



The DisreSpectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

"Keep ya head up"

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stuyspectator.com

Spectator Receives Bailout Money

By KIRAN SURY

In a shocking turn of events, The Stuyvesant Spectator—the official newspaper of Stuyvesant High School—received 1.25 billion dollars in federal aid. The money, which comes from President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan, was apparently intended to overhaul New York City's crowded transit system. However, a typo has resulted in all of the money being added to The Spectator's bank account.

While many have called for The Spectator to return the money, Co-Editors-in-Chief Luc Cohen and Rebecca Elliott have responded "No Way." "Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers," Cohen said. "If Obama didn't want us to have the money, maybe he should have tried spell check."

President Obama has responded with anger and plans to pass new legislation that would essentially tax all the money away. "How do they justify this outrage to the taxpayers who are keeping the newspaper afloat?" Obama said. "This isn't just a matter of dollars and cents. It's about our fundamental values."

A closer look at the newspaper's financial records shows where the money is being spent. Both Editors-in-Chief will be receiving 250 million dollars each, while the rest of the money is being divided among the rest of the Editorial Board. In addition, 500 million has been set aside to invest in Bernie Madoff's hedge fund, a move that Elliott asserts

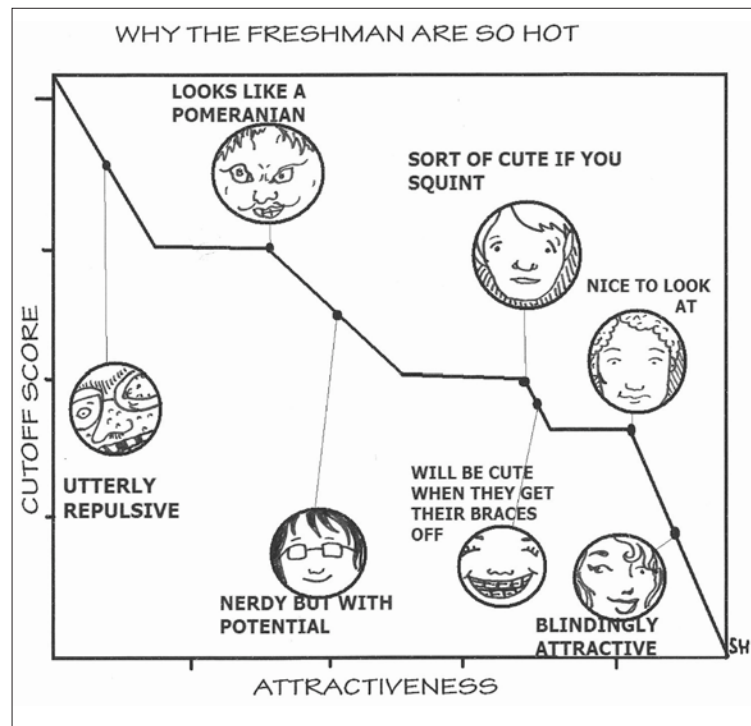
is "sensible." "Bernie has always seemed like a nice guy, and I choose not to believe all the media gossip," she said.

Kerry Garfinkel, faculty advisor of The Spectator, has also received his share of the bailout funds. "My share was only about 200 bucks," he said. "But when you compare that to my annual teacher's salary, it's not so bad. I don't have to work for the next 10 years!"

A recent Facebook note sent out to fans of The Spectator has revealed the plans of the members of the Editorial Board. The note reads: "The entire Editorial Board is retiring immediately. Don't worry, though. We've chosen a crack team of monkeys as our replacements, and we're sure they'll do a better job than we ever did."

A contact of The Spectator who was involved in the decision, but who wishes to remain anonymous so he doesn't get beat up, had this to say: "Well, to be honest, it was a tough choice. Many groups wanted the job, and we turned down both the U.S.S.R. and the Justice League. In the end, we narrowed it down to the staff of The Standard and the monkeys. They were evenly balanced—The Standard could use basic tools and consume vast quantities of bananas, while the monkeys had learned the conventions of English grammar. But then we realized that while we would be gone, The Spectator still had a certain journalistic integrity it needed to uphold. So we chose the monkeys."

Admission Score Lowered, Number of Hotties Skyrockets



By ANI SEFAJ

In a landmark decision made by the Department of Education on Monday, March 23, the cutoff score on the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test to be accepted to Stuyvesant High School was changed to be the lowest of all eight specialized high schools. The decision, which has since drawn a great deal of controversy, was made "in order to raise the number of fly honeys at Stuy," Chancellor Joel Klein said.

"Let's face it, there's a serious shortage of hotties at this school," Klein said. "It's really starting to dampen everyone's mood. The result: poor test

scores."

According to Klein, the downcast outlook of the general student population has not been due to the recent distribution of report cards, but to the overall unattractive quality of the students themselves. Encountering the same unappealing faces day in and day out has left students severely depressed. This depression has led to a decline in overall test scores.

The only method of improving the attitude of the students and, in turn, improving the faltering test scores on Regents examinations was to lower the admission score to be accepted to Stuyvesant High School in the hopes of "getting some hot biddies up in here," Klein said.

The cutoff score, previously set around 560 out of a maximum of 800, is now a meager 200. Similar to the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), these 200 points can be achieved simply by writing down one's name.

"At first I was concerned with Chancellor Klein's decision, but I'm really beginning to see the benefits," Principal Stanley Teitel said. "Testing has indicated that with an increase in the attractiveness of the average student, not only will test scores rise, but students will be less inclined to cut class as the classroom setting will allow them to stare at their attractive peers without it getting too creepy."

The majority of students were enthused about the decision. "I'm really excited about this," junior Petros Skalarinis said. "It always gets a little too weird when I'm staring at and following the few hot girls in the hallways, but if they're everywhere, I'll be safe."

However, some students were unhappy with the decision to raise the attractiveness index of Stuyvesant High School. "It's really going to downgrade the academic quality of this school," junior Jeffrey Wu said. These students were, of course, the ugly ones.

Overall, there is a vibrant and animated feeling among the Stuyvesant population. Students can't seem to wait for the Fall 2009 term to arrive along with the promised hotties.

"When people ask me if that's a calculator in my pocket or I'm just happy to see them, it won't be a calculator anymore," sophomore Keiji Drysdale said.

Chuck Norris Sues Teitel for Copying Look



In suing Teitel for allegedly copying his beard, Norris joins the ranks of Larry the Cable Guy, the Three Billy Goats Gruff, and Billy Mays.

By ALEX SHIN

Television and movie actor Chuck Norris has filed a lawsuit against Principal Stanley Teitel, claiming that Teitel has copied his trademark facial feature of a beard that extends to the upper lip and sideburns.

This is not the first time legal actions have been taken due to Teitel's facial features. In March 2003, stand-up comedian and actor Daniel "Larry the Cable Guy" Whitney sued Teitel. However, Whitney was unable to carry on with the pros-

ecution due to his busy touring schedule. The Three Billy Goats Gruff from the popular children's fairytale also filed a joint lawsuit against Teitel in 1998. However, they were forced to drop the case after being held in contempt of court for eating the jury's bench and the judge's hairpiece. Billy Mays, the spokesman for OxiClean, also filed a lawsuit in 2003, but his case was dropped due to lack of public concern.

There is much speculation as to who—Teitel or Norris—sporting the beard first. During Senior Beard Week 2008, Tei-

tel said, "this beard has been around before [the seniors] were born," thus making the beard nearly twenty years old. However, according to an ancient Norse creation myth, the first man sprouted from loose strands of hair that Norris trimmed off. According to recent anthropologic findings, this would make Norris's beard around 600,000 years old.

There are also reports that state that the universe was not created by the Big Bang, but

continued on page 2

Stuyvesant Alumni: Where Are They Now?



Schierenbeck said Stuyvesant prepared him well to be a Bar Mitzvah clown.

Wes Schierenbeck ('13)

By EMMA DRIES

Since graduating from Stuyvesant at the ripe old age of 21, nearly two decades ago, Wes Schierenbeck has taken America by storm. Schierenbeck, known for his vivacity and sociability while at Stuyvesant, is currently serving his second year representing South Dakota in the United States Senate.

Schierenbeck has introduced a number of extremely controversial

bills, including one that proposed changing our national emblem to Captain America. He was a strong supporter of the wildly popular Beard Protection Act, which gives tax breaks to all bearded men to help "encourage the return of facial hair." In a recent phone interview, Schierenbeck mentioned some new goals. He was most passionate about "a bill extending the right of habeas corpus to animals," he said. "Because we, as Americans, need to come together, move forward as a people and realize: Dogs are people too."

While his political achievements are momentous by themselves, Schierenbeck has also proved himself to be quite the Renaissance man: he currently moonlights as a clown, providing entertainment at Bar Mitzvahs in Pierre, South Dakota. "Anything to pay the bills—these economic times have hit all of us hard," Schierenbeck said.

Stuyvesant has embraced Schierenbeck's across-the-board success, and Principal Steven O'Malley has placed him on top of the list of Notable Alumni for the past six years. Yet Schierenbeck has not let this fame go to his head. He still pays homage to the learning environment he departed from 18 years ago. "In the end, the rigorous curriculum of Stuyvesant really prepared me for my job," Schierenbeck said. "Not being a senator, I mean, because seriously, it's the easiest job on Earth. I mean the rigorous, day-to-day job of being a children's birthday party clown. Thanks, Stuyvesant."

April Fools’

Chuck Norris Sues Teitel for Copying Look

continued from page 1

rather Norris’s sneeze, further validating Norris’s claim of having an older beard. Norris, who is currently residing in his summer home at the International Space Station, says that many events led to the lawsuit.



“It’s my beard and I want it.”
—Stanley Teitel, Principal

“It wasn’t just a single isolated incident,” Norris said via satellite. Norris had received threatening phone calls from Whole Foods managers, Barnes & Noble mangers, and Wes Schierenbeck. “The number of people mistaking me for this Teitel character is growing each year,” Norris said. In 2008, a friend of Gena O’Kelley, Norris’s wife, frantically called O’Kelley to tell her that Norris was spotted in the downtown Manhattan area with another woman. “That was the last straw. My wife kicked me out of the house

and I had to live on the streets and roundhouse kick parking meters to gather enough change for meals.” The man spotted by O’Kelley was actually Teitel. “That man isn’t fooling anyone,” Norris said. “Just dying it black every year doesn’t mean that he isn’t trying to copy my look.” “It’s my beard and I want it,” Teitel said. Students had different opinions on the lawsuit. “I don’t know what [Teitel] is trying to pull off,” junior Lexington Meriweather-Phineas Chang III said. “The only two people who can pull off the beard look are Abraham Lincoln and Chuck Norris. Last time I checked, [Teitel] wasn’t a former U.S. president and he definitely wasn’t able to roundhouse kick two boulders into dust.” “If I were [Teitel] I would send Sir Chuck Norris the Great a gift basket filled with shaving cream as a sign of surrender, a razor as a request for forgiveness and a carton of Cracker Jacks as a friendly gesture,” senior Bobo Kim said. Freshman Cirsuk Upp disagreed. “Teitel is doing everything he can to make this wonderful and reputable school run as smoothly as possible,” Upp said. “A minor blip in judgment should be overlooked.” “As far as I’m concerned, if Superman and The Flash were to race to the end of space, Teitel would win,” Assistant Principal Technology Eddie Wong said. “Therefore, Teitel deserves the beard.”

Stuyspectator.com Going Print Exclusive

By MARCIN SKOK

The Stuyspectator.com Web site was shut down on Wednesday, April 1 after eight years of operation, moving the bulk of its operations to the print version of The Spectator. The decision was made after a closed-doors meeting between the Web Department Editors and the Managing Board. The editors discussed the financial standing and popularity of the Web site, coming to the conclusion that it wasn’t sustainable. Co-Editor-in-Chief Rebecca Elliott said that they “realized that the declining usefulness of the online site simply didn’t justify the funds and staff that we were expending on it. In these economic times, we need to be on the constant lookout to trim costs related to aspects of our operation that aren’t performing well.” As a part of this shift, the Web department will be letting go of the majority of its staff. Some members will be transferred into other departments, depending on availability and needs. The two Web Editors, Victor Ma and Marcin Skok, will be heading the Web division’s future efforts in the paper along with several staff members. “When you have the rapidly declining userbase that we’ve been experiencing for the past

few months, you really need to step back and assess it if it’s worth keeping it online. I believe we made the right decision and will leverage our new position in the Spectator newspaper to the best of our abilities,” Skok said. “Honestly, what people want right now is a tangible product, something that is released at the nice and predictable pace of an issue every two weeks. There’s something about the set waiting period in between receiving new batches of information that has proven to have a soothing, therapeutic effect on our readers. Having a constantly-updating Web site is just another catalyst for stress in Stuyvesant students’ lives.” Referring to the department’s next moves, Ma said, “We’re setting in motion several plans that we’ve been cooking up for the past few months. Transferring our content into the print format has several challenges, but we’re certain that we can overcome them. We’re looking at several methods of transferring our videos, such as frame-by-frame storyboards and captions or a simple translation of the video into binary code.” The Web department’s first real contribution to the newspaper will appear in the next issue, where they will be debuting a print version of the former web version of the paper.

Weil to Teach New English Elective: Creative Non-Shaving

By GRACE LEE

Assistant Principal English Eric Grossman announced on Wednesday, April 1, that the English Department would be offering a new elective starting in the Fall 2009. The course, called Creative Non-Shaving, will be taught by English teacher Jonathan Weil, with once-a-week guest lectures by biology teacher Steve McClellan and physics teacher Benjamin Dreyfus. “I’m delighted that the administration has approved my request to teach this class,” Weil said. “Stuyvesant guys wouldn’t have any trouble getting girls if they could grow beards like mine, and I’m glad to have the opportunity to help them out.” The following was excerpted from the English department Web site as a hypothetical situation: Last week, as I was waiting for my friend, who currently takes Creative Non-shaving, I peered through the classroom door window out of curiosity. There were students sitting in an arc-like formation, like in any other normal English class, except nearly all of the male students had mus-



Anna Menkova / The Spectator

Weil hopes students will find inspiration in his own near-perfect beard.

taches. Some exceptional students had up to three-inch-long beards. One student had dyed his beard a strange magenta color. Another had shaved a heart on his chin. The bell rang and the students began coming out of the class. One after another, students proudly marched out of the door with their creative beards. The girls also marched with a certain level of pride. I wasn’t sure what kind of markers they used, but

their fake mustaches looked very authentic. They too had creatively styled beards and mustaches of different colors and shapes. One girl even shot me a long glare, staring at my naked, beardless face. That moment, I felt the urge to sign up for Creative Non-shaving in my senior year to be included in this creative and glamorous entourage. “Mr. Weil spent the first week of class showing us power point presentations of some of history’s most famous beards,” senior Russ Davis, said after class. “We examined Abraham Lincoln’s beard, Shakespeare’s handlebar and goatee, amongst others.” Students had mixed reactions when asked for their opinion of the new course. “It’s a nice idea, but I don’t think I’ll need to take it,” junior Kiran Sury said. “I mean, my facial hair is just too perfect already.” “I’d totally take it because I love Mr. Weil, but there are two problems,” senior James Den nin said. “The first is that I’m going to college next fall. But more importantly, I’m years away from having anything to shave. I don’t even have leg hair yet.”

Student Caught Breaking Escalators for Money

By KAITLYN KWAN

According to Principal Stanley Teitel, a junior was caught breaking the four to six escalator on Wednesday, April 1 before first period. The student, who wished to remain anonymous, said she had been asked by The Broken Escalator, Stuyvesant’s satirical publication, to break an escalator every week in exchange for a hefty sum. Apparently, the student was under the impression that The Broken Escalator was the company that fixed the escalators at Stuyvesant. A representative from The Broken Escalator approached her and explained that they needed students to keep breaking escalators so that they could have work during these tough economic times. The student declined to comment on how much money she makes breaking each escalator. “I’m ashamed of myself for not realizing The Broken Escalator is not an actual escalator company,” she said. “But had I known, I still might have continued on with the

deal.” According to Teitel, after he reprimanded the student, she began to cry about her family’s economic problems. “She said that she only did this because her family’s been going through a rough time as a result of the recession,” Teitel said. “But what she fails to realize is how this is going to reflect on the school. I can’t have people thinking bad things about Stuyvesant.” The student is currently suspended. “I can’t have people here who are after my money,” Teitel said. “I need to know the school is safe at all times. If this continues to happen, I will have no choice but to either place metal detectors on every floor, in front of every escalator, or take away your lunch privileges.” When asked why any of these methods would be effective in combating escalator-breaking, Teitel declined to comment. Senior and editor of The Broken Escalator John Lee said he did not intend to cause any harm. “The Student Union stopped funding our publication, so we

needed some other way to make money,” Lee said. “And then I got the idea to break the escalators. They’re broken half the time anyway, so why not make some money off of it?” According to Lee, he has already hired over 50 students to help him break the escalators. Lee declined to name the rest of the students involved. “There’s a little something called employer-employee confidentiality,” Lee said. “It doesn’t matter whether or not he [Lee] gives me their names,” Teitel said. “I know things, and I promise you, I will find them. And when I do, they’ll all be suspended.” Ever since the first incident, Teitel has been patrolling the hallways in search of more culprits. However he has only been able to survey floors one, two and five due to dean and social studies teacher Daniel Tillman’s strict policies. “It’s a good thing we congregate on the tenth floor,” Lee said. “Now he’ll never be able to find us.”

Disclaimer: Please note that all articles on pages 1, 2, 15, and 16 are entirely fabricated and fictitious. We hope you enjoy, and Happy April Fools’!

—The Editors

FOR THE RECORD

- In “Protecting School Property,” Barb Dwyer’s surname was misspelled.
- Bill Ding’s first name was misspelled in “Stuyvesant’s 90th Anniversary.”
- Earl Lee Riser’s middle name was misspelled in “Long Commutes.”
- Polly Ester’s surname was misspelled in “Chemistry Lab Mishap.”
- It should be noted that in “Procrastinators Reunite,” Tim Morrow is a freshman, not a sophomore.
- In “Philanthropic Students Contribute to Autism and ADD Cause,” Alison Wanda Land was misquoted. She declined to comment.



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Engine Fire on College Trip Bus

By ROBERT COLGAN

One of the two buses on the Saturday, March 28 to Sunday, March 29 college trip had to be evacuated after a minor engine fire.

The bus, which was heading to Johns Hopkins University, pulled over at around 4:00 p.m. on Interstate 95 southbound at mile marker 105, approximately 50 miles from Baltimore, Maryland. The bus filled with smoke, causing everyone aboard to leave the bus and assemble on the side of the highway.

Firefighters from Singerly Fire Company of Elkton, Maryland responded to the fire. They closed off several lanes of the highway and doused the engine with water.

According to the fire chief of Singerly Fire Company, Frank Louis, who responded to the incident, the fire was "not severe," he said.

At first, it was not immediately clear what the cause of the fire was. "First thing we thought was maybe the brakes, but it's not in that area, so something going in the engine," Louis said.

After dropping its passengers off at a rest stop, the second bus returned to the first bus at 5:00 p.m., picked up the stranded passengers, and brought them to the University. The students missed their scheduled infor-

mation session, but were able to tour the campus.

"It's never happened before, and needless to say I'm glad everyone's safe. Everyone got off the bus," said Assistant Principal Pupil Personnel Services Eleanor Archie, who had been on the bus.

Some students had been sleeping when the bus went aflame. "I woke up because people were talking or something, and I just could hardly see anything because the smoke was getting so thick, and at that point people just started leaving really just because we had to," junior Jeremy Judelson said.

According to Richard Schweidel, the college consultant who helped organize the college trips, the buses were run by Progressive-Pocono Tours. These particular buses, however, had been borrowed from another company after the first company had been overbooked.

"We shouldn't have had these buses," Schweidel said. "We usually get top of the line buses, and they said they had to borrow these buses because they overbooked, which is typical of American businesses. But there'll be a number of people who'll have hell to pay for this."

"We didn't get what we contracted," Archie said.

Marty Thorn, the bus driver, said that there were no problems

when the bus left the garage. "What caused [the fire], I have no idea," he said.

Schweidel praised "the maturity of Stuyvesant High School students and how they handled this when they got off of the bus," he said.

Many students said because they had left their belongings on board, they were initially concerned that their valuables might get wet when the fire department put out the fire. At first, a few students got back on the bus to retrieve their belongings, but once the fire department arrived, no one was allowed on the bus.

"I went to get my stuff and they wouldn't let me back on, and then they were worried that the bus was going to blow up," junior Ali Greenberg said. According to Greenberg, her laptop, camera, and iPod were still on the bus when the fire department hosed it down.

"I'm concerned for the safety of people who might have inhaled some smoke, and for the safety of the stuff that's still left on the bus," junior Daniel Fleishman said.

Ultimately everyone's things were retrieved safely and nothing was damaged, although the fire department removed several seat cushions in the back of the bus that were burned.

Locker Rooms to be Renovated



Emily Koo / The Spectator

The boys and girls locker rooms are going to be renovated at the end of this semester.

By SAM FURNIVAL
with additional reporting by
ANI SEFAJ

Although there are grey clouds of budget cuts that could deeply affect the school's renowned academics on the horizon, Stuyvesant's Physical Education department has received a large windfall. The borough of Manhattan has approved a grant of over a quarter-million dollars to purchase new lockers in the locker rooms, which have not been renovated since the building was opened in 1992.

According to Principal Stanley Teitel, the \$272,000 capital project grant, one of several outstanding grant applications, will be used for acquiring and installing 3,400 new lockers in the boys' and girls' locker rooms. Though it might be tempting to reroute this money to other areas in need of funding, the grant is expressly for this purpose. "If we did not receive the grant, then we would not be changing the lockers," Teitel said. "This does not affect the school budget."

Assistant Principal Physi-

continued on page 2

Sequence of AP Macroeconomics and AP Microeconomics Changed

By CHRIS LEE

At the start of the 2009-2010 school year, Advanced Placement (AP) Macroeconomics will be offered in the fall term as a prerequisite for AP Microeconomics, which will be offered in the spring term.

Before the policy change, AP Microeconomics was offered in the fall and AP Macroeconomics was offered in the spring. Both courses were offered independently—neither course was required to take the other.

Assistant Principal History Jennifer Suri made the decision to change the order and make Macro a prerequisite for Micro. "The teachers approached me about this because there was too much re-teaching going on. Teachers were covering the same material twice," she said. "Much of the material in Microeconomics is covered in Macroeconomics."

The policy change "makes sense because [the teachers] should not repeat the work," Socail Studies teacher Clarissa Bushman said. To take AP Macroeconom-

ics a student needs a 92 overall social studies average.

AP Macroeconomics focuses on the global economy, while AP Microeconomics focuses the smaller scale aspects such as the dynamics of the markets, corporations, and monopolies.

Students generally think the policy change was a good decision. "I heard that they're pretty similar to each other," senior Judy Baek said. "All my friends in Macro are like, 'I'm not really doing anything in Macro since I did this in Micro'."

"I think it's a good idea," sophomore Jane Ko said. "The students who enjoyed learning about Macro and do well in it would be the ones who want to continue learning about it and move on to Micro."

Others do not think the decision will make a big difference. "It's not like people will learn more if they switch the order," senior Alex Geros said.

"I don't think the changes are that good because it's always good to review things we learn," senior Stanley Weng said.

The SU: Time To Communicate



Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

The Student Union is working to improve their communication with students.

By SHILPA AGRAWAL
and SADIE BERGEN

Every spring, the walls of Stuyvesant are plastered with posters attempting to elicit votes from the student body for

Student Union (SU) caucus positions. Marked with controversy about vote-counting and rule breaking each year, the election season is a time when a large portion of students are aware of SU activities. However, in the

months following the election season, the SU's presence in the school starts to wane.

The SU's major problem at the moment is communication.

continued on page 4

Opinions

Article on page 10.

Tell Us About Yourself

Having trouble coming up with an idea for your college essay? You're not alone.



Article on page 12.

Arts & Entertainment

A Guide to Cheap Eats

When your stomach is as empty as your pockets, these eateries have food that will fill you up.

It’s That Season

By SANGHO PARK
and SHAN CHAN

The college process is a period of chaos for any high school student. Students at Stuyvesant are no exception. We, like our college-bound competitors across the nation, are faced with the challenge of cramming in multiple applications while also striving to maintain our GPA. Somehow, we manage to find a balance between the two despite the stress that inevitably hangs over our shoulders during this period.

“[The college process] is long and a lot of work because [students] can’t use the same essay for each college and each application has to be filled out to the best of your ability,” senior Eleazar Jacobs said.

College Office director Pat Cleary believes that the immense number of colleges to which students apply affects their submissions negatively. “I don’t think [students] always balance their time so well. I think some students try to do the impossible and apply to more than 10 colleges. Applying to too many colleges makes students’ applications mediocre, not to mention their essays.” Cleary said.

Stuyvesant teachers often lighten the load for seniors by being more understanding of the college process and by giving seniors a little leeway in their coursework in order to provide them time to complete

**“I don’t think [students] always balance their time so well. I think some students try to do the impossible and apply to more than 10 colleges.”
— Pat Cleary, College Office director**

their applications. “My daughter just went through the college process herself so I know how stressful it is to balance school work and the applications. I do request the same amount of work from the seniors, but I am sometimes more flexible towards them,” German and Spanish teacher Gabriele Dehn-Knight said.

Nevertheless, Dehn-Knight maintains that seniors are still responsible for setting a good example for underclassmen. “In my German class we have freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. But I tell the seniors, who tend to get senioritis, to ‘hold on’ and still show enthusiasm for learning because their behavior may influence the underclassmen,” Dehn-Knight said.

Balancing schoolwork and college applications may seem extraordinarily difficult, but Stuyvesant students often find ways to do so despite the extra course requirements they must fulfill in order to graduate, such as enrollment in two science electives or an appropriate substitute such as AP Biology, which many students do not have room in their schedules for until their senior year.

“If you appropriate your time enough, then you should be fine,” said senior Chris Sulawko, who was accepted early decision to Brown University. “I mostly saved everything until the last minute and focused just on one college for my early decision.”

However, although it brought him great success, Sulawko advises juniors and fellow seniors not to make the same mistake. “I gambled on my early decision and was lucky enough to get accepted but I won’t suggest anyone to do things the way I did.”

Jacobs took a different approach. “I worked on my applications over the weekend and did school work during the weekdays. I never worked on my application during the weekdays because I had to prioritize my school work but still have the time to fill out my application to my full abilities. I focused only on the application on the weekends and it helped me balance my time,” he said.

Nevertheless, no matter how successful people are at balancing their time, “the college process is the most stressful part of high school,” senior Kaitlyn O’Hagan said. “A ridiculous number of kids apply to one school and that school only has a limited number of spaces so it’s pretty stressful. My strategy was to put college applications first and school work aside. During these times, you have to be able to prioritize between your schoolwork and your applications.”

Juniors, whose days of balancing school and college applications are rapidly approaching, already feel intimidated about the college process. “I definitely find the college process intimidating, and part of that is probably due to being forced to think about college, which is already intimidating enough,” junior Sofiya Elyukin said.

Other juniors find the college process not all that stressful. “The idea of the college process is a little aggravating because since it’s so competitive and so many people are qualified to get in to great schools, it’s stressful to compete,” junior Lily Ostrer said. “But so far, it hasn’t been too bad.”

For all students, it’s never too early to prepare themselves for the next step. “It’s a really good idea to start the essay over the summer. Not finish writing anything but just brainstorm ideas to write about. It would’ve definitely made my life easier if I had done that,” O’Hagan said.

The mistakes of past seniors and the worries of future ones help shape Stuyvesant students’ preconceived views of the college process. However, despite the stress and often grueling work involved, the college process is a time to reflect on your individual identity and present it to the potential locations at which your life journeys may continue.

The Experiment in International Living: An Adventure Without Borders

By HANNAH WHALEN

Spring has come, and the time for applying to summer programs is upon us. While many students will sign up for academic programs, the Experiment in International Living is a perfect example of an exciting foreign exchange program that gives students the opportunity to travel and experience different cultures.

The program, designed

**“After [the Experiment in International Living] I learned that other cultures are not very different from my own.”
—Henry Lin, junior**

specifically for high school students, allows high school teens to experience three to five weeks in any of 27 countries around the world. The mission of the Experiment in International Living is to “foster peace through understanding, communication, and cooperation” as stated by the Experiment in International Living Web site. Experimenters act as

representatives of the U.S. and the impressions they give will influence foreign students’ often capricious perceptions of Americans.

One Stuyvesant student who participated in the Experiment in International Living program in Germany, junior Henry Lin, felt that he “gave a more realistic view of what the average American was like in contrast to what the media, Hollywood, and politics portrayed,” he said.

Experimenters live with host families within the community and learn through experience and language immersion what living in the country of their choice is like. Activities include community service, language study, travel, ecology, the arts, sustainable development and fair trade, cooking, photography, theater, and outdoor adventure. “We explored museums, castles, interacted with youth groups,” Lin said. In addition, Lin and his peers “held soccer games, experienced the traditional rustic feel of small towns, and performed community service.”

In addition, Experimenters observe fellow students and break their own prejudices through communication. Lin expressed that his knowledge of German culture before experimenting was “mostly stereotypes and movies, both positive and negative,” he said. “But after [the Experiment in International Living] I learned that other cultures are not very different from my own.”

Of course, there are requirements to travel to certain countries. Another Stuyvesant student who completed the program in Chile for two weeks this past summer, junior Sarah Morgan Cohen-Smith, stated that she “needed to take

at least a year of Spanish,” but had “taken a couple of years of Spanish,” so it was no problem for her. In Chile, she was able to assist in “building a sandbox for some kids at a day care center,” Cohen-Smith said. “We woke up really early in the morning to see these geysers which were best at dawn.”

But it is often the cost of participating in the Experiment that holds students back. “The trips will cost over 5000 dollars

**“We explored museums, castles, interacted with youth groups.”
—Henry Lin, junior**

and as much as another thousand depending on the strength of the local currency in cash,” Lin said.

Lin recommends the program to any “student who plans on studying humanities as well as one who is interested in foreign nations” while cautioning that “this program is not for those with a weak wallet,” he said. However, the program can be good for “anyone who just wants to travel and have fun over their summer.”

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Features

The SU: Time to Communicate

continued from page 1

“Right now general opinion is that the SU is not reaching out enough,” sophomore and assistant communications director Oren Bukspan said. James Kim and Casey Griffin, the SU President and Vice President, respectively, have tried throughout their time in office so far to fix this problem, and it was a large part of their campaign platform. Their goal is to have “no disconnect between the representatives of the student body and the body itself,” Bukspan said.

Plans for achieving this goal are currently underway. This year several new positions have been added to the communications department to help achieve a variety of goals. In recent weeks a Facebook group was set up for the SU. The group already has over 400 members. The SU is also working on re-vamping its website. “It is not completely cohesive right now,” sophomore and communications assistant Pricilla Odinmah said.

There is also a plan for a newsletter, which would be published by the communications department. This newsletter, which should come out in April will “put out ideas and then the student body will be the judge and they can take initiative,” Bukspan said. He hopes that the newsletter will help students to see that “the SU is doing things. As soon as they see that the SU can help people, since the majority of students have something that they want, they will know that they can get a response from the SU,” Bukspan said.

Kim and Griffin remain confident about the amount that can be achieved before the year is over.

“First term is always more internal work and planning, but second term is more visible actions,” Kim said.

To increase student involvement in the SU, this term there

“First term is always more internal work and planning, but second term is more visible actions.”
—James Kim, SU President

is to be a new Stuyvesant Student’s Forum, which will allow Kim and Griffin to meet with students before they attend meetings with Mr. Teitel and the Parent’s Association (PA).

“It will only work if students take the initiative and show up to share their opinions,” Griffin said.

So far this year, issues such as the selling of candy have taken up much of their time.

“It has been a huge burden because we spent so much time planning it,” Kim said. The selling of candy has certainly sparked controversy within the school, but “we [The SU] pay for shipping and handling, so we aren’t getting a profit,” Kim said. He added that the current plan “is a test stage.”

Kim and Griffin have tried to arrange SU social events, such as a movie night, but unfortunately the SU is often at the mercy of the administration and the PA, and both organizations raise concerns when they see a problem in something the SU is

“The Student Union needs to be a collaboration, the students working alongside their elected representatives, and without both sides devoted to working together, it won’t be effective.”
—Oren Bukspan, sophomore and assistant communications director for the SU

planning. Since he and Griffin are “trying to help with the increased closing-in of the school on students,” they sometimes end up “clashing with the administration,” Kim said.

Sophomore Carolyn Lehman, the Deputy Chief Financial Officer of the SU, agreed. “Because we’re a student run organization, not every idea we can come up with can be achieved,” she said. “It’s difficult to finance all the things we want to do. There are events we would love to do but we just can’t.”

Griffin acknowledged that as representatives of the entire student body, she and Kim “have to deal with a lot, so the planning of events often falls to the caucuses who work for their specific grades,” Griffin said. These caucuses have been in place since September, each planning for their own grade.

Freshmen Caucus

When the current Freshmen Caucus ran for office in September, their campaign platform was simple, “We wanted to make a difference in the school,” Reema Panjwani and Yiru Luo said. They saw a position in the SU as a way to do this

with freshmen in mind.

The pair introduced a few solid plans during their campaign, including an Easter Raffle and a Soph-Frosh basketball game “so that the sophomores and the freshmen can get to know each other better,” Luo said. However, both of these plans have yet to become realities. As freshmen, their responsibilities in the SU are limited, and so far their biggest accomplishment has been Soph-Frosh comedy night, which had minimal attendance from the freshman grade. The issue of student involvement in the activities the SU organizes is one that the SU has faced throughout the year.

The caucus’ primary link to the freshmen grade as a whole is through the Freshman Advisory Council (FAC). The FAC meets with Luo and Panjwani two to three times a month to discuss homeroom updates and issues concerning the freshmen class. The meetings also serve as a place for the FAC to pass along questions that have come up in their homerooms. However, despite their attempts to communicate through Facebook and a website—whose current status is “coming soon”—many freshmen still don’t feel connected with their caucus.

“I don’t really blame them, because I know freshmen in the SU are traditionally not given that big of a role, but I don’t really feel like much is being done—there haven’t been many attempts to contact us—we just don’t get much news or updates or anything,” freshman Joseph Frankel said.

Sophomore Caucus

When sophomore President and Vice President Mohammad Hossain and Kathy Lin, respectively, ran for sophomore caucus earlier this year, their goal was to increase “student involvement in the SU,” Hossain said. Although they have many ideas for making the SU more efficient, and getting more students involved, “the SU has been pretty ineffective this year, and this has hindered us from doing all that we want,” Hossain said.

Earlier in the year, the caucus planned a Soph-Frosh comedy night. However it was not as successful as Hossain and Lin had hoped it would be because of “high ticket prices and lack of communication concerning the event,” Lin said. To increase communication throughout the grade, they set up a Facebook group called Stuy2011, through which messages relevant to the sophomore class are sent.

“Since many people are on Facebook, it’s a good way to get messages across,” Hossain said.

Along with Comedy Night, the other big yearly event for sophomores is the semi-formal, which takes place at the end of the year. This year, however, plans for this event are tentative because of misbehavior at last year’s semi-formal. The caucus is working on a compromise with Teitel, but “it might have strings attached,” Hossain said.

In hopes of improving student behavior and maintaining a good image of Stuyvesant High School, the caucus wants to have an SU-coordinated

“campaign to get our acts up,” Hossain said.

“There are repercussions when this year we are irresponsible, because it will hurt next year’s sophomores and the incoming freshman as well. Even though we are underclassmen now, the example we set is very important,” Hossain said.

Reacting to the overall conduct of the sophomore caucus this year, an SU member, who wished to remain anonymous, said, “We are well represented, there are a lot of sophomores in the SU, but there is not much change directly for sophomores that I have seen.”

Junior Caucus

The junior caucus President and Vice President, Valeriya Tsitron and Paul Lee, respectively, ran on a platform of promoting “grade unity and communication with the entire school [...] as well as promoting a team spirit throughout the grade,” Lee said. Although Tsitron and Lee officially represent Stuyvesant’s junior caucus, “[Valeriya and I] look at the Junior caucus more as the people of the Junior grade; whoever wants to participate can,” Lee said. “We want to cultivate the same spirit we see every year in SING! and replicate the same spirit for the junior grade.”

Always open to suggestions from Stuyvesant’s junior students, earlier in the year they conducted a survey of all of the juniors, asking their fellow classmates for their concerns and suggestions regarding their grade. Lee was very pleased with the results of the surveys.

“Because we’re a student run organization, not every idea we can come up with can be achieved”
—Carolyn Lehman, sophomore and Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the SU

“Many people responded back and told us what they wanted to see,” he said.

Tsitron and Lee have been planning and organizing events throughout the year. Like every other year, the caucus is planning Junior Prom. However, this year, the caucus is taking a different approach. They are trying to plan a themed prom, which they hope will be less formal and more affordable.

Along with Junior Prom and

other social events, the caucus also organized three college trips this year.

“I thought the trip was well planned and well worth the money,” junior Marlee Melendy said of the November trip. Along with the big events such as prom and the college tours, Tsitron and Lee are also planning a Junior Spirit day, a Senior-Junior Basketball game, as well as a Career Day part II, an idea which

“We want to cultivate the same spirit we see every year in SING!”
—Paul Lee, Junior Caucus Vice President

the seniors started last year and the caucus hopes to keep up.

Senior Caucus

The senior caucus, led by President Phillip Kim and Vice President Jenny Han, is responsible for senior events, and so far this year they have been very successful in doing this. In their campaign platform Kim and Han promised one spirit day every month, which has happened, a senior vs. faculty basketball game and a senior vs. junior basketball game, both of which are pending, and two comedy nights, one of which has happened. They also promised an, “amazing graduation speaker,” Han said. Kim said that this speaker is “pretty much confirmed,” but they cannot release the name yet. They have also followed through on their promise of senior apparel, by producing senior scarves, which are already sold out.

Nonetheless, the pair both cited the lack of school unity that they have seen this year. “We need more events to unify, we could have done a better job, because there hasn’t been anything different from last year so far,” Kim said.

In fact, members of the senior class remain as seemingly unaware about the actions of the SU as the underclassmen. “I feel like I know very little about the SU,” senior Robert Stevenson said. At the same time, Stevenson is not disappointed with his caucus’ performance this year. “I expect openness to ideas and a certain level of assertiveness from the SU cabinet. They seem to have delivered in both areas,” Stevenson said.

The SU has a lot of ideas for this year, however, they have been hindered by, “a lack of student initiative,” Bukspan said. “The Student Union needs to be a collaboration, the students working alongside their elected representatives, and without both sides devoted to working together, it won’t be effective.”

Features

Caliper—The Inner Voice of the Stuyvesant Community



Caliper, Stuyvesant's longest running literary magazine, serves as a creative outlet for students.

By ASHA B.

Stuyvesant is known for its competitive and highly successful math teams as well as its large number of Intel victors. However, for generations it has also served as a creative outlet for those interested in writing. Caliper, Stuyvesant's longest-running literary magazine, is a biannual publication that publishes poetry, short stories and essays by anyone in the Stuyvesant community who wishes to submit his or her work. Simply put, it is a collaboration of pieces written with a passion and a desire to express oneself.

Though Caliper is a submission-based magazine, members have meetings every Tuesday. Current members have said that one of the most unique aspects of Caliper is the atmosphere of these meetings, which is very different from that of Stuyvesant's other publications.

"It's a very relaxed atmosphere. We come together, invent our plans, and then we do it," said junior Jan Cornel, who has been a Caliper member since his sophomore year.

Another way Caliper differs from other publications is that all you need to become a member is show up to the meetings on Tuesdays. In these meetings, students can relax and do creative writing of all sorts.

"We love creative writing and Caliper is really open to different types of people and different kinds of ideas," Cornel said.

"It's a relaxing, supportive community," said junior Claire Littlefield, also a Caliper member since her underclassmen years.

Everyone is welcome to come to these meetings and receive help from other members, perhaps for an essay in need of editing. Others come in need of some quiet time to write with people

who share an interest in writing. Caliper publishes most of the submissions it receives. When a submission deadline is approaching, posters are put up in the hallways reminding the students to submit any work they would like to be published in the magazine.

**"Caliper publishes just about everyone's work."
—Jan Cornel,
junior**

Once a piece is submitted, it is edited by the two editors of Caliper, seniors Jack McDermott and Amy Crehore. Sometimes articles are censored due to the English Department's requirements, but most articles aren't tampered with. Caliper tries to stay as true a representation of the creative writers in our community as it can.

"Caliper publishes just about everyone's work—it's about being passionate enough to write about something and working so hard to create it to tell us what's on your mind. It takes a lot of guts to express yourself and put it in public," Cornel said.

Not only does Caliper provide

a creative outlet, but the community aspect helps those interested in writing to hone their skills and become more confident in their writing. "Caliper members make people feel comfortable about themselves as writers, which is really important. It's important to have an outlet for students who are interested in writing and have experience in getting published and getting their writing out there," said junior Shoshana Akabas, future editor of Caliper.

Though Caliper receives many submissions, few people come to the weekly meetings. However, according to McDermott, the meetings have a valuable purpose beyond the publishing of the magazine. "Even though the act of writing is a solitary thing, we do so much talking and exchanging of ideas that it is a group writing thing. The writing people do during meetings leads to so many interesting conversations," McDermott said.

"It's upsetting that Caliper has been around for 100 years and some people still don't know what it is. People are often iffy about coming to meetings but it's no different from any other workshop you would want to attend," Crehore said.

Because Stuyvesant is such a big school, it is often difficult to find space in the few creative writing electives offered. "It's very hard to get into creative writing English classes. Even if you aren't able to take one of those classes, Caliper still provides that time and place to enjoy writing with others. It's a community of writers who enjoy others' company and enjoy producing new material and more people taking advantage of that would be great," Littlefield said.

Crehore agrees. "Caliper provides an outlet for freshmen and sophomores who want to write, say poetry, but do not have a chance in normal classes," Crehore said.

"My favorite part of Caliper is that it gives freshmen and sophomores a chance to do a lot of writing that they need to get out. I didn't feel I had a place as an underclassman to write the things I wanted to write. I wish I had heard about Caliper sooner," McDermott said.

While reaching out to the student body is one of Caliper's goals, the constant goal of Cali-

**"It's a community of writers who enjoy others' company."
—Claire Littlefield, junior**

per remains the same—"to teach Stuyvesant students to express themselves through writing and inspire as many kids through creative writing as possible, as to help them express themselves in a more open way," Cornel said.

Stuy students who have become active members of Caliper enjoy the opportunity to indulge their creative leanings. As Cornel said, "There's really no way to describe how amazing it is. Come to Caliper yourself and see what it's all about."

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Wednesday 4:30-6pm.
Math B: Starts September 17
Friday 4:30-6pm.
SAT I Math: Starts September 17
Friday 8-9:30pm.

Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

No Need for a Thirteenth Grade

As the senior class at Stuyvesant enters its second term, most students feel a refreshing sense of accomplishment. However, along with feeling accomplished, many also feel that they spent their four years in high school living from weekend to weekend, test to test, and simply working like a hamster on a treadmill. Some lose sight of the reason why they are in school—to pursue an education—in order to lead a more successful, productive and rewarding life. And even though the seniors’ grueling years of school seem to be at an end, four more years of college lie ahead.

However, between high school and college, some students decide to veer off the beaten path for a while to explore other opportunities. In an attempt to gain a perspective on their education, one of their many options is to take a gap year. This year off provides a chance for students to travel to foreign countries, volunteer, or work.

Many parents are wary about their children taking a gap year because postponing college can seem like a waste of time. After over a decade of hard work and dedication, some are disheartened that their children would rather take a break than immediately continue with their education. However, parents who are afraid that their children will forget about

college after a gap year should be reminded that by that time, their children will have already applied and been accepted to college—they are simply deferring for a year.

Many immigrant families move to America to make sure that their children receive the best opportunities and education available. These families are hesitant about this break from the normal educational path and would rather their children continue on a structured agenda towards the success their family moved here for.

The cost of traveling abroad is also often a deciding factor for families. The year spent out of the classroom and away from direct education is deemed unworthy of any expense by the majority of parents.

While this may be true in many cases, the gap year is anything but a waste. It can enhance a student’s learning ability by giving them real-world experience before entering college.

“I have learned a lot about what it means to live for others and to take responsibility for my community,” Stuyvesant alumna Hannah Temkin (’08) said in an e-mail interview. Temkin is taking a gap year to teach English in high schools in Israel. You learn “something that can only be passively taught in a classroom,” Temkin said.

Many students who take a

gap year often choose to participate in an international volunteer program. This work can make individuals more ready for the rigors of university study. This also gives them a chance to give back to their community—something they may be too busy to do while in college.

The gap year offers students the ability, after twelve straight years of school, to pursue their own interests. These personal discoveries can influence and enhance what they study in college. With a number of majors and minors to choose from in college, it is helpful to know what you might want to do for the rest of your life, after being able to experience new things during a gap year.

Some students may also decide to take this opportunity to work. The cost of college and university is a looming issue for many families, and a year’s salary can be very helpful in paying for the next four or more years of education.

The gap year is not for relaxing at home and watching television. It is intended to allow students the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the world and possibly gain a better perspective on the purpose of their education. A well-planned gap year can rejuvenate a student’s desire to learn. Students can use the year to become a more responsible adult, ready and refreshed for college.

OP-ART



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



“The Pulse of the Student Body”

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FOR THE RECORD

- In Issue 12, sophomore Rosa Huang’s surname was misspelled in the photo credit for “Alternative Coffee.”
- In “Taylor DeGiovanni: The Real Life Gossip Girl,” sophomore Taylor DeGiovanni’s surname was misspelled.
- In “Soph-Frosh SING! Not a Total Washout,” OxiClean was misspelled.
- In “Junior SING! Leaves Few “Marvel”-ings,” the National Superhero’s Society was incorrectly called the Justice League.
- In “Junior SING! Leaves Few “Marvel”-ings,” junior Daniel Fleishman’s surname was misspelled.
- In “Junior SING! Leaves Few “Marvel”-ings,” junior Aviva Hakanoglu’s surname was misspelled.
- In “Junior SING! Leaves Few “Marvel”-ings,” junior Clio Contogenis’s surname was misspelled.
- In “Senior SING! Type(cast)s to Victory,” senior Jared Dummitt’s surname was misspelled.

Safety with Segways

Michael Silverblatt
/ The Spectator



By ANI SEFAJ

From horses to motorcycles, from Crown Victorias to Chargers, the New York Police Department (NYPD) has always known how to strut its stuff. Lacking a major upgrade in almost two years, the NYPD finally upgraded its fall fashion lineup in 2007 with the introduction of the Segway scooter. And as winter passes us by and spring rolls in, these scooters will once again be patrolling the streets of New York.

Ten Segways, which cost around \$5,300 a unit, were purchased by the city of New York in May of 2007. Since then, they have become a vital part of the NYPD taskforce. Not only do the Segways make officers look like superheroes as they stand precariously upright almost eight inches off the ground, but it can often reach speeds of up to 12.5 miles per hour. Not even Batman can speed-walk at that overwhelming rate.

The Segway also comes with a pouch where police can keep their pens and ticket books. Other possible items to store in the pouches include donuts, compasses, police tape, astrolabes, rape whistles and, of course, their handguns. Unfortunately, this new pouch technology has a fatal flaw—the zipper. Who knows how many criminals will escape while an officer fumbles with his zipper trying to reach his trusty nine millimeter. Police reports and blogs have indicated that the Segway is the most innovative police equip-

ment since the Monadnock, an extendable billy club available for public purchase at copsplus.com. Featuring a power tip, this hefty stick packs quite a punch to those nefarious wrongdoers out on the streets. In recent years, the Segway has done the very same thing.

Several other police departments across the country have also used Segways, praising the scooter for its quiet operation and its ability to surprise sus-

Looking into the future, Segways should prove crucial in combating futuristic robot criminals, but this reporter is skeptical.

pects, thus allowing officers to sneak up on targets. Additionally, the scooter has been praised for increasing police presence because riders stand about a foot above regular pedestrians, thereby making them more visible. Only an extremely useful, groundbreaking technology such as the Segway could possibly be able to function in such seemingly contradictory ways.

While the effect of the introduction of the Segway scooter into the Stuyvesant community has yet to be seen, the initial reaction seems positive. The crime

rate, especially theft, is sure to decrease among students. Why would anyone bother to steal backpacks, iPods, and phones when there are \$5,300 Segways patrolling the streets? Random beatings of Stuyvesant students are also expected to go down for similar reasons. Police officers on precariously balanced scooters are more humorous targets than unassuming freshman. Add in a Monadnock billy club and we could have a hit YouTube video on our hands, or at least a segment on Law and Order.

However, the introduction of Segways will not have totally positive effects on the Stuyvesant community. With officers mounted on Segway scooters patrolling our Battery Park “campus,” the stoner community will be forced to relocate to a safer spot as their average running speed while impaired falls far short of the 12.5 mph top speed of the Segway. Ultimate Frisbee and touch football players, as well as those students who simply wish to lie in the grass, will also face difficulties. The “keep off the grass” signs, previously taken as a mild suggestion, will now have to be respected lest students be apprehended by the police.

While Segways have proven to be a successful crime fighting tool in apprehending today’s lawbreakers, this reporter is skeptical as to how they will manage to combat tomorrow’s robotically-enhanced super-criminals. If Batman has taught us anything, it’s that this new crime fighting technology will only breed stronger criminals. If the Segway can go 12.5 miles per hour, then our modern day locker thieves or backpack muggers will take to jogging. It will be a vicious cycle that, if left unchecked, could take a serious toll on many a criminal’s calves.

TMI, FML

The humorous anecdotes of others’ misfortunes total more than 156 pages online. There is a reason why there are so many: people are more candid online. After all, confessing things to a nonjudgmental Web site under an anonymous name isn’t half as embarrassing as actually telling your friends about them. In addition, letting your ideas flow unrestrained into a blank box on the web is liberating—you are protected by the anonymity of the internet.

There’s also something to be said for taking joy in others’ misery. FML allows us to forget about our own troubles and say “Hey, check out this idiot.” The great thing about this Web site is that it benefits everyone involved—those telling their stories gain satisfaction in hearing others respond and those reading the stories find it an all too amusing way to spend their time.

However, there is a downside to the rising popularity of such Web sites. People are encouraged not to seek out friends or family for consolation, but rather strangers online. People are more likely to tell a computer screen every little nuance of their lives instead of communicating with an actual person. Even though chatting and texting are convenient, they don’t replace a face-to-face conversation.

“I feel like with such easy ways of communicating, there’s no real

need to meet up anymore. Like for all my group projects, we just do it over the internet,” junior Teresa Poon said. The human element of your life can never be replaced by a screen and a key-

The human element of your life can never be replaced by a screen and a keyboard.

board. Just as an emoticon cannot actually express emotions, a two sentence anecdote cannot reveal your true personality.

With so many available methods of communication, people don’t stop to think about whether or not what they are saying is actually important, but rather blurt out every inane thought that comes to mind, providing nothing other than a quick outburst of meaningless information. This overwhelming abundance of shallow information damages our ability to communicate effectively and concisely.

2084

Christina Bogdan / The Spectator



By OLIVIA CHENG

You can’t escape from it. It’s everywhere. Look around you. There’s about a 0.01 percent chance that the person next to you hasn’t heard the term “LOL” before. Internet abbreviations have been embedded in our culture and have become common to everyday conversations online. Even so, Internet slang, also known as netspeak, has begun to leak into real-life conversations. Could our society be on the verge of diving into a new “newspeak”?

For those who aren’t familiar with it, newspeak is a fictional language in the world of George Orwell’s “1984.” Newspeak simplifies words so they can be expressed in a more convenient format. For example, words like terrific, excellent and outstanding could simply be expressed as plusgood or doubleplusgood. Bad, malicious or evil could be expressed as ungood.

But besides defeating the purpose of the SAT vocabulary section, newspeak is a means of thinning the dictionary, suppressing speech by limiting the number of words that can be used. It restricts people’s will to express their thoughts and thus controls what they say. In essence, it causes the original English language to decay.

Netspeak serves a similar purpose but is more directed towards saving time and energy. Unlike newspeak, which has an ever-diminishing number of words in its vocabulary, netspeak is constantly expanding.

I remember how I was first introduced to netspeak, or really internet jargon in general. It was during the time when Gmail wasn’t as popular as it is now, back when it was restricted only to those who had invitations. A friend of mine from Hunter College High School had sent me a vague sentence in his e-mail and at the end were the letters X and D. Foolishly, and being the Pokemon fan I was at the time, I thought he was referring to one of the newly released video games. It bothered me for weeks, and he never gave me the definition of XD even after I asked, possibly because he assumed I already knew what it was. I gave up and looked it up. I didn’t really quite understand how it resembled laughing or happiness until I spent a few minutes looking at it sideways.

The next few years did not have much pity on me. It was a constant battle of wits, or rather, of decoding what each piece of text I received meant. I had finally begun chatting online when I was bombarded with a myriad of acronyms and shorthand. It began with brb, then afk, rofl and lmao. The list goes on. It soon became a game of eliminating the wrong choices. With afk, for

example, I was left with three choices: Market Vectors Africa, Away From Keyboard and Asia for Kids. I guessed, although I wasn’t quite sure what “away from keyboard” actually meant, that is until I thought about it literally. But whatever the case may be, it became a nuisance to look up these things and ask the speaker. It took a while to become fluent in the language. And here I thought “Winnie the Pooh” was only popular among the younger audience. I had no idea that Tigger was such an influential role model. It seemed that everyone was beginning to follow his favorite motto, “TTFN—Ta Ta For Now,” as a guideline. Imagine what would happen to the English language if words were simply replaced by letters. A “decent” conversation would be made of a strand of letters, like hwu? hig? mwshos. Translation: Hey, what’s up? How’s it going? Maybe we should hang out sometime.

Okay, I’ll admit it. I am an aficionado of genetics, and decoding DNA sequences isn’t so bad. It’s incredible to have something as complex as the human genome be ordered into strands of A’s, C’s, G’s, and T’s. But to what extent can things be simplified without passing a boundary line? Will our laziness allow us succumb to oversimplification of something as intricate as our own language?

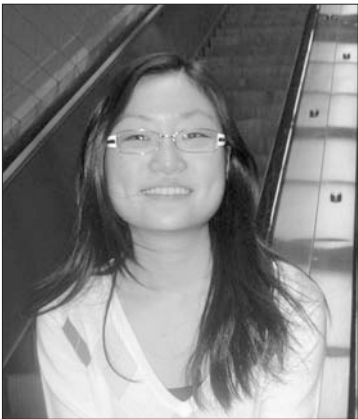
The gravitas of the situation may not be so demanding of attention as of yet. The effected phrases so far are mild; they aren’t maddeningly difficult to understand. But what happens when we go further? A “hello” will be cut down into an “eich,” and the “ello” will be tossed away. Although it may not be intentional, we are slashing away our language and stripping away a sense of fullness in the words we say.

Even so, perhaps these acronyms aren’t so damaging. They do indeed save some time—and money—when you have those taxing phone bills. Netspeak is an increasingly rich vernacular and has become almost an innate part of our vocabulary. Still, we should not rely on it to express

Imagine what would happen to the English language if words were simply replaced by letters. A “decent” conversation would be made of a strand of letters, like hwu? hig?mwshos.

things that we want to say. Such dependence will ultimately be the downfall of our unnecessarily ornate words like supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. How boring would it be if it were written as scfexds? Birthdays wouldn’t be the same either. Already, the “irth” has been taken out of “happy birthday.” Soon, only one letter will help us differentiate between “HBD” and “HBO.”

Tincey Wang / The Spectator



By JENNY HU

Stuyvesant students are masters at procrastinating. Whether it’s a simple homework assignment or a term project, almost all of us leave it to the last minute. So it’s no wonder that fmylife.com has become so popular lately. The Web site allows users to post a message about anything that has happened in their lives lately that is worth mentioning. The only requirement is that it has to start with “Today” and end with “FML.” However, FML is quite strict about which stories make the cut—I have been rejected three times. The Web site grants users the freedom to express themselves and promotes free speech, even though I doubt that blurting out an embarrassing story to everyone online is what the founding fathers had in mind.

Opinions

Tell Us About Yourself



Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

By VALERIYA TSITRON

Last month, I tried to snow-board with my friend Claire for the very first time. Seeing as how we didn’t even know how to get strapped onto our boards, we hired an instructor to show us the ropes for about an hour. Once we were done with the lesson, however, Claire could only turn in one direction and I could turn in neither. Instead, I would speed along, getting faster and faster by the second and, not being able to stop, would have to land on my behind or my hands. Despite this, after 11 or so rides down the bunny hill, none of which were successfully completed without at least three falls, we decided that we were bored. So we got on the easiest slope—4,000 feet of not-so-steep “oh-it’s-just-an-endurance-test” snow. Needless to say, it took us two hours to get down—when it usually takes Claire about 10 minutes on her skis. By the time we got to the bottom, the mountain was closed and everyone was waiting for us to show up.

Now that’s what I call character building—a rare day in my life that can easily be stretched into something more colorful than it really was to become a creative device through which I can channel all my positive characteristics, as well as some commend-

ty interesting kids. The people I’ve met in my nearly three years at Stuyvesant have convinced me that there is so much in this world that I haven’t been exposed to so far. Yet, even the kinds of people I’m proud to be friends with are having trouble picking out a topic. I don’t think any question from a college could be more stressful than “Who are you (in 500 words or less)?”

Although I do not object to this college composition business as much as I do the SAT essay (I wrote about Forrest Gump in my last one—no need to ask how that turned out), the essay still gives me rather little space to

The fact is, no matter what I write about, it will have already been done before.

tell the college of my choice why I should be among the students it picks. Do I tell them about my lack of coordination, leading to a number of interesting incidents in which I ended up either in the hospital or toppling someone else over? Should I tell them about my perseverance and how I still can’t do a single push-up despite years of physical education? Or perhaps about my most prized talent? (I can find anyone on Facebook—absolutely anyone.)

The fact is, no matter what I write about, it will have already been done before. No matter how I tell my story, the style won’t set me apart. There’s just got to be that one ounce of umph that nobody else has, that one flavorful tidbit that sets me apart and makes the reader think, “Da-yum this girl’s got it goin’ on. Surely there’s a spot for her here.”

But I don’t think any life-altering experience in the next couple of months is going to do that for me. I’m already a well-developed character in the story of my life, except this essay is asking for a meaningful excerpt. This summer, when I sit down to “write my college essay, Mom,” I’ll likely jot down a few lines about how I’ve been inspired by a poem or a novel or some tree in Central Park. And then I’ll cross them out, deciding that college doesn’t want to read an analytical paper on the precise size and shape of the maple as opposed to an oak or the dark musings of Sylvia Plath in contrast to Dr. Seuss.

No, if I’m going to give college an accurate description of my personality in a couple of paragraphs, I’m going to have to do better than that. If my essay is the make-or-break part of my application, I think I might as well make the gamble a little interesting. I think I’ll throw in my thoughts on Freud, males who wear pants without belts, people who call me Val, the devastation that came with realizing that “No, my Hogwarts letter did not get lost in the mail,” and maybe I’ll add in my views on the public education system. Yes, this unwritten masterpiece ought to send them running.



Stephanie London / The Spectator

By KIRAN SURY

Now, considering the title, I know this may seem like a desperate bid for attention, but I really have an important point to get across. I wouldn’t want to write an article about nothing that would waste your precious time, and I am definitely the humblest person alive, so there’s no chance of personal satisfaction just from seeing my picture in the paper.

I’m writing this article because my birthday is on April 1st (it really is, I swear). For those of you not in the know, April 1st is April Fools’ Day, one of those holidays that everyone knows about but no one takes seriously. This lack of consideration is a travesty that needs to be addressed.

I’m not saying this just because April Fools’ happens to be my birthday, but because I really feel we could use a holiday to relax. In between spring,

Happy Birthday to Me

winter, mid-winter and summer recesses, it seems like we never get any time off.

As such, I believe April Fools’

In between random holidays, spring, winter, mid-winter and summer recess, it seems like we never get any school off.

Day should be made an official holiday. We can take the day off and play practical jokes on our friends. We can use the time to reexamine our lives, look at things in a new perspective, and see that things aren’t so bad after all. Or, you know, we can just throw a certain special someone a party.

To start off this movement, I need what every great movement needs: a Facebook group.

If enough students join, I’m sure we can change official government policy (and maybe if enough people join, even make it into the Guinness Book of World Records!) After that, like all activist clubs, I’ll need a mascot and an acronym. It doesn’t even need to make sense or need to be grammatically correct. I think I’ll go with a mongoose. Mongooses (is it mongeese?) are totally diesel because they fight cobras and win. They are sure to exemplify the ideals that my organization will stand for. As for an acronym, how about Students Motivated And Striving Hard for Everyone’s Delight? It expresses how we want to make April Fools’ a day for everyone to enjoy and shows that we are truly awesome. I don’t see how anyone could have a problem with that.

Anyway, if we organize, I’m sure we can succeed. I’m doing this for the benefit of America. It’s not like I just want the day off so I can throw myself an awesome birthday party because April 1st is my birthday. Far from it: I only have everyone else’s best interests in mind. Would I lie to you? I’m also not expecting tons of presents from everyone, even people I don’t know, just because you all now know it’s my birthday. I’m not that kind of person.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RE: To Pledge or Not to Pledge

I would like to comment in response to the Features article in issue 12 of The Spectator. While I don’t believe anybody should be obligated to say the pledge, it is certainly the right thing to do. Recently, somebody commented to me that he/she doesn’t say the pledge because the flag is “just a piece of cloth,” but it’s not. It represents America, which is not only a coun-

try but an idea, whose support should not be withheld because “God” is in the country’s pledge or because of a specific U.S. policy. America, with all her faults, is still the greatest country to grace the Earth in terms of the standard of living and the opportunity she provides her people and the high ideals she holds for herself and disseminates around the globe. Stuyve-

sant, as a school comprised of mostly immigrants and first-generation Americans, should know this better than most. The Pledge of Allegiance accurately depicts this country for what it is and will hopefully always remain, “one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.”

—Daniel Solomon ‘12

RE: Junior SING! Leaves Few ‘Marvel’-ing

Does anyone know what the word “critic” means?

When someone is writing a review of a piece of work, it is his or her job to give his or her opinion. Their opinion can differ from someone else’s. By pointing out the negative comments that this reviewer felt, she was, in fact, doing her job. If anyone has an interest in pursuing theater, he or she needs to be ready for such harsh judgment. This reviewer is not saying that the people involved are terrible people or failures but is simply saying that their work in this particular instance was lackluster. If this is her opinion and she has been chosen to write this review, it is her job to write what she thinks.

In many ways, I find this review heartening. If every reviewer simply sugarcoats everything and gives everyone a positive review (either for fear of backlash or because his or her friends were involved), then there would be no point to writing them. For those who receive a positive review in any theatrical endeavor, that review should be

seen as an accomplishment—recognition for the performance and the work they’ve put into it. It should not simply be a given that one gets a positive review, especially if there were inherent problems.

I am a Stuyvesant alumnus and currently a freshman in college. I could not see SING! this year (I was still in classes) and therefore cannot judge whether I agree or disagree with the criticisms or compliments brought up in this review. But, from what I’ve heard, the reaction to this article is completely uncalled for. If you disagree, then move on. Don’t listen to this one person’s opinion. There is no need to be hostile towards someone doing her job and being a critic. Had she thoroughly enjoyed the performance, it would have been her job to write that. But if the article represents the reaction that Junior SING! elicited from her, then it is a very good review.

—Miles Purinton ‘08

RE: Junior SING! Leaves Few ‘Marvel’-ing

That article hurt. Fairness and objective journalism aside, the people mentioned were fellow students and friends to many. It is not right to call them, or their work, failures. Also, the article leaned too far in the negative direction. Not enough compliments or positive comments were added. A SING! article is generally not the place to show off skills as a harsh critic. It only makes people angry.

—Hayward Leach ‘10

Interestingly enough, although I am a junior and should theoretically be preparing myself for the college process, I have no idea what I am going to write about in my college essay.

able life lessons I learned.

First lesson? You need to work on your depth perception, Valeriya. Lesson two? Wear a helmet. The list goes on.

Even with all that good stuff, I still have no idea what I am going to write about in my college essay. Luckily, I am not alone. Nearly every person I’ve spoken to has been clueless as to where to start. We only have a couple of months to go out there and do something.

For the most part, we’re pret-

Cartoons

TO

THE MET

DD

By Aiden Bonner

WELCOME TO THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART. HOW MAY--

WE WILL PAY ONE DOLLAR.

UM... YES, THANK YOU, ENJOY YOUR VISIT.

YOU KNOW IT'S A SUGGESTED DONATION, RIGHT?

THIS MY ONE CHANCE TO USE JEDI MIND TRICKS SUCCESSFULLY. DON'T SPOIL IT!

"Delinquents at Stuy"

Monika Tuchowska

THEY CUT CLASS...


PHYSICS TEST, PHYSICS TEST....

... TO STUDY.

THEY STEAL...

...FROM THE LIBRARY.

SWEET, I JACKED A PRECAL BOOK THIS TIME!

 **METAGIRL**

BY TIM KIM

IN... "i'm special..."

WHY DOES NO ONE UNDERSTAND ME?

I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND YOU. YOU'RE A SELF-CENTERED, WEIRD, WORLD-HATING, EMO, STUY TEXTBOOK HUGGER.

BUT I HAVE OTHER QUALITIES TOO THAT MAKE ME STAND OUT!

LIKE WHAT?

WELL....I LIKE TO READ MANGA.

CASE IN POINT.

IS THAT SO?

ERICA CHAN

WHAT DID YOU GET?

A "N."

HAHAHAHA DUDE, SERIOUSLY?! THAT'S LIKE THE EASIEST CLASS EVER...

THEN DO YOU USUALLY GET "H'S" IN EASY CLASSES?

Arts & Entertainment

The Forgotten Film Reel:
Wristcutters: A Love Story



By SARA HASSAN

When a movie begins with a depressing montage of a man tidying up his trashed room before cutting his wrists on the bathroom floor, it's incredibly difficult to call it a comedy. And yet, watching *Zia* (Patrick Fugit) have to deal with the daily trivialities of fighting with an obnoxious roommate in a disturbing world—there are no stars in the night sky, and all buildings and cars are in ruins—is humorous in its own dark way.

Distraught over a tough breakup with beautiful Desiree (Leslie Bibb), Zia lands himself in a parallel world, a sort of limbo for those who have committed suicide where “everything’s the same... just a little worse.” There is less color and all the people wandering about the washed-out cities find it physically impossible to smile. Everything in the movie—furniture, groceries, clothes—is worn out and nearly broken, as though it, too, had to die to appear in the parallel world.

As Zia becomes friends with

the audience gets its first glimpse of the movie’s motif: tragedy joining comedy in a unique combination. We find out that Eugene’s entire family has committed suicide just months apart, and the next scene depicts a boisterous family dinner, the four of them happily united in death as they could not have been in life. Zia certainly takes this notion to heart, and soon sets out in search of Desiree, whom he finds out has joined their strange world.

The road trip that follows is strangely whimsical; Zia and Eugene grow closer as Eugene plays some of his old demo tapes, and they pick up hitchhiker Mikal (Shannyn Sossamon), who insists that her death was an accident and is looking for the ‘people in charge.’ The strange characters they meet on the way—a self-proclaimed savant mechanic and a throat-singing mute—add color to the film as the story’s lost souls. The desert landscape the highway runs through almost assures the audience that Zia and Mikal will never find what they are looking for, and Eugene’s music, by Gogol Bordello, speaks of being trapped in life with “nowhere to go but underground.” Eerie additions to the soundtrack by Bobby Johnston and Mikal Lazarev are short, instrumental pieces that enhance the viewer’s sense that underneath all of the insightful and sometimes funny dialogue, there is the disconcerting presence of death and the reason why people choose it as an alternative.

The latter part of the film’s exploration of suicide takes Zia, Eugene and Mikal down a strange road indeed—they meet at a camp where small miracles like levitation happen every day, stars are made by floating matches, and a rival camp of cultists who are willing to commit suicide again to find out the consequences. By the time the undercover People In Charge show up to hand down their

verdict in Mikal’s case, the three friends have become hopelessly entangled and must choose whether they will return to life or remain in limbo, having found their respective niches.

The astute acting by Fugit, Whigham and Sossamon allows the internal struggles that follow this plot twist to engage the audience that has been, though entertained, held at arm’s length throughout the film. When the three friends separate, and the

Underneath
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death.

film refocuses its attention on Zia, who is trying to make sense of his journey in a deadpan voiceover, the original somber flavor seeps back into the film, unaided by a lilting instrumental composition. It is a true testament to the skill of director Goran Dukic that he is able to turn this moment of deep reflection into a second chance at living life, without alienating an audience that has already been asked to accept many fantastical elements.

Wristcutters: A Love Story
Directed by Goran Dukic
Autonomous Films
91 minutes
2006

Eugene (Shea Whigham), a Russian rocker with words of questionable wisdom about women,

A Guide to Cheap Eats

By LAUREN DE VITO
and DIANA HOU

From the stockholders on Wall Street to the average Stuyvesant student, everyone’s feeling the recession’s pinch. Unfortunately, we’re in Tribeca. If you’ve been reduced to sniffing the decadent odors of Starbucks’ coffee or have found yourself in debt to the Whole Foods salad bar, here is a whirligig tour of our neighborhood’s most enticing affordable deals.

***Small Coffee at Bazzini’s,
German Coffeecake Flavor
(\$1.35)***

Bazzini’s coffees all taste similar, which is a bit disappointing once you’ve tried one and are looking forward to sampling the other varieties. Nonetheless, Bazzini’s offers one of the tastiest brews in Tribeca and it’s priced cheaply, compared to other nearby coffeehouses’ offerings.

***Medium Coffee at the Bagel
Stand (\$1.00)***

Although they aren’t exactly ‘gourmet,’ coffee and other snacks at the bagel stand, located outside Café Amore’s, are made for the penny-pincher. The \$1.00 price for coffee is virtually unbeatable. “I come here every morning,” sophomore Sharon Cruz said. “You always hear stories about how coffee used to be 50 cents. It’s obviously not like that anymore, but this is the closest thing we have.”

***365 Soda at Whole Foods
(\$0.50)***

One of the better deals hidden beneath the alarming prices we expect from Whole Foods, the 365 Soda is concocted by the Whole Foods 365 Everyday Value brand. 365 Soda is offered in a number of flavors including Black Cherry and Key Lime. The soda’s flavor isn’t particularly distinctive, but anything priced below a dollar at Whole Foods is hard to resist.

***BLT at Morgan’s Market
(\$3.50)***

Morgan’s offers your basic bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich for the superbly low price of

\$3.50. A BLT from Terry’s goes for \$4.60, making Morgan’s all the more attractive. Morgan’s BLT makes for a small but relatively healthy lunch.

***Focaccia at Whole Foods
(\$3.29)***

Focaccia is a kind of circular bread decorated with toppings such as goat cheese, spinach and cooked tomato. The traditional Italian bread resembles pizza, but is served as a whole pie rather than by slice. Whole Foods offers a number of delicious focaccia varieties, all with natural ingredients and no preservatives. The fixed price of the focaccia is also a great way of avoiding the pricey salad bar.

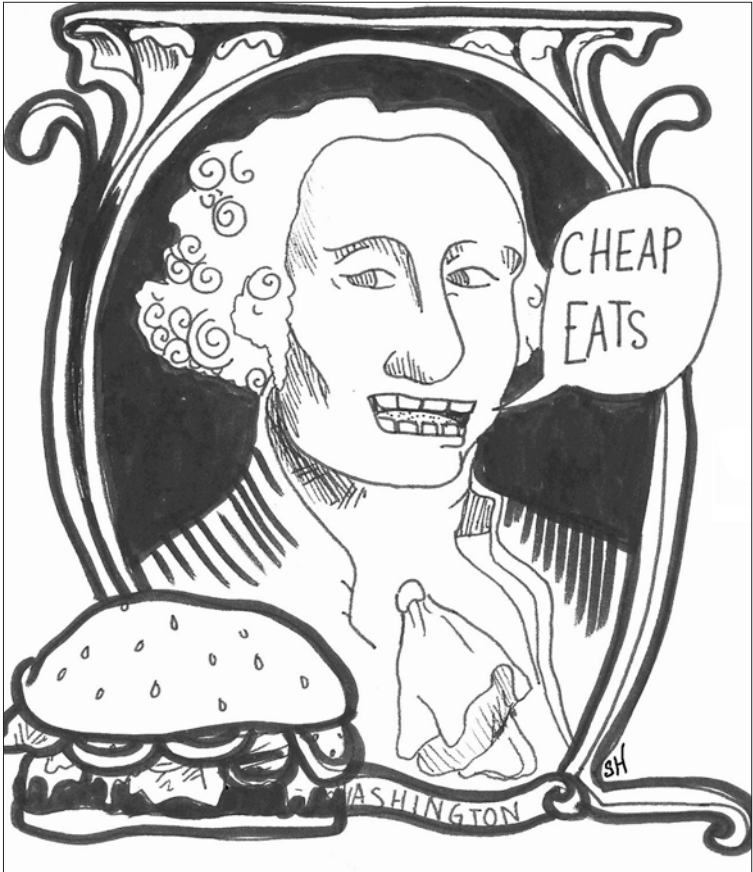
***Student Special at
Portobello’s (\$5.00)***

Portobello’s student special includes two cheese slices and a soda, making it one of the best pizza deals in the neighborhood. “I always use the student special,” sophomore Thomas Flagiello said. “You just have to flash your I.D. card and that’s it. Plus, the owners at Porto’s are really nice.” You can also taste some of Portobello’s more exciting pizza varieties, like one pie topped with calamari. However, slices with toppings are not included in the special.

***Daily Grilled Herb Crusted
Chicken Breast Lunch Salad
at Capri Cafe (\$2.00)***

This salad is one of four affordable and satiating lunch salads available at Capri Café, located on Church Street. Capri Café also offers European Mixed Greens (\$2.99), Homemade Fresh Mozzarella (\$2.00) and Marinated and Grilled Portobello Mushroom (\$1.50) salads. If you’re willing to take a little more liberty with your wallet, check out Capri Café’s Veal Ravioli (\$9.95). The ravioli is “simple, but made so perfectly that it is a work of art,” said Desiree, a customer who declined to give her last name.

Food is meant to be enjoyed by the eater, and it’s hard to enjoy a meal without a good deal. These hidden offerings keep our wallets and our stomachs full.



Arts & Entertainment

A Beacon for the Arts



The Beacon Theatre, which open in 1929 as a forum for theater and music, will act as the graduation venue of the class of 2009.

By ZOË LEVIN
and JASMINE WONG

With original bronze ticket booths that scream 1920s, one particularly antique and glamorous building stands out amongst the drab grey buildings that line Broadway in the West 70s—the

Beacon Theatre.

The Beacon opened in 1929 as a forum for vaudeville, film, theater and music, and was the creation of film entrepreneur Roxy Rothafel and architect Walter Ahlschlager. Since 1929, the Beacon has been a home to many different art forms. Towards the

beginning of the 1970s, it served primarily as a movie theater. By the late 70s and early 80s, it was showing operas like “Madame Butterfly,” and music concerts. Over the years the Beacon has hosted Bob Marley, Queen, James Taylor, Radiohead, Leonard Cohen and the Allman Brothers Band, which plays a series at the theater every spring.

“It was both an amazing concert and an amazing atmosphere,” said sophomore Sam Unger, who attended one of the Allman Brothers Band’s concerts at the Beacon.

The Beacon offers an impressive outer lobby lit by extravagant chandeliers. The inner lobby sports a Classical flair—the area is decorated with alabaster marble floors and golden lion statues. However, the main house of the Beacon is the most impressive section of the theater.

Recently renovated at the cost of 16 million dollars, the house contains an array of murals, statues and lights in the Roman, Renaissance, Rococo and Greek

styles. The ceiling, painted in red, orange and yellow, displays a geometric design that merges with the murals on the sides. The wall murals display caravans of people with elephants and camels. Two golden statues of soldiers, which appear to be gazing into the audience, flank the stage. “I’ve been going to the Beacon since the 70s when I was in high school,” Beacon Theatre frequenter Becca Spitz said. “The thing I like best about it is the architecture.”

The theater has also hosted some “non-arts” events in the past. The Dalai Lama, spiritual and political leader of Tibet, taught a number of classes about meditation and classic Buddhist texts at the Beacon in September 2003. The Dalai Lama will also be returning to the Beacon this spring and will be speaking on Monday, May 4th. The Beacon Theatre has hosted former President Bill Clinton, who celebrated his 60th birthday at the Beacon with a private Rolling Stones concert. This June, the Beacon can

add a Stuyvesant High School graduation to its long list of performances and ceremonies. As a result of ongoing renovations at Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall, Stuyvesant’s usual graduation venue, the class of 2009 will be graduating at the Beacon.

Despite the Beacon’s rich artistic history and setting, some seniors are still displeased with the switch in graduation venues from Avery Fisher Hall to the Beacon. While the Beacon seats more people than Avery Fisher Hall—2800 seats as opposed to 2738—the Beacon also has a smaller stage, which may cause problems for the orchestra. “I am not happy because [the] Beacon Theater is much smaller than Lincoln Center,” senior Tiffany Wan said. Even if some seniors are displeased, for some it’ll surely be a thrill to graduate on a stage Bob Marley once ‘jammed’ on.

*The Beacon Theatre
2124 Broadway, Manhattan
212-496-7070*

Teachers’ Flick Picks

By SERENA BERRY

Telling your teacher you did not do the homework because you were at a movie may not be the best excuse. But they too like to take time off and relax by watching a movie they love. Their favorites can range from an inspiring, original Oscar film to over the top goofball comedy movies.

For English teacher Jennifer Choi, movies have made a significant impact on her life, especially a few she saw as a child. One of her fondest memories is when her older cousins took her to see the tearjerker Ghost, but told her it was a horror film. She was on the edge of her seat the whole time, worrying that some crazed killer would pop out between Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore. The heartwarming flick actually became one of her favorites and she even danced to “Unchained Melody,” from the movie’s soundtrack, at her wedding.

Recently Choi has enjoyed current award winners, like The Wrestler which she called “haunting and disturbing.” She believed Mickey Rourke deserved the Oscar for Best Male Lead. She also enjoyed multiple Academy Award winner Slumdog Millionaire for the bright colors and catchy soundtrack.

Computer science teacher Jon Alf Dyrland-Weaver grew up loving a wide variety of cinema because his parents were movie buffs. “I like action movies, but I also like good movies, like The Godfather.” Dyrland Weaver said. As a computer science teacher he also has a flair for the science fiction movies, such as Independence Day, which he saw four times in the theater. He saw it once on the first day it came out with his friends, once on a boy scout trip, once with his cousins and once with his friend who could not come with him to see it the first time. “By the fourth time I was quoting the whole thing,” he said.

Dyrland Weaver’s fellow Computer Science teacher Mike Zamansky, enjoys all types of movies and struggles to identify his favorite. Zamansky said, “I can’t pick a favorite movie, because they all bring something different to the table.” Even so, he prefers classic films like Casablanca, Inherit the Wind, and Singing in the Rain. Zamansky particularly loves Robert De Niro and Humphrey Bogart films, even going as far as to invoke “Bogey” as the legend-

ary actor’s nickname.

Despite his love of the classics, Zamansky also branches out into other, less prestigious types of movies. “Seeing a bad movie can be fun if you see it with a lot of friends,” he said. Ten years ago, his students convinced him to see Star Wars:Episode 1-Phantom Menace as an unofficial class trip. He did not like the movie, but enjoyed the experience with his students.

On the other hand, chemistry teacher Dr. Jeffrey Kivi grew up loving the original Star Wars, drawn in by the special effects. Now he likes the gothic animated films of Tim Burton, especially The Nightmare Before Christmas and Corpse Bride. “I love the visual style, the feel and the atmosphere of [Burton’s] movies,” Dr. Kivi said. Even though his favorites have changed, he clearly enjoys movies that are visual impacting and take him to an unusual place, whether it be “a galaxy far far away” or “Halloween Town.”

Growing up in Italy, Italian teacher Vito Recchia enjoyed “western spaghettis” or Western movies filmed in Italy. He prefers older films, particularly those starring the glamorous movie star from the ‘30s, Greta Garbo. Even today with so many choices at Blockbuster, Recchia still prefers his Italian classics. “They are about family, relationships, feelings, which I like,” he said.

English teacher and pop culture enthusiast Kim Manning (formerly Rober) likes curling up on the couch with a good comedy. “My favorite director is Woody Allen because he has such a narcotic outlook on life,” Manning said. Her favorite film is the twisted comedy Harold and Maude because it is utterly ridiculous but still amusing. Interestingly enough, when Manning isn’t laughing during a movie, she likes to cry. “A great movie, just like a great novel, has the power to move people in profound ways. My idea of a good movie is one that leaves me in tears,” Manning said.

Between grading papers and teaching kids, teachers like to take a break from their hectic job with a beloved movie of their choice. Whether it be a movie from their childhood that brings back old memories, a hilarious comedy, or a dramatic award winner, they enjoy having their hour and a half of entertainment, comfort and relaxation.

Gavin Gallagher: Skater, Rocker, Anarchist

By RITA KIRZHNER

Two or three times a week, junior Gavin Gallagher goes to Long Island City to practice with his band, Consumer Feedback.

“Nobody should
have to pay
twenty dollars
to see my show.
I’m just like
everybody else.”
—Gavin
Gallagher,
junior

There he rehearses with junior Gintas Norvila, who attends the New York City Lab School, junior Eliot Thompson, who attends Hunter College High School, and Stuyvesant senior Jack McDermott.

Gallagher began playing guitar in sixth grade, originally practicing with his neighborhood friends for personal enjoyment and recreation. The friends started Consumer Feedback in eighth grade without any expectations for future success. They played for fun, learning songs of bands they liked. The idea of performing in front of large audiences and getting paid never seemed likely, and was not their intention.

Shortly after its initiation, Consumer Feedback played one of its songs in a club and got booked for a show. After its first gig, it began booking more shows, and the band started to write enough songs to fill an entire show. Its music was influenced by many diverse genres, ranging from punk rock, folk, ska, country, gypsy and even

reggae. Gallagher said that the band was inspired by groups like The Clash, Fugazi, The Specials, and an Irish punk group. While Consumer Feedback combines elements of all of these types of music, it adds its own twist to each song.

Consumer Feedback has also recorded an album at a studio called Excello in Williamsburg, where Norvila interns. It performs regularly wherever it can, from clubs such as the recently-closed Knitting Factory, to art galleries and even basements. The tickets to see the shows are usually inexpensive because the band members want to be reasonable. “Nobody should have to pay twenty dollars to see my show. I’m just like everybody else,” Gallagher said.

Consumer Feedback has performed with other bands as well, such as OuterNational, The Sediment Club, Radiates, Starscream, Fiasco, and Runtime Error. Gallagher says that he never wants to quit or give up. “There have been arguments and we’ve fought and thought of quitting out of frustration, but it’s something we want to continue doing for the rest of our lives. We’re so close, and we just function together as a band,” Gallagher said. “It’s not about showing off how good you are at playing the instruments. It’s about the song, and the lyrics, and how you feel. It’s about accepting each other.”

Consumer Feedback is a self-managing group. Gallagher takes care of things like booking and promotions, and all the members devote a lot of time to the band. This commitment makes it hard to manage schoolwork as well, but Gallagher does not let that get in the way of his passion. Gallagher said that the excitement and freedom of expression at each show is a unique and greatly valued experience. Its somewhat carefree atmosphere reflects other traits of Gallagher’s personality, such as his interests in political activism, specifically eco-activism and anarchism. Aside from his devotion to the band, Gallagher takes part in protests and demonstrations to fight capitalism,



Gavin began playing guitar in the sixth grade, and has been improving ever since.

exploitation, homophobia, racism and patriarchy, among other things.

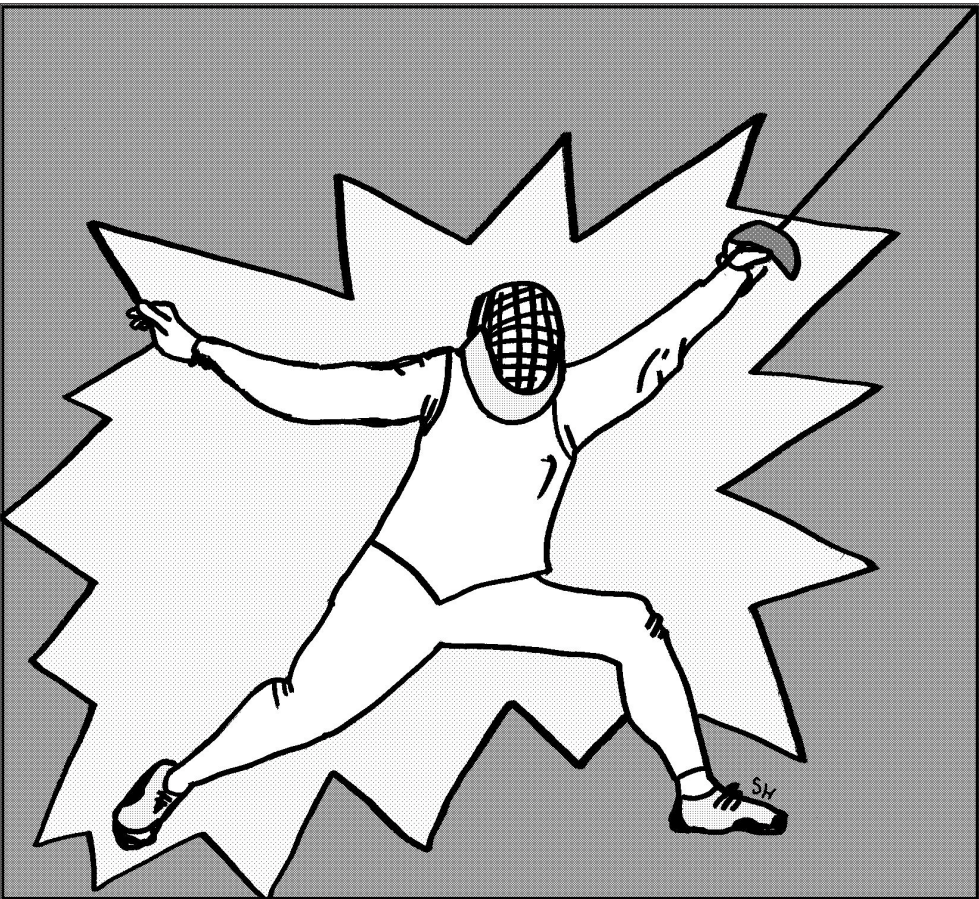
“I am an anarchist. I am against any and all forms of authority,” Gallagher said. “I don’t believe anyone should limit the freedom of another person.” Gallagher feels that everyone has the right to better their lives and themselves, as long as it is not at the expense of others. Gallagher resists all authority, exploitation and oppression, and alters his daily routine in accordance with his views. He prefers alternate methods of transportation such as biking and skateboarding. Gallagher hates cars, police, and being a white middle class American. He says he looks at things differently because of the circumstances he has lived in—namely intolerance, capitalism, and the actions of those around him. As a result of his experiences he has formed opinions that make him seek direct action in order to better the world. He is also currently getting involved with Really Really Free Market, a group that creates a community with a temporary non-capitalist alternative economy based on gifts.

Gallagher truly embodies a very unique characteristic of life at Stuyvesant, where that kid sitting next to you in math could be a world class chess player or a published novelist or even an anarchist rock musician.

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

Girls’ Fencing

Girls’ Fencing Team Begins Season to Defend Division Title



By HARRYSH INDRANATHAN

With two quick steps forward, a lunge and a jab, junior Nzingha Prescod and Stuyvesant’s girls’ varsity fencing team, the Untouchables, begin their season hoping to defend their title as division champions for the fourth year in a row. The team went undefeated last year with an 8-0 record.

The 2009 season began with a home game against Bronx Science on Wednesday, March 25. Stuyvesant won this much anticipated match by a score of 7.75-1.25. Of course anticipation is not to be confused with fear. The girls’ fencing team is among the most successful teams in Stuyvesant. Over the past three years they have a record of 23-1 with the lone loss to Hunter College High School on April 10, 2006.

The second game of the season took place on Friday, March 27 against Beacon High School. The Untouchables showed a significant difference in strategy with the same result, an 8.5-0.5 victory. The Beacon fencers tended to be more passive and defensive. They waited for the attack while the Untouchables were often on the offensive, swooping and swinging.

Prescod started the match quickly, flawlessly defeating her opponent who could not react fast enough to catch up with Prescod’s advances. Senior Ye Yun Xu, who lagged in footwork at first, ended her match with four quick jabs.

The victory marked the 50th win in a row for the Stuyvesant boys’ and girls’ fencing

teams. “We are doing really well,” Prescod said. “We have a pretty good chance at winning every time.”

So far the Untouchables remain untouched. However there are still tougher matches to come. According to coach and digital photography teacher Joel Winston, Brooklyn Technical High School should be challenging this year with their gained experience. However, the team still views Hunter College High School as the most worthy rival even with some of Hunter’s star fencers gone. “Our biggest challenge is against Hunter,” Winston said. “We’ll have to work hard.”

The team has indeed been working hard to train for the season and improve their skills. “There is always room to be better,” senior and captain Ke Jiang said. They practice every day in the sixth floor dance studio for two to three hours. The team knows the drills so well that most of the players can lead practice sessions without a coach.

The recent success can be attributed to their persistent training and, with five seniors on the roster, lots of experience. The 19 member team also provides depth at each match. “We are a large team,” Jiang said. “However, the girls are really united.”

The Untouchables have returned with the same form and precision with which they ended last season. They also hope to enjoy an ending similar to that of last season. “We believe we are an elite team here and that this is the most exciting sport in Stuyvesant,” Winston said.

Girls’ Softball

On the Brink of a New Season, Chipmunks Look Towards Playoffs and Future

By JORDAN FRANK

As spring finally arrives, Stuyvesant’s girls’ varsity softball team, the Chipmunks, has begun working towards a successful season. Coming off a disappointing 6-10 record last year, physical education teacher and coach Vincent Miller hopes to make big strides in his second year with the team, despite losing three seniors and one junior. “I think our chances are very good this season,” Miller said. “We have seven new players this year and they all are going to contribute in some way.”

The Chipmunks understand that the loss of some upperclassmen could be detrimental, but they feel the underclassmen joining the team will be able to fill in the gaps. “It was tough losing three seniors, because we lost our catcher, and our first baseman, and our centerfielder,” junior, co-captain and first baseman Kelly Quinn said. However, with the addition of some new freshman and sophomores, “we got more net gain than we lost,” junior, co-captain and pitcher Alex Albright said.

Last year was Miller’s first season coaching the Chipmunks, and he helped to improve their record from 4-12 in 2007 to 6-10 in 2008. It took time for the team to adjust to its new coach, but the players are now thrilled to be working with him. Although last year Miller worked hard to institute new practice schedules, the Chipmunks have done little to change their on-field preparation this season.

Senior and third baseman Whitney Ko felt it wasn’t the training that caused most of the problems last year. “Last year we should’ve won a lot more games but we

had defensive collapses,” Ko said.

The team looks to improve on last season with the help of the three experienced junior co-captains. “We are doing classroom sessions, and we did situations and softball IQ,” Albright said.

“The captains are doing an amazing job. They are fun, but we are a lot more productive during practice,” sophomore and catcher Audrey Fleischner said.

Despite a shift in leadership, and a relatively young team, the Chipmunks look to be a contender for a top seed in the playoffs. Although the goal is always to go 18-0, Miller projects the team to have double digit wins for the first time since 2006, when the team went 11-4, and made the playoffs.

The Chipmunks have started off the season exactly as Miller expected them to play. Their resounding 10-0 victory over HS of Art and Design on Monday, March 23 was led by Albright’s one hitter in six shutout innings. The offense was led by junior, co-captain and shortstop Marlee Melendy who had three hits and two RBI’s.

Although going far in the playoffs is the goal for this season, Miller knows that the team will have to work hard to get there. “Last year was a learning process, and this year will be about building around last year,” Miller said.

Miller and the Chipmunks look to continue their improvement this year by making a long run in the playoffs. If the three captains, seven new players, and knowledgeable coach can push the team to victory, the Chipmunks could potentially be one of the best teams in the Manhattan A division.



Spring Awakening

By CHARLIE GINGOLD

Over the past couple of months, I’ve been paying a lot more attention to the game of basketball. I’ve been watching basketball on every level--both the Junior Varsity and Varsity Runnin’ Rebels, the NCAA Tournament and the NBA. When I was on the court for the basketball unit in my physical education class, I grew to like the sport even more. I even picked up my copy of NBA Live 2007 and have been playing more than ever.

The winter season has had a huge impact on my view of sports this year. I, along with many other Stuyvesant sports fans, have gotten caught up in the excitement of basketball

as Woo-peg-sooie’s popularity soared, filling the bleachers with roaring fans and holding the first ever pep rally. However, now that the spring has begun, it’s time to move on from cheering for winter sports.

Spring is Stuyvesant’s biggest sports season of the year, with 16 teams competing compared to nine in the winter. This season gives the fans more teams to root for. The spring season is a very exiting time of the year because with many teams traveling all over the city, Stuyvesant is represented in all five boroughs like never before.

Even if you are not usually a sports fan, you can see the excitement build in the school. Whether you see the baseball

team waiting on the bridge to leave for practice or a bunch of lacrosse sticks locked up on the outside of a locker, you can easily feel the hype that the spring season is bringing. The strong school spirit that evolved in the winter can easily continue in the spring.

Varsity basketball fans can easily transition into varsity baseball fans. Why? Senior Nolan Becker. If you loved watching “Franchise,” as Becker is commonly nicknamed, put up crazy numbers for the Rebels, you’d probably enjoy a good trip to a baseball game down at Pier 40 to see Becker pitch or play first base for the Hitmen as they try to make the playoffs for the 13th straight year.

Girls’ gymnastics leads right into boys’ volleyball. The connection? Coach Vasken Choubaralian. Choubaralian looks to lead the Beasts to another winning season after the Felines won fourth place in the team championships back in February. Plus, becoming a fan of the volleyball team isn’t very hard. Their home games are conveniently located in the Stuyvesant gym.

Indoor track fans, obviously, can easily become outdoor track fans. However, the track team is still the track team and, unfortunately, the meets are still hard to get to. But to casually be a fan of Stuyvesant track isn’t a bad thing. Considering that the boys are the best in the borough almost every season, you can’t go

wrong by supporting the team.

If you still can’t decide on a team to follow this spring, hold your own tryout. Go look in at a practice one day, either in one of the gyms or down at Pier 40, and choose the sport that you find most appealing. And try to go to a game because every team can use more fans no matter if the bleachers are already packed.

The spring features some of the most successful teams at Stuyvesant and some of the most diverse sports, from cricket to fencing to golf. As you find your way transitioning out of your winter spent cooped up in the 3rd floor gym sporting event, you should be aware that the best is still to come.

April Fools'

Tupac Spotted Exiting Hudson Stairs



"Stuy knows how to party," Shakur said. "We keep it rockin in the Hudson Stair."

By ALAN SAGE

Hip-hop legend Tupac Shakur, pronounced dead on September 13, 1996, was found exiting the Hudson Staircase on Thursday, March 12, at around 5:00 p.m. After exiting on the second floor, Shakur was violently embraced by a mob of primarily Asian male sophomores who had just left a meeting of the Breakdancing Club.

While all of the eager fans were suspended and removed from SING!, Shakur didn't seem angry with them. "I ain't mad at cha," Shakur said. "Got nothing but love for ya."

"I [used to] wonder if Heaven got a ghetto," Shakur said. Upon dying, Shakur's suspicions were confirmed. While Shakur declined to comment further on heaven's socioeconomic situation, fellow dead hip-hop star Ol' Dirty Bastard of the Wu-Tang Clan stated that "the other side of the gates" is in pretty miserable condition.

"Cash rules everything around me," Bastard said. Shakur protested the suspension of his sophomore fans. "I was a fool with the big boys breaking all the rules," said Shakur, referring to his own high-school experience. According to an anonymous member of the Breakdancing Club, Shakur was still in high spirits after he was attacked. "For some reason, he

**"Cash rules everything around me."
—Ol' Dirty Bastard, dead rapper**

was humming Marvin Gaye," the anonymous break-dancer said.

As to why Shakur chose to return to the world via the Hudson Stairs, "I wanna be an honest man, but temptations go," Shakur said. Shakur chose Stuyvesant in particular due to his interest in civil rights reform. "He heard that Stuy has the highest concentration of minorities in the city and thought it would be a suitable location for his return," Shakur's attorney Christopher Wallace wrote in an e-mail interview.

Administration Hires Bouncers to Guard Bathroom Doors

continued from page 16

allowed to use the bathrooms last Tuesday. "They asked me to rate on a scale of one to 10 how badly I wanted to go," sophomore Kim Chen Li said. "Of course I said 10, but the guy looked at me funny and sent me back to math class. I swear I wasn't lying." "These policies are completely totalitarian," senior and Student Union (SU) president James Kim said. "The students will rise and rebel for sure." Five SU members walked out of class in protest during their lunch periods last Friday. The administration did not seem to notice. "The bouncers are here to stay," Teitel said. "I want students to understand that going to the bathroom is a privilege, not a right."

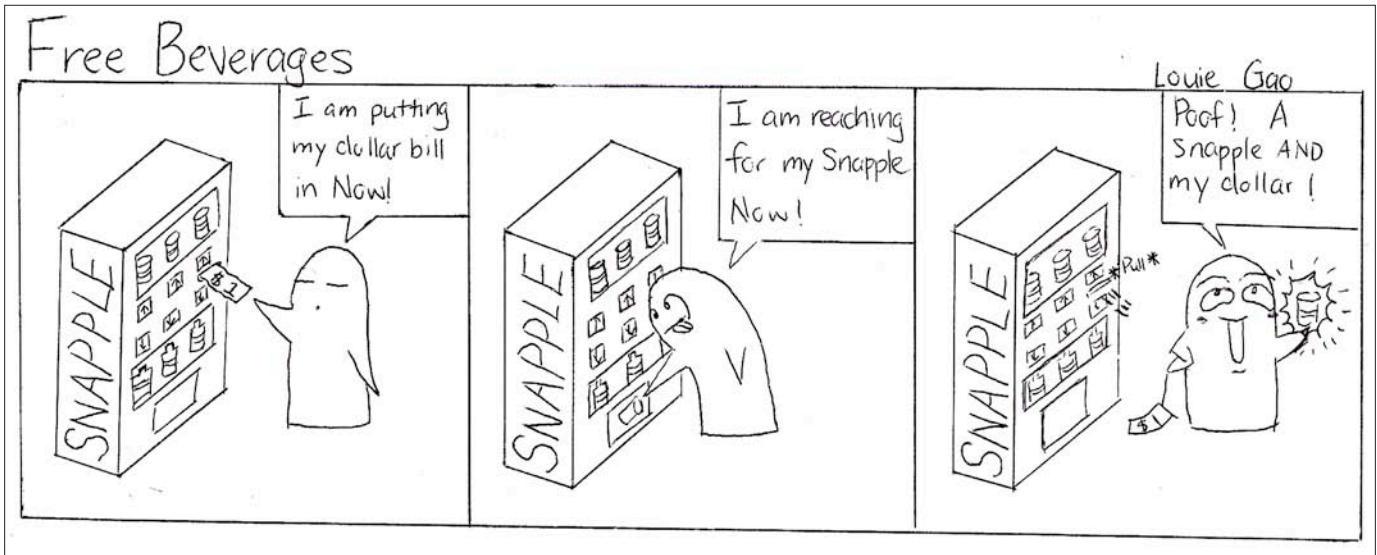
In Light of Double Dutch's Success, PSAL Makes Hula Hooping Official Sport

continued from page 16

He has also had to shift his workout regimen from bench presses to intense ab-exercises to accommodate the change in sport. "It's been a tough switch," Becker said. "But I understand the importance of strength and conditioning in hula hooping." The support for the new PSAL sport has grown since the introduction of double dutch. Competitive hula hooping already has a large fan base as it makes its long-overdue official entrance into the world of competitive sports.



Cartoons



In Light of Double Dutch’s Success, PSAL Makes Hula Hooping Official Sport

By EDDIE CYTRYN

The rhythmic tapping of the alternating ropes patting the ground returns this spring. This season, along with double dutch, hula hooping is making its official New York City Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) debut.

Since double dutch became a sport in the spring of 2008, it has gained great popularity among competitive athletes across New York City. Due to the overwhelming success of this schoolyard sport brought into the fan-packed gymnasiums of the city, the PSAL, headed by director Donald Douglas, voted on Tuesday, February 17, to make hula hooping an official sport.

This long-debated issue was finally brought before the board of directors of the PSAL this winter and after many heated discussions, it was decided to give the sport, that has made many children aged 4-18 happy for so many years, the recognition it deserved.

Regulation hula hoops are already in production. They are 2 feet and 11.5 inches in diameter and weigh 44.2 ounces. All hoops can be printed with the team’s logo on the rim as long as the colors and patterns abide by the PSAL uniform rules.

It has not taken long for schools to register their teams for the upcoming season. Stuyvesant already has boys’ and girls’ junior varsity and varsity teams for hula hooping. The boys’ teams, the Hoopsters, and the girls’ teams, the Hoopstresses, are competing in non-developmental leagues this year and have already gained a large following.

Athletes are left with the decision to pursue their current sport or try out for the new



Becker received a scholarship to the University of Hawaii for his hula prowess.

teams. For senior Nolan Becker, the choice is easy. “Hula hooping professionally has always been a dream of mine,” Becker said. “Now that Stuy offers the sport, I am definitely going to take the opportunity.”

Becker, captain of the varsity basketball team, led the Rebels with 93 points and 57 rebounds per game. He was also the captain of the varsity baseball team, the Hitmen. His 101 mile an hour fastball helped him to an 11-0 record and a 0.08 earned run average last season. Becker led the team with a .992 batting average as well.

Nevertheless, Becker has decided to forgo his senior season with the Hitmen to participate in the upcoming hula hooping season. He has also opted out of his commitment to play baseball for Yale next year in favor of taking his hoop, hula hoop that is, down to the University of Hawaii on a full scholarship.

continued on page 15

Tillman Caught Eating in Third Floor Corridor

By LUC COHEN

As she was heading to her locker in the back of the third floor corridor during fifth period on Wednesday, April 1, junior Alice Paul was surprised to find dean and social studies teacher Daniel Tillman sitting on the floor, enjoying a chicken pizza bagel from Terry’s.

As soon as she saw him, Paul grabbed the bagel out of his hands, marched over to the trash can, and threw it out.

“I was just so mad, because just two weeks earlier he had voided my lunch for doing exactly what he was doing,” Paul said. “I am now planning to go on hunger strike in protest of this hypocrisy until I’m allowed out to lunch again.”

Tillman said he regretted the incident. He said that immediately after being caught, he walked down to Assistant

Principal Organization Randi Damesek’s office and voluntarily voided his out-to-lunch privileges for the rest of the Spring term.

“One, two and five, one, two, and five, one, two and five, are the floors on which Stuyvesant students are allowed to congregate,” Tillman said, sighing and shaking his head. “And besides, the only place in the building you’re allowed to eat is the cafeteria, anyway. You know the old proverb, do as I say and not as I do. But I just wish that I had provided a better example to the Stuyvesant community.”

When asked if he was considering resigning his post as dean, Tillman laughed. “Don’t you worry about me,” he said. “I’ll be patrolling these hallways as long as the escalators are up and running.”

Woo-peg-sooie Fails to Elicit Response From Female Population

By SCOTT CHIUSANO

In light of the events that transpired during the Friday, January 23, 2009 basketball game against the Beacon High School Blue Demons, the Beacon fans and players have decided to retaliate. During that game, the members of Stuyvesant’s official booster club, Woo-peg-sooie, researched and uncovered the names of the girlfriends of the Beacon players, and proceeded to chant said names during the game while the players took free throws. Both the Blue Demon players and fans, infuriated by their loss in the game, as well as their loss of dignity, have been doing some research of their own. Inside sources report that a Beacon student was found disguised as a Stuyvesant student, trying to procure the names of the girlfriends of the chairs of the Woo-peg-sooie club. The infiltrator was promptly caught, however, as his disguise consisted of a checkered shirt tucked into khaki pants, and a pair of abnormally large glasses. Ms. Damesek confiscated his fake calculator as he was escorted from the building.

Yet the information was leaked, and word reached the



Courtesy of Facebook

Although Beacon attempted to exact revenge on Woopegsooie, the booster club once again proved too sly: they don’t have any girlfriends.

Beacon players that there were, indeed, no names for them to find, because none existed. Apparently, the Woo-peg-sooie members spent more time lathering each other’s half-naked bodies with colorful body paint than trying to get girls. “No matter how hard we tried, there wasn’t one girl in the school we could find who had any relation to those guys,” a Beacon student involved with the

plan but who declined to give his name said. With their plan foiled, the Beacon fans have decided to take a different approach when the baseball teams meet again. They apparently will be chanting the names of the mothers of the Woo-peg-sooie presidents, because, in the words of one of the Beacon students, “That’s obviously the only female contact they’ll ever get.”

Lady Peglegs Capture City Title

By VIVIAN SZE

The Stuyvesant girls’ football team, the Lady Peglegs, captured Stuyvesant’s first Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) football city championship on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, with a 34-18 win over Port Richmond.

The Lady Peglegs began the game with a rough start, but quickly made a staggering comeback. They were down 13-4 at the end of the second quarter, but recovered tremendously by the fourth quarter. Junior and captain Cassandra Lee performed extraordinarily well, finishing with 123 yards on 20 carries and four touchdowns.

The Lady Peglegs have grown surprisingly well even though it is their very first season as an all-girls football team. “It was unexpected, but a pleasant surprise.

I’m really proud of all the girls on the team for stepping up and really getting into the game,” Lee said.

One of the team’s greater challenges is being the sole female football team throughout the entire Athletic League. Last May, the PSAL officially announced Stuyvesant High School’s 33rd varsity team, the all-female football team, to replace the former boys’ varsity football team, the Peglegs. Even so, the sudden pressure from being the only all-female football team didn’t stop the team from succeeding.

Lee had been a member of the former Stuyvesant boys’ varsity football team, the Peglegs. She was sure that if she could overcome playing with boys, any girl could tackle the fear of being an all-girls team.

“Sure it was intimidating at

first,” sophomore and offensive linewoman Caroline Lakewell said. “But we’re all human, guys and girls alike.”

With only one outgoing senior, the team will suffer no significant losses. The Lady Peglegs look forward to repeating their perfect season. “Taking the city championships is never an easy task,” Lee said. “We did it this year, and we’re going to do it again next year.”

Because many of the girls from the cheerleading squad filled the roster of the Lady Peglegs, there weren’t enough girls left to maintain the squad. The boys of the former football team stepped in to become part of the new cheerleading squad. With the help of their cheers and encouragement, the Lady Peglegs were able to take home the city title.

Administration Hires Bouncers to Guard Bathroom Doors

By GAVIN HUANG

Last week, students who desperately needed to take a leak were stopped by tall, muscular men in sunglasses and black suits. These new bathroom guards, stationed in front of every bathroom in the school, were personally hired by Principal Stanley Teitel to decrease the number of students who cut class by going to the bathroom.

“I’ll take whatever action I think is appropriate to stem the tide of this,” Teitel said. “Every time a student needs to go to the bathroom, he or she shows a blatant disregard for academics.”

The new policy is the result of a new school report conducted by a British school quality reviewer, Cambridge at Oxford for Yankee Doodles, which indicated a 0.01 percent decrease in per-class at-



Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

As a result of the administration’s new policy, bouncers were hired to guard the doors of the bathroom to make sure that only those who really needed to pee got in.

tendance last term. The administration ordered

bathroom bouncers to stand guard at all times during the school day and only allow students who “really need to go” to pass through the doors. Students who did not adequately display their urgency were sent back to class.

“We have ways of telling whether students really need to use the bathroom or not,” said Michael Corleone, one of the newly hired bouncers. “We got this list. And we check up on repeat offenders.”

“We have years of experience with this,” said Ronaldo Rivera, the head bouncer and coordinator. “It’s all in the legs.”

A significant number of students have already been turned away from the bathrooms. Only three students, all female, were

continued on page 15