



The Spectator

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*"The Pulse
of the
Student
Body"*

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Course Evaluations Require Union Approval

By GAVIN HUANG

The School Leadership Team (SLT) reconsidered a proposal at its last meeting on Tuesday, May 19 to implement a system of formal course evaluations after members of the Student Union (SU) found that course evaluations would not violate the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) contract. Requiring teachers to give students course evaluations at the end of every semester was brought up by the SU at an SLT meeting on Tuesday, April 21, but it was quickly dismissed.

"We made major headway at the last meeting," SU vice president and junior Casey Griffin said. "At the first meeting, [UFT local chapter representative and social studies teacher Ellen] Schweitzer struck down the entire idea. Nowhere in the contract says [course evaluations] are not allowed."

Schweitzer declined to comment.

In Issue 15 of The Spectator, we misstated that formal course evaluations were a violation of the UFT contract and quoted a section of the contract out of context. According to Principal Stanley Teitel, a proposal to implement such a system would require approval by faculty members and the UFT local chapter.

ter representative.

"My sense is that the union will want no part of it," Principal Stanley Teitel said. "If you're asking a supervisor to read [a student's evaluation], the union wouldn't sell it."

Schweitzer said she had to be convinced that it would be a helpful idea," Griffin said.

The UFT contract allows two methods of teacher observation and evaluation. According to the contract, the first model, called Annual Performance Options, "offers an individual teacher, in consultation with his/her supervisor, the opportunity to set yearly goals and objectives and to choose the methods for demonstrating professional growth." This model would allow the inclusion of student input should the teacher and assistant principal agree to it.

The second model, called Formal Observations, is "the traditional classroom observation by a principal or supervisor which includes pre- and post-observation conferences and written feedback and comments." The school currently uses this model to evaluate teachers' performance, which would not include students' evaluations.

At Bard High School Early Col-

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Stuyvesant Takes Precautionary Measures for Swine Flu

feeling well.

The DOE also sent emails to parents advising them not to send their children to school if they have a high fever. Additionally, all of the school nurses in New York City received a packet from the DOE about the details and symptoms of the swine flu, what precautions to take and hygiene tips.

Swine flu was first detected in April 2009. As with regular seasonal influenza viruses, people catch swine flu from the respiratory secretions of sick individuals. Droplets from coughs or sneezes can also easily contaminate hand rails, doorknobs and the surfaces of desks.

Mild symptoms include a high fever, runny or stuffy nose, a cough, sore throat, body aches, chills and fatigue. Serious symptoms include pneumonia and respiratory failure.

There are a few confirmed cases of swine flu in the school. "Although we have a small number of cases, we've been sending students home on a regular basis if they do not feel well," Principal Stanley Teitel said.

Since Stuyvesant has not had clusters of swine flu cases, it has not been closed. Schools that have closed are IS 318 in Brooklyn and JHS 74, PS 107 and Saint Francis Preparatory High School in Queens. Only chancellor Joel Klein has the power to close public schools. Private

and parochial schools like Saint Francis Prep are closed at their own administration's discretion.

However, many students have been absent in recent weeks and the administration must report the number of absences each day to the Chancellor's office. If students are sickened by swine flu, they can be excused without a doctor's note.

"If they have a fever and they have a sore throat, if the fever is over 100, we have to ask the parents to come pick them up instead of going back to class. So anyone who comes here and they have a fever and a sore throat and are coughing or they have nasal congestion, I don't want them to go back to class," Brefo said.

Common precautions can help halt virus.

"It's very important that the students wash their hands. You have to make sure you don't touch your nose and face unnecessarily. You have to wash your hands very well, and no sharing of eating utensils," Brefo said.

"Limit the spread through droplet infection, which is essentially things coming out of your mouth," biology teacher Jerry Citron said. "You can't get it from eating, you can't get

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As a response to the recent outbreak of swine flu, a sign has been posted in the lobby warning students.

By ISAREE THATCHAICHAWALIT and EMMA LICHTENSTEIN

On Wednesday, May 6, the administration placed a sign near the second-floor bridge entrance advising students to take certain hygienic precautions. The sign, made by the Department of Education (DOE), instructs students not to come to school if they are feeling ill, to cover their mouths and noses when they sneeze or cough, to wash their hands after touching dirty surfaces and to report to the nurse if they feel ill.

The DOE posted a letter reminding parents to keep their children at home if they are not

Opinions

Students First, a Last Priority

Student activism: because SING! just won't be the same in the afternoon.

Article on page 16.



Article on page 19.

Arts & Entertainment

Cultural Heaven or Yuppie Haven?

Harlem: a culturally diverse and artistically rich neighborhood.

SU Elections 2009



Gavin Huang / The Spectator



Gavin Huang / The Spectator

Junior Paul Lee and junior Casey Griffin vie for Student Union Presidency, to be determined by the General Elections on Monday, June 8.

**More election coverage on page 2 and 3.
For endorsements, turn to page 11.**

Mayoral Control:

Efficient Decision Making or One Man Rule?

By SADIE BERGEN

Before Mayor Michael Bloomberg was elected, "most observers agree that the school system was a big mess," Stuyvesant's Parent Coordinator, Harvey Blumm said. "Nobody had control or accountability."

The members of the Board of Education (BOE) were picked by the mayor and each borough president. And then the BOE picked a chancellor. However, this system meant that members had separate and often conflicting loyalties, and "nothing really got done," Blumm said. There was a need for change, and Bloomberg, as he indicated throughout his 2002 election campaign, was determined to remodel the New York City education system, addressing issues such as the lack of a system-wide curriculum, corruption and low graduation rates.

Bloomberg's solution was to establish the Department of Education (DOE). The Chancellor would be the leader but the mayor would have overall control. This idea won wide support because of the city's desire to regain control of the school system. In 2002 this wish was granted,

with legislation passed before the State senate to give the mayor full control over New York City public schools.

Bloomberg, now up for re-election, is running his current campaign on the basis that his changes to the system have been hugely successful. And while this opinion is open to debate, there is no doubt that Bloomberg has changed the school system significantly.

Graduation rates are up, as are standardized test scores, and schools are generally safer. Teacher salaries have gone up 43 percent since Bloomberg became mayor. Bloomberg ended social promotion so that now kids who are not at grade level are held back and given extra help. He also created the position of Parent Coordinator, a position that is "a big plus for parents; before there was no one whose sole job it was to help them," Blumm said.

To increase awareness of his achievements, Bloomberg has launched a very costly advertisement campaign boasting the success of the school system. Bloomberg also has the support

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News

Primaries Results

Student Union Caucus

Paul Lee and Keiji Drysdale* — 297
 Casey Griffin and Oren Bukspan* —
 201

Wes Schierenbeck and Chester Dubov — 153

Junior Caucus

Omika Jikaria and Emily Quint Hoover* — 74

Samira Siddique and Harris Dupre* — 62

Mohammed Hossain and Ha Gyun Chung — 59

Kathy Lin and Ashish Bhandari — 47
 Tobi Idowu and Gally Battat — 46
 Konrad Wojnar and Rihoo Tsuji — 44

Senior Caucus

Mohammed Rahman and Steven Arroyo* — 98

Sara Hassan and Dylan Cohen* — 74
 Valeriya Tsitron and Lorraine Thomas — 62

Arun Abraham-Singh and Yi-Feng Zhao — 60

Garrett O'Brien and Tousif Ahsan — 37

Richard Lam and Esteban Pomboza — 24

*Winners

Vote in the General Election
 on Monday, June 8.

Student Union Caucus

Paul Lee and Keiji Drysdale



By CHRIS LEE

Junior Paul Lee and sophomore Keiji Drysdale, who are running for Student Union (SU) President and Vice President (VP), respectively, placed first in the primary elections on Tuesday, May 26 with a total of 297 votes. They will advance to the general elections on Monday, June 8 along with junior Casey Griffin and sophomore Oren Bukspan, who came in second with 201 votes.

Although Lee and Drysdale lack the SU experience Griffin and Bukspan have, the pair said they make up for it through their involvement in the student body.

Lee currently holds the position of junior class VP. He is also an active member of the Speech and Debate team, was producer for Soph-Frosh SING! and stage manager for Junior SING!

"I've been active in school," Lee said. "I wanted to run because of this."

Though Drysdale has never held an SU elected or appointed position, he was a member of the Freshmen Advisory Council. Drysdale said he is also highly involved in school activities, citing his participation in SING! and two sports teams, basketball and golf, as examples.

According to their platform statement, the candidates, if elected, "promise to change the SU to become [...] creative, accessible, flexible, and accountable."

In order to do so, Lee and Drysdale said they would need to improve communication between the SU and the student body. "We're concerned about reaching out to people outside the SU," Drysdale said. "We'll work on making the SU more compatible to [students'] wishes."

One of the ways Lee and Drysdale hope to improve this relationship is by making use of the SU's room. For example, the

pair would like to put computers inside the SU for student use.

"The SU needs to be more flexible," Lee said. "We want to make more student space."

Lee and Drysdale also plan on working with the other organizations in the SU. If elected, they will ask Big Sibs to give tours of the SU to their Little Sibs, allowing students to be introduced to the SU office as early as possible.

The two would like to station ARISTA tutoring inside the SU rather than its usual location inside a classroom. Students would become more accustomed to the SU.

In addition, Lee and Drysdale said they would also like to improve relations with the administration. "[We] will try harder to work with the administration to benefit the students," Drysdale said.

"[Principal Stanley] Teitel has complained that the SU does not meet with him enough. We want to change this," Lee said.

Furthermore, Lee and Drysdale said that if elected, they will improve upon current SU issues, "such as reworking the candy policies, defending student rights, and promoting school spirit."

Other plans the two have include reviving STUYSPACE, revamping the SU and increasing fundraising.

"There are goals we want to set and meet," Lee said. "Our plans should be clear to the student body."

Casey Griffin and Oren Bukspan

By SHARADA SRIDHAR

Junior Casey Griffin and sophomore Oren Bukspan placed second in the Student Union (SU) Primaries on Tuesday, May 26 after receiving a total of 201 votes. They will advance to the general elections, which will be held on Monday, June 8 along with junior Paul Lee and sophomore Keiji Drysdale, who came in first with 297 votes.

If elected, both Griffin and Bukspan said they would bring experience to their respective positions.

Griffin, who is running for SU President, served as both freshman and sophomore class vVice pPresident. She is now the new holder of the position of SU vVice pPresident.

Bukspan, who was freshman class pPresident, is currently an SU Communications Assistant Director. As Assistant Director, Bukspan is responsible for updating the SU Facebook group and communicating important messages to the student body.

"The greatest part of my different positions in the SU is that I have had exposure to both the elected positions and the appointed positions. Casey has already covered grade caucus as well as a year of SU caucus so together we cover much of what the SU has to offer," Bukspan said.

If elected, both Griffin and Bukspan said they would like to improve SU events.

"Organization and setting a time schedule for main events are what we plan on focusing on next year," Griffin said.

The pair has already created a tentative schedule for the upcoming year.

One of the events they have planned is a December charity gala. The gala would consist of activities and food stalls set up by the SU and various clubs and publications. Students



would submit the names of charities they would like to donate money to, and of those, a few would be picked for the students to vote on. The winning charity would receive all money raised at that gala.

Bukspan and Griffin also said they would like to host a Battle of the Bands contest during the year, with the winner playing at the gala.

In addition to the gala, Griffin and Bukspan would like to revise the candy selling policy by adding new vending machines.

"[The machines] will only have Department of Education approved snacks," Griffin said. "If a certain Club or Pub wants money, they can choose a vending machine, and their cClub or pPub will get all the money from that vending machine for a month."

Furthermore, if elected, Griffin and Bukspan would like to implement course evaluations.

"The most ideal way of pursuing this idea is if, at the end of every semester, students fill out an evaluation of every class they take that would ask what was effective, what they learned, any improvements that could be made, and what was good about the course," Griffin said. "The teachers would sit down with their department heads, and see what

Gavin Huang / The Spectator

Gavin Huang / The Spectator

Senior Caucus

Mohammed Rahman and Steven Arroyo



By BEN GARNER

Juniors Mohammed Rahman and Steven Arroyo finished first in the Student Union (SU) senior caucus primaries held on Tuesday, May 26 with a total of 98 votes. They will advance to the upcoming general elections on Monday, June 8 along with juniors Sara Hassan and Dylan Cohen, who came in second with 74 votes.

Their campaign platform is based on three major areas: communication, events, and involvement.

Both Rahman, running for president, and Arroyo, running for vice president, lack major SU experience, but do have experience in coordinating events, such as the Stuyvesant Model UN Conference. "In the 2009-2010 school year, we will be hosting and planning a Model U.N. conference to be held at Stuyvesant. During this conference hundreds of students from different schools will be present. We work hard, we work early, and we work with dedication," Arroyo said.

Arroyo served on the Freshmen and Sophomore Advisory Council.

"This election is really unique in that none of the other candidates have had a major role in the SU prior to this election, and I think it shows that students are looking for a different, unique perspective, and real change that they can see. Although we may not have years of SU experience behind us, we certainly have a unique perspective of how the SU works and we have seen what changes it has on our fellow students," Arroyo said.

Rahman and Arroyo feel that there is a lack

of communication between their grade and the SU. They plan to create a Stuy Class of 2010 website, as well as a mailing list. "If elected, we will set up a functioning and effective website for the class of 2010, as well as a mailing list that will send updates of important information to the entire grade as soon we hear about it. We want all students to be up to date and aware of important deadlines. It also allows us to help to plan and coordinate events in a timely manner," Rahman said.

In addition, they hope to see more student participation in class events through communication with the Web site and mailing lists. They also want to begin planning events early. "Senior year is our grade's last year together and we plan to have fun and enjoy it. We are aiming for a stress-free learning environment. Through communication with the grade and early planning of events we hope to get more people involved in their school and have a more spirited class of 2010," Rahman said.

Another major component of their election platform is the early timing of student events, such as prom. "We want to make events more plentiful and successful in the upcoming school year. The largest of these is certainly prom, and Mohammad has already begun looking into planning dates and arranging prices with someone he knows at the Waldorf Astoria. We believe that early planning will lead to a prom that is memorable in every way and that will go off without a hitch," Steven Arroyo said.

If elected, Rahman and Arroyo promise more senior theme and spirit days over the course of the year, and more senior competition events, be it in the form of tournaments in certain sports or in the form of student-faculty games.

Rahman and Arroyo are adamant about listening to input from their class before making their decisions. "A major goal for us is to get as many people's input as possible before we make final decisions. We will listen to what our grade has to say. When we are faced with tasks such as finding a graduation speaker or filling our Stuy Mnemonics cube, we need to ensure that everyone's ideas and views are represented. In order to accomplish this goal, we plan to be easily accessible, all the time," Arroyo said.

"As seniors, we want a senior class that can really enjoy itself from September to June and make the most of it. Electing us is the best way to ensure that," Rahman said.

Sara Hassan and Dylan Cohen

By ZOE WU

Juniors Sara Hassan and Dylan Cohen finished second in the Student Union (SU) primaries on Tuesday, May 27 with a total of 74 votes. They will advance to the general elections on Monday, June 8 against juniors Mohammed Rahman and Steven Arroyo.

Both Hassan, the presidential candidate, and Cohen, the vice-presidential candidate, cited their eagerness to make improvements for the current junior class and the school as their qualifications for the positions. "Dylan and I don't really have a lot of experience, but we do have a lot of energy. We bring to the campaign a sense of change," Hassan said. "We have been part of the student body and we know what the students want."

Neither Hassan nor Cohen has been involved in the student government before. "I have pretty much been sitting back the last couple of years and getting upset at what's happening," Cohen said. But Hassan and Cohen both believe that their lack of involvement in student politics actually help them to better represent the student body.

If elected, the two will put saving the SU budget as one of their top priorities. "We heard that the SU budget is in trouble," Hassan said. "We want to hold a lot of fundraisers, at least one per month."

"I've heard that as a class, we are 17,000 dollars in debt," Cohen said. "We want to make sure that our class is making money so that we can hold a senior prom that everyone will remember."

Hassan and Cohen also hope to increase student involvement in events at Stuyvesant. They plan to advertise events around the school. They will set up more senior spirit days next year "because we didn't have enough spirit days this year," Hassan said. They will also have polls to al-



low students to voice their opinions.

Hassan and Cohen also want to improve the stuy2010 website. "Right now, the stuy2010 Web site isn't very functional. Very few people go on it," Hassan said. "We want to change that and make better use of the stuy2010 Web site."

Additionally, the pair plans to improve communication between students and teachers by making use of the SU's monthly newsletter. They want to invite the faculty to write in the newsletters to inform students of policy changes. "If students find out about policies they don't like in advance, they can take actions against it," Hassan said.

Hassan and Cohen will make it their responsibility to make sure that students can express their opinions to the administration. "Students are afraid to talk to the administration," Cohen said. "We want to be there for them, to help them find a way to speak to the faculty."

Despite their lack of previous participation in the SU, "we are really serious [about the election]," Hassan said.

"I know we don't have a lot of experience," Cohen said. "But what we have is a lot of energy, a lot of dedication, and a lot of great ideas."

Junior Caucus

Omika Jikaria and Emily Quint Hoover



By GAVIN HUANG

In the race for junior caucus, sophomores Omika Jikaria and Emily Quint-Hoover led in the Student Union (SU) primaries, held on Tuesday, May 26, with a total of 74 votes. Running on a platform of improving communication within the grade and increasing participation in the SU, Jikaria and Quint-Hoover will advance to the general elections on Monday, June 8, along with sophomores Samira Siddique and Harris Dupre, who came in second in the primaries.

Jikaria, who is running for junior class president, has participated in the SU since her freshman year as a member of both the Freshman Advisory Council and the Sophomore Advisory Council (SAC). In the past term, she was also a Special Events Assistant and served on the SU constitution review committee. Quint-Hoover has had no SU experience but is actively involved in many clubs and sports teams in Stuyvesant.

"We both really like Stuy, and we want to help make a more united grade and have more events," Jikaria said. "We want better communication with the administration and with the Junior Advisory Council (JAC)."

Jikaria and Quint-Hoover hope to in-

crease participation in grade-wide events like junior prom, college trips and spirit week. They also plan to bring back comedy night, an event that was not organized this year in their grade, and start new events like movie day.

"We want everyone involved," Jikaria said. "The problem at Stuy is that students are apathetic." Jikaria and Quint-Hoover plan to incorporate ideas from students in their grade and use posters and pamphlets to advertise events.

"I would often find out about events after they happened," Quint-Hoover said. "So I think getting the word out about events is important."

As a member of the SAC, Jikaria also noted problems in the past year that she hopes they can fix as junior class president and vice president.

"The problem this year was that [the sophomore caucus] set unrealistic goals," Jikaria said. "They wanted to get stuff done, but they didn't know how."

To avoid the problems of the past year, Jikaria and Quint-Hoover hope to start planning events and choosing JAC members early. They also plan to establish a committee to help raise money for junior prom.

As well as improving communication within their grade, Jikaria and Quint-Hoover hope to foster a strong relationship with the administration.

"We need to work with the administration and the guidance counselors to make the year successful and make sure events like college trips are successful," Jikaria said.

Although Quint-Hoover has had less experience in the SU, "she has a different perspective," Jikaria said. "She knows what students want and what they need."

"Together, we make a dynamic duo," Quint-Hoover said.

Samira Siddique and Harris Dupre

By MEGAN HAREWOOD

Sophomores Samira Siddique and Harris Dupre, candidates for Student Union (SU) President and Vice President, respectively, placed second in the six-ticket junior caucus race for the SU primaries on Tuesday, May 26 with 62 votes. Sophomores Omika Jikaria and Emily Quint-Hoover placed first with a total of 74 votes. Both tickets will advance to the general elections, which will be held on Monday, June 8.

Siddique is a member of The Spectator's Opinions section, ARISTA and the Big Sibs program. Dupre is a member of the Free Hugs club and is also a Big Sib..

"We're both very diligent, and we're dedicated to this cause. We're not spreading ourselves too thin by running because we're serious about devoting our time to improving the overall attitude of our grade," Siddique said.

Siddique and Dupre plan to create a Junior Prom Committee, and to increase 'environmental awareness' at Stuyvesant by selling water canteens and revamping the Stuyspace campaign. "As upperclassmen, we definitely have more responsibility to give back to the Stuy community," Siddique said. "Since one of the primary reasons space was taken away is because there was garbage left behind, we'd want to help bring back campaigns like Stuyspace, which we thought was effective." Siddique and Dupre also plan to create opportunities for juniors to become involved in the government of their grade.

"We want specific committees for things like Junior Prom, communication, and fundraising, along with an advisory council and homeroom representatives. A lot more people could get involved this way, we would have a greater collection of ideas, and things would be more orga-



nized," Siddique said.

Siddique and Dupre also want to establish a better connection between Stuyvesant students and their government. "We want to increase effective communication within our grade, and we want to rally up people who are willing and innovative to help support us in our efforts," Siddique said.

Increased communication is a main campaign goal for Siddique and Dupre. "We want to cover all mediums of communication," Siddique said. These mediums would include a video blog or blog and a newsletter that would be distributed during homeroom by homeroom representatives.

In addition, the two plan to work more closely with the Parent's Association and the Alumni Association.

"If we could open relations with them more we could decrease prices for other Junior events," Siddique said.

Following their motto of "Unity, Representation, Innovation," Dupre and Siddique are looking to bring together their grade. "We notice our grade is too broken up. You need innovation to repair stagnancy. It's the overall student attitude. The apathy has increased," Siddique said.

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Taylor Found Guilty of Violating DOE Policy

By CHRIS LEE

After being investigated by the New York City Department of Education (DOE), Erin Taylor, the former assistant coach of the Stuyvesant girls' track team's racewalking squad, was found guilty of violating several DOE policies while supervising a track meet last year at Dartmouth College.

The racewalking team and Taylor were on their way to the meet when their Ford E-350 van was overturned, leaving senior Valerie Piro paralyzed. Although Piro was wearing her seatbelt, she was partially ejected out of the car's window when the vehicle left the highway.

In a lawsuit filed against the DOE, the City of New York, Stuyvesant High School, Taylor, Ford Motor Company, TRW Automotive, and Avis Rent-A-Car System, LLC, Piro sued the defendants for 300 million dollars.

The investigation found Taylor, who resigned shortly after the incident, guilty of not receiving proper authorization from Principal Stanley Teitel for the trip, as well as of not using permission slips. Taylor, Teitel and Piro all declined to comment.

According to the NY1 article "Investigation Finds Track Coach Violated DOE Policy," published on Thursday, April 23, Taylor regularly scheduled unauthorized trips for the track team.

Renowned Doctors Speak to Students in Library

By ALEXANDER SHIN

Doctor Vincent Moss and Doctor Vance Moss, twin brothers who served in the Army Reserve Medical Corps, spoke to students about their experiences in the army on Wednesday, May 27 in the sixth floor library after 10th period.

Dr. Vincent Moss and Dr. Vance Moss distinguished themselves while serving in the Army Medical Reserve Corps, earning the Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement medal. After treating civilians in Afghanistan, they received the Global War on Terror Achievement Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and were featured on ABC World News Tonight's program "Person of the Week."

They also gave inspirational advice to the members of the audience.

"The students were very intuitive, energetic and had great questions. I was impressed," Dr. Vance Moss said.

"I wanted to promote the futures of these young adults," Dr. Vance Moss said. "We spoke about service to the country, never letting religion or race stop you from doing anything and following a career path you are truly passionate about."

Biology teacher Shangaza George, who invited the two doctors to speak at Stuyvesant, first heard of the two doctors through a friend. In April, George contacted the Stuyvesant Black Student League (BSL) and Stuyvesant Aspira Club to help organize the event.

"During this time of year, things are very grueling and students lose morale. I thought

In doing so, Taylor violated multiple DOE policies. Chancellor's Regulation A-670 states that "all school trips must be approved in advance by the principal" and "a parental consent form is required for each school trip."

Additionally, Richard Condon, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District, said that "[Taylor] did not depart on the trip from the school, and she used private transportation." According to Condon, these are also violations of the Chancellor's Regulation.

The head coach for the girls' track team, William Silver, said that although he was aware of the unauthorized trips, he decided not to tell Teitel about them. Although Silver is no longer the coach for the girls' track team, he will continue coaching girls cross country.

Assistant Principal Physical Education Martha Singer, on the other hand, said she had not been informed about the unauthorized trip to Dartmouth College.

Condon, however, said, "It is difficult to accept that Singer was unaware that Taylor had taken students to any of the many events discussed in this report."

Both Silver and Singer declined to comment further.

As a result of the investigation, the DOE is recommending that Stuyvesant's trip policy be revised, and appropriate action be taken against Taylor, Singer

By SAM FURNIVAL

Sophomore class President Mohammed Hossain received a two-day suspension after he was found letting three students out of school through the northern entrance on Thursday, May 14. The incident was caught on security cameras.

"I was helping three Stuyvesant students leave the building and reenter through an unauthorized exit," Hossain said, referring to the door to the North staircase. "I did it because two of the students who I know personally told me they had to go get something from outside [...] It seemed urgent so I offered to help."

While meeting with Principal Stanley Teitel, Hossain was informed of his suspension.

At a separate meeting with

Student Union (SU) President James Kim, Hossain was told he would not be impeached from his position.

"Mohammed has been fulfilling his duties as sophomore caucus President," Kim said. "I understand that he has run into some sort of problem with administration, [but] it is not our job to punish rule breakers. The principal and deans will decide on a fair punishment for his infraction."

Teitel declined to comment.

SU Communications Assistant Director Oren Bukspan said he was stunned by Hossain's behavior.

"[He] knows what he's doing in his messages to the grade," Bukspan said. "It just doesn't connect that he'd go and break school rules while he's supposed to have that position, be a role model, and point everyone in the right direc-

tion."

Sophomore Daniel Frankel agreed. "I am exceedingly disappointed with Mohammad in general. He has only stood by while things have been taken away from us. We no longer have semiformal or the basketball tournament," he said. "His suspension is grounds for impeachment after a thoroughly unsuccessful term."

"It's not like the class presidents do anything anyway," freshman Eli Rosenberg said. "This incident has lowered my already low opinion of Stuyvesant politicians."

Sophomore Edwin Yung, on the other hand, said, "He just made a mistake like the rest of us. He's been working hard for the entire year and this one event shouldn't overshadow his past record."

Five Students Qualify for National Bio-Olympiad

By BEN GARNER

Five Stuyvesant students qualified for the national Bio-Olympiad on Wednesday, April 15. The students, coached by biology teacher Roz Bierig, will head to George Mason University to prepare for the national Bio-Olympiad, an exam that covers all biology topics at an advanced level. The national Bio-Olympiad finals will be held June 7-19 at George Mason University.

The students who qualified for the national finals are juniors Yang Li and David Huang, and seniors Kuanghua Guo, Judy Baek, and Alexandra Hanin. In addition, sophomore Brendan Huang was a national semifinalist.

They will head to George Mason to prepare for the exam in a virtual "biology bootcamp." Assistant Principal Biology Elizabeth Fong said.

After preparation, the qualified students will take the exam and on the final night, the four individuals who will represent the United States of America in the International Bio-Olympiad will be announced. Those four students will remain at George Mason to begin preparation for

the International Bio-Olympiad, which will be held July 12-19.

All stages of the Olympiad are comprehensive exams with topics ranging from the anatomy of crayfish to the vascular structures in a tree. "These questions are so incredibly hard," Bierig said.

The Bio-Olympiad is open to anyone. "There is a general membership drive. Students qualify through an exam but they can also be recommended by their teachers if they show an interest," Fong said. "It is a very competitive exam and there is an intense academic focus."

The top four students who are successful at the national level move on to the international Bio-Olympiad. "This year is our best year. We have the most finalists and semi-finalists [in Stuyvesant's history], so we are very excited," Fong said.

The Bio-Olympiad is highly regarded internationally and the top secondary school students from around the world come to compete. Russia, China, and the United States are the perennial contenders for the gold medals, which are awarded to the top 10 percent of students.

The international Bio-Olym-

piad will be held in late June in Japan. Should one of the students qualify, Bierig will accompany him or her to Japan.

Students who participate in the Bio-Olympiad are taught after school by Bierig. They also receive textbooks and study independently. They meet after school to review, study, and dissect specimens together in groups. "[Bio Olympiad] is a big commitment," Bierig said.

"The students are given Advanced Placement level textbooks and they get reading assignments, just like a regular class," Fong said. "The students are driven."

"I consider it a great honor to make it this far [as a finalist]," Brendan Huang said. "I hope to become a finalist next year to represent Stuyvesant and the USA."

The students donate a lot of time to the Bio-Olympiad, so much so that this year they will be missing prom.

"If you love a subject, then it isn't a burden. We miss prom but other than that, it's not bad," Hanin said.

Stuyvesant Takes Precautionary Measures for Swine Flu

continued from page 1

do instead of solely focusing on [schoolwork]," George said.

"The event was about promoting and building the community and putting stuff out there for the young leaders in [Stuyvesant]," SPARK counselor Angel Colon said.

The event "was spectacular," Colon said. "There was a high turnout and the students learned a lot."

George agreed. "It went amazingly well. They were well received."

Students learned a lot from the event.

"I gained a greater appreciation of the armed services and also gained different perspectives of my future goals," junior and BSL President Hayward Leach said.

"I learned to pursue my dreams even if others told me it was impossible," junior Michelle Newman said. "The event was very fun and informative."

who are slightly immunologically compromised," Citron said.

Students have many opinions about the swine flu outbreak, as well as what the school should do about it.

"I wasn't really panicked. I didn't think it would be that big a deal. But because of where I live, which is closed to Saint Francis Prep, there are people who live near me that attend that school. So that kind of gave me a reason to panic," senior Rachel Kim said.

"The school should explain what's different about the swine flu, because not a lot of people know about it," sophomore Sage O'Neil said.

The most important thing for students "is to educate others," Brefo said. "If you see someone not washing their hands appropriately, kissing in the hallways, or drinking from the same cup or bottle, you have to say, 'Hey! You've got to stop that!'" Brefo said.

Course Changes

By BRIAN SOU

- The biology department will be offering a new course called Topics in Neurobiology, which will be taught by biology teacher Dr. Hemal Pathak. The one term elective, offered only to juniors and seniors, will teach students the structure and function of the nervous system.
- The biology elective Medical

Diagnosis will be taught by biology teacher Aimee Hill next term instead of biology teacher Dr. Akinsegun Akintunde. Dr. Akintunde had a stroke earlier this year, has been recuperating. He is expected to return to school at the end of the year.

- English selectives Writer's Workshop and Woman's Voices will not be offered next term, as English teacher Annie Thoms

will be on maternity leave. The English department will also be reviving the Asian American Literature selective taught by Jennifer Choi.

- The physics department will be offering a new course called Modern Physics. The double period course, which will be taught by physics teacher Dr. Jamal Ali, will satisfy the 10 period Tech Lab requirement.

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Tree Dedicated to Ava Hecht During Ceremony in Penny Park



Many gathered to celebrate the life of senior Ava Hecht at Ava's Tree Ceremony, which took place on Friday, May 8 in Rockefeller park.

By WILSON LAI

A tree in Rockefeller Park was dedicated in honor of senior Ava Hecht on Friday, May 8. Hecht passed away from meningo-coccal infection on Thursday, January 8. The ceremony, which was organized by Ava's family and the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy, was held in Penny Park in Rockefeller Park and lasted from 4 p.m. to around 5:30 p.m.

The dedicated tree had a plaque embedded into the ground next to it that read "Ava's Tree 'There's Always Room to Add A Few New Songs' – Ava Hecht 2009." The tree that was dedicated to Ava was a Golden Rain, a fast-growing tree with yellow flowers that typically blooms in June or July.

"We felt it was important to put the tree in Rockefeller Park because she hung out there often while at Stuy. Also we wanted the tree to be close enough to Stuy that it could be

easily accessed by anyone in the community who wanted to visit it," Ava's sister, Elena Hecht ('04) said.

The ceremony also had an open floor for anyone who wanted to speak or perform anything.

Ava's family and friends, along with many other Stuyvesant students, attended the ceremony. Some Stuyvesant faculty also attended, including Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm and Assistant Principal English Eric Grossman.

The ceremony started with a short speech from Ava's mother, Karen Gang, who was the Master of Ceremonies. Gang wanted the ceremony to be the celebration of Ava's life, instead of a mourning of her death.

"[A] celebration for Ava, a celebration of Ava," Gang said during her speech.

Gang's opening was followed by a speech by Elena Hecht. Students and family friends then took turns with the

microphone.

There will also be a scholarship offered in Ava's name for students next year, although the details are not yet finalized.

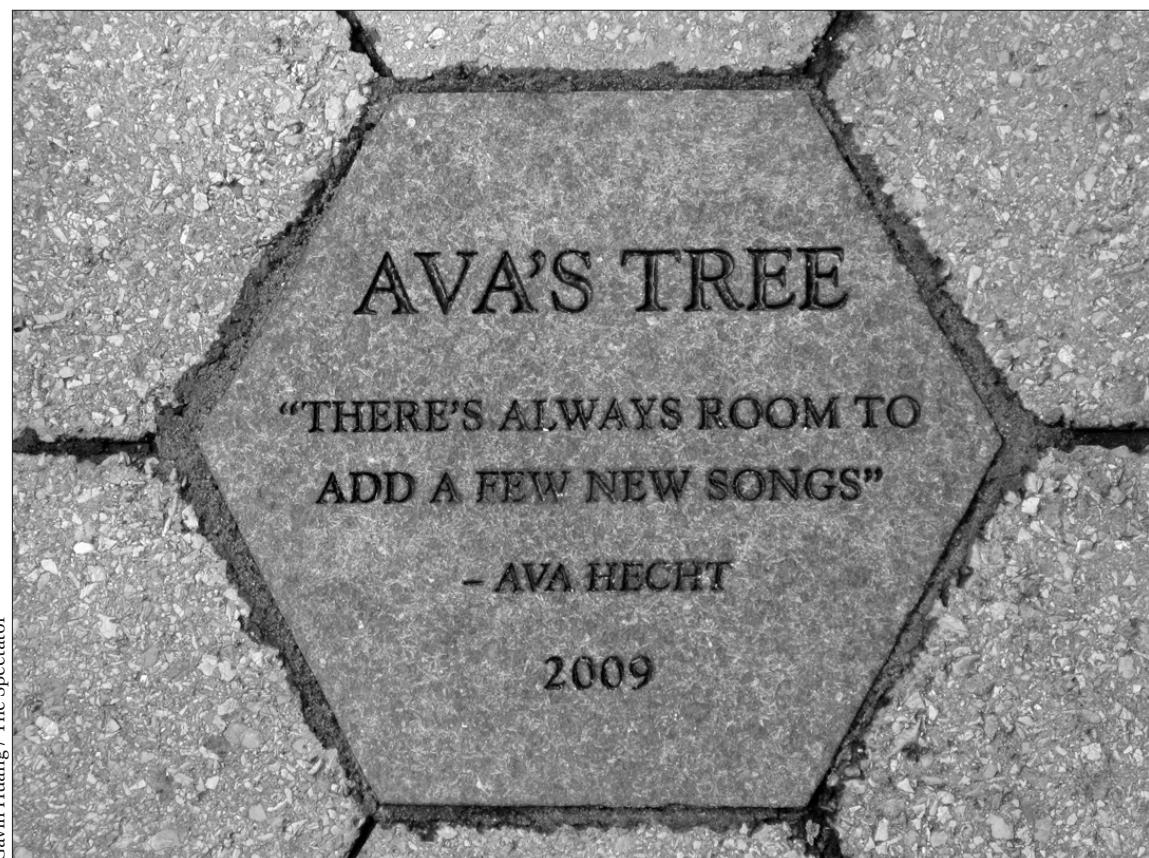
While most of the speakers chose to tell their fondest and most vivid memories of Ava, others opted for a more creative approach. There was a rendition of Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds" as well as a saxophone solo. The open floor then ended with a guitar and singing ensemble of a Bible passage put to music.

"This ceremony was very fitting for her because the tree, which represents life, also sums up Ava's view on life, which was to live life to the fullest," junior Jan Raphael Cornel said after the ceremony.

Other students also agreed.

"I think the [ceremony] was a great idea because it showed respect towards Ava, and commemorates who she was at Stuyvesant," sophomore David Gong said.

Gavin Huang / The Spectator



The ceremony had an open floor, allowing anyone who wanted to speak to do so.

Quiz Bowl Team Advances to Nationals

By MAYA AVERBUCH
and ALEX WANG

Ever wonder who Shiva's first wife was or where in the world Liechtenstein is? Stuyvesant's Quiz Bowl team will probably have the answer.

Stuyvesant High School's Quiz Bowl Team, which participates in trivia competitions, attended the Partnership for Academic Competition Excellence National Tournament at George Mason University on Saturday, May 23 and the National Academic Quiz Tournaments National Tournament at Chicago University on Saturday, May 30.

To qualify for the national competitions, a team from any high school must be in the top ten percent of regional tournaments. Stuyvesant's team is currently ranked second in New York State behind Hunter College High School.

The members going to the competitions are senior and co-President of the Quiz Bowl team Aidan Bonner, senior and co-President Paul Rozenberg, junior Michael Ruon and sophomore Neil Desai. "[The national tournaments] are both really prestigious and have a lot of great teams, so we're really excited to participate," Rozenberg said.

"Quiz Bowl travels around to various colleges and high schools, competing with other high schools in a competition of knowledge ranging from the obscure and esoteric to the simply strange," Bonner said. "It's somewhat like Jeopardy, only more difficult, more far-ranging, and in a different format. Questions range from history to physics to calculus to poetry to Pokemon, and everything in between."

The team generally goes to seven or eight regional tournaments each year. Tournaments take place at large high schools, such as Thomas Jefferson High School, or universities such as Yale, Harvard, or Princeton.

In each tournament, the team is divided into smaller teams of four people who compete against other high school teams.

Their main rivals are Hunter College High School and Kellenberg High School in Uniondale, Long Island. In each tournament, there are 10 preliminary rounds in which the team is asked 20 toss-up questions. If either competing team answers a question correctly, they are given the opportunity to answer three bonus questions. Following this is the single elimination playoffs. The winner of the most rounds wins the competition. "We practice intensely before we have the big tournaments," Rozenberg said.

The team holds practices three times a week and also holds scrimmages against nearby high schools. "A lot of things you [are asked] in Quiz Bowl you learn in school," Bonner said. "Reading a book will help you do better in Quiz Bowl. Reading Wikipedia will help you get better at Quiz Bowl."

Bonner also said that the tournaments have a relaxed feel to them. "There's a lot of serious knowledge, but we don't have to wear cufflinks or anything. We have fun at tournaments," Bonner said.

In addition to giving out the customary trophies, consolation prizes are given out to the teams with the hilariously worst answer to questions at certain competitions. According to Rozenberg, at one tournament a few years ago, a lucky team was 'Rick Rolled' and given a CD with "Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley playing on it twenty-two times. Other memorable moments include times when Desai gets a question wrong merely for mispronouncing the answer, such as Liechtenstein or the names of Asian countries.

Stuyvesant's team has seen great success in competitions this year. They placed second at both the Princeton University Fall Tour and the Yale University Spring Tour. The team also recently won third place on Saturday, May 16 in a competition at Chatham High School. "It's generally been a good year for us," Bonner said.

Course Evaluations Require Union Approval

continued from page 1

lege, a unionized school, students fill out course evaluations at the end of every semester. The teacher leaves the room, and students complete a survey asking them to rate the course on a scale of one to five, on aspects like whether the teacher was accessible and whether grading was fair. There are also specific open-ended questions like "What was one thing you will remember?" Teachers then review the evaluations with their supervisors.

"At our school, they are course evaluation forms, not teacher evaluation forms," Bard junior and student president John Iselin wrote in an e-mail interview. "This is actually a big distinction, for a large problem is that the forms sometimes disintegrate into teacher-bashing."

"It is something debated in our school," Bard sophomore Emma Gerstenzang said. "There have been a lot of meetings and discussions with administrators."

Bard is in the stages of remodeling its current evaluation system, either making evaluations department-specific or creating a differ-

ent set of more focused questions to solve problems of vague questions.

"A couple of good points are that within all of the negativity, there is a lot of useful advice given," Iselin wrote. "It also empowers the students and allows them a voice in their education."

With about 150 students in each grade, Bard receives close to 3,600 evaluations every semester. Stuyvesant's larger population could pose potential problems in a course evaluation system.

"My suggestion was—and it doesn't involve assistant principals or publishing the evaluations in any way—that it be strictly between teacher and student," Stuyvesant parent coordinator Harvey Blumm said. "Since some teachers have been doing it on their own, my proposal was that each department would make their own evaluation and teachers could voluntarily hand them out and students could choose whether or not to hand them in."

The SU will invite teachers who have conducted course evaluations in their classes to discuss the proposal at the next SLT meeting on Tuesday, June 9.

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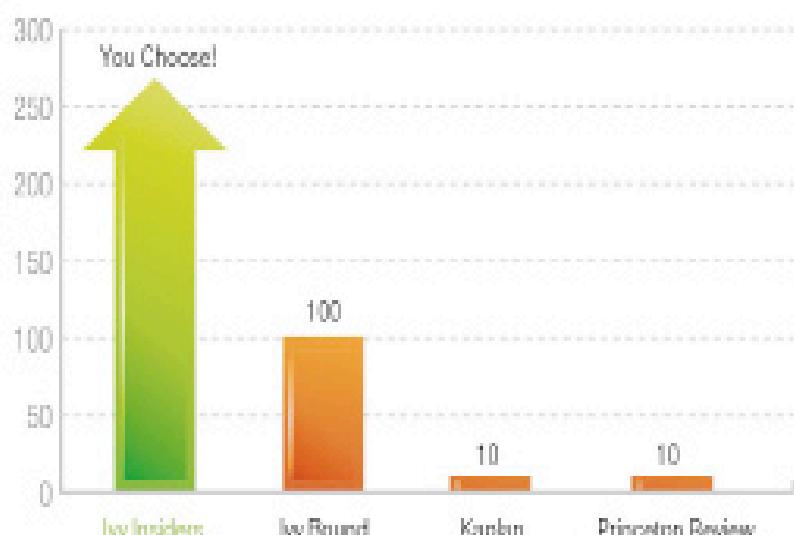
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Grandmaster Robert Hess Takes Second at US Chess Championship

By DANIEL BEER
and ZOE WU

At the 2009 United States Chess Championship in St. Louis, Missouri, junior Robert Hess took second place among 24 highly ranked chess players. As the second place finisher, Hess was awarded 12,500 dollars. A total of 130,400 dollars in prize money was given out, according to the St. Louis Chess Club.

"This was definitely the most important [tournament] in the nation because all the top players participate in it."
—Robert Hess, junior

Hess took second place after winning a tie-breaker against his opponent Alexander Onischuk, 34, a Grandmaster with a rating of 2736, around 200 points higher than Hess'. "I surprised him," Hess said in a video interview by uschesschamps.com, "and I'm playing pretty well."

Hikaru Nakamura, 21, took first place in the Swiss System tournament, a type of round-robin where each player is pitted against a competitor who is doing as well (or as poorly) as themselves. The two players with the highest score (one point for a win, a point for a tie, no points for

a loss) at the end of nine rounds go head to head to decide the winner.

After qualifying for the title of chess Grandmaster, Hess, one of the lower-ranked players, traveled to the tournament, which took place from Friday, May 8 to Sunday, May 17.

"There were 24 high ranking players. The top 12 players were invited," Hess said. "I was a wild card." According to the United States Chess Federation, six wild cards were asked to participate in the nine-round event. The other wild cards included young players like Ray Robinson, 14, Josh Friedel, 22, and Alex Shabalov, a four time US Champion, all of whom were chosen by the United States Chess Federation.

"In terms of the number of players, this was not a big tournament. But in terms of importance, this was definitely the most important one in the nation because all the top players participate in it," Hess said.

Hess is currently the top ranked player in the under-18 division and the 21st ranked chess player of any age in the United States. He is also the 27th ranked player in the under-18 division internationally. Hess hopes his ranking "might be pushed into the top 10" in the country overall. "Pretty sure I cracked into it," Hess said. Unfortunately, he'll have to wait to find out, as the rankings are updated every two months. Still, Hess "didn't actually expect to do so well, because there were a lot of top players who were ranked above me," Hess said.

Social Studies teacher Bill Boericke, Stuyvesant's chess team coordinator, said he believes Hess could become a U.S. or even a world champion. "He could be a contender in the world title in five or six years," Boericke said. "But he'd have to pay a

heavy price to achieve that."

But Hess isn't sure he sees chess as a career.

"A lot of people have been asking me if I would become a professional player since I finished second," Hess said. "My answer is no." He explained that many other interests and a lack of consistent money were among the reasons.

The junior went on to say that he will definitely continue to play at chess tournaments. Winning second at the National Competition gives Hess a better opportunity to play at prestigious international tournaments.

"[The tournament] was great," Hess said. "It was one of my best tournaments and I'm really surprised at how well I did."

His teammates weren't surprised at Hess' success. "I think people at Stuy take it for granted how good he is, but he really is one of a kind," said junior and chess team co-captain Zachary Weiner. Hess helped the team win the High School National Championships in April and "now he's moved on to better and greater things," Weiner said. "It really makes us grateful that he was willing to help us out knowing he could do so much more."

Hess said that it's not difficult to balance being a world-class chess player, a teammate, and a student. He said that when he gets back from tournaments homework is "a killer," and that, "if I thought I had no free time playing, I have even less back at Stuy." He said that it's impossible to do both homework and chess, citing the preparation that can realistically last for three or more hours and is "essential to my game."

"The fact that he is able to be a normal kid and do what he does is amazing," Weiner said.

On the Web

This may be our last issue of the year, but we will continue covering the news online. Check out www.stuyspectator.com for:

- Updates on how sports teams are faring in the playoffs.
- A feature by Arik Raviv on the wacky world of soccer commentary.
- A review of this year's spring comedy—Arsenic and Old Lace, as well as a review of the One Acts Festival.
- Coverage of the second Open Forum, once it takes place.
- Coverage on the faculty of the Physics and Chemistry Department, who took a tour of the Indian Point nuclear power plant on Thursday, June 4.

New Social Studies and English Electives Offered

By CHRIS LEE

A new social studies elective, Western Political Theory, will be taught by social studies teacher Matthew Polazzo starting in the 2009-2010 school year. This full-year course will be open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. A one semester English elective, Asian American Literature, will also be offered to seniors. It will be taught by English teacher Jennifer Choi.

Western Political Theory is intended to give students a foundation in the principal works of western political philosophy, by "philosophers such as Plato and Hobbes," Polazzo said.

According to Polazzo, the goal of the course "is to study the foundational work of political philosophy," he said.

"Mr. Polazzo thought of the course. It is a survey of western political theory," Assistant Principal Social Studies Jennifer Suri said. "It begins with the Greeks up to the 20th century."

Polazzo recommends the course for students who are interested in fundamental questions about political philosophies, such as "Should religion and governance be intertwined?" and "Should humans submit themselves to a general will?" he said.

For the initial registration, students need to have an average of 90 or above in social studies. "But if I don't get 34 students, I will take lower averages off of a wait-list," Polazzo said.

In general, students are happy with the creation of this new course.

"I think it's really great that a subject area so specific and advanced is being taught in a high school context," junior Evan Smith said. "I'm electing to take it because I'm really excited to be exposed to advanced political theory and reading at such a high level. I really didn't expect to be able to take a class where in-depth analysis of seminal Western political thinkers is being carried out until college."

Junior John Sun agreed. "It'll allow students to think more deeply about western ideas, an opportunity students are lacking," he said.

"It introduces a new topic to students, so I think it's a good idea," sophomore Yimeng Xu said.

Asian American Literature is a one semester course and will be offered in the fall and spring semesters. According to Choi, this course is available to seniors who are interested in "examining the Asian American



Starting this fall, teacher Matthew Polazzo will be teaching a new history class called Western Political Theory.

Diaspora through the study of select texts, films, and essays," she said. There are no requirements for the course.

"This course will focus on perceptions of the Asian American female and the Asian American male, Asian Americans in the media, Asian Americans as the model minority, key moments in Asian American history and its ramifications, and the inherent problem in attempting to trace an objective Asian American cultural or literary history," Choi said.

This is not a new course. According to Choi, the teacher of this course changes every few years. Regardless, Choi said "with each change of instructors, the course's curriculum tends to dramatically change with it," she said.

"[English teacher Jennie] Chan has been teaching [the class] for several years now. Ms. Choi has also been interested in teaching it," Assistant Principal English Eric Grossman said. "There is a course rotation policy for this very reason, so that teachers are able to teach classes they are interested in."

"[Grossman] isn't sure when the course was first taught. However, it has been at least fifteen years," Choi said. "[It] was first taught by a now retired teacher, Vincent Amato. Ms. Chan has been teaching it the last few years."

Students are similarly happy with this course.

"It's good for bringing together the Asian community at Stuy," sophomore David Huang said. "It's cool."

Freshman Kris Lulaj agreed. "I think it's a great way to help the Stuy community feel at ease with their surroundings since most of the students are Asian," he said.

Senior Allen Granzberg Named Presidential Scholar

By AMIT SAHA

Senior Allen Granzberg was one of 141 American high school seniors named a 2009 Presidential Scholar.

The Presidential Scholars Program is a nonpartisan educational recognition program that was founded in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Each year, 121 American seniors were chosen based on academic achievements, character, leadership and service. Application for the program is by invitation only. Up to one male and female are chosen from each state. In addition, a maximum of 15 additional candidates are selected based on their achievements. United States citizens living abroad can also be invited to apply.

Since 1979, 20 more scholars have been chosen based on their accomplishments in the arts, raising the total to 141 students. Students must participate in the youngARTS program, sponsored by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, in order to be eligible for recognition in dance, music, jazz, vocal performance, theater, photography, visual arts or writing.

Approximately 2600 potential applicants are selected in their senior year based on SAT or ACT scores and are sent the application materials in January. Granz-

berg was one of eight Stuyvesant seniors nominated for the program.

"We had a lot of amazing

"I'm honored to be with so many people who are phenomenal."

—Allen Granzberg, senior

people apply [from Stuyvesant]," Granzberg said.

Approximately 500 applicants proceed as semifinalists and are notified of their status in mid-April. Granzberg was the only semifinalist from Stuyvesant.

Granzberg was initially hesitant to apply, believing the program was one of several fake "honor" programs but changed his mind after his college counselor Gregg Walkes recommended he apply.

"I was very happy about it," Granzberg said. "I'm honored to be with so many people who are phenomenal."

Accepted students are given the opportunity to nominate a teacher who has had the most

influence on their high school career. Nominated teachers also travel to Washington, D.C., and receive the Teacher Recognition Award. Granzberg nominated social studies teacher Clarissa Bushman. Granzberg was a student in both her AP Microeconomics and Macroeconomics classes and also knows her from participating in the now-defunct Merrill Lynch Young Business Leaders Institute at Baruch College during the summer of 2008.

"He's a wonderful student," Bushman said. "He always has terrific things to say and offers a different perspective in class."

Although there is no actual scholarship money awarded, the 2009 Presidential Scholars will attend an expense-paid weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., where they will have the opportunity to meet with President Barack Obama, government officials and other influential people, including famous authors and scientists. Scholars are awarded the Presidential Scholars medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

"I'm just really honored, and I'm especially honored that Allen nominated me," Bushman said. "I'm looking forward to going to Washington."

Granzberg will attend Yale University in the fall of 2009.

Features

Mayoral Control: Efficient Decision Making or One Man Rule?

continued from page 1

of Arnie Duncan, the Secretary of Education for the Obama administration.

"My personal opinion is that many changes have been good," Blumm said. "It is so hard to change policy for a school system with one million kids in it. It's like turning around a battleship. They had eight years. If they waited for consensus for all the things from A-Z, they only would have gotten to D. You can't always wait."

Chemistry teacher Jeffrey Kivi agrees. "I haven't lived here that long, so I don't know what it was like before, but I keep hearing that nothing ever used to get done. The good thing about Bloomberg is that he's not afraid of making decisions. And even if these turn out to be the wrong decisions, sometimes doing the wrong thing is better than doing nothing at all. I'm inclined to think that it [mayoral control] is a good thing overall."

However, many are unhappy with the way the mayor has enacted his reforms. A recent NY1 poll showed that 61 percent of New Yorkers want Bloomberg to share control of the public school system.

Mayoral Control's opponents include Stuyvesant Parent's Association (PA) co-president Paola de Kock. She criticizes his unilateral authority, which "has lead to arbitrary and capricious government," she said.

De Kock cites the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), as a prime example of the mayor's unilateral control. The PEP was created in place of the BOE to advise the chancellor, Joel Klein, on school issues. However, the majority of the PEP's members are appointed by Bloomberg himself, which means that most members back his decisions, and those who do not can be fired at the mayor's will. In 2004, a large number of members of the PEP were fired because they didn't support Bloomberg's plan to change the third-grade promotion policy.

The issues go beyond the PEP, however, and down to the fundamental problem of having one man controlling an entire million-student school system. Critics of mayoral control equate it to "one man rule," and express frustration over their inability to play a role in determining education policy.

"Everyone else feels powerless [and] they shouldn't, because public education belongs to the citizens," de Kock said. "Bottom line: unless there are real ways to overturn a mayor's decision he still has absolute control. It's going to continue to be like Bloomberg is to the school system what the principal is to his school: king."

Bloomberg's efforts to achieve greater consultation began two years ago, when he sent surveys to every child's home to be filled out by parents. The surveys ask parents to assess their child's school, and then to send the survey in to the DOE. However, de Kock questions their significance.

"To [Bloomberg and Klein], the learning surveys are consultation, but what do they do with them?" de Kock asked.

Organizations throughout New York City share this opinion.

The Campaign for Better Schools, a coalition of community groups, and the Parents' Commission, a group of parents from every borough who represent many school communities within New York City, are both actively working to reduce mayoral control.

The PA has endorsed a proposal for change that was put forward by the Parents' Commission, which calls for a restructuring of the public school system to allow for greater representation, accountability and a constitution for city schools.

"We believe that enacting our recommendations will form the basis of a dynamic, responsive and responsible form of school governance for New York City," the proposal said.

Mayoral control has had dramatic effects on the everyday lives of Stuyvesant students as well.

"On the question of why it matters to Stuy, mayoral control has enabled Klein to go stuff kids into Stuy without regard to capacity, against the vehement opposition of Principal Teitel. Mayoral control has allowed DOE to spend millions—maybe billions by now—on no-bid contracts and unwanted and unproven initiatives without putting any more resources into the classrooms," de Kock said. Principal Stanley Teitel acknowledged that the DOE is responsible for the increased incoming class sizes, but otherwise does not see that mayoral control has a direct effect on students.

"We are fortunate in that we have a stable school in terms of population and teachers, so it [mayoral control] does not dramatically affect us. Internally, students probably see no difference between how it was before 2002 and how it is now," Teitel said.

On Monday, May 18, the monthly PEP meeting was held at Stuyvesant. De Kock attended because she "wanted a chance to ask the chancellor why he doesn't allow the PA to have access to the addresses of our school's parents because he says it's prohibited by law, but he gives these names to charter schools," she said.

The meeting began quietly, with a discussion of issues such as the swine flu. "Then midway through the meeting, protesters stood up en masse and interrupted the meeting and read a statement opposed to mayoral control," Blumm said. The protesters then marched out of the theater, shouting "one man rule has got to go."

In a video of the protest posted on the NY1 website, one man went to the front of the auditorium and addressed Klein directly after most of the protesters had left.

"Yo Chancellor!" the man said. "What did you prove? 90 percent of your audience left! You have to have a meeting in front of nobody so you can say what you want to say instead of hearing what the majority had to say? Who won? It's not about us, it's about the kids."

The raucous meeting served as an acute reminder that people, especially parents, are not happy, and want change. As de Kock said, "What if it was the president [of the United States] doing this? We wouldn't stand for it."

By ANDREW CHOW,
KAITLYN KWAN,
and NANCY MA

The Administration Cracks Down On Students

From mandating Academic Intervention Services (AIS) for failing students to canceling the Soph-Frosh semi-formal, Principal Stanley Teitel took steps to tighten school policies this year.

According to Teitel, the implementation of these policies has been necessary, as "problems with student discipline has increased."

AIS tutoring, for example, was made mandatory because students are increasingly failing classes. The policy ensures that students receive the help they

Year In Review

parents grew frantic. The issue, which was addressed during a Junior Assembly meeting, resulted in the postponement of SING! by one week. Performance dates were changed to Wednesday, March 18, Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21.

"I was extremely frustrated," junior SING! Executive Producer Jenny Che said. "We lost three six-hour rehearsals during spring break that could have been extremely productive."

This decision created another problem for SING! producers. An administrative policy states that students cannot participate in SING! if they have one U or three or more N's on their report card. Because SING! was pushed back a week, many performers were cut

more united from this forum. As a united student body, perhaps we can see great strides in the future." Though the turnout at the meetings was not what Kim and Griffin had expected, many of the students who attended found the Forum helpful.

"It would have been a lot better if more people had shown up," Griffin said. "But it's always a success when the students are talking to and being accurately represented by the SU."

Additionally, Junior Caucus President Valeriya Tsitron and Vice President Paul Lee unified a fair amount of the junior grade through Junior Spirit Week, which was held from Monday, March 30 to Friday, April 3. The event included juniors wearing a specific color each day—red on Monday, yellow on Tuesday, green on Wednesday, pink on Thursday and blue on Friday. Tsitron said that she wanted to foster a "sense of unity that doesn't appear much in our school, much less our grade." Though not every junior participated, "if it was fun for the people who did it, I consider that a success," Lee said.

Woopagsooie Boosts School Spirit

Stuyvesant is not known for its interest in athletics, but thanks to the expansion of Woopagsooie, the Official Stuyvesant Booster Club, interest in school sports has increased dramatically this year. Woopagsooie, which started this year by cheering on the girls' swimming team to the championship over Townsend Harris High School in November, has expanded to become one of the most well-known and successful clubs at Stuyvesant. Basketball games, once played in front of empty gyms, were packed this year with enthusiastic fans bearing red S-T-U-Y shirts due to Woopagsooie's presence. The club, which has sold over 400 shirts to a growing fan base, is led by the athletes themselves, including seniors Nick Rozar, Nick Wheatley-Schaller and Aaron Ghitelman.

"Woopagsooie has created an awareness for Stuy athletics that the school lacked last year," senior and Woopagsooie member Christopher Zhao said. "Every time you walk down the hallway, you see the red shirts everywhere."

Tragedy Strikes the Stuyvesant Community

Senior Ava Hecht's death on Thursday, January 8 left an aching gap in the Stuyvesant community. Ava passed away from bacterial meningitis. Ava contributed greatly to Stuyvesant, offering her unique talent as an artist as art editor for The Spectator. Her dynamic personality and welcoming spirit made Ava a friend of many. Students, teachers and administrators alike attended her funeral on Sunday, January 11 and the Stuyvesant community mourned her death by holding a Celebration of Life memorial in her honor on Thursday, January 22.

Ava's death caused many students and parents to worry about their own exposure to the disease. Although slight contact, such as having a conversation or sitting in a classroom with someone with meningitis, does not pose any potential harm, students and parents remained concerned.

Accordingly, information about meningitis was posted on the school website, and e-mails sent out to parents. Though panic over meningitis has now dwindled, Ava's warm and inspiring addition to the Stuyvesant community continues to be both remembered and missed.

need in their classes.

The semi-formal issue arose when students brought liquor to last year's dance. As a result, Teitel took precautionary measures this year and decided to cancel the Soph-Frosh semi-formal.

"I don't have much choice," Teitel said. "We have a school now of almost 3,300 students, and not everyone is always doing what they're supposed to."

Referring to the cut policy, which states that teachers may not give above a 90 to students who have at least five cuts in their class, Teitel said, "We have students, for example, who cut numerous classes a day. We have students who use other exits besides the second floor bridge exit to leave the building during the school day."

Other new policies include scanning students with metal detector wands during Advanced Placement exams, and the possibility of removing freshman out-to-lunch privileges next year.

These policies were all created because of past issues. Teitel deemed the metal detectors necessary after he found students using cellphones to cheat. As for the removal of lunch privileges, Teitel proposed the policy after students were caught behaving inappropriately at businesses surrounding Stuyvesant. These businesses included Whole Foods, Barnes & Noble, and the Regal Battery Park Stadium 11 cinema.

SING! Dilemmas

After discovering this year's SING! and the SAT were both scheduled to be on Saturday, March 14, many students and



Features

Emily Martin: Hitting All the Right Keys



Rosa Huang / The Spectator

Sophomore Emily Martin became interested in playing the piano when she was just a baby.

By HANNAH O'GRADY

Many of us will only gaze from a distance at Gracie Mansion, the Mayor's formal, white-

columned residence. Some might gawk at its fancy rooms during a guided tour. But on Friday, May 1, while many Stuyvesant students were unwinding

after a long week of cramming for Advanced Placement exams, sophomore Emily Martin was cruising in a limo to the mansion on the East River—for the second time. She was on her way to play the piano for Mayor Bloomberg and “some congressmen,” Martin said modestly, just two weeks after being invited to entertain “a bunch of UN ambassadors.”

The gig at Gracie Mansion came about as a result of a last-minute recommendation from chorus director Holly Hall.

“Two days before it happened, Ms. Hall asked me if I could play background music at Gracie Mansion,” Martin said. “I didn’t know until I got there what a big deal it was.”

But this kind of high-brow gig isn’t so new for the spunky 4’11” pianist. She has also played at Carnegie Hall, among other prestigious venues.

Martin’s love of the piano began when she was just a baby. Her parents placed their rickety 1829 baby grand—which they bought from a friend—next to baby Martin’s playpen in the hope that it would spark an interest. Apparently the experiment was a success. In preschool Martin began taking lessons at the Third Street Music School, then went to the Special Music School on West 67th street for elementary and middle school.

In the fifth and sixth grades Martin attended the New Hampshire Music Festival, a two-week sleep-away camp. This past summer,

she went to Belvoir Terrace Performing Arts Camp in Lenox, Massachusetts on a scholarship.

“It helped me a lot with things like my sight-reading, but also showed me what it was like to do chamber music with a bigger group of people,” Martin said.

Playing piano in so many places has exposed her to a wide variety of music. Her favorite

recent New York State Forensic League Championships Tournament, she placed third in junior varsity Oral Interpretation.

Juggling so many activities while trying to keep up her grades can be difficult. “Sometimes it comes down to, do I do my homework, or do I prepare for the concert I have this week?” she says. “I think it is important to focus on my grades, but also do what I want to do. My music is top.”

This year, Martin began playing for the Stuyvesant Chamber Choir and finds it “a totally different thing.” Martin feels that being a part of both chorus and the Soph-Frosh SING! band has helped her develop as a pianist. “It has really exposed me to working with other people, rather than just being a soloist.”

Sophomore Huei Lin, Soph-Frosh SING! band director, considers Martin one of the most talented piano players he has ever met. “When she plays she is really immersed in it, almost like she forgets everything except for her and the piano,” Lin said.

[Martin] has brought a very nice spirit to the chorus,” chorus teacher Liliya Shamazov said. “She’s very eager and self-motivated.”

Martin admits that she doesn’t know yet if being a professional pianist is the route she should take. “I think about it everyday,” she said. “When I play [...] it’s the closest I come to understanding myself.”

**“She’s very
eager and self-
motivated.”**
—Liliya
Shamazov,
chorus teacher

artists range from Chopin to Cat Stevens, and from Rachmanoff to the Decembrists. Her iPod, which she listens to on her commute home to the East Village, “has a lot of stuff on it,” she said.

Despite her focus on the piano, Martin isn’t a one-note gal. She has been in Stuyvesant Theater Community productions, and recently landed a role in the spring comedy Arsenic and Old Lace. She’s also an active member of the Speech team; in the

Troubled Waters

**By MAX WYCISK
and MEGHA CHERIAN**

With the economy in shambles and the unemployment rate in New York City on the rise, many students are finding the path to college rockier than it was a year ago. Especially at Stuyvesant, where many students expect to attend the elite colleges in the United States, the college process has become even more daunting. Since Stuyvesant is a public school, many students have the qualifications to attend such colleges but struggle to pay tuition. In fact, the average cost for an Ivy League education is around 50,000 dollars annually, while the average household income in New York City is only around 70,000 dollars per year. In light of the current economic recession, it is likely this number will decrease.

Thus, with the economy working against them, more and more students are adjusting their priorities when looking at colleges. “I seriously considered the United States Military academy because it was free,” said senior Samantha Whitmore, who will be attending Harvard next fall. “My parents told me not to worry about any monetary concerns when choosing my school—they said that my education was most important to them, and they would handle all the worrying. So I was lucky, and able to choose to go where I wanted to go the most.”

“When it came down to actually choosing where to go, the financial aid package played a huge role,” senior Tina Khiani said. “We all know that everyone usually needs to take out some loans for college, but there are moments where you think about how bad things can get and whether or not you’ll be able to pay off those loans.”

However, not every student is in the same situation. Students who can afford a private education are able to look past financial criteria. “I did apply to financial safeties, but my final decision was not based on costs,” said senior Marcela Rodriguez, who will be attending MIT in the fall. “The quality of education, the student body, the opportunities I would have to do research, strength in my desired field of study, and prestige were my most important criteria. The price was not a big factor in my decision because my parents told me that they have the money to pay for my education—they’ve been saving it up every month.”

Senior Elizabeth Kelman, who chose to attend the Macaulay Honors College, at City College, has a different rationale. “I realized

that attending a “name” school with a hundred acres of trees really isn’t worth a quarter of a million dollars unless it’s absolutely perfect. I could go to Macaulay at CUNY for free and be able to pay for grad school without a problem,” Kelman said. Although Kelman can afford tuition, she believes it’s not worth it. “I’d rather have all that money go to grad school, which is where the name or prestige of the school or whatever actually matters in getting jobs.”

Colleges, as well as students, are being forced to make drastic changes to their plans in this economic climate. Unfortunately, however, these adjustments have an adverse affect on most applicants. For example, state schools across the country, which have historically appealed to students because of their lower tuition, are raising tuition as the states reduce funding. According to the College Board Web site, “most students and their families can expect to pay, on average, from \$108 to \$1,398 more than last year for a year’s tuition and fees.”

Schools are also projecting massive cuts in scholarships for students for the ‘09–’10 school year. According to the Miami Student, a paper for the University of Miami, “Roughly 1,100 scholarships funded by endowments at Miami University may be cut back for the ‘09–’10 academic year due to the current financial situation.”

For sophomore Sehrash Shabbir, affordability will play a major role in her future college choice. “I have four younger siblings my parents have to think about, so it’s not just me. I don’t think I’d be able to attend a private college without a scholarship or financial aid,” Shabbir said. “Money is an important, if not deciding factor for me.”

“Many others out there are fighting harder for financial aid from their top schools, choosing schools based on financial aid, or applying to honors programs like Macaulay that let you go for free. State schools are probably more popular too,” Rodriguez said.

Graduating seniors today have to contend with their own economic worries and the cutbacks of colleges all on top of the standard pressures of leaving their comfort zones to go off to college. However, they remain confident in their ability to confront these challenges.

“I only get to go through the college experience once,” Whitmore said. “Now is the time for our seniors to go out and show the world that they can be successful no matter what stands in their way.”

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Features

The Alumni Association: Connecting Stuy's Past, Present, and Future

By SHILPA AGRAWAL

The next time you walk into Room 301 to talk to your computer science teacher, notice the tiny room on the left, which houses a crucial but often overlooked part of the Stuyvesant Community: Stuyvesant's Alumni Association. Currently, the association has 30,643 members, of which approximately 3,500 are voting members. To become a member, you must have attended Stuyvesant High School, and to become a voting member, you must pay annual dues of 40 dollars (25 if you are a college student or retired).

The Alumni Association's goal is to "help the school, help the student pubs and clubs, teams, and the academic departments," Henry Grossberg ('82) the Executive Director of the association said. As Executive Director, Grossberg is in his office from nine to five organizing events, reunions, and monthly

board meetings, and keeping the association running.

The association has many committees, including the Scholarships and Grants Committee, and the Membership and Fundraising Committee. All of the committees convene in monthly Board Meetings, where money circulation and the business of running the organization are discussed.

The association has done a great deal to help the school financially, giving money to both academic classes and student organizations, including The Spectator. The money the association gives to each of the departments usually comes from Stuyvesant alumni and parents. This year 4,459 dollars were given to the Chemistry and Physics department to help buy lab equipment. The association also gave a significant amount to clubs at Stuyvesant, including 20,000 dollars to help pay travel expenses for the Speech and Debate team

State and National championship tournaments. Altogether, the association has allocated 216,457.42 dollars to the departments and teams at Stuyvesant.

Aside from helping the departments, the Alumni Association has also been very generous in giving out grants and scholarships. The association hosts an annual scholarship competition in which students can apply, generally through writing an essay.

"There are lots of different scholarships with lots of different criteria. Many of them are donated by alums and families, and many are memorial scholarships," Katherine Bendo, a consultant to the Alumni Association, and parent of an '06 alumnus, said. This year 20 scholarships were granted to seniors, and about 10 grants were given to students, making a grand total of over 60,000 dollars. Grants are given to students with financial needs, and are not always meant to help pay college tuition, while

scholarships are allotted specifically to seniors, usually for the purpose of paying for college.

"Many of the scholarships were scholarships in memory of someone, and some had different criteria than others," senior James Kim said, recipient of the Sol Tanne Scholarship. When asked how the scholarship would help his college life, he said, "Other than just tuition, there are also many hidden expenses from college, so the scholarship helps me in that aspect."

As its name suggests, the Alumni Association also organizes events for alums and works to keep them informed about the school. Three to four times a year, the association publishes a newsletter, which includes news from the school, letters to the association, news about the faculty, notes about the alumni, and news about the events the association hosted. The association also updates its website frequently.

"We are the link between

the school, faculty, alumni, and board of directors," Grossberg said.

The association organizes events for the entire Stuyvesant community as well as alumni. It has organized tours of museums and the 100th year celebration of the school—the 2004 "Stuycentennial"—along with a variety of other events. Last year the association arranged for Stuyvesant alumnus Alec Klein ('85) to come to Stuy for a reading and signing of his book "A Class Apart."

"For me [the reunions] were wonderful. It always is nice to go back to a time when you are 13, 14, 15 years old. It is so nice to see people you haven't seen in many years and don't run into often," said Abby Scheck ('72), a member of the association.

"It is so nice to keep the traditions of the school alive," Scheck said. "There are so many accomplishments. I know I take great pleasure when I see how far my classmates have come."

Free Hugs Carnival Does it Again

By JUDY CHEN

The second annual St. Jude's Carnival, hosted by the Free Hugs Club on Thursday, May 1, had the same goals as last year's fundraiser: to raise money for the St. Jude's Research Hospital and to allow students to participate in a fun event. The carnival "adds this extra feeling of accomplishment when everything works out," senior and Vice President Kaitlyn O'Hagan said, regarding the success of this year's carnival.

The event this year included games, food, performances, raffles and tournaments. Upon admission, students and teachers received four game tickets, three food tickets and a slip for people to vote for best performance, along with the list of events. Those who wished to play more games or eat more food were allowed to buy additional food tickets at two for a dollar, game tickets for four for a dollar, and raffle tickets two dollars each or three for five dollars.

It took a 24 person advertising committee, consisting of club members and non-club members, as well as a 46 person setup/cleanup/food committee to pull off this year's carnival.

"We divide up the work to make it more manageable and organized," O'Hagan said. "Everyone recruits members of the club to help out with their specific assignments, and mostly through emails, breaks down the large amount of work that needs to get done."

The club teamed up with Amanzi Tea, Portobello's, Baluchi's, and Jambo Juice for food and refreshments, and Terry's, Barnes & Noble, and Carl Philly's Cheesesteaks for gift cards as raffle prizes.

"For the most part, Stuyvesant students make loyal customers to all the local businesses we went to and ask for help, and when we explain what we are doing, the goal we are trying to accomplish," they offered their services, O'Hagan said.

"It was a great way to thank our patrons for maintaining business with us. It's a token of appreciation," Portobello's manager Carlo Cilio said. "It feels good to get all the attention."

The Free Hugs Club also received support from club advisor Angel Colon, Principal Stanley Teitel, Assistant Principal Randi Damesek, Coordinator of Student Affairs Lisa Weinwurz and the Student Union.

Games included Balloon Darts, Can Smash, Tic-Tac-Toe Rug, Ring the Triceratops, and Baseball Bean Bag Toss. Junior Kristi Truong participated in the Tic-Tac-Toe Rug, and Lucky Ducky games. While she lost some games, "the concept seemed easy and fun," Truong said. Later on audiences watched a variety of tournaments, ranging from Dance Dance Revolution competitions to arm wrestling.

There were also several performances from Stuyvesant students and clubs throughout the two-hour carnival. Truong also watched sophomore Fariyah Mridha singing Jordin Sparks' "One Step at a Time."

"It was a really good performance, but the feedback from the microphone was a hindrance," Truong said.

Sophomore Della Chu, a member of the Free Hugs Club and A Cappella, sang in the A Cappella performances. "We had practice three to four days a week and we reviewed the songs we sang at Barthfest," she said. "It was a success. A lot of people showed up to sing."

Freshman Rebecca Chan chose to go to the carnival because "it was for a good cause" and the event took place on a Friday, she said. Some teachers also promised to give extra credit to those who attended the carnival.

But most students felt that that the carnival was worthwhile whether or not they got credit. "You kind of had fun anyways," Chan said. "I didn't go for the extra credit."

Though the carnival was undoubtedly a success, Free Hugs Club members did find some areas for improvement.

"We sold a slightly smaller number of tickets and had a slightly smaller turnout. We also didn't have as many volunteers for performers, we didn't have as many members of the Stuyvesant community make food," O'Hagan said. "But these are things that could be attributed to the fact that the carnival was later in the year this year, or on a Friday instead of a Thursday."

But O'Hagan has high hopes for future carnivals. "Because the majority of the administrators are seniors this year, we've tried really hard to build a strong base of underclassmen, first and foremost being [sophomore and treasurer] Lipi [Thaker] and [sophomore and secretary] Marsha [Kononenko] and they've done a great job, so I think next years carnival can only be better and more successful," she said.

R U UK?

By JONATHAN LERNER

According to USA Today, "a record 241,791 United States (US) students went abroad for academic credit in 2006-2007, up eight percent from the previous year, and nearly 150 percent more than a decade earlier." Many of these students are traveling to schools in the United Kingdom (UK). Seven schools from the UK visited Stuyvesant on college night, held on Thursday, April 30: Oxford, Cambridge, St. Andrews, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Warwick. From the classes of '07 and '08, nine students applied to Oxford, 12 students applied to St. Andrews, and four to Edinburgh.

According to a November 30, 2008 New York Times article, called "Going Off to College for Less (Passport Required)" students in the UK get less individual attention than students at comparable U.S. universities. Stuyvesant graduate and St. Andrews freshman Jeremiah Hay ('08) said that "the lecture classes are really huge." But he said there's an upside: "My assumption [...] is that I get more attention here – because there's a tutorial each week for each class that was [has] no more than 13 people, and I don't think that they do that in the US," Hay said. However, he complained that the "food is various shades of mediocre."

According to senior Georgia Stasinopoulos, who was accepted into Oxford but decided not to go, UK universities let you study "the subject you want to pursue, rather than a core or other things," she said. At universities in the UK, except for those in Scotland, students graduate in three years instead of four. They save time by choosing a major immediately while American students usually choose a major during their junior year.

In England, students can only take classes within their majors. Students in Scotland are given more freedom to experiment, and are also able to change their majors—something students in the rest of the UK can't do. Specialization and three-year programs help schools in the UK save money. UK universities are government-subsidized, and none are so well endowed as their American counterparts.

Tuition at Oxford and St. Andrews is around 11,000 pounds, or about 16,500 dollars at the current exchange rate. Dormitory costs barely raise the price past 20,000 dollars. On the other hand, American colleges can cost as much as 50,000 dollars a year. Students who don't qualify for financial aid from an American college stand to save a substantial sum. US government loans can also be used at UK universities.

The pound's drop against the dollar and euro has attracted students to universities in the UK. According to Andrew Dis-

bury, Dean of Admissions at St Andrews, more students are applying because of the favorable exchange rates. "Several parents told me during my trip they had only begun to think of UK as an option because of the exchange rates," Disbury said in an e-mail interview. Twenty percent of St Andrews students are from abroad. According to the New York Times article, "St Andrews has 1,230 Americans among its 7,200 students this year, compared with fewer than 200 a decade ago."

Of Edinburgh's 23,000 students, "around 1400 students—just over 5 percent—are

The seven universities founded before the 17th century are called the ancient universities. Most were founded before North America was discovered.

from the USA. US students are split roughly in three: students pursuing full undergraduate degrees, graduate students and study abroad students," said Rebecca Gaukroger, International Office Assistant Director at Edinburgh.

Students interested in studying abroad can consult the Times Good University Guide. Oxford places first, followed by Cambridge. Oxford and Cambridge are often referred to as Oxbridge—the term means about the same thing that Ivy League does here.

In addition to the term Oxbridge, several other terms are used to describe the UK's universities. The six universities founded in England's industrial cities before WWI are called red bricks, and the plate glass universities were founded in the 60s. The post-1992 universities are converted technical schools. The seven universities founded before the 17th century are called the ancient universities. Most were founded before North America was discovered.

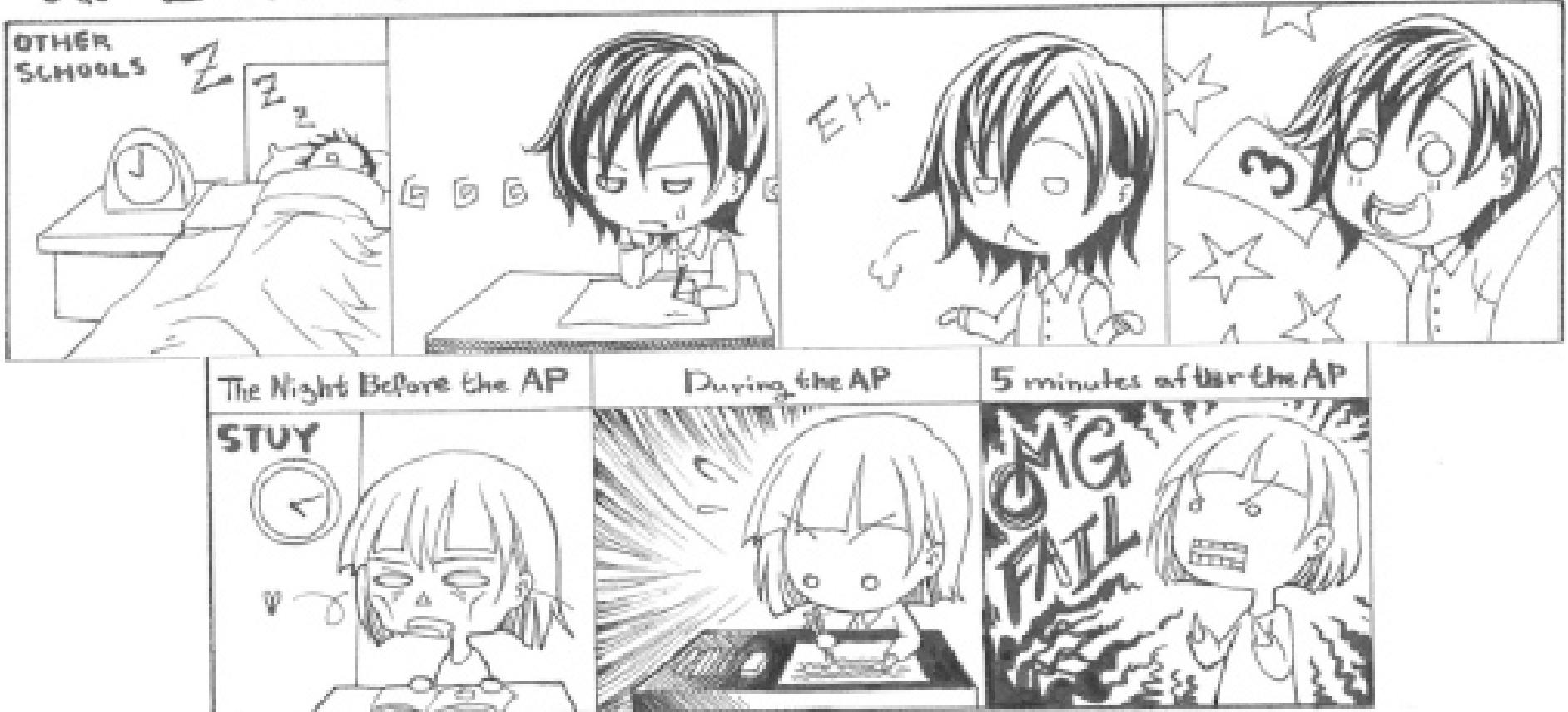
Studying in the UK can be an inexpensive alternative to studying here. Universities there are often picturesque, and many have centuries of history behind them. Healthcare is free, and the drinking age is 18. Altogether it's quite a package.

Features



AP EXAMS ARE EPIC

by Jin Suh



"THINGS BORED SENIORS DO"

by Adam Prommer



SUPER SENIORS

by Erica Chan



Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

Time to Unite

As students enter their final weeks of school, which are characterized by Regents review and over-blasted air conditioning, they are beginning to reflect on the past 10 months. As a student body we have had to deal once more with a tragic loss. We have also seen a slow reduction of our privileges, although we have failed to speak out against them with conviction. Instead of trying to regain our rights, we have shirked our responsibilities, assuming the Student Union (SU) will resolve the issues.

Unfortunately, the SU, which is supposed to constantly interact with the student body, has continued to keep its doors tightly shut. It has failed to deliver many of the reforms and changes promised. For example, in the June 2, 2008, issue of The Spectator, SU President James Kim said, "We also want to improve the club/pub experience by expanding the number of rooms available in the grid administration."

Kim and Vice President Casey Griffin never followed through on such a course of action. In fact, students were all but able to reserve rooms for the first couple months of the year, when the SU Web site wasn't even running. While a new version of stuyhsu.org has since been put up, it still lacks the old grid feature for reserving rooms. During the year, conflicts emerged with the administration, which has enacted several regulations controlling what we wear, what we sell, where we eat, when we eat and where we are allowed to hang out. This has left some

students frustrated at their inability to voice their opinions. Others have merely grown apathetic towards any actions the administration takes. And though moves have been made to protest these changes—such as "Stuy Dress Code Day," an event in which students wore overly formal clothes to mock the new enforcement of the dress code—most have lacked popular support. Students protest in various Facebook groups, but the commitment ends there. In order to bring about real change, protest cannot be solely virtual.

Speaking up more at Student Leadership Team meetings as well as communicating in a more concise manner with the administration will show them that we are committed to reform. This is not to say that the student body should be speaking out against every action that the administration takes. The policy of using metal detector wands during Advanced Placement Exams was opposed strongly by students who felt as though their personal freedoms were being taken away. However, the policy ended up being appropriate—students had cell phones confiscated that otherwise could have been used to cheat. And though we often feel as though the administration does not trust us enough, we must recognize that it is their job—as well as ours—to help uphold academic honesty at Stuyvesant.

In terms of bringing about necessary change, the student body has not been completely passive. One positive action the SU took was the holding of a Students' Fo-

rum, a student-led discussion that addressed many current policy issues at Stuyvesant. The Open Forum gave the students a way to talk about the problems facing them as well as present ways to appeal to the administration.

We have also demonstrated our ability to develop a sense of community during difficult times. A tragedy befell us earlier this year: the death of senior Ava Hecht. Many students attended Ava's funeral, a Celebration of Life that included speakers and performances, and a Tree Ceremony, all of which honored her memory. In a school where the student body can often seem segregated, we managed to handle the situation maturely and join together in order to cope with the loss of a peer. However, as unfortunate as it is, it took an unexpected, tragic death to create a sense of community at Stuyvesant. It's important that we unify more often than just when participating in SING!, when attending an Open Forum, or when dealing with tragedy. We need to start the 2009-2010 school year with immediate efforts to bring about reform. We can negotiate with Teitel, who has proposed revoking the out to lunch privileges of the incoming freshmen. We can take down the doors leading into the SU, as not only a practical change, but also as a symbol of our attempt to increase communication between the SU and the student body. We can bring about change. It is just a matter of motivation.

To the Stuyvesant Community,

We would like to express our deepest regrets for the publication of the cartoon, "Swine Flu," which appeared in Issue 15 of The Spectator, published on Monday, May 11, 2009. The portrayal in the cartoon was inconsiderate, and The Spectator does not endorse in any way the opinions expressed or connote by the comic. We acknowledge that we exhibited poor judgment and were not careful enough in selecting what would appear in the paper. We will strive to move beyond this incident and achieve a higher degree of journalistic integrity in the future. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact us at letters@stuyhsu.org.

—The 2009-2010 Editorial Board

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RE: Securing a Sound Education: The Campaign for Fiscal Equity

Funding for public schools is provided by the Federal, State and local governments. The Federal government provides discretionary money, which is allocated through the appropriations process annually. It also provides Title I funding based on economic need for schools that meet a benchmark percentage of children who qualify for free/reduced price lunch. The Federal government also provides Individuals with Disabilities Education Act special education funding based on documented student need.

The State of New York uses tax-levy funds from income and property taxes. The Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) Web site is a terrific resource. The main "roadblock" [to the redistribution of school funding mandated by the state supreme court] was the Patoki administration's resistance to the judicial mandate, which necessitated the appointment of court referees in 2004 due to the State's non-compliance.

In November 2007, New York Governor Eliot Spitzer announced a new funding formula in compliance with the CFE case, referred to as Contracts for Excellence (C4E). School districts are now required to submit a Contract for Excel-

lence specifying how the district will spend its state aid. A significant portion of that increase must be spent on one or more reforms including smaller class sizes, longer school days or school years, middle school and high school restructuring, and increased early learning through full day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. A smaller portion of new funding could be targeted toward research-based experimental programs. That first year, the Contracts for Excellence detailed how districts would spend 428 million dollars, of which 257.9 million dollars was directed to New York City.

The local contribution to public schools is based primarily on local property tax. Municipalities with high priced real estate have the ability to raise substantially greater funds from that base than districts with lower property values. This contributes greatly to funding disparities. Other factors contribute to that disparity such as teacher salary. Higher teacher starting pay and lower teacher turnover raises the per pupil cost of education, and suburban school districts tend toward both of those factors.

One other CFE roadblock that bears mentioning is the current

economic downturn in the State of New York. This year, most education cuts were restored through Federal Stimulus funding.

Since 1998, the State of New York had put into place several reform initiatives and spending on education has increased dramatically. My office recently issued a report on education funding that pertains to school governance of the New York City schools. There have been important investments in early grade class size reduction, the expansion of pre-Kindergarten programs, increased professional development and teacher salary and other programs since 1998. I believe such investments put education on the right path. Early education investments are key and my report demonstrates that they pay off as demonstrated by improved student performance on State exams, especially among students entering pre-Kindergarten at the time of its expansion.

Finally, I am in agreement with the New York State Court of Appeals definition of a sound basic education "a meaningful high school education."

—Jim Brennan,
Assembly Member

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



"The Pulse
of the
Student
Body"

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Please address all letters to:
345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282
(212) 312-4800 ext. 2601
letters@stuyhsu.org

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FOR THE RECORD

- In Issue 15, it should be noted that Garrett O'Brien contributed additional reporting to the article, "Wands Out, Phones Away."
- In the article, "Proposal to Require Course Evaluations Rejected," the statement quoted from the United Federation of Teachers was taken out of context. There is no clause in the teachers' contract prohibiting course evaluations by students.
- It should be noted that Megha Cherian contributed additional reporting to the article, "Earth Day Festival Strives for a Green Vindication."
- For the Tribeca Film Festival Red Carpet Coverage, all photographs were taken by Leili Saber.
- For the article, "From Doodles and Collages to the Brooklyn Museum," Serena Berry was a co-writer.
- Harry Poppick took the photograph for the article, "Juilliard Embraces Teens and Their Music."
- It should be noted that Danielle Oberdier was not involved in the writing and/or editing of the article, "Juilliard Embraces Teens and Their Music."
- In the article, "Boys' and Girls' Tennis in Full Swing," the girls' tennis team's record was misstated. At the time of publication, they were 11-2 and in first place.

Opinions

Wasted Potential



Jack Greisman / The Spectator

By SARAH KAPLAN

During the 2008 election there was much discussion of what it means to be an intellectual in today's society. President Barack Obama, a graduate of Columbia and Harvard and a law professor at University of Chicago, was often derisively referred to as an elitist. According to his opponents, Obama was

tolerate dropouts, but in some cases they even encourage them. According to a Public Advocate report released on April 30, 2009, the Department of Education (DOE) has been sued numerous times for pushing students who seem unlikely to graduate out of schools in an effort to raise test scores and graduation rates. These students are classified as "discharged," rather than dropouts.

In New York City, the number of discharges has jumped from 17 to 22 percent of all students, and most of these discharges are underperforming minorities and special education students—people more likely to bring down the city's statistics. And because of the DOE's questionable methodology—students who are expelled, voluntarily withdraw due to pregnancy, or leave school at the age of 21 without a diploma are all counted as discharges—many of these discharges should arguably be included as dropouts. Instead, the city hides them in the discharge category to make dropout rates seem lower.

The DOE disputes this argument, arguing that the percent of discharges has remained flat during the past six years and that only two percent of the students categorized as discharges under the NYC system would be considered dropouts under the national system—hardly enough to have a significant impact on the city's overall statistics. But the DOE offers no explanation as to why the report has such different statistics.

Stuyvesant students may wonder what this has to do with them. We don't need to worry about being pushed out of

Our education laws must be reformed to adequately deal with the problems in our schools.

school because it looks like we're not going to pass the Regents. Our graduation rate is nearly 99 percent. Why does it matter if dropouts in other schools aren't being counted?

But when a school system sees that 30 out of every 100 students aren't graduating and tries to find a way to hide that instead of finding a way to fix the situation, isn't that a kind of surrender? Isn't that saying that the 30 students who fail aren't

The Department of Education (DOE) has been sued numerous times for pushing students who seem unlikely to graduate out of schools in an effort to raise test scores and graduation rates.

too well-educated to accurately represent the interests of "real Americans."

Perhaps it is this anti-intellectualism which has led to the dramatic decline in our country's education system. Or maybe it's just indifference on the part of education officials, an unwillingness to confront a problem that is right before their eyes. Either way, the fact is that education has been woefully mismanaged in recent years, and becoming an intellectual in America has gotten a lot more difficult.

In the past half century, the U.S. has fallen from first place in education worldwide to 18th out of 36 developed countries. Of these 36, we are the only country in which teenagers have a smaller chance of graduating from high school than their parents. Only 70 percent of Americans earn a high school diploma every year. In cities, the number decreases to 50 percent, and the graduation rate for minorities is a mere 33 percent. These numbers are alarming, especially considering the fact that according to America's Promise Alliance website, close to 80 percent of jobs in the United States today require not only a high school diploma, but a college degree.

Not only do school systems

We must require greater accountability and transparency from our education system so that failing students will no longer be ignored. And then we need to reform it so that they will no longer fail.

worth the effort it would take to help them?

Students should be concerned when the success of our education becomes less important than the appearance of success. We need to be concerned because we are students also. So we can't afford to hide from the startling realities of our education system. We must require greater accountability and transparency so that failing students will no longer be ignored. And then we need to reform it so that they will no longer fail.

Already President Obama, who managed to be elected in spite of his intellectualism, is taking steps to make this happen. The federal government gave nearly 100 billion dollars to education in the February stimulus package, enough funding to offset most of the state budget cuts made necessary by the economic downturn according to recovery.gov. This money can be used to improve failing schools, which account for almost all of the nation's dropouts, rather than simply shutting them down. It can pay for increased teacher salaries to make the job more attractive, so that struggling schools are not stuck with the most reluctant and unqualified teachers. It can fund after-school programs, tutoring—whatever will help students to remain in school and succeed.

Simply throwing money at the problem will not solve it completely either. Our education laws must be reformed to adequately deal with the problems in our schools. The 2002 No Child Left Behind law, which set high standards for schools nationwide but gave schools no help in meeting them, needs to be revised to lessen the number of failing schools that will be forced to close—13 in New York City for this year alone. We also need to standardize the way that school districts report test scores and graduation rates, so that loopholes that allow the inflation of statistics will no longer be available.

This will not be an easy process, nor will it happen quickly. But if the United States wishes to continue to play a major role in world affairs, our government can't let more than a third of its students fail to graduate high school any longer. We can't afford that waste of potential.

I Hate Tourists



Stephanie London / The Spectator

By GAVIN HUANG

Hate is a strong word. Maybe I should have used another word, perhaps something lighter such as "dislike" or, as my thesaurus suggested, "have an aversion to." Well, I have an aversion to tourists. But a light headline like that wouldn't attract readers. Besides, I'm sure tourists would feel the exact same way about me if I brought

As a resident of Chinatown, probably one of the most popular tourist sites in the city, I have to suffer the pain of navigating through huge sightseeing groups.

my slick, trashy Chinese-New Yorker self to their hometowns to gawk at their buildings and marvel at their cleaner sidewalks.

Frommer's, one of the best-selling travel guides in the United States, claims that "there's always great stuff going on in New York City, so there's no real 'best' time to go." This flexibility and "there's always something to do" aspect of the city explains the constant stream of tourists throughout the year flocking the city streets and red double-decker buses. During the summer season, culture hounds usually come to take advantage of free outdoor events.

Make no mistake: tourism has its economic benefits. According to NYC & Company, the official tourism marketing organization of New York City, over 46 million tourists visited the city in 2007, bringing in over 28 billion dollars in profit. The money generated by tourists resulted in an average of 1,000 dollars in tax savings per household.

Unfortunately, these huge tax deductions don't make up for the large number of daily minor inconveniences tourism causes. As a resident of Chinatown, probably one of the most popular tourist sites in the city, I have to suffer the pain of navigating through huge sightsee-

ing groups loitering on the sidewalks every day. One afternoon, I was barely able to get into my favorite local bubble tea bar because a crowd of German tourists was blocking the door, trying to decipher the English and decide what to order.

The negative aspects of tourism also come from our different perceptions of New York. Tourists are here to visit, to dabble in a little bit of this and a little bit of that and then pack their bags and head home. They are strangers, here to look at some pretty buildings and "experience the city" in an attempt to feel what it's like to be a real New Yorker without actually living here. We see a city that we call home. They see an amusement park with things to do.

With this dichotomy between tourists and residents in mind, I visited Chicago over spring break with my camera hidden in my sweatshirt pocket and my Fodor's guide tucked away in my messenger bag. There was no way I was going to make myself look like a tourist. I

It seems living like a Roman in Rome when you're not exactly Roman doesn't work.

walked down Michigan Avenue like I knew the whole city, like I was a Chicagoan.

But, of course, I wasn't a Windy City native. Eventually, I did have to pull out my Fodor's guide to make my way back to my hotel, and I succumbed to the temptation of a good photo. It seems that living like a Roman in Rome when you're not exactly Roman doesn't work.

The more I think about it, the more I realize that the only difference between us and them is our hometown. Two weeks ago, I lost my cell phone in Central Park, another popular tourist site. Ironically, a tourist from San Francisco had found it and called my parents, asking them to get it back before her plane left that night. After the feeling of ecstatic relief subsided, I decided that I should perhaps reconsider my relationship with tourists. After all, we are all people. Only, they're people from somewhere else. And you're a New Yorker.

Opinions

Falling Flat



By GEORGIA STASINOPoulos

Most classes at Stuyvesant end at 3:30 p.m. Most classes assign less than an hour of homework. Most final exams count for no more than ten percent of your grade. But, despite its aversion to making exceptions, the Stuyvesant Music Department has proven itself to be—in all things—exceptional.

Don't get me wrong—I've loved chorus every minute of the four years I've been a part of it; in a lot of ways, the Music Department feels like a family. It breaks my heart to criticize it—but I have to, because there is something fundamentally wrong with how it functions.

I've seen my chorus grade drop a point or two during the years for various absences from after-school rehearsals, but I avoided serious skirmishes until this year, when I unwittingly committed to a prom with a friend in December, only to discover at the end of March that the annual spring concert and the prom were the same evening.

If you are in chorus you understand the terror this kind of conflict causes. My terror abated, however, when I realized that an obvious compromise was possible. I could miss the last 10 minutes of the concert—the finale, with the two choruses, band and orchestra—and just be a little late to the prom (allowing me to leave during the hour-long, non-chorus part of the concert).

And, if you're in chorus, the next part of this saga is predictable. I suggested this compromise to chorus teacher Holly Hall and was flat-out told to "expect a city

the diary of a mad senior

diploma," because she would fail me. I went to Assistant Principal Music Raymond Wheeler—the response was the same. My options, I was told, were to sing the concert or see 10 minutes reduce my grade by 45 points.

Fast-forward several weeks. I have written letters to the school. I have spoken to teachers and assistant principals, many of whom have interceded on my behalf. My parents and I have met with Principal Stanley Teitel and Wheeler. The Music Department's answer has not changed substantially. If I put a personal commitment before an "academic" one, my grade would be reduced by at least 20 points, and I would be barred from the entire concert.

There are more examples of this aversion to compromise—the Music Department prides itself on not creating a precedent for performance absences. But its "all-or-nothing" approach, while producing fantastic concerts, comes at a price—it encourages students to avoid honesty for easier approaches: make up a funeral, get a doctor's note, say you're feeling feverish and ask to leave the stage, lose your voice. This ruling makes a mockery of the department and encourages abuse and hollow commitment.

This is not department policy—because no policy exists that charts out what concerts are even worth. I was told that I could not have known the official policy until I triggered it—but an inaccessible, verbal "policy" is no policy at all. The Music Department's policy is a parody of precedent, arbitrarily defined and arbitrarily applied.

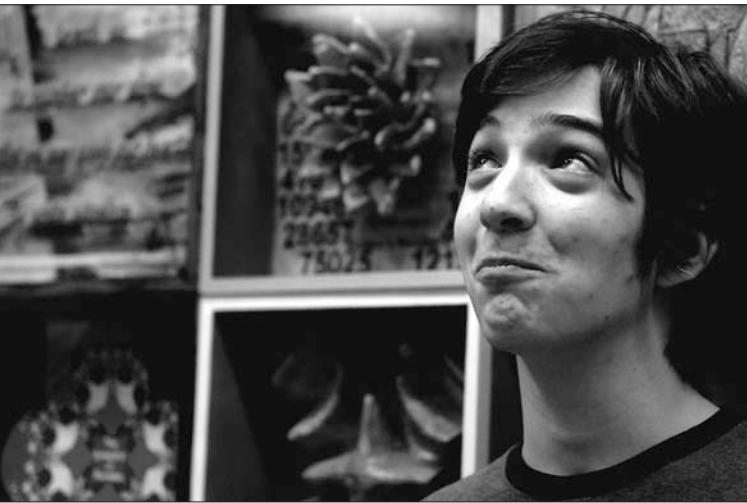
But the choral program's problems (and, by association, the Music Department's problems) extend beyond these ambiguities and lie in its inability to accommodate students' needs. Instead, it resorts to blatant intimidation. By confusing a class with an extracurricular activity, the department gets the best of both—a grade that counts towards our GPAs, and a way to require that students undertake a hefty time commitment inside and outside of school. Extracurricular activities are disguised as necessary class participation.

The department grades students erratically, and focuses on attendance instead of effort. This breeds resentment, as one student—who wished to remain anonymous—noted after a series of erratic grade shifts just this term. Many students were given unusually low grades without explanation: "[They] wonder why our attitudes have been deteriorating. Maybe it's because we live in constant fear of being arbitrarily yelled at and failed."

No class assigns two and half hours of homework, and no extracurricular activity changes a student's grade. Except chorus. With extracurricular activities, we can choose to put academics first when we need to—but chorus, orchestra and band have created a punitive "policy" that leaves no room for negotiation. These are problems that can easily be fixed. Allow for some degree of flexibility. Write a comprehensive department policy. Allow for some recognition of personal conflicts. Create make-up volunteer work to mitigate the grade reduction. Tell students the dates of the concerts in September to avoid ambiguity. But as long as the Music Department doesn't recognize its flaws, conflicts will continue.

This is their policy. And, unwilling to see my grade suffer when I had done nothing wrong, and unwilling to jeopardize my college acceptances or my scholarship applications (many dependent on my GPA and senior transcript), I arrived at the prom three hours late, lest a 300-strong performance miss the absence of one soprano.

But don't worry, because I passed chorus. It's the Music Department that failed, miserably.



By ISAAC LAPIDES

As summer nears, the temperature rises. For most people who try to compensate for the change in weather, warmer days mean lighter, skimpier clothing. However, the administration, perhaps in an effort to remind us that we are still in school, has enforced a dress code that limits what students can wear. The policy doesn't create a more "appropriate" school environment, and it also curtails student liberties.

Traversing Stuyvesant, with its 10 floors and frequently broken escalators, is quite a workout. In many of our classrooms, we're already experiencing uncomfortable heat. And, believe me, it's only going to get worse. If the administration really cared about an environment conducive to learning, it wouldn't prevent us from being comfortable in classrooms (or it would fix the school's facilities, but that's for another article).

If you find your classmate's dress making you uncomfortable, that's your problem. We are, or are becoming, mature individuals capable of handling things like bare skin. To "protect" us from it would be to say we're too weak to cope with something we encounter every day outside of school.

Teenage sexuality is a pow-

erful force. The administration worries we might be distracted by each other. Here's a newsflash: it's a little late to prevent that. Those who are distracted will be distracted regardless of what their classmates wear.

The principle remains: you are responsible for your actions. Focus on your work, or be glad you have something to stare at. Teachers, who may notice students as well, are more mature and should be able to control themselves.

The reasoning behind the policy is faulty, and the policy was poorly implemented and is poorly enforced. It was announced suddenly during second period, instead of during homeroom. It's also sexist. Girls are pulled aside and asked to change to more "suitable" clothes much more often than boys are. Perhaps the administration thinks the female body is shameful and should be covered. Perhaps the administration thinks we are incapable of focusing whilst uncovered women are in the room.

Whether the dress code is an effort to appease angry parties or prevent adolescent minds from drifting to sex, it neither accomplishes its goal nor leaves us happy. As mature individuals who can handle bare skin, we should be allowed to wear what we want to.

Hudson River, Meet Tea



By LUC COHEN

Displeased with having to surrender a significant portion of their hard-earned incomes to East Coast elitists and their socialist bailout packages, thousands of Texans took to the streets on Wednesday, April 15, national tax collection day. Evoking the spirit of the rebellious colonists, who were upset that England had the nerve to tax them without so much as giving them a seat in Parliament, the protesters sported

teabags and Revolutionary War-era garb as they listened to Governor Rick Perry vaguely suggest a Texan secession. However, as Gail Collins notes in her Saturday, April 18 column in The New York Times, the protesters "were slightly different from colonial New Englanders on the minor point of having representation." But just because the citizens of Texas overlooked that minor nuance doesn't change the fact that many taxpaying Americans are still denied representation. In fact, if there's anyone who should be tar-and-feathering government officials and dumping tea into bodies of water, it's working teenagers.

This thought first came to my mind when I realized that the minimum wage I will receive this summer for feeding tennis balls to three and four year olds could get taxed. However, according to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Web site, everyone who is not married or a head of household—which is the filing status I fall into—is entitled a standard deduction of 5450 dollars. In other words, when one subtracts that number from his or her income, the resulting difference is the amount of money that can be taxed. Since my to-

tal earnings will fall just short of 5450 dollars, it turns out that my total taxable income will be a whopping zero dollars. However, according to accountant Lenny Zehnwirth, any teenager making above this amount would in fact get taxed by the city, state, and federal governments. "Income tax does not discriminate against age," Zehnwirth said. "Everybody gets nailed."

So any hardworking teenager who makes more than 5450 dollars will have to give a portion of their income back to City Hall, which shouldn't be much of a problem; after 16 years of educating us and keeping us safe, it was the least we could do. But in addition, any hard-working teenager who makes more than 5450 dollars will have to give a portion of their income back to Governor David Paterson so he can continue cutting the New York City Department of Education's budget by millions of dollars and appoint pro-gun, anti-gay 'Democrats' to the Senate. Finally, any hardworking teenager who makes more than 5450 dollars will have to give a significant portion of their income back to the federal government. If the 69.8 billion dol-

lars in bailout money AIG has already received isn't enough, the 176 bucks that someone with total earnings of 5500 dollars would have to pay to Washington might just do the trick.

Still, if I were making 5500 dollars this summer, I would understand that it is my responsibility as a citizen to make these sacrifices in order to provide financial support for a government that, while indeed flawed, has provided me with basic services since the day I was born. Furthermore, this government has laid out, on a couple of documents a few centuries older than the CIA's list of approved interrogation methods, the same principles I believe in. Yet one of these principles—perhaps that which was most central to our decision to declare independence from Britain—is that of no taxation without representation. While I wholeheartedly believe that taxes are a necessary imposition that every able citizen should be obligated to pay, James Otis was right in claiming that "taxation without representation is tyranny." If my 176 dollars is valuable enough to help stimulate the economy, then my vote is important enough to be cast.

If I had suffrage, I would grudgingly accept the fact that my tax dollars are going to a state government that is cutting funds to my education. But I don't, and that's pretty tyrannical.

So let's make our Founding Fathers proud by realizing that we are indeed the Sons of the Sons of the Sons of Liberty. If Samuel Adams were alive today he'd be appalled to learn that unjust taxation still persists. We declared ourselves independent from Britain because we believed that it was unjust to tax anyone—regardless of age, race, gender, etc.—who didn't have a say in government. Since 1776, we've begun to make good on this promise with the 15th amendment, which granted black men the right to vote, and the 19th, which enfranchised women. Now is the time to completely ensure that everyone who pays taxes has a say in the United States political process. It should not take a single ounce of tea to show the government that in order to fully enfranchise all taxpaying citizens, it must either eliminate all taxes earned by individuals under the age of 18, or extend to them the right to vote.

Endorsements

Student Union President and Vice President Endorsement

The Stuyvesant student body is known for being apathetic, particularly with regards to student government. This was particularly apparent last year, when only two tickets ran for Student Union (SU) Caucus, only one of which took campaigning—and the prospect of governing—seriously. As a result, voter turnout and general enthusiasm about the elections were low.

Faced with little competition, SU President James Kim and Vice President (VP) Casey Griffin led a lackluster campaign which, unfortunately, carried over into their governing during '08-'09 school year. While the ticket of Griffin for President and sophomore Oren Bukspan for VP was experienced and showed great dedication and the potential to take innovative action, the student body is looking for a change. For this reason, The Spectator has chosen to endorse junior Paul Lee and sophomore Keiji Drysdale for SU President and VP, respectively.

Lee and Drysdale are committed to reaching out to those who have not felt represented by the SU in recent years. "We're both big on representation," Lee said. They want to increase communication both between the SU and the students and the SU and the administration. Lee and Drysdale's amiable personalities foster an environment in which students will feel comfortable getting involved in the SU and school affairs.

"There used to be a spark that we really wanted to help the student body and represent the student body. But this year, it's more like 'We're content with what we're doing. We're content

with the poor job we're doing,'" Lee said, referring to the SU.

While Lee and Drysdale did not have as many concrete plans as we would have liked, their recognition that the SU is in dire need of reform and greater student involvement make them candidates we believe will perform the duties of SU Caucus well. They are running on a platform of restructuring communication, dealing directly with Principal Stanley Teitel and thinking with the students' best interest.

"The Student Union really wasn't doing its job in terms of getting things out to the student body," Lee said. Lee and Drysdale plan to draw more students to the SU suite by holding ARISTA tutoring in the outer SU atrium and setting up computers for student use.

While Lee, the '08-'09 Junior Caucus VP, has only served one term in the SU, compared to Griffin's three, Lee will be able to inspire greater trust in and reliance on the student government. He recognizes that student apathy and inactivity are the main reasons that student privileges have been gradually taken away in recent years.

However, we were disappointed with Drysdale's lack of experience in student politics—he has never held an SU position, elected or appointed. While Drysdale seemed genuinely enthusiastic and will relate well to a large portion of the student body, he did not display a strong understanding of what the position of SU VP entails. We were impressed by Griffin's and Bukspan's dedication to the SU and their extensive preliminary plans for next year. Some

of these include a winter charity fundraiser complete with a talent show and battle of the bands, as well as an SU carnival in Battery Park. They also have comprehensive ideas to ensure that next year's freshmen have the ability to go out to lunch as well as concrete steps that can be taken to combat academic dishonesty.

Griffin and Bukspan are committed to bettering the relationship between the SU and the administration. "It's important that Teitel knows students are there and students are standing up for themselves," Griffin said.

However, The Spectator is reluctant to believe many of Griffin's and Bukspan's promises in light of how few goals Griffin accomplished as VP this year. While Kim and Griffin took steps in the right direction by publishing the first SU Newsletter and beginning to hold Open Forums in the spring, it was too little too late. Kim and Griffin failed to fulfill many of the promises they started out with last spring such as revamping stuyusu.org and redoing the club/pub grid system to reserve rooms. On the whole, Griffin's presence as a leader in the school was not felt to the degree we had hoped.

We hope Lee and Drysdale will develop other similar, specific plans for the SU next year as well as continue with many of Kim's and Griffin's initiatives such as the Open Forum and advocating for course evaluations.

Both tickets were strong and showed a great deal of promise. For this reason, we encourage all four individuals to have a leading role in the SU regardless of election results.

In Brief...

THE SPECTATOR ENDORSES

**Student Union President and Vice President:
Paul Lee and Keiji Drysdale**

**Senior Caucus:
Sara Hassan and Dylan Cohen**

**Junior Caucus:
Omika Jikaria
and Emily Quint-Hoover**

Senior Caucus Endorsement

With the responsibilities of coordinating senior bonding and theme days, finding a graduation speaker, and organizing Senior Prom, the Student Union (SU) Senior President and Vice President (VP) hold two of the SU's most 'visible' positions. The Senior Caucus is also expected to foster a sense of community among the members of the Class of 2010.

Both Senior Caucus tickets are impressive and show great potential for SU leadership, but we feel that Sara Hassan, running for Senior Caucus President, and Dylan Cohen, for VP, are more likely to do well.

Hassan and Cohen repeatedly described themselves as "average Stuy students" who "don't have the most experience," Cohen said. The two candidates see themselves as representative of the class as a whole. They hail from different social groups and reflect broad interests, but nonetheless "work together well," Hassan said.

To foster bonding among seniors, the two candidates have specific and creative ideas for senior events. A "Senior Barbecue Day" and a "Senior Go to a Baseball Game Day" are just two of Hassan's and Cohen's ideas. When asked about their plans for the '09-'10 school year, Mohammed Rahman and Steven Arroyo, the other candidates for SU Caucus President and VP, respectively, made little mention of innovative ways for seniors to bond. We feel unsure about how much initiative Rahman and Arroyo, if elected, would take to develop and publicize creative events.

As far as involving students in the SU, Hassan and Cohen promised to put a suggestion box in the SU and hold office hours so students can air their grievances as well as voice their opinions. In addition, "We're toying with the idea of a newsletter" for the senior class, Cohen said.

Some of Rahman's and Arroyo's ideas about student communication were strong and should be implemented by whichever ticket is elected. "There's a Web site for our year that I don't think anyone actually goes to," Arroyo said.

In response to this problem, Rahman and Arroyo proposed designing a new class website with a forum for discussion among students and with email-

based communication. Rahman and Arroyo believe this emphasis on communication through the Web site would also prevent caucuses from excluding non-Facebook users by communicating via Facebook only.

Cohen and Hassan are intent on involving students because of their opinions of the '08-'09 Junior Caucus. "I guess their [the '08-'09 Junior Caucus President and VP's] accomplishment was making people realize we need a change," Cohen said. "[The '08-'09 Junior Caucus] didn't unite the junior class." Hassan advocated a spirit of "campaigning throughout the year"—continuing to find out what issues are important to students even after elections are over.

However, Hassan and Cohen do not seem particularly interested in analyzing or addressing problems in the relationship between the students and the administration. Senior Caucus is one of the highest SU leadership positions, and it's essential that Hassan and Cohen play a role in shaping SU-administration relations. Nonetheless, shaping a community among students themselves remains the Senior Caucus' most important task, and Hassan and Cohen seem willing and able to fulfill this task.

Rahman and Arroyo seem qualified for SU positions, especially given their experience organizing Model United Nations events, but not for Senior Caucus in particular. The Senior Caucus demands a President and Vice President who are dedicated to uniting the senior class. Rahman and Arroyo showed greater care than Hassan and Cohen about dealing with problems involving the administration.

However, they seemed reluctant to promote the SU office as a space where students should feel comfortable hanging out, and lacked specific ideas for senior events—two of the most important means for developing a community among next year's seniors. Even with less excitement about approaching the administration, Hassan and Cohen showed enthusiasm where needed—in being creative planners.

With Hassan and Cohen, seniors can expect substantially more than a "wear different colors" week.

Junior Caucus Endorsement

The Junior Caucus is responsible for uniting the grade and organizing fun events in order to alleviate the stress students generally feel during their junior years. Although the two tickets for this year's Junior Caucus are not particularly experienced, they should, at the very least, be familiar with the responsibilities these positions hold.

The two pairs who moved on to the general elections were Omika Jikaria and Emily Quint-Hoover, and Samira Siddique and Harris Dupre for President and Vice President (VP), respectively. Neither pair was particularly experienced, but Jikaria and Quint-Hoover, who described themselves as very organized, had a clear idea of what their responsibilities for junior caucus were—such as organizing college trips and theme days for the junior grade. Siddique and Dupre, on the other hand, were not as knowledgeable of their what their role would be. For these reasons, The Spectator has chosen to endorse Jikaria and Quint-Hoover for Junior Caucus.

In their interview with The Spectator Managing Board, Jikaria and Quint-Hoover cited specific and promising plans for junior events. For example, Jikaria suggested comedy night, spirit week and movie night. Though these events are not original, they are a valid way of

uniting the junior class. Hopefully Jikaria's experience in the Student Union as communications assistant will carry over when organizing these events. Siddique and Dupre, on the other hand, were ambiguous about whether or not they had such plans. "Right now, we mostly want to focus on uniting the grade and focusing on important things," Dupre said.

Both pairs cited increasing communication as one of their goals. Jikaria and Quint-Hoover planned to "branch out and reach out," Quint-Hoover said. Their suggested forms of communication included a Web site and using homeroom as a means to promote events and junior spirit.

Siddique and Dupre had additional plans, including newsletters, Facebook messages, and both written and video blogs. These methods should be used by the Junior Caucus to effectively promote communication and junior spirit regardless of election results.

Each pair has a different approach to handling relations with the administration. Jikaria and Quint-Hoover expressed a desire to meet with administrators more often in order to gain their trust, while Siddique and Dupre stressed the importance of gaining student support so that the administration takes their ideas seriously. Both tickets had equally plausible ap-

proaches to bettering relations with administrators, but Jikaria's and Quint-Hoover's approach is more direct.

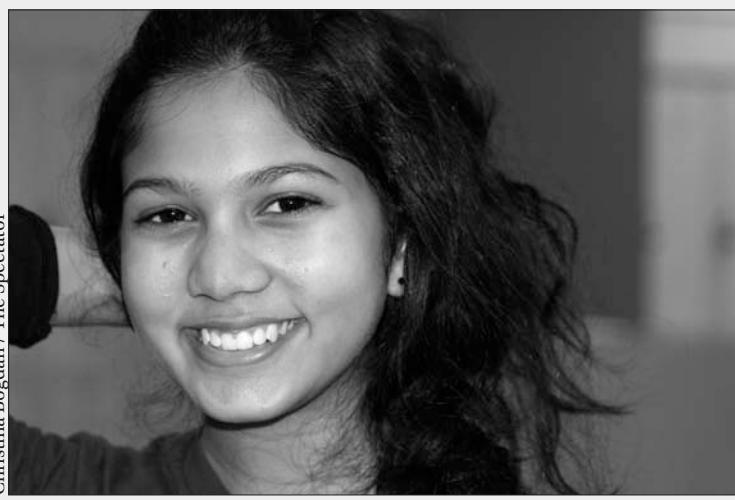
An aspect of the Stuyvesant community that Jikaria and Quint-Hoover failed to mention was the Stuyspace campaign. Siddique and Dupre were keen on improving what they referred to as 'environmental awareness' at Stuyvesant. They advocated selling water canteens to achieve the double goals of fundraising and protecting the environment. They also want to revamp the Stuyspace campaign, a movement started in the '07-'08 school year to encourage students to keep areas of congregation free of litter and trash. Though these plans are noble, they seem too ambitious and the student body may not be as keen to purchase these water canteens. There are also other, more important problems within the junior class to address, aside from environmental issues.

With a notoriously stressful junior year coming up, Junior Caucus should aim to alleviate this stress instead of adding on to it. With Jikaria's experience in the SU and Quint-Hoover's openness to others' ideas, this hopeful pair can adopt ideas from both tickets and produce successful results for next year's juniors.

Opinions

Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

Students First, a Last Priority



By SAMIRA SIDDIQUE

"You know we trap all day, we play all night, this is the life of a go getta." Damn right, Young Jeezy. Nothing exciting ever happens in the afternoon. People have brunches and tea parties in the afternoon. Many wake up in the afternoon. The afternoon is simply transition time from feeling groggy to feeling energized. So why is it that SING!, the most exciting event of the school year, is being demoted from a primetime slot at night to a daytime one akin to Oprah? Apparently we party too hard, and the big city is too daunting for us at night.

The change in next year's Saturday SING! performance time, from 7:00 PM to sometime in the afternoon, isn't official. Teitel originally proposed the change after receiving an email from a parent of a freshman who was concerned about

her child being out in the city late at night and who asked him "why don't we just start SING! earlier?" The concern of said parent should not be shared between the parent and Teitel, but rather, between the parent and the child.

It is impetuous to propose change to a long-standing Stuyvesant tradition because of one parent's trivial complaint. Aside from staying out late during SING! being one of the most alluring parts of the experience, it is normal for the average high school student to become accustomed to do so. If the administration is worried about students staying out late, why not cancel all after school activities so we can be home by 4:00 PM and be in bed by 9:30 PM?

Even if the concern is related to the SING! after party, moving SING! to an earlier time slot would not prevent one

from taking place. SING! is the climactic event of the school year, and deserves a climactic ending. A mosh pit in the afternoon just does not have the same feel. And Principal Teitel would feel less compelled to do the Macarena in daylight.

Ultimately, using the school building during SING! is a privilege, and is a necessary one for our student body. However, the change in the SING! time slot is not the only privilege that has recently been interfered with for unjustified reasons. The incoming freshman class may have their lunch privileges completely revoked because of minor issues with a few students in the current student body. There is no soph-frosh semi-formal this year because students in the junior grade were caught intoxicated last year. The list continues.

We do not deserve privileges because we are Stuyvesant students. Rather, we must prove to the administration that we are mature enough to keep our privileges. Regrettably, we can only be on three floors during free and lunch periods, because we are messy and loud. Understandably, we can't dress provocatively. But there are continuous threats of more basic student privileges being taken away, with nothing drastic and effective being done in response. Sorry, Student Union. Sorry, ambiguous Facebook "take action" groups: dressing snazzy for one day won't help revoke a make believe dress

code. Threats to take away basic student privileges are not recent, and have been present since the early 2000's. As a student body we seem to be naive to this fact. It is only recently, that

the second floor. Though the administration initially tried to ignore the situation, they eventually compromised by just taking away free period privileges when students threatened to get the media involved.

There are no longer compromises between students and the administration, a mark of the gradual decline in effective communication and willingness to take action. We need more sit-ins. We need to make the administration feel uneasy. The fact of the matter is, the administration is not "students first" anymore. Perhaps at one time, our apathy was something that was of concern to them. However, it seems that in recent years, our failure to act in unison has become a justified reason for the administration to go ahead with faulty decisions.

Changing the time of SING! next year would be a serious blow to the student body, or at least it should be. Teitel said that "The tradition is SING!, not the time when it's performed." However, it would be foolish of us to allow something that represents such unity to change, simply because we fail to unite effectively. Our forms of communication may be juvenile, whimsical, and ineffective, but we still have it within us to take action and protest in real and spontaneous ways. We need to go back to Stuy's era of sit-ins and general student awareness. It's time to get our student body back to where it needs to be, where students are first.

There are not even compromises between students and the administration anymore.

Arts & Entertainment

Isamu Fukui: Back in Enemy Territory

By SERENA BERRY

After leaving college, most students still have to plan their whole careers. For Isamu Fukui ('08), high school was the beginning of his career—his first novel was published while he was a senior at Stuyvesant.

During the summer after his sophomore year, Fukui wrote "Truancy," a dystopia novel about a group of students who plot to destroy a totalitarian school system. After a year away from Stuyvesant, Fukui was invited back by his freshman English teacher, Vito Bonsignore, to talk to Bonsignore's current English class. Bonsignore's class has been reading "Truancy."

While teaching Fukui, Bonsignore did not notice his ability right away. "But when I saw his writing I was impressed totally," Bonsignore said. "I told his parents he has a bright future as a writer, and the rest is history."

Ironically, during his presentation, Fukui stepped into the role of a teacher—a role his book reveals he's not too fond of. He gave the students a quiz on his book and the first three to finish with perfect scores would receive a copy of his new book, "Truancy Origins." His new book is a prequel to the first and features new characters, but the same subject matter. Despite his apparent resentment of educational institutions, he decided to continue his education by going to NYU and majoring in English and politics.

Although college is demanding, Fukui continues to write and is working on "Truancy City," a sequel to the original. Fukui hopes that "Truancy City" will come out sometime next year.

While the students worked on the quiz, Fukui took questions and replied to them with honest, humorous answers. "That is like asking a parent who his favorite child is," Fukui said, when asked about his favorite movie. When asked who his most hated teacher was, Fukui did not respond. When asked about profits from the book, Fukui responded that he made around 200,000 dollars, all of which is going towards his education.

Some students also asked about the publishing process. "I wrote the manuscript over the summer," Fukui said. "Write the manuscript, find an agent, agent finds the publisher."

Fukui ended his visit by reading excerpts from his newest project, "Truancy City." He kept the students past the bell, but the students seemed more than willing to stay.

Fukui has many ideas for the future. "The problem is, I can't pick which one to do," Fukui said. He's willing to have his book turned into a movie, as long as he thinks the movie will maintain a high quality.

As for now, Fukui is still having problems with educational administrations—upon entering the building, he was welcomed by a security guard yelling at him to take off his headphones.



Taste of Tribeca, an annual event that works to raise money for local elementary school, took place on Saturday, May 16.

By ERICA SANDS

On Saturday, May 16, Taste of Tribeca took over Duane Street for its 15th year to date. Taste of Tribeca is a culinary festival whose profits support the local Tribeca elementary schools: P.S. 150 and P.S. 234. It was run entirely by volunteers, many of whom were Stuyvesant students. Each year, the festival raises tens of thousands of dollars for the schools which go to selective art, music, and other enrichment programs that the Department of Education doesn't pay for.

This year, the 65 local restaurants who participated offered guests a culinary walking tour, raffles for Broadway show tickets and NY Sports Club Memberships, as well as wine tastings and entertainment by a live Beatles cover band called No

Mersey. Tickets were 40 dollars in advance (45 the day of) and included six tastings from the various restaurants.

Participating restaurants included Stuyvesant favorites such as the Amish Market, Amanzi Tea, Cornerstone Grill and Zucker's Bagels & Smoked Fish, as well as fancier restaurants such as Bar Artisinal, Bouley, Chantrelle, and Secession.

Due to its main purpose as a fundraiser for Tribeca elementary schools, the atmosphere of the event was extremely laid-back and family-friendly.

Students from the elementary schools could be seen volunteering and helping out the various vendors, selling sodas and tasting food from the various restaurants.

Like a sophisticated buffet with a good cause for eating—other than eating your weight in

food—the festival offered all sorts of exotic food, sure to please any palate. The Yakisoba noodles with salmon onigiri from Rosanjin were flavorful and smooth. The homemade lasagna fatta in casa from Max turned a basic dish into an epic one. Perhaps most impressive, however, were the free range organic chicken quenelles with wild ramps from Chanterelle. The quenelles were the texture of the smoothest ricotta, as if cheese was made of chicken. Spicy tuna handrolls from Tokyo Bay had people lining up, and for good reason: this cone of seaweed filled with rice and tuna provided a rush of various flavors, from salty to sweet to spicy, all in one bite. "It was very delicious," said Senior Lauren Shaman, an Arista volunteer for the event. "I had this molten chocolate cake and it was really really good."

Planning for the event started in October 2008. On the day of the actual event, there were 350 volunteers, 48 of which were Stuyvesant students. "We love Stuyvesant," said Wendy Chapman, one of the four co-chairs of the event. "Everyone says that Taste of Tribeca is a community event."

Chapman has three kids at P.S. 150, so she is particularly dedicated to raising funds for the schools. "We were nervous because of the economy, but all the restaurants gave and gave and gave," Chapman said. "People know that this is a high quality event and they want to be a part of it."

Arts & Entertainment

Neighborhood Profile:

Cultural Heaven or Yuppie Haven?



Rebecca Zambdorg/The Spectator

Sylvia's Restaurant, located at 328 Lenox Avenue, is a favorite of many when it comes to "soul food."

By JACOB SUNSHINE

Bronze statues dot the plazas. People gossip and talk about politics. Traders hawk mysterious perfumes and gold plated ornaments. This isn't the Roman forum or Athen's acropolis. It's Harlem in New York City.

After a mass migration beginning in 1904, the area became the hub of the Harlem Renaissance, an African-American intellectual movement that spawned many of the great black literary, musical and artistic works of the early 1900s.

Harlem, which stretches from river to river between 110th and 160th Streets, has existed as a largely low-income neighborhood throughout much of the 20th century. However, with increased gentrification in recent years, Harlem currently exists in a state of flux, with artsy new cafes across the street from Harlem's famed soul food restaurants.

Gentrification is most vis-

ible south of 125th Street, where most restaurants, like Dinosaur Barbecue or Toast, are expensive and rely on wealthier residents. On 125th street near Amsterdam Avenue, a branch of Citarella—a high-priced gourmet grocery store—opened across the street from a housing project in 2005.

A new breed of locally-owned, affordable and unique shops has begun to appear in Harlem over the past few years. For a first stop,

"There used to be a whole strip of bars along 125th Street that offered good live music, but now they are all gone."
—Tadesse Mekonen, owner of Café Addis

check out Café Addis—an Ethiopian coffee shop by day and live music spot by night. The coffee is strong and flavorful, and a regular cup of coffee, served in a huge mug and reminiscent of a fancy latte, costs only two dollars. The restaurant also offers hot ginger juice, a delicious drink with a spicy kick made from the juice of the ginger root. Hot vegetable,

chicken, and spicy Cajun turkey sandwiches are also a specialty. At night, Café Addis is a bar and hosts live Afro-Jazz music, a distinct music style popularized by the Nigerian musician Fela Kuti.

Farther east on 125th street you'll find Atmos, a unique Harlem spin on Lower East Side sneaker boutiques. "We're introducing Harlem to Japanese street fashion," Assistant Manager and Bronx Science graduate Paul Lee said. "It's like an alternative culture with the street clothes and the music."

Atmos sells sneakers for far less than its competitors. Nike Dunks that would normally cost about 90 dollars sell for about 50 dollars at Atmos. Its only other location is in Harajuku, Tokyo.

"I hear locals come up to me, that they've been in Harlem for 10 years, but they get thrown off by our boutique look," Lee said. "I don't want them to be intimidated. They should just walk in. The prices are reasonable."

Even farther east, on Lenox Avenue, you'll find the self-dubbed "Queen of Soul Food": Sylvia's Restaurant. Sylvia's has an unremarkable diner interior, but it's the food that locals come for. The barbecue sauce is tangy, smoky and not as sweet as most barbecue sauces. The ribs are tender and melt off the bone. The collard greens are peppery and tasty. Sylvia's has opened up a shiny new restaurant on the same block called "Sylvia's Also," but, for the truest Harlem culinary experience, eat at the original.

Also on Lenox Avenue is Lenox Lounge, one of the last remnants of Harlem's mid-20th century jazz scene. "There are not enough live music places in Harlem," said Café Addis owner Tadesse Mekonnen, who has lived in Harlem since immigrating from Ethiopia in 1995. "There used to be a whole strip of bars along 125th Street that offered good live music, but now they are all gone."

The Lenox Lounge is a notable exception. Its famed Zebra Room is coated with mirrors, and its silvery interior gives it an old-time feel. The Lenox Lounge used to be a haunt of Harlem Renaissance writers and jazz musicians. Today, it still attracts top talent, like the Houston Person quartet and the Reggie Woods Ensemble.

For an enjoyable stroll through Harlem, visit the Sugar Hill area, centered around the intersection of 145th Street and

Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard. There are tree-lined streets and beautiful brownstones throughout the area. After walking through the gorgeous City College campus, filled with gothic architecture and park space, visit the Vinegar Hill pizzeria at 137th Street and Broadway.

Vinegar Hill's prime attraction is its brick-oven pizza. The pizza, priced at two dollars a slice, is on par with pizza from high-end Italian restaurants, and is made with fresh mozzarella and tomato sauce. If the scrumptious pizza isn't enough, the café also has four dollar sandwiches made with "challah breads, bagels, seven-grain, ciabatta, you name it," owner Gerald Morales said. A student salad special with unlimited toppings costs seven dollars.

Natives have mixed feelings about Harlem's gentrification. "I don't know if [gentrification] is good for residents," Mekonnen said. "Rents in Harlem are now six times as expensive as they were before. But Harlem used to be dirty and ugly, and now you can walk around at three, four in the morning without feeling anything."

In a recent meeting of the Harlem Community Forum at Ambrose Church, Imee Jackson, a member of the Harlem budget board, stated that he is "unanimously rejecting the rezoning plan," Jackson said. "[NYC is] seeking to change the character and socio-economic demographics of Harlem's business district and beyond."

Despite gentrification, Harlem is still an unbelievably diverse neighborhood that has an unmatched historical quality. "The best part of Harlem is the



Rebecca Zambdorg/The Spectator

diversity," Morales said. "It allows the community to have balance."

Café Addis
435 West 125th Street
(212) 663-0553

Atmos NYC Ltd
203 West 125th Street
(212) 666-2242

Sylvia's Restaurant
328 Lenox Avenue
(212) 996-0660

Lenox Lounge
288 Lenox Avenue
(212) 427-0253

Vinegar Hill
3385 Broadway
(212) 281-2083



Rebecca Zambdorg/The Spectator



Vinegar Hill offers buyers brick-oven pizza and other student favorites for low prices.

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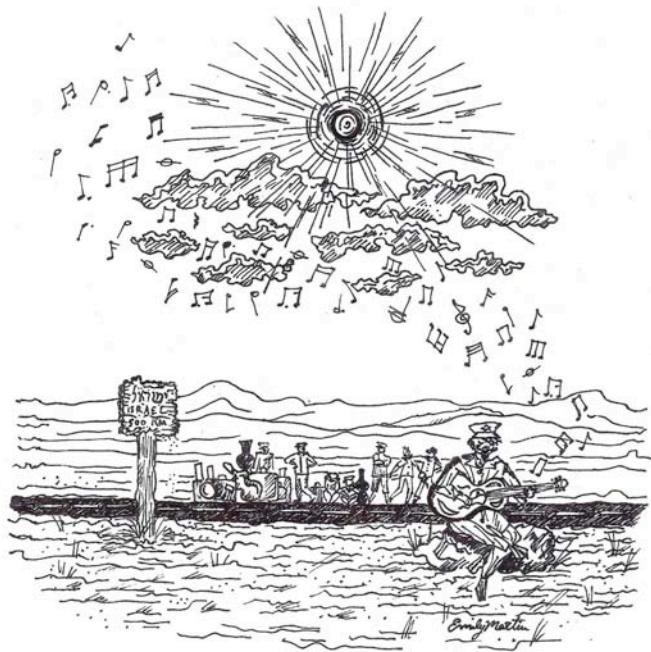
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Arts & Entertainment

The Forgotten Film Reel: The Band's Visit



By SARA HASSAN

In the bleached white setting of the Negev Desert, the sky-blue uniforms of the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra stand out. In Eran Kofirin's "The Band's Visit," an Egyptian police band is on its way to perform at the Arab Cultural Center in Petah Tiqva, led by the stubbornly self-reliant Tawfiq Zakaria (Sasson Gabai). When they get lost in the fictional town of Bet Hatikva, they are forced to rely on the kindness of Dina (Ronit Elkabetz), an equally self-reliant restaurant owner who, along with friends Itzik (Rubi Moschovich) and Papi (Shlomi Avraham), gives them a place to stay until the buses began running again the next morning.

It is during this night that the Arab and Jewish cultures clash in a strangely new way: Tawfiq, bound by his duties to represent the nation of Egypt, promotes a strained and civil manner among his men. Dina, not bound by the ties women face in Egyptian society, repeatedly shocks Tawfiq with her independence.

And yet, in this desolate setting, even an easygoing autonomy gets Dina nowhere: as she tells Tawfiq when he first

On the one road in and out of town, a vast emptiness surrounds the buildings the color of the sand the color of the sky.

arrives, the insignificant town is a place of "no culture at all." On the one road that services the area, a vast emptiness the color of the sand and sky surrounds the buildings. Thus, when Simon (Khalifa Natour), Tawfiq's second in command, begins to play his unfinished clarinet concerto, it is appropriate that an awed Itzik concludes, "Maybe this is the finish, not sad, not happy... just tons of loneliness." Likewise, the lute, or oud, an instrument familiar from foot-stomping Middle Eastern weddings, is used in this film to create a unique soundtrack of sad,

The Band's Visit
Directed by Eran Kofirin
July-August Productions
87 minutes
2007

"The Band's Visit" indeed walks a thin tightrope; while examining how cultural differences can strain relationships, it avoids political issues and never confronts the cultural question openly. The film's individuality lies in its ability to convey the tension through the characters: their body language and social situations say all that their dialogue doesn't. The setting, however, is far from neutral: director Eran Kofirin manages to match a minimalist soundtrack to the overwhelmingly deserted Bet Hatikva. And yet in its exploration of the human heart, and how desperate loneliness can make it, "The Band's Visit" hits upon a tone so universal that it unites, temporarily, Arabs and Israelis in their romantic and creative frustrations.

A Little Village in the Big City



Joann Lee / The Spectator
A more serious side of Greenwich Village can be seen at the Tiles of America memorial, which was created after the events of 9/11.

By ZOE LEVIN

Greenwich Village, or "Greenwich village," depending on whether you're a New York native or tourist, has always been an artsy part of the city.

At the beginning of World War I, Greenwich Village was widely known as a bohemian community. The Village was often referred to as a place to go for low rents and a tolerance for radicalism and nonconformity. As a result, many artists and writers flocked to the Village. During this time, the Village was famous for having all sorts of book publishers, small magazines and galleries displaying the works of local avant-garde artists.

During the 1950s, the Village became New York's center for the Beatniks—a media stereotype that offered an anti-materialistic lifestyle as an alternative to the mass consumerism of the time. The beat movement of anti-materialism and soul-searching influenced various entrepreneurs

"The village has always been defined by the people and even though the residents change its still a young trendy area."
—Edward Duepner, Professional Children's School junior

to open anti-conformist establishments in the neighborhood. It was through the Beatnik philosophy that galleries took over along 8th Street, coffee houses

sprang up on MacDougal Street and storefront theaters ruled Bleeker Street.

Today, the Village is no longer quite as dynamic and anti-establishment as it was in the 1950s and



Joann Lee / The Spectator
The Ray's Pizza is a popular restaurant located on West 11th Street and Sixth Avenue.

60s, but it has not lost its quirky feel. "The Village has always been defined by the people and even though the residents change its still a young trendy area," Professional Children's School junior Edward Duepner said.

Music, theater and comedy have always been an integral part of the Village scene, a trend that is continued today by the neighborhood's clubs. "So much can be done within all the small theaters here in the village, there is poetry, music, plays, everything," sophomore Emily Martin said. "There are some many things you wouldn't expect to find, but you know it can be found in the Village."

The Bitter End is one of the many well-known nightclubs in Greenwich Village. Once a small coffee house, The Bitter End was transformed into a club in 1962. Countless famous musicians, like Bob Dylan, have played and recorded at this legendary venue that is still one of the Village's hotspots today.

One of the oldest, and most distinctive, of these places is Caffe Reggio. This cafe has the same vibe it had in its first years

in business, 81 years ago—eccentric with an extra shot of tastefulness. The interior has artwork from different periods, from all the place's years in business. "One of my favorite parts of coming here is the atmosphere. I love the way it looks, but the coffee keeps me coming back," said Rachel Smith, a frequent customer of Caffe Reggio.

In addition, one of the most famous eateries in the Village is Ray's Pizza, which is not affiliated with the chain of the same name, as many might think. Old Greenwich Village folklore says that Ray's Pizza on 11th Street and Sixth Avenue was the inspiration for the similarly styled pizzerias on every block of the same name throughout the city, though this Ray's is the only original establishment from the 1950s. "It's still worth a stop for the really cheesy pizza but it's not the Mecca it was years ago," said Victor Diaz, an employee of Ray's Pizza.

The Village is frequently ste-

"There are some manthings you wouldn't expect to find, but you know it can be found in the Village."
— Emily Martin, sophomore

retyped as a neighborhood for homosexuals. This perception stems from the area's history: a gay community formed around Christopher Street during the 1960s. In a time when homosexuality was taboo, the neighborhood was filled with pride and comfort in openly accepting people of various sexualities. That tradition continues today with the annual Gay Pride Parade—a southward march from Fifth Avenue to the Village to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) culture. The parade is fun to watch, as it involves dramatic floats and huge crowds of people who paint themselves in bright colors.

Parades seem to be an enjoyable event for the neighborhood, as the Village also holds an enormous Halloween march every year. In the 36 years of its existence, the parade has grown to the point where it is now televised live for nearly two hours. Greenwich Village mask-maker and puppeteer Ralph Lee started it in 1973. The modest procession it was in those days has today become an enormous event that has won Festivals International's award for "The Best Event in the World" for October 31. The locals wholeheartedly agree with the press and enjoy their parade as much as the city does. "Even though I'm not walking the parade I sort of feel like a part of it because I'm right next to it," Greenwich Village resident Emma Carbone said.

A trip to Greenwich Village means leaving the bustling, skyscraper environment of Manhattan for popular parades, cobblestone streets and decades-old "Mom N'Pop" run establishments. "It really is a village," Smith said. "It's a friendly place where everyone, from your next-door neighbor to the guy at the coffeehouse knows you and says hi every chance they get."

Arts & Entertainment

Allen Granzberg's Ballroom Grace



Paola Sokayeva / The Spectator

Senior Allen Granzberg began dancing on the wishes of his grandmother, and has become passionate about it in recent years.

By HYEMIN YI

Sheets of brightly colored silk fan through the air, twirling around

and around, the light from chandeliers overhead catching every little embellishment on the fabric. It is here, at a top-level ballroom dancing competition, that we find senior Allen Granzberg.

At age five and a half, Granzberg was put to the task of ballroom dancing by his grandmother, Yulya Matro, whose sole intention was "keeping [him] off the street, and being a good boy," she said.

"I just didn't want him being a hoodlum. He needed something to do and enjoy doing in his life. I never intended for him to be a professional dancer," Matro said.

At eight, playing with his Game Boy Color and collecting Pokemon cards were far more enticing than dancing. But Granzberg said he gradually came to like it, enjoying the combination of skill, passion, and rhythm. Nonetheless, he said he covered up his "ballroom dance story" because it wasn't considered cool and dancing was unusual for a boy. However, Granzberg now embraces his hobby. "It serves a larger purpose. Ladies dig it and suddenly it's what people find interesting and even mysterious about you," Granzberg said.

Since his dance lessons occurred outside of school, dancing never affected Granzberg's school life. Until senior year, Granzberg spent at least 12 hours a week practicing or going to lessons. He had five-hour classes on Sundays, and two-hour classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays. These classes included regular lessons with 15 or so other couples, practicing with his partner, and two-on-one private lessons with an instructor.

During his many years of training,

Granzberg has been able to compete at some of the higher levels of ballroom dancing. For the last two years he has competed alongside Victoria Krugyak, a student at Baruch College. Competitions are usually held in hotels throughout the state and last an entire day, though the dancing lasts only six minutes. Each dance is more or less a minute and thirty seconds, and there are four dances, and couples are divided into "heats," based on the age of the male.

In order of increasing difficulty, the categories of the competitions are: Newcomer, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Novice, PreChamp and Champ. Granzberg has often competed in PreChamp, and occasionally in Champ. According to Granzberg, those in the adult category for Champ usually practice for about 40 hours a week and are usually professional dancers.

Granzberg explains that competitors are judged based on more than their dancing. "If you run too quickly, talk too loudly, look too wacky, someone is always there to take note. The judges begin to form opinions ahead of time, before you even set your foot in the ballroom," Granzberg said.

While he is a regular semifinalist for Adult PreChamp and often takes home a prize, Granzberg has rarely competed on the Champ level because of the near-professional atmosphere in that category of the competition. "It's nice to win, since you devote so much time to it, but that's not why you do it. You do it for fun," Granzberg said.

"Allen and I have spent a lot of time together, whether it's practicing or competing together. Both of

us have other commitments—things we do [...] But dancing is definitely more than a hobby. At the end of the day, it's great knowing that we've improved, had fun, and put everything we could into dancing," Krugyak said.

This year, he has spent less time competing and taking lessons in order to teach lessons to children from ages four and up from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays. He occasionally competes with younger girls who do not have partners yet, but even then has rarely been entering competitions. "Before, I kept dancing on the down-low, and I didn't really go around telling people that I danced. For SING!, people somehow found out, and said, 'Wow, that's cool, I wish I could do that,'" Granzberg said. "When I showed some other people videos they said, 'That's just not you.' I mean, people were surprised because I'm not physically skinny, and I don't specifically have 'that look.'"

Along with senior Diana Liskovich, Granzberg was co-director of the Latin dance crew for the first time in his SING! career. He said that because SING! requires much dedication, he was dissuaded from participating in previous years.

"Doing well usually comes with time and commitment. I've been dancing for many years and it's hard to give up entirely. Because I spent so much time dancing, it was natural that I would want to do well and keep investing in it, even though I don't intend to be a professional," Granzberg said. "Ballroom is an art and a sport. For me, it has become more than just an activity; it has become part of my culture."

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Sports

By SCOTT CHIUSANO
and EDDIE CYTRYN

This year, Stuyvesant's spring sports teams were extremely successful. Of the 12 teams, 11 made the playoffs, and four of them went undefeated in the regular season. Two teams made it to the city championship, and one of them came out on top. This spring was definitely a memorable one in Stuyvesant sports.

Boys' Tennis

Stuyvesant's boys' varsity tennis team finished the season 8-3, the best record they have had in the past four years. The team was led by seniors Norman Yu and Jason Su, who competed as a doubles team in the Individual Tennis finals at the National Tennis Center on Tuesday, May 26. The new additions to the team, freshmen Alec Shaw, Arthur Rentzler, and Christopher Jou, also contributed to the team's run to the semifinals, where they were defeated by Beacon, 5-0. However, in their first two playoff games, the team shut out Madison and Brooklyn Tech 5-0 respectively.

The Eagles are 38-0 in the regular season with Nieves as their coach.

In ten regular season matches, Yu was 7-3, and he went 2-1 in the playoffs. Rentzler and Shaw each had 5-1 records in doubles matches. Beacon, who went on to win the city championship, was a tough team for Stuyvesant to beat, as they had shut Stuyvesant out in their two previous encounters in the regular season. Despite their loss in the semifinals, the team benefits from the return of more experienced sophomores and seniors who have the potential to maintain this season's success in 2010.

Girls' Tennis

This year, the Lobsters, Stuyvesant's girls' varsity tennis team, found themselves with a new coach, and a more difficult 12 game schedule, as opposed to last year's ten. However their new coach, Jeffrey Menaker, helped the team cruise to an 11-1 finish and a number two seed in the playoffs. This two seed brought them all the way to the city championship match against Cardozo. Stuyvesant easily won the second and third rounds against Columbus and Bronx Science. However, they faced a tough challenge in the semi-finals against a well equipped number three seed, Hunter. The Lobsters came out on top, though, winning a 3-2 thriller. Junior Bessie Rentzler was the only Stuyvesant singles player to win her match, but both doubles pairs, seniors Christine Yeoun and Tiffany Wan, and sophomore Emily Quint Hoover and freshman Sofia Pidzirailo won their matches, securing the overall win. The Lobsters went on to lose to Cardozo, 5-0, in the city championship match. Wan and her other doubles partner, senior Veranika Li also competed in the Individual tennis finals.

Girl's Fencing

It is fitting that Stuyvesant's girls' varsity tennis team is called

Sport In Brief

the Untouchables. In its last three seasons, coach Joel Winston's team has gone undefeated in the regular season, this year finishing with a 10-0 record. Having a national champion fencer junior Nzingha Prescod on the team has obviously played a large role in the team's third city championship title in a row. However, senior Qi Fan Zhang also contributed to the team's success with an 11-2 record in her 13 matches. Sophomore Kimberly Bain played a part in the team's perfect season, as she fenced in 16 matches, and won every one. Besides the loss of the integral seniors Zhang and Ke Jiang next year, the rest of the Untouchables will remain. Prescod will continue to carry her team on to a fourth city championship in four years, an unprecedented feat in PSAL girls' fencing history.

Boys' Golf

The Stuyvesant Eagles, the boys' varsity golf team, has completed its third undefeated season in a row. Coach and English teacher Emilio Nieves has continued his unblemished record in his three years coaching the team, with a 12-0 record this season. The Eagles are 38-0 in the regular season with Nieves as their coach. Led by sophomore Darren Chiu, senior Alex Robinson, and junior Alexander Shin, the Eagles have made the playoffs once again as the fourth seed. Chiu and Robinson, the team's most experienced golfers, participated in the individual golf championship at Bethpage Park (home of the US open) on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. They also became two of the five golfers who qualified for the New York State Federation Golf Championships at Mark Twain Park on Sunday June 7, 2009. The success of these two golfers helped the team shut out Riverdale/Kings high school in the first round of the playoffs on Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Last year, the Eagles were surprisingly upset by the number nine seed Susan Wagner in the second round of the playoffs. This year, however, with the help of Chiu, Robinson, and Shin, the Eagles should go deep into the playoffs.

Outdoor Track

Coach Mark Mendes' outdoor track team has done it again, dominating once more at the outdoor borough championships. Mendes' team has completed another sweep, winning the Manhattan borough champs in cross country, indoor and outdoor track. At the Borough championships on Saturday, May 24, 2009 Stuyvesant was in complete control. Juniors Elvis Mitropoulos and Pace Lee came in first and second respectively in the 800 meter run. Junior Daniel Hyman-Cohen took first in both the 3200 meter run and the 1600 meter run. The 4x800 meter relay team came in first, and sophomore William Barnes placed second in the 3000 meter steeplechase. Mitropoulos, Lee, and Hyman-Cohen all qualified for cities, along with the 4x800 team. Mendes' deep team hopes to prolong its success in the city championships on Sunday June 7, 2009.

Boys' Volleyball

The Beasts, Stuyvesant's boys' volleyball team finished the regular season with a perfect 12-0 record and a Manhattan VIII Division title. The Beasts won all 12 games 2-0, never losing a match. The last time the team recorded such a feat was in 2006 when they were coached by physical education teacher Phil Fisher. This season, the Beasts were coached by physical education teacher

Vasken Choubaralian with Fisher as their co-coach. Similar to 2006 when Stuyvesant lost in the first round in the playoffs to Tottenville High School 2-0, the Beasts also exited the playoffs early this season after a hard-fought first-round 2-1 loss to Grover Cleveland High School. "It was definitely a good regular season; we reclaimed the division title," senior and captain Shaker Islam said. "But, we need to get farther in the playoffs next year."

Girls' Soccer

After a 9-3-0 regular season, Stuyvesant's girls' soccer team, the Mimbas, finished second in the Manhattan A-II Division behind the 12-0-0 Beacon High School Blue Deamons. The Mimbas lost twice in the regular season to Beacon while the third loss came against Hunter College High School 2-0 on Wednesday, May 13. In the first round of the playoffs, the Mimbas defeated Prospect Heights Campus High School 6-1, led by the brilliant play of seniors Gabrielle Beer and captain Morgan Browning who each had a hat trick. Stuyvesant's second round game against Susan Wagner High School was postponed on Thursday, May 28 and was rescheduled for Tuesday, June 2.

Boys' Handball

The Dragons, Stuyvesant's boys' handball team completed their fourth consecutive perfect season under coach Robert Sandler. The team captured the Manhattan II Division title with their 10-0 record. This season, the Dragons, survived the first three rounds of the playoffs by easily beating Newcomers High School and Susan Wagner High School in the first two rounds and then squeezing by Franklin D. Roosevelt High School 3-2 on Thursday, May 21. However, after beating the High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology in the third round last year 5-0, the Dragons' playoff run was halted this season by the same school in the fourth round after a 4-1 loss.

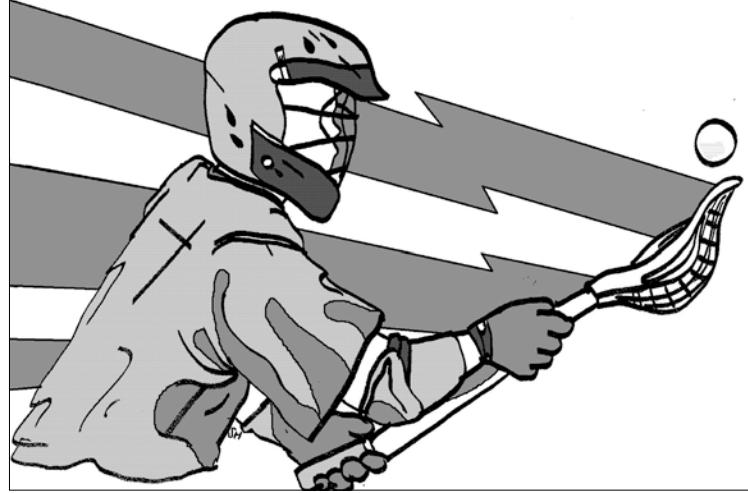
Mendes' deep team hopes to prolong its success in the city championships

Girls' Handball

Stuyvesant's girls' handball team, the Furies, began the season with the loss of their coach Michelle Nicholls, who helped the team to two consecutive undefeated seasons. Her replacement, Kristyn Pluchino continued the Furies' regular season excellence by leading the team to another undefeated season with a record of 12-0 and another Manhattan Division title. However, under Pluchino, the Furies accomplished one thing they were unable to under Nicholls: they made it past the first round of the playoffs with a 5-0 dominating victory over Hillcrest High School on Tuesday, May 19. The Furies' season ended the next day as they lost to Forest Hills High School 4-1.

Boys' Lacrosse

Despite Tough Loss to Madison, Peglegs Enjoy Successful Season



By SCOTT CHIUSANO

The crowd at the Madison High School field on Tuesday, May 26 was larger than any the Stuyvesant boys' lacrosse team had ever witnessed. The Stuyvesant fans rose to their feet in the third quarter, with the Peglegs leading by three goals. But the lead did not last for long, as the Madison Knights battled back to tie the game and force a sudden death overtime period, where the Knights struck first and won the game 8-7.

Despite the loss, the Peglegs found their season to be a success. In only their second year in the Public Schools Athletic League, they made the playoffs as the fourth seed, and were one goal away from upsetting the number one seed, Madison, at their home field. "We changed a lot from our first season, we all got better at the basics, and we did pretty well for such an inexperienced team," senior Aaron Donato said.

Even the Madison players were surprised at how far the Peglegs had come. "After the game, those guys [Madison] came up to me and said good game, that was the hardest game we ever played," senior and co-captain Chris Zhao said. "That really stood out to me because those guys have been playing in this league a lot longer than we have."

Even though the Peglegs gave Madison a tough game, Zhao felt they could have played even better. With a three goal lead in

the third quarter, the team feels they should have kept the lead. "I think one of the things that really hurt us is we don't have enough depth. Our first line guys were definitely a little tired and things fell apart a bit," Zhao said. The exhausted legs of the Stuyvesant players hurt in the end, as Madison was able to score first in sudden death, about one minute and 30 seconds in. "At first we were all upset, but I think we realized that we played our hearts out," Donato said.

The Peglegs had a slow start to the season, losing three of their first four games. One of these included a blowout loss to Madison 14-2 on Saturday, March 28. The Peglegs made a turnaround after that loss, as they won 3 of their next five games. Their one goal loss to Madison in the first round of the playoffs only further proved their improvement. "Taking a step back, last year we were a bunch of kids who had never picked up lacrosse sticks in their [our] lives," Zhao said. "Fast forward one year and three months, we're in the playoffs with the best team in the league, bringing them to overtime, but just falling short of making it to the championship."

Although their season came to an abrupt end, Zhao and the Peglegs battled the whole year to achieve a .500 record and their first playoff berth. "To give them [Madison] the hardest game they ever played can definitely be looked at as an accomplishment," Zhao said.

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Sports

Spring In, Fall Back

continued from page 24

Coyne, coach of the Fort Hamilton High School girls' varsity soccer team, said, "If the girls' season was changed to the fall, there would not be enough practice facilities or field availability for games. Varsity and JV football, boys' soccer, and girls' soccer, would all be competing for one field."

The Susan Wagner High School Falcons varsity football team arrived at the protest in uniform to march alongside the soccer players. They were joined by the George Washington High School varsity football team. "The girls' soccer season in the fall would not leave anyone with enough time to practice for

games. Then you are risking injury and the level of play suffers. Most coaches are actually against the change," said Fred Caprista, coach of the varsity football team at George Washington.

Most members of the Mimbas, Stuyvesant's girls' varsity soccer team, are also opposed to the season change. Some players will have to choose between two sports, because they can no longer play both. "I know that some of our players will have to decide between soccer and other sports, and as a result we're going to lose a few," senior Julia Sterling said.

The Mimbas, who already compete for practice space at Pier 40, will feel these effects even more if the season change is allowed. "It's also going to make scheduling games more difficult," Sterling said.

"We're going to have to play weekend games because of field availability, and I imagine practice space is going to be a lot harder to find."

Many coaches, like Sprance, coach both boys' and girls' soccer teams. If the season change does not get overturned, new coaches will need to be hired. Referees will also be in short supply when the number of games in the fall increases.

"It's not fair that every girl should have to lose out because of three girls. Most of these girls have had to give up so much just to play and this is why they are all here, to save spring soccer. This is what it means," Sprance said, pointing to the endless procession of athletes.

Girls' Lacrosse

Huskies Make Playoffs In First Season as PSAL Team

By MOIN SATTAR
with additional reporting by
SCOTT CHIUSANO

With a 1-9 record and three games left, the Huskies, Stuyvesant's girls' varsity lacrosse team, found themselves in ninth place and out of the playoff picture. Fortunately, they played James Madison High School, the eighth place team, in back-to-back games with a chance to leapfrog them into eighth. The Huskies didn't disappoint: they defeated James Madison by a score of 4-3 and 9-4, respectively, in their two games.

According to coach Holly Younglove, the team's success was due to their defense and the performance of their freshman goalie Nabila Khatun. "The team didn't give up, I just saw tremendous hustle and they wanted it more," Younglove said. "Our goalie also really stepped it up."

The Huskies averaged 18.125 ground balls and 7.625 shots on goal in the previous ten games. Khatun averaged 7.625 saves in those ten games. In both games against Madison, the Huskies had 37 ground balls. The team had 13 and 16 shots on goal in the two games and Khatun had 18 and 13 saves, respectively. "We were stronger on both defense and offense," freshman Suzy Kim said.

In the first game, the Huskies had to prevent a late Madison rally. Up 4-1 late in the second half, the Huskies gave up two quick goals to James Madison in the final five minutes of the

game. Refusing to allow Madison to score again, the Huskies kept possession of the ball for the rest of the game, preventing Madison from even getting a shot on goal.

The second game against Madison was much easier for the Huskies. They were able to expose several weaknesses of Madison in the first game and were able to capitalize on these mistakes. The Huskies tied a season-high with 9 goals en route to a 9-4 win.

However, the Huskies did suffer a key loss during the Madison games. Junior and captain Adrienne Malaluan broke her foot before the first game against Madison. Malaluan was sidelined 6-8 weeks. Malaluan was leading the team with 15 goals before her injury.

"Without Adrienne, we are going to have to step it up another notch and just put more effort into it," senior and captain Anna Zhang said.

The Huskies actually made the playoffs, and were scheduled to play the number one seed Tottenville in the first round of the playoffs. However, the Huskies were not able to play in this game because Tottenville overbooked their field and Mr. Teitel did not want the team to travel home from Staten Island late at night since the game started at 7:30.

Despite this disappointment, the Huskies were pleased with making the playoffs, and winning three games. "We've come a long way since the beginning of the season," Younglove said.

The Silent Giant

continued from page 24

gridlock on the stairs, and the school will have to buy more lockers. For coaches, the large influx of new students means an unprecedented level of new talent to choose from.

If Stuyvesant wants to continue the success of the past decade, it will need to attract young, dedicated coaches. Coaches new to Stuyvesant should be pleasantly surprised: although Stuyvesant is known mainly for its academics, students have a penchant for putting all their effort into everything they do. "We have the work ethic and commitment," Fisher said.

It should not be surprising that talented students can be good athletes. Competition is

at the heart of athletics and academics. Both require an attention to detail and an emphasis on repetition. Contrary to the popular stereotype, smart kids can play sports.

**Competition
is at the heart
of both
athletics and
academics.**

Boys' Baseball Playoff Berth In Hand, Hitmen Play for Seed

continued from page 24

game for either team.

In the top half of the seventh inning, their last chance to tie the game at one, the Hitmen loaded the bases, with freshman Kyle Yee up. He barely missed a game-tying and possibly game-winning hit down the third-base line, foul by less than a foot. They left the bases loaded, and the game was lost the game 1-0. "We hit the ball hard a lot, just right at guys. There's nothing you can do about that," said Carlesi. "But it was a great season, we had a really young team, and hopefully the younger guys will step up for us next year."

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

Girls' Softball

Chipmunks Look Towards Playoffs With Eager Eyes

By JORDAN FRANK

Down by eight runs on Monday, May 4, Stuyvesant's varsity softball team, the Chipmunks, made an enormous comeback. They scored fourteen runs in the top of the fourth inning, and went on to defeat Adlai Stevenson 24-15. Stevenson was 7-1 at the time and ranked ninth in the city. The Chipmunks' victory, in the pouring rain, proved to be one of their most important wins. Despite having a 7-4 record going into the game, physical education teacher and coach Vincent Miller said that "the game was huge; it was a big turning point in our season."

The three junior co-captains—pitcher, Alex Albright, shortstop Marlee Melendy, and first baseman Kelly Quinn agree with their coach's analysis. "[The Adlai Stevenson game] showed how we are a comeback team, and it changed the dynamic," Albright said.

With impressive victories such as the Stevenson game, the Chipmunks, led by freshman starting pitcher Morgan Higgins (6-3 4.43 ERA), and Albright (5-2 4.31 ERA), finished off the regular season at 12-6. This secured the Chipmunks second place in the Manhattan A division, and the 18th seed in the playoffs.

Making the playoffs is a huge step forward for the team after last season's 6-10 finish. New members, like Higgins and freshman Ana Slade—batting .396—have made this possible. "We've improved over the last two years tremendously, and we improve

each time we take the field," Miller said.

Sophomore and center fielder Carolyn Lehman also attributes much of this season's success to the team's newfound camaraderie. "This year we actually work together, and try to fix our mistakes, unlike last year where we just got frustrated and gave up," Lehman said.

Despite clinching their first



Despite losing in the first round of the playoffs, the girls' softball captains Alex Albright, Marlee Melendy, and Kelly Quinn are pleased with the season.

playoff berth since 2006, Miller knows there are still things to improve upon for the first round. "Defense wins games," Miller said. "We can put up ten runs but if we give up eleven it doesn't matter. I'd much rather win a game 1-0 than 12-11." Offense has not really been a problem for the

Chipmunks, as they have scored 65 runs in their last five games. However, the Chipmunks can improve their defense, as many of the runs given up by Stuyvesant pitchers were unearned.

Lehman agreed. "We need to be smart on the field and know what to do with the ball when it comes to us," she said.

Making the playoffs is a first for both Miller and his captains. "We are really excited because it is the first time any of us have made the playoffs," Albright said. With eight players hitting over .300, the Chipmunks are consistently on base, and have scored 182 runs in 16 games this season.

Unfortunately for the Chipmunks though, this explosive offense could not give them the push they needed to make it past the first round of the playoffs. They lost 10-5 to the 15th seeded CSIHS/Mcown on Thursday March 28, 2009. Albright pitched six innings, giving up seven earned runs on ten hits. The Chipmunks, however, could not convert on offense, and scored five runs on six hits. Melendy had two of the team's hits.

Although the Chipmunks could not make it past the first round, they have many lessons to take from this season. Their unexpected victories against top teams and consistent offense throughout the season can only be improved next year. With eight of nine starters returning, the Chipmunks will be more experienced, and well equipped for another playoff-bound season.

Boys' Baseball

Playoff Berth In Hand, Hitmen Play for Seed

By PHILLIP GOZDIN

Hitmen's defense has also improved last year, it took two consecutive wins against division rival Beacon High School and a seventh inning walk-off in the final game of the season to propel Stuyvesant's boys' varsity baseball team, the Hitmen, into the playoffs.

This season, the Hitmen clinched a playoff berth after their 10th game, a 7-1 win against High School of Graphic Communication Arts on Wednesday, May 6, to reach the post season for the 13th straight year.

The Hitmen got off to the same fast start they did last year, winning five of their first six games. They began the second half of this season with last year's eight-game midyear slide—which almost jeopardized their playoff hopes—in mind. Last season's 6-0 start turned into a disappointing 8-8 finish, just barely good enough for a playoff berth. "Last year, we didn't really have a team dynamic and didn't get big hits when we were supposed to," senior and co-captain Zach Karson said. "This year, we scored early and didn't give the other team a chance to come back."

Throughout the season, the offense averaged more than eight runs per game. Yet despite these offensive outbursts, like such as their 18-12 slugfest win against Murry Bergtraum High School in the first game of the season, the Hitmen still struggled to produce runs. "Our runs are misleading, we really didn't hit the ball well at all," senior and co-captain No-

Ian Becker said. "A lot of our runs came off walks and errors."

The Hitmen were forced to rely on their pitching to make up for their offensive inconsistencies. The pitching staff delivered. They gave up less than 1.5 runs per game through their first 11 games, including three shutouts and a perfect game pitched by Becker against Manhattan Bridges on Wednesday, April 8.

"Our division isn't that great at hitting. As long as we throw strikes and attack the hitters, they aren't putting up too many runs," Becker said.

Throwing strikes didn't seem like too big of a problem for Becker, who struck out all 18 batters he faced en route to his perfect game. The Hitmen also received strong starts from junior Nicholas Gallo and senior Nicholas Rozar, each of whom threw a shutout. "If they can throw strikes, both of them have the stuff to shut people down," Karson said. Against the subpar offenses in their division, both Rozar and Gallo had earned run averages (ERA) under 1.55.

Helping the pitchers was a sound defense. The Hitmen improved their fielding from last season when the team allowed an average of one unearned run a game. "Last year, our defense was really shoddy. This year, it's been solid," Karson said.

This much-improved defense seemed to be a big factor in the team's success, as fewer unearned runs had lead to them giving up more than four runs only three times this season. "You make ninety percent of your rou-

tine plays, you are going to win the baseball game," coach Carles said.

Ten of the Hitmen's games were postponed due to rain, affecting the team's momentum down the stretch. They ended their season losing three of their last five, to end with a record of 11-5. These last three losses included two consecutive 7-1 defeats against Beacon High School, which eventually gave Beacon the tie-breaker to win the Manhattan A West division with an equal 11-5 record.

Even with this poor finish, the Hitmen ended up with the 17th seed in the playoffs, the highest they had been ranked in six years. In their first round game on Wednesday May 20, they faced 16th seeded Samuel Gompers High School, which came into the playoffs with a 10-6 record.

Both teams drew their aces, with Becker pitching for the Hitmen, and junior Juan Hilario for the Samuel Gompers Panthers. The two starting pitchers entered the game with ERAs of 1.09 and 0.32, respectively. The pitching matchup certainly lived up to its hype, with Becker giving up two hits, and Hilario pitching a no-hitter until it was broken by Karson on an infield single in the seventh inning. Stuyvesant's lone hit in the game.

The game proved to be a game of inches, where Becker just barely missed his spot to senior Dominique Parra, who drove the pitch for a home run, the only run of the

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Spring In, Fall Back



Enraged students gathered in City Hall Park on Wednesday, June 20, to protest the season change of girls' soccer from spring to the fall.

By EDDIE CYTRYN

4:00 p.m. Wednesday May 20. It was a quiet, humid, spring day in City Hall Park. Kids sucked on popsicles and sat on the edge of the fountain while adults relaxed in the lush oasis of downtown New York.

4:30 p.m. Girls in different colored soccer jerseys had been trickling in for half an hour and now filled the small park. Interspersed in the crowd were boys in soccer and football jerseys. However, all were there for the same reason: to protest the Public School Athletic League's (PSAL) changing the girls' soccer schedule from spring to fall.

Robert Sprance, coach of the boys' and girls' varsity soccer teams at Forest Hills High School, picked up his megaphone and the march began. The protesters snaked in and out of the park and around City Hall chanting, "No ball in the fall!" There were signs that read, "Spring in, Fall Back," and "No fall Soccer!"

The decision to change the girls' soccer season came on Fri-

day, January 16 after the PSAL faced pressure from parents of a few girls' soccer players and the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) arguing that the different seasons for boys and girls soccer was in violation of Title IX, a federal law guaranteeing gender equality in education.

Most colleges recruiting high school athletes scout players from private club teams which play in the spring. This conflict leaves many athletes having to play for their school and their club teams at the same time, risking injury with excessive practicing and games.

The NYCLU followed through with a lawsuit on behalf of three students from Beacon High School, School of the Future and Bronx High School of Science who believed that the scheduling conflict would hurt their chances of being recruited.

Another negative outcome of the change would be increased competition for field space between the many fall teams. Ed

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The Silent Giant



By SHALIYA DEHIPAWALA

Stuyvesant's claim to fame is its reputation as one of the top academic high schools in the country. Its strongest teams are all academic: math, chess, Speech and Debate. However, hidden behind the many academic accolades, Stuyvesant's athletic program has been one of the best in the Public School Athletic League (PSAL).

Stuyvesant claimed three PSAL City Championships this year: boys' cross country, boys' fencing and girls' fencing. That placed Stuyvesant in a four-way tie with Curtis, Benjamin Cardozo and Midwood High Schools for the second most titles. Totenville High School, with five city championship teams, won the most PSAL titles.

Stuyvesant's success this past year went beyond its championship teams. Of the 22 varsity sports Stuyvesant participates in that have a playoff

system, 17 of the teams made the playoffs. Stuyvesant's ability to excel at a wide variety of sports separates it from other schools that focus more on one or two sports, such as Abraham Lincoln or Murry Bergtraum, whose basketball programs, boys and girls respectively, have received national recognition.

Stuyvesant's athletic excellence extends beyond this year. When asked if Stuyvesant has had comparable success in the past, physical education teacher and girls' volleyball coach Phillip Fisher said, "In my sixteen years, absolutely." Fisher is currently the coach of the girls' volleyball and boys' basketball team and has been an integral part of Stuyvesant's athletic program; the girls' volleyball team has not lost a league match in this decade.

Sadly, most of the city—and most of our school—is completely oblivious to our successes outside the classroom. "I don't think it is a major focus of the administration," Fisher said.

Stuyvesant's athletic program can only improve in the years to come. Stuyvesant is admitting even more freshmen than usual next year. Nine-hundred new freshmen will cause

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