Derviskadic did not speak a word of English.

Derviskadic grew up in communist Yugoslavia until the civil war erupted in 1992. When he was 8 years old, Derviskadic came to America with his family seeking a better life. He learned English in just a year, and was able to get into the middle school and then the

high school of his choice.

Derviskadic was notified in early March that he had been awarded his scholarship while practicing for SING!. “When I got home, my mom had signs up all over the house, on the stairs and everything, saying, ‘Congratulations!’ ‘I knew you could do it!’ ‘We’re so proud of you!’ It was really sweet, she was even happier than I was.”

Derviskadic is due to attend Middlebury College next year. An intended Japanese major, he chose Middlebury because of its renowned language program. Last year, Derviskadic won an all-expenses-paid cultural study tour scholarship to Japan from the Department of Education. There, he was immersed in Japanese culture and society. This furthered his interest in becoming either an international businessman or a foreign ambassador.

“My mom always joked when I was younger, ‘You don’t need to save money for college, because you’re going to get a full scholarship,’ and I would always get mad at her, but luckily, it really did happen.”

MICES CRISIS! BY BARRY JIN



GET ALL THE ADVICE YOU CAN!

There's still time to take advantage of College Coach counseling. It's a new college information service being offered to Stuyvesant juniors and their families by College Coach through arrangement with the Parents' Association. College Coach is a leading provider of college counseling to high school students and their parents.

These one-hour sessions with former admissions officers of leading universities will provide students and parents with the opportunity to jumpstart the college admissions process. Families fill out a questionnaire prior to the meeting in order to help focus the issues. At the meeting, discussion can include college selection, testing, extracurricular activities, teacher recommendations, school options (portfolio and admissibility), as well as any other questions you might have. These meetings help establish a dialogue between parent and child and help to devise an action plan for the months ahead.

The one-hour sessions are available at a discounted rate of \$125 to the first 100 registrants, \$150 for the next 50, and \$175 after that. The discounts are made possible by the Stuyvesant High School PA. Scholarships are also available to those qualifying for reduced and full meal discounts by contacting Lori Pandolfo, 718-462-8492. College Coach retails this service to the general public for \$300.

Sessions take place near Stuyvesant H.S. at the:
New York Law School, 57 Worth St.,
during the month of March, or at:
College Coach's office in Great Neck, New York,
during February, March, and April. An appointment is necessary.

To register, call College Coach at 617-527-4441 x309. Space is limited!

College Coach also provides longer-term college application assistance for which it will provide Stuyvesant families a 10% discount. For more information see their Web site at www.getintocollege.com.

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JUNIORS:

Mark your parents' calendar for their meeting with College Counselor Patricia Cleary on Thursday, April 1 at 7 P.M. They just might learn something that will help YOU!

* * * * *

COLLEGE NIGHT 2004

Thursday, April 29 at 7 P.M.

Representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities will be here.
Sophomores and juniors should plan to attend.

* * * * *

And still more advice:

COLLEGE OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The College Office is scheduling appointments for college advisements for parents of juniors. Appointments will take place in the college office on:

Thursday, March 18 through Monday, May 31.
Half-hour appointments are available Monday to Thursday.
Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M.;
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Your child may or may not attend. To schedule an appointment, please call the college office at extension 2251 between noon and 4 P.M. and ask for Ms. Eileen. This program is funded by the Federal Management Agency (FEMA), Project Liberty, and the Office of Mental Health. All services are free and confidential.

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Editorials and Opinions

New ID Policy Will Only Make Problems Worse

Last week, our school administration enacted a policy that states that students who lose their ID card three times will no longer be permitted to leave the building during their assigned lunch period. Although this policy was designed to combat cutting, ID swapping, and the slacking budget, it could only worsen the situation, by promoting such offensive acts, instead of encouraging ID caution.

After the three strikes have been served, students' IDs will be labeled 'VOID'. Those who receive 'VOID' cards, restricting them from leaving the building, will be more likely to steal or borrow others' ID cards. Students set on going out to lunch will find ways around the policy to continue in their ways.

The majority of the students lose their IDs merely out of carelessness. The actions of those who swap IDs and never get them back shouldn't affect the entire student body. Students do not lose their IDs on purpose. Punishing them doesn't resolve the administration's problem regarding ID cards.

The policy is also expected to alleviate budget issues, given that the administration currently spends a lot of money on replacing IDs. It is assumed that students will be more careful with their ID cards so that they may retain their lunch period privileges. However, the new policy won't change the absent-mindedness of students who lose their IDs by mistake.

Overall, this policy makes a feeble attempt to alleviate a greater problem. A stricter inspection of ID cards would be more effective than the new policy in preventing students from cheating the system. If properly checked, the picture identification on each card alone should be enough to stop those who steal or swap IDs from leaving the building.

More important than enforcing ineffective policies, the administration should evaluate the broader issues affecting our school. Their current approach is not necessarily the only solution. Rather than implementing punishments, the manner in which the administration operates should be improved upon.

School Spirit Slackens at Consortium

In honor of our 100th anniversary, a nationwide consortium was held at Stuyvesant on March 12. The first celebratory event since the last October's Stuyvesant Strut, the consortium was not widely broadcasted to the student body.

Instead, the consortium's focus was on teachers. Educators from all over the country visited the school to attend various lectures and presentations. Stuyvesant teachers were responsible for organizing and running the festivities. In this teacher-centric event, their participation was key.

On the other hand, aside from the fact that the school was closed on March 12, few students were aware of the consortium. Unlike at the Strut, student participation was at a minimum. The

majority of students present were Big Sibs and ARISTA members, required to attend through their organizations. Reduced to greeting and guiding guests, there was little to foster enthusiasm for these volunteers.

Teachers are very important members of the school community, but without participation of the students, the consortium was far from a unifying school event. Because the student role was so small, it failed to foster school spirit. The full spectrum of the centennial was not represented. Next time, a greater effort should be made to include all members of the Stuyvesant community in their shared centennial celebrations.

Protestors Lead Preemptive Strike Against Recruitment Center

By DEREK YUNG

Protestors are typically a wonderful bunch. They take altruistic actions to ensure the rights of other people. They protest for various freedoms. They are soldiers of the downtrodden, the watchdogs of society. They protect us from unfairness, injustice, manipulation, and hypocrisy, among many other things.

However, protesters themselves aren't indiscriminately free of these faults. Taken too far, liberal ideals can become as forceful and dogmatic as the things against which they protest. If excessive zeal or misinformation clouds their judgment, protesters may find themselves engaging in nothing more than irrational acts of defiance.

When a military recruitment center opened on Chambers Street this year, some students immediately saw it as an intrusive force in our Stuyvesant life. A group of students protested its existence by placing stickers on its windows, manipulating an army slogan to read "An Army of One, a Grave of Many."

These protesters felt that the recruitment center should not exist two blocks from Stuyvesant—a belief remarkable for its lack of basis. Stuyvesant does not own or control Chambers Street, much as the businesses on Chambers Street

do not own or control Stuyvesant. The recruiting center has every right to be there, and these supposed acts of protest are nothing other than petty vandalism.

Motivation could have originated in strong anti-war convictions, aggravated by the upcoming one-year anniversary of Iraq's occupation by American soldiers. But the protesters should realize that recruiting centers are not responsible for unjust wars. The recruiting center is not to blame for the perpetuating worldwide cycle of violence. Neither has it defiled our downtown community in any way.

Perhaps the gap between our personal lives and the military has made the recruitment center a glaring outlet for anger against the army. But the very greatness of that gap should turn people in favor of the center. The dreaded draft hasn't been instituted since the 1970s, which is precisely the reason the armed forces must rely on volunteers and recruitment to fill their ranks, made possible by places like the center.

Ironically, by denying the recruiting center's right to be heard, the protesters are objecting to the people's right to listen, and to voluntary enrollment in the army. And surely, choice is preferable to obligation when it comes to fighting.

As of now, only a handful of Stuyvesant students are considering service in the armed forces, and they are not being forced in any way. In today's society, we are not required to fight. Moreover, we have the right to voice our dissent to the fighting that we are not doing. Perhaps we've grown so sure of our own opinions that we're becoming narrow-minded.

The recruiting center bridges the gap between our lives and the lives of soldiers in a peaceful way. They aren't marching into our classrooms, stopping us on the street, or advocating any type of violence. They aren't waving guns, and they aren't promoting the conflict in Iraq. They're simply presenting the people of downtown Manhattan with the option of joining the armed forces.

This is not a black and white case of the hawks and the doves. By criticizing the protestors, I'm not preaching war. I'm preaching for the recruitment center's right to exist.

I call for reason and rationale to be used in the formation of our opinions. We must practice open-mindedness and tolerance, especially when protesting against war.

And I would hope that Stuyvesant has plenty of each.

The Spectator
The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

"The pulse of the student body"

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SING!: Initiation

The school is buzzing with talk of actors and scripts, budgets and fees. Flyers have been hung up for the stage, art, and costume crews, and everything in between. Though I haven't been involved in a single SING! production yet, from the way SING! spirit is infecting the school, it is certain to be the most popular Stuy event of the year.

Last Friday, I dragged myself to my locker, tired and happy that the week was over. Oblivious to my surroundings, I walked straight into a bunch of soph-frosh girls dancing in the hallway. I was relieved when they paid little attention to me, and stayed focused on their strenuous booty-shaking hip-hop routine.

Despite all the hard work and enthusiasm of the SING!-ers, I wondered if the actual production would be as great as many people are expecting.

In a math and science high school, filled with so many grade-oriented teenagers, how many people would really spend all their free time on something like this? Why is it so publicized? We have many other school plays that don't receive half as much recognition as SING! does. And after all, it's just a play, isn't it?

Nearly everyone I have spo-

ken to has some part in SING!. Instead of hanging out on Friday, many of my friends skipped off to their SING! meetings and practices. Others roam the school selling candy and donuts to support soph-frosh SING!.

After all this, I have to say that I'm amazed by the amount of time, energy, spirit and determination that is put into SING!. History shows that soph-frosh doesn't have the best chances of winning (ha, how this will change!) but we are all still working extremely hard.

Every single person helping out, whether directing, acting, painting props, sewing but-tons, or fundraising, is making a contribution to something that they believe in. Something *they* find worthwhile.

SING!'s not about winning. It's not about how much time you've wasted on it or how much you've accomplished compared to that. As I was told by many upperclassmen, SING! is about having fun, working together, and making friends. It's about creating an enjoyable experience for yourself and, finally, putting on a huge, incredible production, made possible entirely by you and your peers.

–Tiffany Wong

The Hanes t-shirts referred to in last issue's "Invisible Trespassers: Sweatshops and Stuyvesant" are not sold by the school store. The school store's inventory actually includes both sweatshop-made and sweatfree items; among them, clothing made by Gildan (a company which is currently being investigated by the Fair Labor Association and the Worker Rights Consortium for human rights and labor violations) and ClassicGirl (a division of American Apparel). The school store purchased ClassicGirl clothes several years ago but stopped buying them because of the lack of interest among the student body and the high prices. Should students purchase the remaining ClassicGirl products, they would be showing support for the sweat-free industry and encouraging the school store to purchase more sweat-free clothing.

CORRECTIONS

- The band for "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" is a five-person band comprised of Max Bernstein and Tim Eng on percussion, Ethan Frisch and Sam Dishy on violin, and Jocelyn Drummond on piano.
- Miriam Sanchez is part of Food Service Personnel.

Injured Instruments Clamoring for More Respect

By JACKIE HSIEH

The first floor is alive with the sound of music. There, one can eavesdrop on the melodies made by the Stuyvesant orchestra, band, and chorus, which have been enriching the school community for decades.

Members of the band and orchestra can experience musical instruction due to the supply of quality instruments that might otherwise be unavailable. It is therefore most unfortunate that many of the instruments have been damaged due to poor handling by students.

Most of these instruments have been around for years. When first purchased, they were, for the most part, in excellent shape. Since then, a combination of age and misuse by students has decreased their quality.

And damaged the instruments have been. On one of the violins, the scroll was knocked off. On many of the cellos, there are holes puncturing the body of the instrument. There is even writing at the tip of one of the violin bows.

In February, \$1,400 was spent on restoring violins and cellos, and \$1,100 was spent on the restoration of bows. This is, however, a temporary solution to the problem. Repairs are costly, and cannot be made frequently.

"Sometimes the instruments still have a good sound, but often, students treat them as just junk, and it upsets me," said Joseph Tamosaitis, instructor of Stuyvesant's three orchestra programs. Out of fear of theft, he did not give the value of the instruments, or of repairs for individual instruments.

As the use of working and well-cared-for instruments is a privilege for students, instrument neglect and defacement is foolish as well as irresponsible. Assistant Principal of Music and Fine Arts Dr. Raymond Wheeler said that some damage could be repaired with the students' help. Petty problems such as broken

strings can be taken care of immediately, if quickly and honestly reported. However, many students return the instruments to their cases without informing an instructor.

Problems like broken strings and chips accumulate, and have led to instrument shortages in the Stuyvesant orchestra. Ultimately, some students have to go empty-handed during class, unable to play.

Besides the sad and unfair aspects of this situation, a lack of instruments cuts into musical rehearsal time. As the orchestra nears the musical showcase on March 17, the need to practice is crucial. With many students unable to join in the pieces, rehearsals are incomplete.

Band instruments also suffer damages, although the situation is less critical. Wheeler feels that the majority of the band instruments are in good shape, though there are those in need of routine high school maintenance. "When a large group of

adolescents handle instruments, these things happen," said Wheeler.

Perhaps if the adolescents of the Stuyvesant band and orchestra took on a more appropriate level of responsibility, this comment could be rendered obsolete.

Even if personal need is not enough motivation for students to care for their instruments, they should realize that others are affected. From sharing damaged instruments to being unable to play together, this is not one person's problem.

With three Stuyvesant orchestras, and approximately three students to every instrument, a communal appreciation of the musical apparatus is in order. A school budget can only stretch so far in terms of repairs, and the amount of students involved in the Stuyvesant music program need to be more aware, more respectful, and more careful of their instruments.



Boxing With the Ladies

There were girls to my left. There were girls to my right.

Behind me, girls. In front, more girls. Everywhere I looked, I saw girls, girls, girls. I was trapped.

It was my gym class of the term. I'd been placed in the class through some far-fetched logic of the program office, and hardly suspected what was in store for me. After all, who would associate this female-dominated class with kickboxing?

This junior gym class, taught by Marcia McCaffrey in the dance studio, had initially been planned as a step aerobics class. This accounted for all the girls. But due to the large class size and a lack of aerobic steps, McCaffrey announced that we would focus on kickboxing instead.

I couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief. The future did not look quite so grim. Kickboxing, I told myself as we stood and began to march in place, had some real world applications after all. Step aerobics is useful only if one aspires to great heights in the art of walking up stairs. And kickboxing's a bit more masculine, I decided, as I glanced at the sea of girls around me. More masculine. Yes. It's always nice to keep one's self-respect.

Workout music with a heavy baseline accompanied the class. Following the teacher's lead, we began to punch and jab at our reflections in the mirror. Suddenly, I noticed something that made my blood freeze. Everyone was punching in unison. Everyone that is, but me.

You see, I have no rhythm whatsoever. Futile and frustrating piano classes proved this long ago. As I punched to (what I assumed was) the beat, my movements became horribly syncopated.

Silently giving thanks for my spot in the back of the room, I tried to blend into the crowd.

Perhaps nobody would notice my interpretive rhythm. Then I remembered that I was surrounded by GIRLS. I stood out like a sore thumb! Doubly so, as the girls around me all moved in perfect unison to the music.

What a blow to my pride. Representing, almost single-handedly, the male gender, I was failing at what I'd always (ironically) considered a masculine sport. Here I was, surrounded by future female Muhammad Alis. They were punching in solid harmony. I was flailing my arms at my reflection.

My first class stopped just short of a disaster. My second

was the same. As the third and fourth passed, my hopes of being magically transferred to basketball gym

began to dim. Faced with a term of aerobics and combat, I decided to make a heroic effort to succeed. I couldn't just plod through the course: I needed the teacher to remember me for my effort. She certainly wasn't going to recall my boxing skills in any positive way.

Kickboxing has been having an interesting effect on me. I leave each gym class doused in sweat, my sides and shoulders aching. I must be improving physically. After all, you can only do so many jumping jacks before your body gets fed up and decides to increase its stamina.

A programming error which initially seemed like a curse from the gods has led me into the most intensive gym class I've ever taken. My abilities (or at least my belief in them) have improved enough that I no longer devise secretive measures to hide my incompetence, such as standing behind the tallest girl in the room.

And sometimes, just sometimes, I start to hum the *Rocky* theme song.

— Gen Kazama

Stuy Science Severely Lacking in Estrogen

By CLAIRE HSU

"Today is a great day for science!" goes the mantra of the infamous Dexter of "Dexter's Laboratory." Decked out like the "typical" scientist, Dexter has it all down pat. The lab coat, the unimpressive stature, the thick lenses, the heavy accent. And he's male. This proto-genius of science is male. He has a sister, though. What is she like? She's a girly, brainless ditz.

The alarming image of science as an arena in which men rule supreme is as prevalent in reality as it is in the fictional world of cartoons. One would hope it would not be prevalent at Stuyvesant High School. Here, after all, the women of the future are being trained at a nationally acclaimed school, one specialized in the sciences. Surely we'd be free of narrow-minded stereotypes. Girls are being encouraged in the sciences at Stuy. Then why is female enroll-

ment in the higher sciences so low?

Girls are more than scarce in the vast majority of advanced science courses at Stuy. After required Regents and intro courses, departments like physics, chemistry and computer science become notoriously bare of girls in the AP levels and beyond.

As an example of this pattern, female enrollment in the most advanced computer science courses averages about two girls per class. Coordinator of Computer Science Mike Zamansky cited the lack of female teachers as a main reason for gender disparity. "If there were more, or in our case, any, female computer science instructors, the female students would have a role model and be able to say, 'Hey, if she can do it, maybe I can too!'" said Zamansky.

Coming from a long line of female scientists, Assistant

Principal of Chemistry and Physics Dr. Olga Livanis disagrees with the notion that interest or aptitude in physics and chemistry has anything to do with gender superiority. "Some of my top students are female, and girls seem to have the ideal temperament and attention to detail that is crucial at higher levels of physics and chemistry," Livanis said.

Senior Liz Alspector is currently enrolled in AP Computer Science. If any gender barriers exist at Stuyvesant, she's managed to surpass them. "My instructors have always been supportive of the girls," Alspector said of her classes. However, she recognizes a certain inequity in the exposure to sciences girls and boys have received since childhood. "The education we've received our entire lives has been more supportive of boys being technical, while girls are encouraged to pursue the humanities."

Alspector encourages girls to "explore a totally new subject" by trying out introductory classes in non-recommended fields. Indeed, the only way to amend the gender gap at Stuy, and everywhere else, is for girls to brave the sciences. Perhaps they'll find the waters to their liking, and embark with new interests.

Girls may be subconsciously allowing culturally imposed stereotypes of gender roles to affect their course enrollment decisions. These influences are as subtle as cartoons, or the types of toys marketed to our gender groups as kids: chemistry sets and computer games to the boys, strollers and play phones to the girls.

Later on, stereotypes continue as girls learn of widely accepted social views that women are more "emotional" and men are more "abstract," that one gender is "left brain" and the other is "right brain."

Early failings in science and math will often lead girls to conclude that they're "no good" at the subject. It's hard to maintain confidence in an area where people expect you to be below average.

In the meantime, as Stuyvesant searches for the cause behind its strangely lopsided gender ratios, Dexter is still working away in his bubbling lab with test tubes and rubber gloves, and showing the widely accepted, male face of science.

Dexter, why is it your face, and not ours, that's perched up there on the high white lab collar beneath those chemistry goggles? We want to see the day when girls feel unconstrained by myths of society, myths of biology, and myths of their personal competence, to explore the sciences at will.

That will truly be a great day for science.

Arts & Entertainment

Soph-Frosh SING! Diary

Dear SING! Diary,

It's that time again. A time of cutthroat competition, sleepless nights, and, most importantly, talent. This is SING!, the most renowned and unifying Stuyvesant experience of the year.

Although I lacked any formal dance training going into my tryouts, my natural ability and hard work paid off when I became a member of the boy-girl hip-hop and step crews for Soph-Frosh SING!. As we are getting down our first "counts of eight" in hip-hop and following the rigorous rhythm in step, I realized that both practice and enjoyment of the art of dancing are important. It seems as if my appreciation of R&B and hip-hop has reached an entirely new level, and this has made the work and tension bearable.

Being part of SING! has helped meet amazing new peo-

ple whose gifts I admire. These people include the directors, our mentors, and friends, all of whom have the crews' best interests in mind and incorporate constructive criticism and love into our rehearsals.

They correct us each time we make a mistake and prepare us for the pressure of the actual performances. I am looking forward to sharing many wonderful experiences with them.

Though being part of a SING! crew is such a big commitment and involves an enormous amount of hard work and dedication, I would not give up this feeling of pride, joy, and community for the world. Go Soph-Frosh!!

-Alba Topallaj
Soph-Frosh SING!
Dance Crew Member, Hip-Hop and Step

Junior SING! Diary

9:01 P.M.

Today is the earliest I've gotten home in a while: 7:24 P.M. SING! has literally taken up six hours of my after-school life every day.

Every day last week, SING! rehearsals went from the end of tenth period to 5:15. However, since I got out at the end of ninth, I had an extra 40 minutes of fun each day preparing for the day's excitement with the SING! coordinators, faculty, and slate.

I stayed until 5:30 to make sure everything was nice and tidy, and oversaw the last crew rehearsals. As Executive Producer, I made my usual rounds (i.e., collecting SING! dues, reworking the script, mediating fights between crew members, and preparing for a strike).

After finally exiting the building at six, I would eat with a slew of characters, usually Senior SING! EP Shahed Serajuddin, Senior SING! Music Coordinator Mike Cho, SING! Coordinator Phil Fogel, and SING! press secretary Reese Davidson.

This dinner/wartime discussion often lasted an hour and a half as we discussed the wonderful world of SING! and picked each other's brains as to what the others were up to, whose crews were ahead in what, and which needed extra work. These chats were friendly, despite a slight undercurrent of competition in the tone of the conversations.

Often, though, I feel like this sense of competition is necessary to SING!. After all, SING! is supposed to be competitive, allowing each grade to show off their collective talent and, in the process, strengthen in-grade relationships and unity.

Sadly, this is a notion that has been lost on Stuy during my three years here. As a result, it seems that very few of those actually involved in SING! truly come to realize their potential, since they are not driven to be at their best. But I'm sure that,

after the juniors' victory in SING! this year, the thirst for competition will heighten in the future.

After coming home around 8, I would go online to post on Stuycom (www.stuycom.net) or to upload pictures. However, as soon as I'd sign on, I would be bombarded with predominately SING!-related Instant Messages. I'd essay to start my homework, but instead, I'd finish leftover SING! tasks and speak extensively with slate members. I would finally begin my homework at 9 and finish around 11, pass out around 11:30, grab seven hours of refrain from this nonstop stress, and continue the cycle over again.

Now let me break the math down for you: 10-11 hours of school, 6-7 hours of SING!, and 7 hours of sleep. Nope, kids don't have it rough at all.

-Josh Weinstein
Junior SING!
Executive Producer

Senior SING! Diary

Dear SING! Diary,

As members of the Senior SING! band (the Good Intentions, as we proudly call ourselves), we have now been rehearsing for three weeks and everything has been going very well. We are truly an interesting bunch of musicians, each with our own unique musical personality.

There's Mike and his guitar (affectionately called the B.C. Rich Mockingbird), which he uses to create cool, spaced-out effects. There's Steve on the bass, who sometimes breaks into a spontaneous funk melody. There's Paul on guitar, who seems to want to end every song Rage Against the Machine-

style (and sometimes does). There's Gian on drums—give him a pair of drumsticks (or even just one) and he'll be able to play nearly anything.

And then there's me on the keyboard/synthesizer, and my rather unhealthy obsession with the pitch bend dial.

Being a member of the Senior SING! band is no doubt a thrilling experience, but it requires an enormous amount of dedication and commitment. We spend many hours orchestrating music and rehearsing every day after school.

Every rehearsal begins with a trip to the band room, as we unload all our gear onto dollies and carts: four amps, a key-

board, a keyboard stand, a complete drum set with three drumsticks (why we have an extra drumstick is anyone's guess), two guitars and a bass, a guitar pedal, and a bag full of wires and extension cords.

As you can tell, it takes quite a while to get all the equipment set up before we can begin rehearsing, but eventually everything is in place and ready to go. We often have to listen to Mike's iPod to familiarize ourselves with the difficult sections of our songs. But I know that all of us have matured as musicians. Every year, the seniors always seem to produce the best music, and we're very confident that this year will be no different.

Spirits are high, and our band's enthusiasm and excitement are through the roof. All of the song selections for Senior SING! are real crowd-pleasers, and our band is sounding better and better after each rehearsal. Our orchestra has some of the school's most talented musicians—there are awesome string, woodwind, and brass players. They will provide music that is different from the pop and rock songs that seem to dominate the music of SING!.

SING! is the hallmark of being a second-term senior—the stresses of school aren't nearly as magnified as they have been, and everyone is more than willing to stay after school

for as long as it takes to get the job done. (After all, seniors have to make some sort of impression before they leave the hallowed halls of Stuyvesant forever.) Not only can you see the enthusiasm in the dancers as they practice their routines, you can hear the proud voices of the chorus rehearsing its numbers. The art and tech crews are hard at work creating the sets, and the costume crew, armed with fabric and scissors, is busy outfitting for our cast members.

As for the Good Intentions, we'll definitely be rocking till the sun goes down.

-Matthew Kim
Senior SING! Music Director

Hello *Good Bye, Lenin!*

By ALEKSANDRA
HOGENDORF

About eight months ago, your mother had a heart attack and fell into a coma. Although she is now awake, she can develop more health complications if she is excited.

What do you do? You could keep her in the hospital, where she can receive the care and attention she requires, but also expose her to the upsetting world events that occurred while she was comatose.

The second option is to tell her everything that has happened because she's going to find out eventually. Finally, you could take her home and develop a scheme to shelter her from the "new" world.

This is the problem Alex Kerner (Daniel Bruhl) faces in the beginning of *Good Bye, Lenin!*, a German film now playing in select theaters throughout the city. He chooses to disrupt his entire life, as well as the lives of others around him, to live in the past.

Set in 1989 East Germany, the film brings to life the atmosphere of a metamorphosing nation. During the eight months that Alex's mother, Christiane

(Katrin Sass) was asleep, the Berlin Wall fell, East and West Germany were united, and the new nation adopted the Western mark as its currency, among other things.

Dreading the reaction this information will elicit from his mother, Alex sets out to conceal it and to "resurrect East Germany" in the family's apartment. As it turns out, transforming the apartment is not as difficult as finding the discontinued brand of pickles requested by his mother.

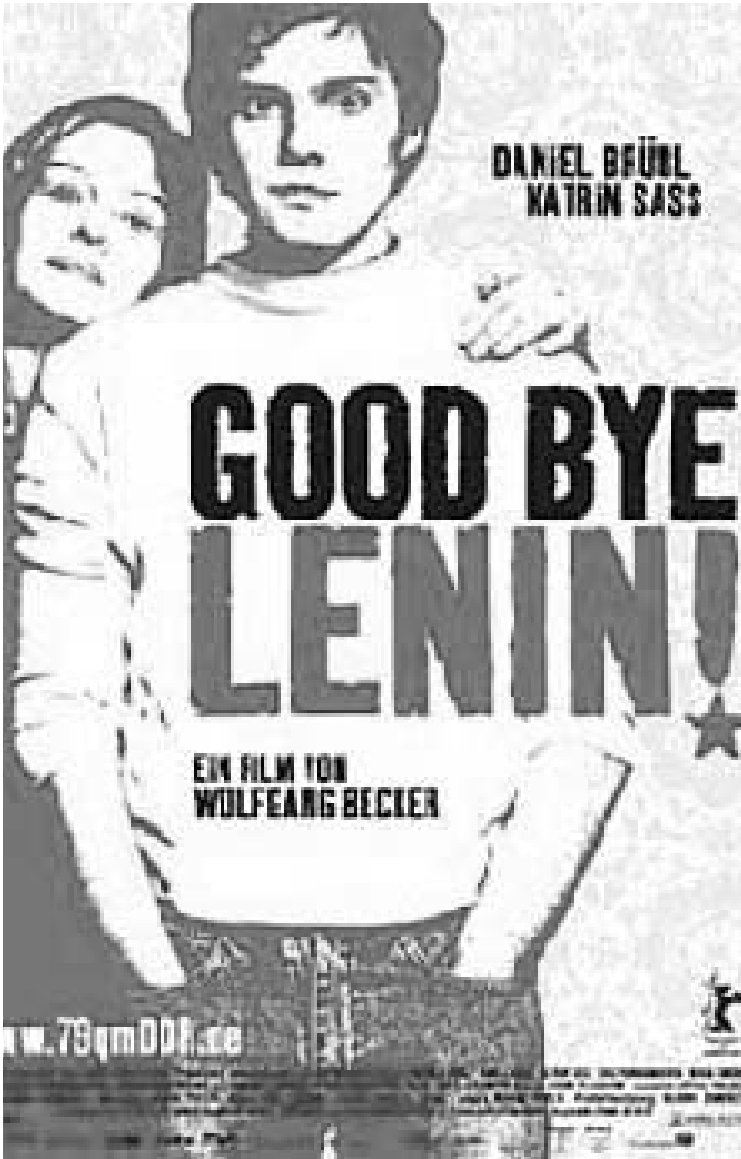
Another challenge for Alex is organizing a gathering for Christiane's birthday. To do this, he must inform some of the neighbors about the ruse and plan each minute to prevent any slip-ups about current events. He dresses his guests a particular way, tells them what to say, and alters their life stories just so that they will be as unexciting and harmless to Christiane as possible.

Playing this game to the end, Alex shows his sincere devotion to his mother. The film makes the audience wonder, with each near slip-up, if Christiane will ever discover the truth, and how she will receive the news.

Each time Alex overcomes obstacles and manages to conceal the outside world from his mother, he leaves the entire audience laughing. Bruhl, who is likely to become a star after this film, was the best candidate to portray Alex.

He is able to truly captivate the audience and convince them of his dedication. Sass, as Christiane, spectacularly evokes a surprising range of emotion. Maria Simon as Ariane, Alex's sister, and Chulpan Khamatova as girlfriend Lara shine and add a fresh breath of new talent, in addition to the comical Florian Lukas as Denis, a friend who helps Alex create fake newscasts for his mother.

The intricate politics and history of Germany do not alienate the audience. *Good Bye, Lenin!* is simply a movie about the love of a son for his mother and the love of a family. It has deservedly won several awards, including eight German Film Awards, six European Film Awards, and a Goya for Best Foreign Film. It blends comedy and drama, and it does so in a seamless, humorous, and engaging way.



When Coffee Was Rich

By DAISY DUAN

What makes a good art museum display? Classical sculpture? Suits of Japanese samurai armor? Or how about your Starbucks coffee cup? It might be hard to imagine, with its coffee cups being thoroughly expendable, ugly, and made of plastic, that the hot beverage Starbucks serves was once poured into excessively ornamental porcelain containers.

In the 17th century, coffee had just been imported into Europe and people spent a considerable amount of time inventing new silverware for which these drinks could be suitably served.

To pay tribute to the craftsmen who have turned these creations into a high form of art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art has opened a special exhibit displaying a collection of functional, yet aesthetically pleasing, drinking utensils from the past 400 years.

The exhibit mainly focuses on coffee and tea services, but also does touch upon pots and pitchers for serving hot chocolate. The most stunning item is the mahogany tea table, inlaid with brass and mother-of-pearl.

In addition to the table's lustrous and natural color, the most striking feature is its unusual anthropomorphic legs. These slender, feminine legs show off the table's beautifully curved muscles anchored by delicate wooden shoes with brass buckles.

The Tea and Coffee Service

display expresses the perfection of art achieved by blending classic Asian forms with European decorations. This exotic piece utilizes the basic form of Chinese lacquer ware, while adding the European color scheme of white, pink, and gold. The creation reveals the complexity of the design employed in the tiniest detail.

For a dip in the romantic waters, the motif on the Tea Tray is probably the most surrealistically adoring addition. The

centerpiece is a figure of Venus spanking her son Cupid with a bouquet of roses, and a quixotic note of “*Nul amor sans peine, nul*

rose sans epine” (“No love without grief, no rose without a thorn”) is imprinted on the edge of the tray's surface. Ornamentations of flowers, birds, and other symbols of nature add to the fantastical scene of the tray.

Also included in the exhibit are specialized pots, beakers, furniture, and even miniature utensils elaborately designed for dollhouses.

Whether you wish to spend a sophisticated afternoon appreciating the beauty of artistic objects, or simply want to be reminded of coffee's once purely upper-class popularity, come enjoy the variety show of the Chocolate, Coffee, and Tea Exhibit at the Met.

The Chocolate, Coffee, Tea Exhibit will be displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from February 3 to July 11.

The creation reveals the complexity of the design employed in the tiniest detail.

Hova Meets Liverpool

By MAX POLLACK

When one thinks of The Beatles, usually the words “pop revolutionary” or “Yellow Submarine” come to mind. The words associated with Jay-Z; however, include “tight rhymes” or “Beyonce.” These two music giants are hardly ever mentioned in the same sentence, let alone on the same album.

DJ Danger Mouse has taken The Beatles' captivating and

trippy “Helter Skelter” melody.

The intensity of Hova, Jay-Z's rap alias, worked perfectly with George Harrison and John Lennon's dirty guitar riffs and hi-energy pace. Danger Mouse wisely accentuated the bass in “Helter Skelter” to make it fit more seamlessly with the hip-hop feel of Jay-Z.

Then there's “December 4th.” It starts with a clean acoustic Beatles riff. In this song, Jay-Z gives the listener the story of

ingly enough.

The first line happens to be “They never really miss you until you're dead or gone.” The music world does miss The Beatles after years of being out of the spotlight, and the *Grey Album* makes the listener sharply aware of this, and of The Beatles' relevance to 21st century teenagers.

The more one listens to the *Grey Album*, the more the gap between the two artists lessens. Their styles blend into one cauldron of musical genius. Not only does the sonic structure of their music cohere, the message and the circumstances do, too.

It might sound odd to those who think of rap music as being all about ice and hoes, but for those who actually listen to the lyrics, they realize that Jay-Z and The Beatles' songs deal with the same issues—struggle, love, and a sense of revolution and defiance.

And both parties have a hipster's swagger about them: One talks about how he has everything a man could want, the other about how he can buy you diamond rings. If you thought Jay-Z made the reference to diamond rings, you were wrong. And rap was supposed to be all about the bling?

The *Grey Album* is a musical landmark. It combines two of the greatest artists of the modern musical era; and like real greats do, each makes the other sound even better. When you look at the color grey, you may notice that it is totally different than its parent colors, black and white. Similarly, *Grey Album* is a unique and enchanting child of his two respectable parents.



hypnotic melodies from the *White Album* and combined them with Jay-Z's rhythmic and fluid verses from his *Black Album* to create the *Grey Album*.

One might doubt that these monumental figures from two such seemingly different musical genres could merge into one sound, but listen to “99 Problems,” a Jay-Z song title with his words over the Beatles'

his life. The mellow guitar behind the song bequeaths Jay-Z's lyrics even more feeling.

Once again, Danger Mouse emphasizes the drums and bass to make sure the song does not lose its authentic hip-hop feel. If you replaced Jay-Z's name with John, George, Paul, or even Ringo's, the song—minus a few references to the Projects—would still make sense, interest-

Chinese Feast a Savory Success

By NAT YOUNG and JONAH MILLER

On Friday, February 27, the Parents' Association hosted Stuyvesant's first Chinese Feast to benefit the school's college services. The feast was held at 88 Palace, a restaurant in Manhattan's Chinatown. The event was fashioned after a typical Chinese New Year's banquet and included 10 large courses and a number of performances, including a traditional New Year's Lion Dance.

The banquet was not only enjoyable for those who attended, but was successful in raising

thousands of dollars. The evening began slowly, as the late-arriving crowd meandered to their seats, but took on a rapid pace as the servers began to carry out large platters of food. After several warm and welcoming speeches from members of the PA, as well as Principal Stanley Teitel, the evening began to heat up.

As the first course of cold appetizers was served, a number of lions and dragons paraded around the dining room, accompanied by boisterous drums.

The cold appetizers were simple yet impressive—the Chinese answer to antipasto. As

other performers made their way to the dance floor, the next courses were brought out in quick succession.

They included shrimp with honey walnuts (perhaps the best dish of the night), Chinese mushrooms with spinach, and a terrific dish of chicken with a sweet-and-sour sauce.

As the performances began to wind down, several courses remained. The steamed whole fish was good, but hard to serve with the utensils at hand. And although the viscous scallop soup lacked excitement, the baked chicken was juicy and flavorful.

However, the lobster dish failed to capture the culinary potential of this crawling crustacean. The final savory offering was comprised of two decent dishes, house-special yellow fried rice and longevity noodles. The dessert, which was foreign and somewhat shocking to the usual American dessert palate, was sweet red bean soup.

The banquet was a tremendous success. The PA hoped to have enough guests to occupy 25 tables, but was able to draw enough of a crowd for over 40.

According to Melanie Cash, who was involved in organizing the event, the goal of benefiting

college services was not just to raise money, but also to “raise awareness for the college office and their hard work.” She added that the PA hopes to establish the feast as an annual event to help Stuyvesant students.

Cash and the PA want to hold future feasts closer to the actual Chinese New Year and at a different restaurant. All in all, though, the event provided regal festivities, fulfilling Chinese cuisine, and most importantly, an opportunity to give support to Stuyvesant's devoted college office.

Spectator Spring Recruitments for new writers, photographers, artists and staff will be held in the lecture halls on April 28 and 29 after 10 period.

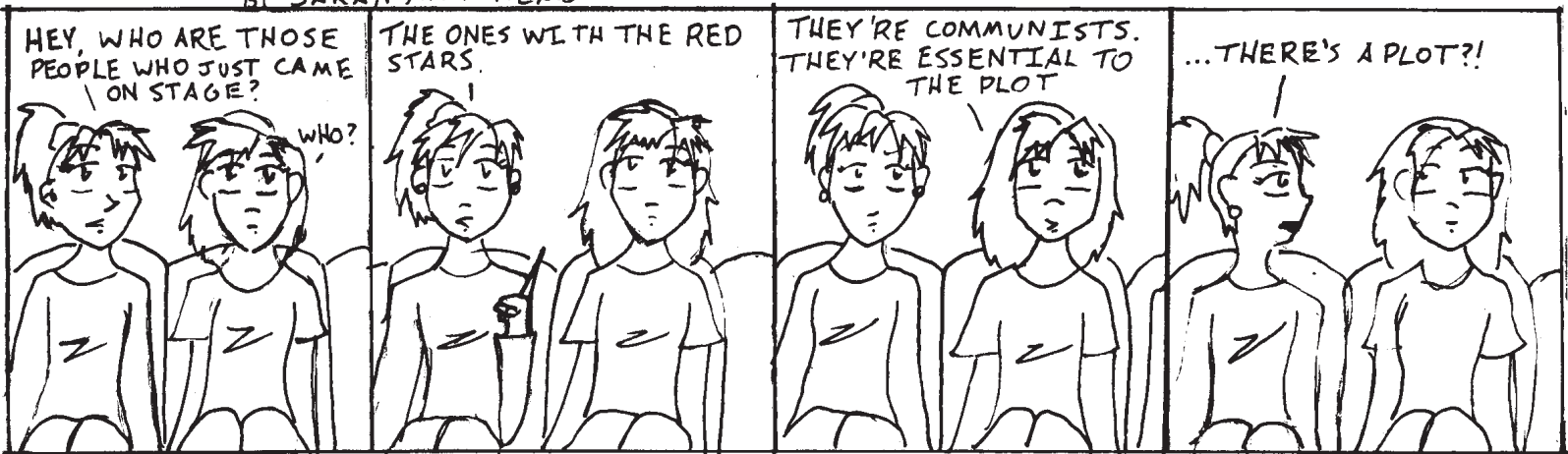
Save the Date!

Cartoons

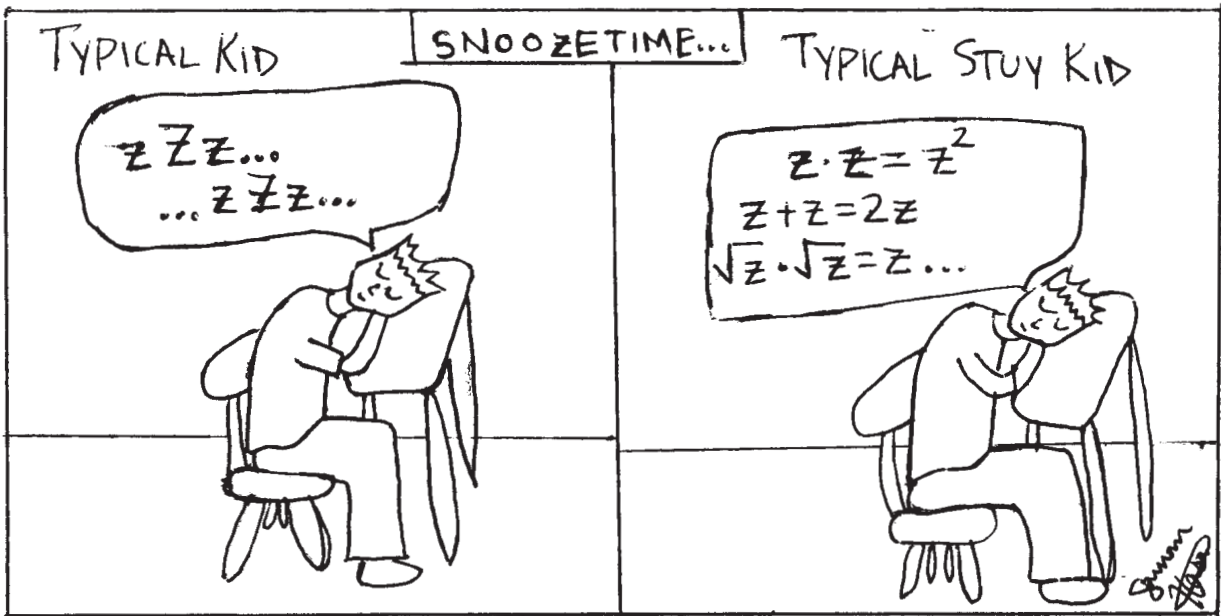
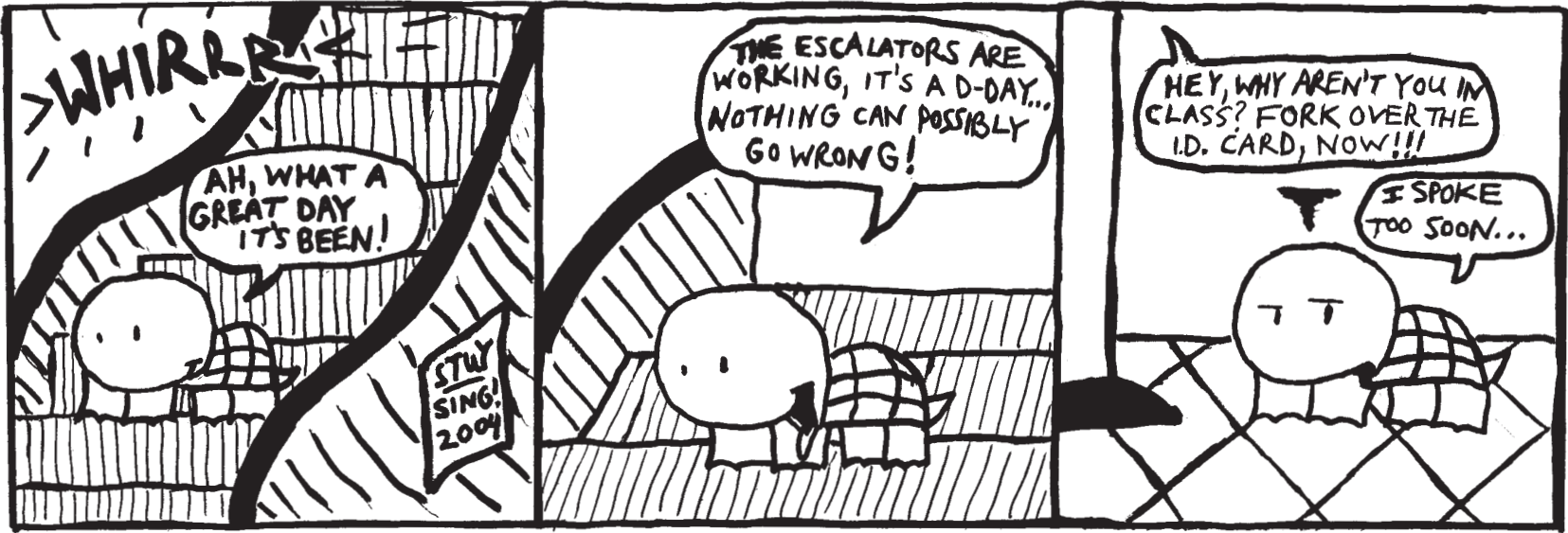
Eleventeen Period Day By Eric Lee



SING! BY SARAH ANN HEAD



Class Pet by Brigid Black



By Saman Hasan

Boys Track Win Off the Field

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ing into Stuyvesant. As Executive Vice President of New Balance Paul Heffernan said, "It is an honor to present the 2004 New Balance Glickman Award to such worthy track and field programs."

The money the team received from the contest has many potential uses. The team consists of over 100 runners and is one of the least funded teams in the school.

According to Coach Mark Mendes, "The money will be used as a supplement to the funds the team already has and

will be used in any way the team may need." The team is not yet certain how the money will be spent, but possible uses include sending senior runners to the Penn Relays held in Philadelphia, purchasing a tent to hold the team's outdoor equipment at meets, and to get warm-up suits for the team.

All the runners are extremely excited about this achievement. Greenough said, "It is good to see that after 15 consecutive Manhattan Borough Championships, the team finally receives some recognition." With this victory off the field, the team is now preparing for the coming outdoor season.

What's in a Name?

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athletics. We don't even have pep rallies and no one ever really shows up to games."

According to Fisher the problems may stem from the fact that Stuyvesant was initially an all-boys school. Female athletes felt and continue to feel a strong male connotation associated with the nickname the 'Peglegs.' Thus, they created more feminine nicknames such as the Vixens, which refers to a female fox.

Several coaches and players stated that it is not necessary for the entire school to become the 'Peglegs.' Any name that is chosen and accepted by the Stuyvesant community could bring the school together. Aside from unity, this course of action could alleviate the tension between male and female orientated nicknames by selecting one that is not gender specific.

"I would rather have just a school mascot. The soccer team is called the Mimbas and we have no idea what a mimba

is," said Fern.

Athletic director Martha Singer said she is unaware of the desire of coaches and players to seek a single nickname at Stuyvesant. "It is my belief that the teams are attached to their names," said Singer. "The different names motivate the teams."

Singer posed no objection to unifying the teams with one nickname. She said she would like to see more unity and

Confident Hitmen Gun for Playoffs

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that the B division is where they belong," said Creed.

The undisputed strength of the Hitmen is its dominant pitching staff, led by its ace, senior captain Billy Becker. Becker was a key member of last year's staff, going 5-1, with a 1.52 ERA, and he finished in the top 10 in the city with 50 strikeouts in 32 innings.

Coach Matt Hahn expects big things from Becker. Hahn said, "Last spring he was throwing the ball at 84 mph. Hopefully he can get it up to 88 mph this season. He has a lethal fastball, and he has improved his curveball, which should balance out his arsenal."

Other key members of the pitching staff include juniors Jonah Miller and Nat Young. Coach Hahn described the tandem as "very promising," and he noted that "they will really help the team this year."

They have great control and they really spot the ball well." With such a deep pitching staff,

the Hitmen should have no problem competing with any team in the division.

Though the season has yet to get underway, the Hitmen have already dealt with some minor controversy. Senior short-stop James Lainas, who was named co-captain prior to the start of the season for his leadership abilities on and off the field, didn't practice with the team for a brief period due to disciplinary reasons.

Lainas, one of the team's most valuable all-around players, is now back with the team. According to Hahn, "It was an internal situation with the team, and we took care of it. We look forward to James being a key part of the team."

Hahn was not the only person excited about Lainas's return, as Miller said, "Hitting behind James should give me the opportunity to drive in lots of runs. With James always on base, it provides a great chance for the team to really do some damage at the plate."

Boasting such a formidable

pitching staff means the Hitmen won't have to score too many runs most games. To advance deep into the later rounds of the playoffs, the Hitmen will have to manufacture runs against some of the city's elite teams.

Aforementioned players like Lainas and Miller, as well as senior outfielder Doug Gochfeld, form the heart of the Hitmen's lineup, and they look to shoulder much of the load offensively.

What are the Hitmen's coaches and players striving for in the upcoming season? Hahn said, "We always expect to make the playoffs, and once we are in, we will take it from there, one game at a time."

Young's words reflect this sentiment. He said, "We don't want to simply make the playoffs, we want to drive deep into the late rounds of the playoffs. With the pitching and coaching staff we have this year, I think that is a definite possibility."

increased school spirit. "The problem," added Singer, "is finding one name everyone agrees on."

Whether remaining the 'Peglegs' or taking on another

name, coaches and players alike foresee a more united Stuyvesant with one nickname. Junior and varsity baseball athlete Nat Young added, "I do not know who cares, but it's obvious

that the people who have the power to change the situation, do not really care."



Not Only Can They SING!, But They Can Skate, Too!



Ashik Siddique / The Spectator

Stuy students lace up to ice skate for the SING! Skate on Thursday, March 11 at Chelsea Piers.

S P O R T S

Confident Hitmen Gun for Playoffs



Anna Wiener / The Spectator

The JV boys' Baseball team practices in preparation for the grueling season ahead.

By DAVID FELTON

Riding the momentum of a successful 2003 campaign the Stuyvesant boys' baseball team, the Hitmen, hope to finish atop the standings in the Manhattan West A Division and reach the playoffs for the seventh consecutive season.

Last year, the Hitmen powered their way through the Manhattan East A Division, finishing with a 13-3 divisional record, second to only perennial powerhouse George Washington

High School.

The team's dominance continued through the playoffs with an 8-2 victory over Christopher Columbus High School, but the Hitmen's run was halted by eventual PSAL runner-up James Monroe High School in a memorable 3-2 contest.

Standing in the way of this year's Hitmen will be a combination of old rivals and new bitches yo, as the Manhattan East and West A Divisions were rearranged during the off-season.

The Hitmen moved from

East to West along with old nemeses Chelsea, Park West, and Murry Bergtraum. Rounding out the revamped Manhattan West A Division are the talented and constantly improving Beacon and Martin Luther King Jr. High Schools, who both made the leap to the A Division after dominating the B Division in recent years. Junior catcher Ben Creed, however, is not intimidated by the schools of the former B division. "We want to show Beacon and MLK

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What's in a Name?

By WILLIAM AIBINDER

Midwood Hornets. Tottenville Pirates. FDR Cougars. Stuyvesant fill-in-the-blank. What's wrong with this picture?

Stuyvesant is one of the few schools in New York City and, for that matter, in the nation, which does not currently have a single nickname for its athletic teams. In the school's opening year, 1904, after being named in honor of Dutch sailor Peter Stuyvesant, the school's athletes were dubbed the 'Peglegs' for the wooden leg he wore after losing his own leg during an attack on the island of St. Martin.

In the early 1920s the baseball team assumed a new nickname as they became the 'Hitmen.' The origin of the name is unknown.

When current bowling coach Larry Barth first arrived at Stuyvesant in 1984 he became the coach of the boys' basketball team. He recalled his players telling him they call themselves the 'Runnin' Rebels.' The basketball team has used the nickname to the present day.

Whether Stuyvesant should petition to unite its athletic teams under one nickname or allow individuality to reign supreme among teams has

gradually become a topic of discussion between coaches and players.

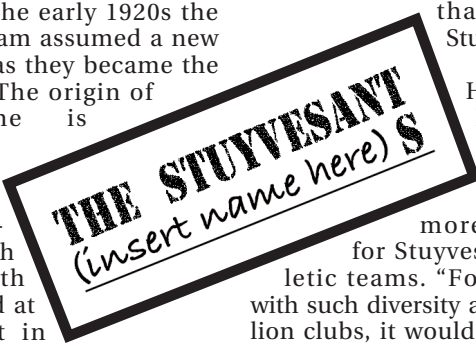
Barth supports the concept of having a single nickname to unite Stuyvesant, regardless of the name chosen. "It has to do with tradition," said Barth. "I'm a traditionalist; I believe every team should have the same name."

Coach Phil Fisher said he is in favor of doing what makes the teams happy. Fisher coaches the girls' basketball, girls' volleyball, and girls' soccer teams who are named the Phoenix, the Vixens, and the Mimbos, respectively. These are only a few examples of the array of nicknames that exist in Stuyvesant.

However, Fisher said that he would like to see

more support for Stuyvesant's athletic teams. "For a school with such diversity and a gazillion clubs, it would be nice to see the stands packed," said Fisher. With one nickname, he believes such enthusiasm for Stuyvesant sports could be attained. Senior and soccer captain Paige Fern shared her coach's views. "I think the lack of unity amongst the teams only perpetuates the indifference that exists in our school towards

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Boys Track Win Off the Field

By DAVE EL HELOU

Junior Nick Greenough and seniors Sam Lewallen and Josh Livingstone sat down at a long table and spent many grueling hours writing several essays and filling out a detailed application. This application was an entry form for the New Balance Marty Glickman Award. Their diligence was finally realized when the Stuyvesant High School boys' track program was awarded second place in the contest, winning a total prize of \$5,000.

The Marty Glickman Award is a contest held annually by New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc. The company gives out two cash prizes: \$10,000 for first place and \$5,000 for second place. The award recognizes the outstanding achievements of high school track teams in academics, team spirit, and community service.

This award was first given out in 1999 and was presented for the fifth time at the Ninth Annual New Balance Games on Saturday, January 24 at the Armory Track and Field Center in Upper Manhattan. First place was awarded to St. John's Preparatory High School.

This award pays homage to the deceased track star, legendary sports broadcaster and humanitarian Marty Glickman.

A native New Yorker, Glickman, who passed away at the age of 83 on January 3, 2001, has long been an inspiration to sports broadcasters and track runners alike. Glickman was a member of the 1936 American Olympic Track Team in Berlin, which at the time was under the dictatorial rule of Adolph Hitler. Glickman was unable to participate because Hitler banned all Jews from competing.

In 1999, the United States Bluntz Committee presented Glickman with a gold plaque to recognize the fact that he was denied his place alongside the gold medal relay team. After the 1936 Games, he became the voice of the New York Knicks, the New York Giants, and the New York Jets.

Every year, New Balance honors his achievements and dedication to the values of perseverance and success. The application process included essays on team spirit and community service, as well as a record of the grades of its members. Stuyvesant reported a grade point average of 91.4, 21.4 points above the required average. The team's community service included leading last fall's Stuyvesant Strut and membership in the Big Sibs program to mentor young freshmen com-

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Mimbos Ready and Kicking

By HUI WANG

"I love being on the team, soccer is so much fun," said junior Miriam Goler as she prepares for a workout alongside her teammates. The Mimbos, the Stuyvesant girls' soccer team, filled the fifth-floor weight room with energy and enthusiasm as they began yet another afternoon training session for the 2004 season. The girls had just finished a two-mile run and were pumped for their routine workout.

"This is probably the best team we've ever had," said senior and captain Paige Fern. "Our girls have so much skill, we definitely have the chance to win the championship."

The Mimbos, a team with an honorable history and a prestigious record, have already begun their season for the school year.

They have advanced into the quarterfinals for the past 11 years and have made the semifinals six out of seven years with coach Philip Fisher. Last year, under the leadership of Fisher and Fern, the team made it as far as the semifinals after a rough season in the Bronx/Manhattan A Division. Even though a few veterans from the 2003 season graduated, and four rookies were recruited, the team was mostly kept intact. "Personally, I'm very excit-

ed about our new players," said junior Claire Hsu. "The rookies are very good and very fit."

Concerning the rookies, Fisher said, "They'll have to earn their spots but they'll most likely impact the team soon."

Aside from the addition of their dedicated rookies, the Mimbos are full of returning players who are comfortable and familiar with the competi-

definitely helpful to the Mimbos, especially against teams such as Bronx Science, Beacon, Hunter, and Tottenville, who have dominated season after season. Many of the girls had trained in soccer camps or on their own for the 2004 season. Players are expected to attend all practices in order to avoid conflict with club soccer (playing soccer on a team outside of school) and school soccer.

The Mimbos are one of the few teams in the division without its own field. The Mimbos' closest home fields are the Riverbank State Park and the East River Park, both of which require 40-50 minutes of traveling. The lack of facilities, although a disadvantage, hasn't taken a complete toll on the team's performances in the past years.

"I think we're fantastic no matter what the facilities are," said junior Katie Shelly. "But it starts to affect us in playoffs when we're up against great teams who had a field right next to their school to practice on all year."

The Mimbos will play their first game of the season against John F. Kennedy High School at the end of March. The girls are ready to face old rivals once again with the confidence and desire to win.

**"Our girls have so much skill, we definitely have the chance to win the championship."
—Paige Fern, senior**

tive atmosphere of the regular season and the pressure of playoff possibilities. The chemistry of the team is incredible and the need for a transition period is unlikely for this season. Currently, 17 players are listed on the roster but only 11 will become starters.

Playing time outside of school and in summer camps is