



# The Spectator

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"The Pulse  
of the  
Student  
Body"

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## One Decade Later: Remembering 9/11



Courtesy of Ethan Moses

The World Trade Center, as seen behind the Tribeca Bridge, in 2001 and 2011.

## Hurricane Irene Hits NY

By JENNY FUNG  
and KAREN ZHENG

At noon on Saturday, August 27, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) suspended its system for the first time in advance for a storm. Hurricane Irene's peak was expected at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, but the Category One (one being the weakest and five being the strongest levels of Hurricane Katrina) hurricane waned to a tropical storm. Though not nearly as devastating as what was feared, the severe rainfall flooded many parts of the city and caused eight fatalities in New York, according to CNN News.

Just an hour before the city's subways and buses grinded to a halt, sophomore Judy Lee was packing with her family for a night at her friend's house. Lee lives in southern Staten Island—one of the Zone A-designated areas that also included low-lying Battery Park, Coney Island, and parts of the Bronx—and was thus mandated to evacuate. Residents of the Rockaways were also instructed to evacuate, even though the Rockaways was classified as Zone B.

Lee heard about the evacuation on the news. "People in my area were supposed to go to Tottenville High School," she said.

"My family just went to a friend's house, also in Staten Island. It wasn't really a big deal. We didn't lose electricity, and nothing flooded."

Sophomore Julia Eng from Rego Park, Queens, made minor preparations for the weekend despite living outside of the danger zones.

"We bought groceries," Eng said. "My advice would be to get flashlights, stock up on food, and if you're in a zone where you have to evacuate, just get out."

Sophomore Eddie Zilberbrand's family followed this mantra. "We bought water, batteries, flashlights, and brought all the patio furniture back," he said.

Zilberbrand lives in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, in Zone B. His house experienced minor flooding, but no loss of electricity. However, across the street, a tree downed a power line and fell on top of a car.

For some students out of state, the effects of the hurricane were more severe. Sophomore Marie Frolich, who resides in Dyker Heights, a Zone C location, was in Virginia when Hurricane Irene hit the United States. Heavy rain flooded the streets outside of her hotel, and power was out for

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## Former Stuyvesant Librarian Vindicated of Sexual Harassment Charges

By EUGENIA SANCHEZ

Three years after Christopher Asch was suspended from his position as Stuyvesant's school librarian because of sexual harassment charges, New York State Supreme Court Judge Manuel Mendez officially vindicated Asch of all charges and declared him the victim of anti-homosexual discrimination.

Asch, who is openly gay, was fired from his job in June 2009 in response to a sexual harassment report filed by four male students. According to the official report, made available online by the New York City Department of Education, "Asch would approach and massage [the students'] backs and shoulders... and run his fingers down the small of their backs as he whispered in their ears to be quiet while in the library."

Though actual sexual harassment charges were later dropped, an arbitrator declared his actions questionable, suspended him, without pay, from city schools for six months, and ordered counseling sessions. Three years later, on Tuesday, June 28, 2011, Asch's Article 7511 Petition for vindication was tried in Manhattan's Supreme Court. "Touching students and whispering to them are acceptable practices to maintain order in the

library," Mendez ruled.

Asch, who had worked in New York City schools since 1989, entered Stuyvesant as a tenured employee in 2002, when he became one of three librarians at the school. He was the faculty adviser of several clubs at Stuyvesant, including the Republican Club, Parodyze, the Quiz Bowl Team, and the Cricket Team.

"I was a library monitor my freshman year and worked with Mr. Asch. He was a nice guy, but he had what some people considered unusual ways of talking to people. He would tap them in the shoulder and quietly tell them to be silent. However, I don't think he did anything extreme or out of the ordinary, which is why I kind of looked at the accusations with skepticism," Stuyvesant alumnus Gavin Huang ('09) said.

Asch had held his position as librarian for seven years, until he was sent to a Washington Heights "rubber room" in February 2008, shortly after charges were first pressed. Rubber rooms are classrooms in which teachers who are suspected of inappropriate behavior are forced to stay during school hours. These rooms are

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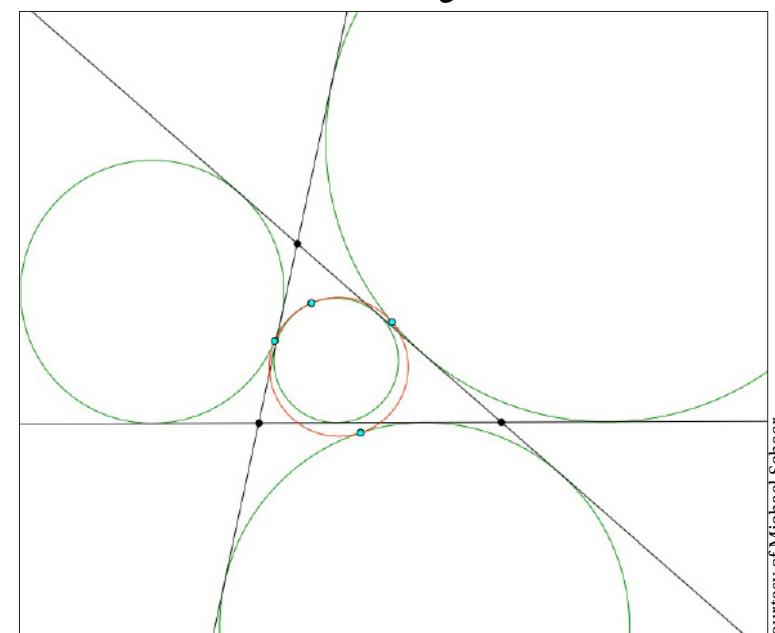
## Senior Michael Scheer to be Published in Math Journal

By RISHAM DHILLON  
and NABANITA HOSSAIN

Senior Michael Scheer recently developed an original proof of Feuerbach's Theorem, which is explained in his soon-to-be-published paper titled "A Simple Vector Proof of Feuerbach's Theorem." The paper will be published in an upcoming issue of the mathematics journal Forum Geometricorum. Forum Geometricorum is a free, annual math journal which was first published in 2001 by the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Florida Atlantic University.

Feuerbach's Theorem, first proved in 1822 by Karl Feuerbach, states that a nine-point circle is tangent to the incircles and excircles of a scalene or isosceles triangle. An incircle is a circle inscribed in a polygon whereas an excircle is a circle that is tangent to a side of the triangle as well as the lines containing the segments that make up the other two sides of the triangle. A nine-point circle is a circle that passes through the midpoints of the sides of a triangle, the foot of each altitude, and the midpoints of the line segments extending from the triangle's vertices to its orthocenter, the point where all three altitudes meet.

"Every triangle has four circles that are tangent to all three sides of the triangle [the incircle and the three excircles]. Feuerbach's theorem tells us that there is a circle that is tangent to all four of these circles, and, furthermore, this



An illustration of Feuerbach's Theorem with points of tangency.

circle contains nine important points on the triangle. This really is a crazy coincidence," Scheer said in an e-mail interview.

Scheer first stumbled upon Feuerbach's theorem during his freshman year Geometry class. "I had [former mathematics teacher Joseph] Stern for Geometry second term, and in his class we covered the nine-point circle. And after we finished discussing the proof of its existence, he gave us a choice:

move on with the curriculum and learn about coordinate geometry, or prove Feuerbach's Theorem," Scheer said in an e-mail interview.

Though the class originally chose to learn the proof of the theorem, which Stern had said might take two weeks to explain, they reverted back to the curriculum in two days. Scheer's curiosity, however, was not satisfied. "I was still really interested in [the theorem] and wanted to know why it was true," he said.

On his own time, Scheer read through different proofs that had been proposed by mathematicians in the past. However, most of them were very complicated

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Sports

Article on page 28.

More Than A Game

How America's favorite national pastime united the country in the aftermath of 9/11.



Article on page 23.

Arts & Entertainment

The Amazing Food Truck Race

Grab a quick bite at one of New York's unique on-the-go eateries.

# News

## Former Stuyvesant Librarian Vindicated of Sexual Harassment Charges

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largely criticized because teachers, though under investigation and performing no actual work, continue to receive their full salaries from the Board of Education (BOE).

The New York City Board of Education's Administrative Trials Unit put officially put Asch on trial in June 2009, after he had attended the rubber room for over a year.

He was arrested and charged with two counts of third-degree sexual abuse and two counts of second-degree harassment. In addition, he was charged with one count of endangering the welfare of a child by taking the Quiz Bowl team to a competition at Harvard University, as a substitute chaperone, without required premission slips.

However, criminal charges were dismissed in October 2009 after an investigation by the District Attorney's office declared Asch's actions were not sexual in nature and intended to harm students.

Despite the fact that all criminal charges were dropped, the New York State Department of Education requires an independent disciplinary hearing anytime a criminal trial takes place against a teacher with tenure. These hearings must be conducted by an officer from the American Arbitration Association (AAA). The AAA is supposed to provide cases with hearing officers that rule without bias or predispositions. Asch's hearing took place on 12 days between November 2009 and January 2010, according to the hearing's official report.

The AAA officer, David Hyland, found that Asch "was not involved with sexual misconduct, and that although touching the students' backs was not sexual in nature, some of it was inappropriate," as he is recorded to have said in the official manuscript. While Asch did not do anything strictly illegal, his conduct was considered questionable by DOE standards, for which Asch was suspended, without pay, from working in city schools for six additional months and required to attend counseling sessions to understand appro-

priate professional and physical boundaries.

Combier attended this trial in 2009. "Hyland's decision reeks of unfairness. The other two school librarians, both women, testified that, indeed, they whisper in the ears of girls and boys all the time in the library, and no one accuses them of anything," she said in an e-mail interview. "Asch was falsely accused by a very troubled student [...] and his three friends. Asch was not the only teacher at Stuyvesant who he reported of sexual misconduct."

After the 2009 AAA hearing, Asch was reassigned by the BOE to the High School of Art and Design, where he stayed until the end of the 2010-2011 school year, according to Combier. Then, in the spring of 2011, Asch started a petition to be fully vindicated of all charges. In this trial, Asch went against the New York City BOE at the New York Supreme Court in New York County on Tuesday, June 28. According to the official manuscript of the trial, Asch's attorney, Donald Vogelman, described Asch as "an openly gay man, a tenured school librarian [...] with over 20 years of service [...] an unblemished record throughout his career until the 2008 charges."

During the trial, Vogelman said that the previous ruling to suspend him from working in public schools for six months was "excessive, arbitrary, and capricious, and based on partiality and prejudice."

Asch's attorney also complained that Asch had since been forced to endure publicly being called a "pervert" and having his name mentioned in The New York Times, New York Daily News, and New York Post and broadcasted on the NBC Evening News, in relation to his sexual harassment charges. "Allowing the [verdict] to stand would have a chilling effect on gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals employed in the education system," Vogelman said.

Judge Maendez agreed and ruled to vindicate Asch of all charges, saying that "students should not abuse [Asch] because he's gay."

Asch could not be reached for

comment.

Some students expressed concerns over the influence of Asch's sexual orientation in his stigmatization. "This was purely a result of gay discrimination," sophomore Paula Carcamo said. "The Manhattan Supreme Court has proven that he is innocent of all charges. He did nothing wrong, but suffered because of gay stereotypes."

However, junior Emma Lesser, the current president of the Gay Lesbian And Straight Spectrum (GLASS), said in an e-mail interview, "Stuyvesant is tolerant and [...] students are, in general, very accepting." She added that, given the charges, the school took appropriate action. "If any librarian did this to me, I would be uncomfortable, and [...] schools should not be a place where students feel at all sexualized."

Alumnus Kimberly Lawrence ('11), the former GLASS president, agreed. "While the motivation of the students should come into question, it is far better to remove the accused member of staff [...] than to allow the situation to go on. The students may have been homophobic [...] but the administration's actions were not," Lawrence said in an e-mail interview.

Others members of the Stuyvesant community demand more for Asch from the New York City Department of Education. "Asch wants to return to Stuyvesant, and should be there. Asch is a professional, and an exceptionally bright, talented, caring, and trustworthy person," Combier said. "In my opinion, as well as the opinion of Judge Mendez of the New York State Supreme Court, Asch must be returned to his employment status now. Stuyvesant High School will be a better place with Christopher Asch back as librarian. He has always been an excellent employee and caring individual."

Asch's future in the public school system remains unknown. However, in the New York Post article "Jude Vindicates Gay Stuy HS Librarian," published on Thursday, June 30, Asch said, "I feel vindicated. There was nothing there to begin with."

## Senior Michael Scheer to be Published in Math Journal

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and involved higher-level mathematics, making them difficult for a high school mathematician to fully comprehend. During his sophomore year, Scheer started playing around with different mathematical topics, specifically applications of vector algebra in geometry. In his attempts to do so, he discovered "a very nice formula giving the distance between two points as a function of things that are easier to compute," Scheer said in an e-mail interview. "After finding this formula, I realized that I might be able to prove Feuerbach's Theorem with it, because Feuerbach's Theorem can be recast entirely in terms of the distances between various points related to a triangle," Scheer said. "So I tried this out, and lo and behold, half an hour later, I had a proof of Feuerbach's theorem."

Excited about his accomplishment, Scheer e-mailed Stern, his freshman Geometry teacher. Stern suggested that Scheer publish his paper in the mathematics journal Forum Geometricorum, which Stern had previously been published in. The two began to collaborate, editing the paper in a series of e-mails. They formatted the paper, adding images that made it easier to follow and un-

derstand, before Scheer sent the paper to the publisher of Forum Geometricorum. Math teacher Asvin Jaishankar provided his expertise in ensuring that there were no grammatical or other flaws that interfered with the paper's flow. It was forwarded to a referee who checked the originality of the proof and ensured that it was not flawed. The referee's positive response prompted the publisher to accept the paper. Currently, Scheer and Stern are completing the editing process.

"What makes a mathematical paper striking, much like papers written in any academic field, is that it is well-organized and the explanations are clear and concise. [Scheer] begins by not only stating the theorem, but also how he intends to go about proving it," Jaishankar said in an e-mail interview. Jaishankar also praised the clarity of Michael's paper, which does not skip any computational steps in the presumption that the readers understand the level of mathematics he used. "This is not an easy theorem to prove, and if you don't include the work, you will lose much of your reading audience before they even get to the crux of the paper," Jaishankar said.

Stern could not be reached for comment.

The significance of Scheer's proof arises from the fact that it allows people who are not mathematical scholars to understand the proof of Feuerbach's Theorem. His proof does not use difficult mathematical concepts, but is constructed out of vector principals. "Its relative simplicity and elementary nature are its most unique aspects," Scheer said in an e-mail interview.

The imminent publishing of Scheer's paper is no doubt a milestone in his exploration of mathematics. "I'm really happy that I can finally start giving back to the mathematical community, not just consuming mathematics," he said in an e-mail interview. Scheer hopes that this paper will be the start of his career in math, if he eventually decides to pursue a job in that field.

"Honestly, I don't think he has scratched the surface of what he can achieve, and I look forward to seeing a lot more from him in the future," Jaishankar said.

Indeed, Scheer's enthusiasm for mathematics will probably keep him at work. "Doing original mathematics is like exploring a new place. Nobody knows how it will work yet and really anybody can do it," Scheer said.

## News-in-Brief

**Student Wins Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest**  
by KAREN ZHENG

way, because the score tells me that I know the material well enough," Zelichenko said.

"I don't see tests as the best metrics for achievement, but I'm happy that Ms. Helinski and the class are getting recognition for it," Frankel said.

Helinski attributes Frankel's win to his work ethic and class performance. "He is an excellent student who cares a lot about details and is not afraid to ask questions when he doesn't understand something in class," she said in an e-mail interview.

"It is a huge achievement that two Stuyvesant students were recognized for doing well," Zelichenko said. "I found out that most of [my classmates] also did very well on the test, which, in my opinion, shows the effort of our students, the excellence of [Helinski], and the dedication of the whole foreign language department."

"It is an invaluable skill to be able to communicate with other intellectuals from around the world," Frankel said. "The Japanese culture is amazing. It is extremely intriguing and different from our own."

**Frankel was not involved with the editing of this article.**

**Principal Teitel Undergoes Cardiac Surgery**  
by SHARON CHO and MIRANDA LI

Principal Stanley Teitel underwent cardiac surgery to replace the mitral and tricuspid valves of his heart on the evening of Monday, June 27. Teitel was born with mitral valve prolapse, a condition in which the valve separating the upper and lower chambers of the left side of the heart is abnormally thick. The condition had not been problematic until Teitel fainted at Roosevelt Hospital while he was with his wife on Thursday, June 16.

An electrocardiogram test, which checks for problems in the electrical activity of the heart, was performed on the same day. It indicated that Teitel had atrial fibrillation, a common arrhythmia (abnormal heart rhythm) condition. The doctors determined that open-heart surgery was necessary to fix the valves, and Teitel was transferred to the New York Presbyterian Hospital for the operation. After performing additional tests to check Teitel's arteries, Dr. Yoshifumi Naka performed the surgery on Monday, June 27.

Following the operation, the doctors ordered a LifeVest, a personal defibrillator worn by a patient at risk of a sudden cardiac arrest, for Teitel to prevent arrhythmia. Defibrillation involves delivering a therapeutic dose of electrical energy to the heart.

Teitel recovered with no complications and was discharged on Tuesday, July 5.

By product of her position as most senior assistant principal, Assistant Principal Social Studies Jennifer Suri served as the Administrator in Charge, as she does whenever Teitel is unavailable. "Superintendent of [Manhattan High Schools] Education Elaine Gorman and I agreed that Ms. Suri would do an excellent job," Teitel said in an e-mail interview.

"I have a great appreciation for what it means to be principal of a school this size. It's fine for me when nothing goes wrong, but to imagine if something were to happen, like 9/11, you're responsible for these three thousand young people," Suri said.

Dr. Naka determined the day of the operation that Teitel had no choice but to miss the graduation ceremony of the class of 2011. Because Teitel was in the hospital during the graduation, his sentiments were expressed in a letter read aloud during the ceremony by Suri.

While Suri served as the acting principal, Teitel contacted her on many occasions via phone and e-mail to discuss the administration of the Regents and the finals and to organize graduation.

Teitel was back at Stuyvesant on Monday, August 29, in preparation for the fall term. However, he has an appointment at New York Presbyterian Hospital on Friday, September 23 to determine whether he must keep wearing the LiveVest or will receive a pacemaker.

**Student Receives High Scores on National Japanese Exam**  
by ELINA BYSTRITSKAYA

Senior Joseph Frankel and junior Isabella Zelichenko received the highest scores in their respective divisions on the 2011 National Exam (NJE).

Out of the 115 questions on the exam, Frankel answered 113 correctly on the exam for third-year students, while Zelichenko answered 114 correctly on the exam for second-year students.

The National Council of Japanese Language Teachers (NCJLT) administers the NJE annually. The hour-long, two-part test consists of multiple-choice questions and is taken on a computer: the first section tests grammar by using pictograms, and the second section tests listening and reading comprehension.

"Most of the test material had topics we learned the previous year, and every year we solidify what we learned before," Zelichenko said in an e-mail interview.

While the examination is not mandatory for Stuyvesant students, Japanese teacher Chie Helinski encouraged her students to participate.

Last year was the first year the NCJLT offered the NJE. However, at the time, the NCJLT only offered the Level 2 examination, which was intended for high school students in the second term of their second year taking the language. When he took the exam in 2010, Frankel placed first among 673 students who took the exam.

This year, the NCJLT offered the Level 2 exam, as well as a new Level 3 exam to test third-year Japanese students. Among the 519 non-native students who took the exam in March, Frankel and Zelichenko had the highest scores and were publicly announced as the first place winners in their respective divisions.

"I feel proud that I did well on the NJE, but also I feel reassured in a

# One Decade Later: Remembering 9/11

## Stuyvesant Community Struggles with 9/11-Related Health Issues

By TONG NIU

The air was thick. Security men and police guarded the entrances to the school while large, smoky trucks carted away debris from Ground Zero. A sign posted on the second floor entrance required students to wear their ID's at all times. However, while the security was keeping out unwanted people, something more pernicious was entering the school: toxins.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2001, just weeks after 9/11, students returned to the Stuyvesant building. Despite reassurances from the Board of Education (BOE) and the Department of Health (DOH) about the safety of the school and the surrounding area, parents and students were not convinced. Within a month of students' return, many began to complain of respiratory problems. Despite efforts by the Parents' Association (PA), the school was not properly ventilated until May 2002, a decision that would have lasting effects on its students.

### The Concerned Mother

Marilena Christodoulou, President of the PA in 2001, became concerned about the school's air quality. She sent out letters to the parents and the administration to look into the situation. However, both the DOH and BOE assured the parents that the air quality was safe and the building properly ventilated.

On Monday, November 26, 2001, Christodoulou testified at a state hearing to address the environmental concerns caused by barges located right outside the building.

"What happened is all of the debris from the World Trade Center is carried by trucks to a barge that was right by the school," Christodoulou said. "Every time something was dumped, which was several times a day, all the toxins were going

back into the ventilation system and back in to the school."

Christodoulou attended over 20 hearings, including a congressional hearing on Monday, February 11, 2002 with Senator Hillary Clinton and Joe Lieberman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. It was revealed at this meeting by Bernard Orlan, BOE Supervisor of Buildings, that the air ducts at Stuyvesant were never cleaned.

In May 2002, under pressure from parents, the downtown community, and a lawsuit filed by the PA, the BOE finally updated the ventilation system and addressed environmental hazards.

"And none of this happened until they were forced to do it," Christodoulou said. "And it didn't happen until, for certain, it was too late."

### The Unsuspecting Victim

It certainly was too late for Senior Class President Amit Friedlander ('02). Though he wore a dust mask on his first days back in the building, Friedlander was never too concerned about the school environment. Then, in July, 2006, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a blood cancer commonly seen in 9/11 rescue and recovery workers. He was 23 at the time.

"Pretty much all through college, for a week at a time, I was getting severe flu symptoms, and they just keep coming back," Friedlander said. "People were telling me that I looked like I was strung out on heroin."

His chemotherapy treatment, as well as an alternative medicine treatment with plant derived, homeopathic drugs, took about six months. He is now in remission.

Friedlander then began to think about the cause of his cancer. "I talked to my doctor, and the answer was: the exact

causes are not fully understood, but one thing that causes it is prolonged exposure to carcinogens—cancer causing chemicals," he said. "And I thought, 'Oh, when was the last time I was exposed to carcinogens for an extended period?'"

Unfortunately, Friedlander is not the only one. Other students and faculty have had autoimmune diseases, breathing problems, and other unexplained ailments. "I know of one student who had a benign tumor removed and another one who had bizarre ovarian cysts that are very atypical for women below the age of 30," Friedlander said. "But they didn't want people to know."

### The Student Advocate

Medical coverage for students was not heavily addressed until Lila Nordstrom ('02) began to advocate for her peers. Nordstrom is a lifelong asthmatic whose condition worsened in the years following 9/11. In 2006, she heard the story of James Zadroga, a New York City police officer and a first responder on 9/11. He died on Thursday, January 5, 2006 due to a respiratory disease that is attributed to his work on the 9/11 site.

"What burst my college life bubble and got me to focus on [9/11-caused illnesses] was the fact that James Zadroga died," Nordstrom said in an e-mail interview. "He was the first person to die of 9/11-related causes, and it was all over the news."

Later that year, she started StuyHealth, a group that advocated for monitoring student symptoms and providing healthcare coverage.

When Friedlander was diagnosed with cancer, Nordstrom became more convinced that something needed to be done to help students who are suffering from their exposure to toxic chemicals during their years at Stuyvesant.

"I used Facebook to contact people—at the time it was only a college network—and the petition said that we deserved medical monitoring and treatment for the rest of our lives," Nordstrom said.

This petition of over 200 signatures was sent to NY Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Senators Hillary Clinton, Charles Schumer, and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. There was no reply.

Weeks later at an anti-war rally, Nordstrom ran into Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and told him about the letter and her concerns. Stringer then set up a meeting and helped her organize a press conference to discuss the issue.

"That was what really got everybody involved," Nordstrom said. "I met a bunch of members of the community who had been working on this issue and got connected with some Stuy parents who had been trying to advocate for Stuy alums in our absence."

Through her StuyHealth Facebook page, Twitter account, and Web site, Nordstrom kept the alumni and public up to date about the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. She sent letters of petition to government officials, talked with New York One and other publications about her organization, and made sure that the bill included coverage for the students and faculty who had to return to school so soon after 9/11.

The bill received congressional approval on December 22, 2010 and was enacted on January 2 of this year.

But the work of StuyHealth is not done.

"We need to continue to do outreach to Stuy alumni who were in school on and after 9/11, so that they know what kind of health conditions are linked to 9/11," Nordstrom said. "Additionally, this 9/11 health bill only provides 5 years of funding, so we are looking at a fight to renew it in the coming years."

## Alumni to Hold 9/11 Memorial at Stuyvesant

By EMMA LICHTENSTEIN,  
ANIKA RASTGIR  
AND DEVON VARRICHIONE  
*with additional reporting by*

"I remember walking down a staircase, going through the doors that lead to the West Side Highway. Usually you can see through the glass panes, the buildings outside on a normal day. What I saw that day: a huge dust cloud of debris and menacing fog moving towards us, and covering the entire walk. That's an image I won't forget."

This is how Jukay Hsu ('02), the Student Union president at the time, recounts September 11, 2001, a traumatic event for the members of the Stuyvesant community located near the World Trade Center. Now the members of that community want to spend the 10th anniversary of the attacks together, in their former school.

A 9/11 commemorative event will be held on Sunday, September 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Murray Kahn Theater. Hsu and other alumni in coordination with the Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer organized the event.

"The event is a fine idea and a great way to work with alumni who are involved and invested in this community," Assistant Principal English Eric Grossmans said.

Last month, Hsu and other alumni began planning the event, which was intended to be a "small, very modest, private ceremony for alumni," Hsu said. "It was really important for us to be in the building because of how these memories are tied to the school, and it holds a special place for us."

However, other members of the

Stuyvesant community have no desire to remember the events of 9/11. "I have lived 9/11 once and I have no desire to live it again [...] I had to look out of the window and see the building burning and be faced with the prospect of a school full of kids and how to get them to safety," Principal Stanley Teitel said. "I sympathize with those who lost loved ones, but it was a tough morning for me and my administration and it's hard for me to deal with."

Principal Teitel had additional concerns about security. "I can't open the building and let anyone off the street walk in here," he said. "[Hsu] didn't have a method of controlling the crowd. You need to know this is exactly why I wasn't letting anyone into the building: they had no plan for security."

"We knew that security and vandalism were important issues, and we were perfectly willing to accommodate by paying or negotiating for extra security," Hsu said. "That shouldn't have been an obstacle for us holding the event."

Alumni also found problems with Hsu's planning. "It seems a little abrupt. If you really wanted to do something like this, then you should've done it in advance. I get the [Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association] newsletter, and I haven't seen anything about it in the newsletter," alumnus Stanley Sun ('04) said.

When Hsu requested permission to use Stuyvesant High School for a vigil and memorial, Teitel referred him to the BPCA, which had a permit to open the building on Sunday, September 11.

"If the BPCA took over, I knew they'd make sure security was going to be the way it needed to be," Teitel said. "I'd been working with the BPCA to try and

resolve the issue. I called them and said 'You're the logical ones to handle this. You open the building because you're doing something else there on that date.'

The BPCA initially did not give permission for the event. Leticia Remauro, Vice President of Community Relations for BPCA said that they would not issue permits from Friday, September 9 to Sunday, September 11 "due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the Sept. 11 commemoration, including security issues and limited access in Lower Manhattan," in a statement published in The New York Times article "Stuyvesant Alumni Fail to Win Approval for 9/11 Vigil," published on Friday, September 2.

Other alumni members organizing the event, who were dissatisfied with this response reached out to the press to increase awareness and gain support. They contacted Scott Stringer as well as the BPCA to negotiate so they could utilize the space.

Stringer decided to get involved because it was a problem that "should and could be resolved," he said.

"It is important for the alumni to have their moment for memory and reconciliation. This is a time that brings closure for so many different groups, from families to elected officials, and it is part of our city's history," Stringer said. "It's hard to believe why Stuyvesant students would be left behind."

His office reached out to various agencies to come to a solution. Michael Mulgrew, the president of the United Federation of Teachers, offered UFT offices, as did a number of other agencies.

Since Stuyvesant alumni pushed for the event to be held at the school, Stringer and BPCA worked out a

deal to ensure this would happen.

"We worked with Bill Thompson [chairman of the BPCA] to address the issues of permits and security," Stringer said. The building will be staffed by BPCA security.

"I want you to know that I had nothing to do with this, and I do not want any credit for it," Teitel said.

"Now that we have a location nailed down, we have to turn our theoretical plans for the event into actual," event organizer Carlos Williams ('05) said.

Organizers need to send in a list of attendees to the BPCA by Friday, September 9. "We have a limit of 300 attendees but hopefully we'll be able to accommodate everyone who wishes to participate. The last thing we want is to have to turn away alumni from the event," Hsu wrote in an e-mail to friends and alumni.

During the commemorative event, alumni and faculty will speak about their experiences as well as write messages on ribbons as part of a public art installation that will be donated to the school.

For those who cannot attend the event, organizers will "livestream the commemorative event on USTREAM, but are exploring other more interactive options," Williams said.

Peter Yao ('02), who will not attend the event, said he "would like to hear what some people's experiences were, what they did, where they were, how they got home, and what they've been doing."

"[9/11] is not something that we think about too much, although it has definitely made an impact on all of us at a conscious or subconscious level," Hsu said. "I know that I definitely need to face it, and this will certainly be a means to do so."

# Features

# One Decade Later:

## From the Archives

"So what did you learn in school today?" On September 11, I gave a horribly truthful answer to this familiar question: "I learned that it is easy to tell a falling body from a falling piece of debris because bodies fall much faster." We stood in the ninth floor chemistry lab for almost an hour, shocked by the sight of men and women in expensive clothes glancing back into what was once their office, before throwing themselves toward the chaotic sidewalk hundreds of feet below. Some appeared to have had a running start while others stood at the edge until the flames licked their skin and pushed them off into the endless cloud of smoke. Some held hands, while others preferred to dive alone into whatever fate followed that smoke.

At one point, two teachers noticed us in the vacant lab, and began to reprimand us for

being in an unsupervised room. Without a word, we pointed to the window, and the teachers' authority disappeared as each burst into hysterical tears. By ten o'clock, there were six teachers lined up next to the four of us, crying on each other's shoulders just like we were.

When I had heard that a

I learned that it is easy to tell a falling body from a piece of debris because bodies fall much faster.

small commuter plane had accidentally crashed into the North Tower, I had rushed into the dark unoccupied chemistry lab on the south side of the building to see for myself.

### the diary of a mad senior

*The Diary of a Mad Senior* is a regular column.

Dear Diary,  
I want to explain to everyone I know why I've been out of sorts recently. There are two reasons. The first is that I, like everyone else, am struggling to deal with what happened, and it's a very hard thing to do. Everything has an association. I stare out the window of my Poetry class and remember what I saw there over a month ago, the towers smoking like chimneys—and I see now the obscene amount of sky, the sun that was never there before, the odd rectangular outline in the architecture. I want to walk out of my classes and into the hallway and out into the street and wander TriBeCa and walk uptown or maybe across the Brooklyn Bridge or take a ferry to Hoboken.

I want to get out. I am so happy to be here but I want to get out. I'm so happy that I'm being forced to handle it but I can't handle it. And I must say I wish everyone talked about it more.

That's the first reason I've been out of sorts. The second reason is the work. Yes, you've

Commemorative edition by the students of Stuyvesant High School

When I saw that giant black gash in the North Tower, I felt a pain in my heart from which I shall never recover.

Soon after the second plane hurtled into the South Tower, we were ordered to evacuate the school. FBI agents and National Guard soldiers swarmed about the school lobby and then led us on our exodus up West Street as both towers collapsed.

As we marched north, the Orpheus in me periodically glanced back over my shoulder to behold the smoky void where ninety minutes prior the Twin Towers had soared invincibly. Likewise, the Israeltite in me prayed that someone would step out from the fleeing mass of people, part the Hudson, and lead us away from that chaotic hell and into the promised land of New Jersey.

—Dylan Tatz  
October 2, 2001

about limits and James Joyce and biochemistry once more.

But teachers, please think about what we students are trying to handle. You're probably trying to handle the same stuff. And it's hard, isn't it?

I've stayed up past 1:00 A.M. finishing homework too many times. I'm exhausted and stressed and we were too close. We were too close and we need some kind of break. On the subway today I stopped doing homework and closed my eyes because I wanted to sleep, and I thought about what I'd been through and I couldn't believe how much work I had, how little sleep I would get again tonight, how little time I've had to think about what happened and what it means.

We care more about regaining some kind of peace than rushing so we'll finish the curriculum in time. Please respect that.

It is now 12:30 A.M., and I'm going to bed.

Good night all, and get some rest.

—Abigail Deutsch  
October 24, 2001

## Reflections from a 9/11 Witness

By DYLAN TATZ,  
*former Spectator Staff Member*

Sometimes you don't know what to say until someone else puts words in your mouth. They either fit, or you realize why they don't. I hadn't given much thought to the 10th anniversary of 9/11 until I heard that Principal Teitel had rejected the request of several of my Stuy classmates to hold a memorial event at Stuy for those who, like myself, had been there to witness the 9/11 attacks.

It wasn't so much his decision, albeit misguided, that upset me—apparently Battery Park City had already reserved the auditorium and he was concerned about vandalism should we use the cafeteria or gym—but rather his rationale: in a quote from The Gothamist, which I've been reassured by those who spoke with Teitel accurately reflects his views, he asked rhetorically, "Why would they want to relive that day? I certainly don't want to relive that day... And they just happened to be [at the school on 9/11] – why do they want to be here?"

That quote shocked and offended many of my classmates, but, in a sense, I think Principal Teitel is right: I, for one, don't relish reliving that day. For years, every time I heard a siren, I would physically tremble, thinking of the hundreds of police cars and fire trucks we heard streaming down West Street when the first plane hit, and what lay ahead for them. And to this day, whenever I gaze up at a tall building, I can't rid my mind of the hundreds of people we saw standing along the ledge of the North Tower's top floors, with thick smoke behind them, a 1,000-foot drop in front of them, and no rescue to be found. Teachers and students alike watched helplessly from our ninth floor chemistry lab for over an hour as, little by little, men and women in pinstripe suits chose jumping over suffoca-

tion. Some held hands, others hugged their briefcases, but all jumped within the hour, and there was nothing anyone could do. It was only a brief image, but I feel like I knew their names.

As Principal Teitel put it, "we just happened to be there." Isn't it better to forget and move on as he suggests? But why do former drug addicts preach to teenagers about their pain and suffering? Why do 90-year-old Holocaust survivors travel the world to share their experiences? Because it is their duty.

In a way, we were lucky to have witnessed one of the most significant events of the decade firsthand. Admittedly, gathering together for a Stuy 9/11 memorial event is partly a personal attempt to deal with our individual trauma by grieving with those who share the experience. But more importantly, it is a chance to embrace our unique connection to an event that has defined who we are as individuals, as a high school class, and as a generation. More so, it is an opportunity to bring to the surface that which we sought to bury long ago: our voice, shaped by our experiences, which can lend its strength to so many worthy causes not in spite of, but because of its special perspective on 9/11. Be it simply serving as a firsthand testament to the horrors that can result from global intolerance, or a tribute to the dust-covered, self-sacrificing heroes we saw emerging from the rubble day after day in the aftermath, who better than we, the survivors, to drive that point home.

The consequences of 9/11—the lives lost in the two wars that resulted, the ugly anti-Muslim bigotry that surfaced in our democracy—are almost as difficult to accept as the attack itself, but, as witnesses, we have no choice but to remember: it is our duty, and we are stronger for it. And thank you, Principal Teitel, for helping me realize that this is how I really felt.

## Changing Tracks

By ABIGAIL DEUTSCH,  
*former Spectator News Editor*

I have owned three computers since I graduated from high school in 2002. Each time I purchase a new one, I carefully transfer the content of my music library—Beatles, Bach, and a standalone track called "Teitel Announcelet."

At some point in the chaos of September 11, 2001—after a classmate had stumbled into my gym class, reporting that a plane had hit the World Trade Center, and we didn't believe him; after the dust rushing toward the windows indicated that something was happening, but not what was actually happening; after the first tower fell, and Stuyvesant shook and lost power, and my music teacher put his head in his hands—at some point, Mr. Teitel got on the loudspeaker and made his announcelet.

Ten years later, I remain impressed by the good instincts and idiosyncratic spelling of Jeff Orlowski, then The Spectator's editor-in-chief, who recorded the announcelet on his cell phone, typo included. I was a news editor, and after Jeff sent me the recording, I transcribed it for my article about the administration's reaction to the attacks. I saved it to my iTunes, where it has stayed.

Whenever I put my music on shuffle, there's a chance I'll hear a strange progression—the sound of an echoing corridor, a clearing throat, and a pressing request: "Stop where you are, and listen." Generally I don't; I rush to my computer and switch tracks. But sometimes I do. Part of me likes how easily I can return to a moment that seemed impossible to understand, as though, with enough repetition, I'll get it.

And part of me enjoys the notion that the announcelet might catch me by surprise. It seems realistic. The World Trade Center attacks shocked me, and so did my memories of them, which behave almost

like a distinct species of recollection. For years, they surfaced just as I was trying to go to sleep and reinvented themselves in dreams.

As I transfer the announcelet from computer to computer, I never bother fixing the spelling. It has occurred to me that "announcelet" is a useful term entirely distinct from "announcement." An announcement tells you that today, we are following a schedule, or that the supermarket is about to close, or that you should give up your seat for an elderly person. An announcelet tells you a parent is sick, or a friend has died, or two planes have hit the World Trade Center. It is, inevitably, a learning experience, and the events surrounding this announcelet constituted the greatest lessons I learned at Stuyvesant.

One of those lessons was the failure of lesson plans, the realization that everyone, even teachers, was improvising. How do you turn one of the strangest and most terrible moments in American history—and in your life—into a "teaching moment?" As a student, how do you learn from it? Putting together the September 11 issue of The Spectator was one way. The activity gave us editors a sense of control, purpose, and achievement. However, in the face of terrific grief, such consolations felt small.

One last thing I like about the announcelet; it provides instructions. "Be aware that at this moment, no one is going out to lunch," Mr. Teitel said. "We're all going to be in the building. I've asked Mr. Clemons to prepare lunch, and it will be served free to all of you." I don't believe we had lunch; we evacuated before noon. However, listening to the announcelet takes me back to the instant before predictability broke down, and we spilled into the smoky streets. Just then, sandwiches still seemed important. Every time I hear Mr. Teitel sign off, the moment ends again.



Courtesy of Ethan Moses

# Features

# Remembering 9/11

## From the Archives



Courtesy of Ethan Moses



Inaugural edition by the students of Stayner High School

I felt guilty for days after running from the dust cloud of the second World Trade Center tower collapsing, guilty that on top of being so lucky as to escape with my life, I had the nerve to shoot pictures of the demise of thousands. I spoke with my father's friend from Bronx Science who is now a photographer for ConEd. Both of us, like many others who photographed the collapse of the WTC, did so with tears in our eyes. I told him that I was ashamed to be taking pictures, but he said that it was our responsibility. He told me that through our photographs, even more than our writing, the world would remember what happened on September 11, 2001.

I told my father that I would venture out with my camera to take pictures. I felt sorry that I had moped around the house and wandered Lower Manhattan for the last four days, without taking any pictures. I felt guilty that I had let the sorrow of my fellow New Yorkers, as well as my family, go unrecorded. I felt a responsibility to take pictures because I was there, I ran from the debris cloud, and even more horribly, thought my father, mother, and many family friends were inside or in adjacent buildings. I told my father that for the sake of my children, and my children's children, he should do the same and go help to record history.

He said that he had been in bed crying for the past two days. He couldn't watch the news, and couldn't look at the pictures. I've always known he wasn't able to look at pictures of the Holocaust or of the Vietnam War without wincing and turning away. This is because he saw the pictures of Vietnam and World War II. They conveyed to him at least a little of the trauma that those who were there lived through. The reason we should be taking pictures is so that thirty or sixty years from now, people will see them and have to turn away.

To all of you, if you can bring yourself to do it, please take some pictures that will capture the present suffering, and unity in America. Write about it. Make sure no one ever forgets.

—Ethan Moses

All photos in this issue are by senior Ethan Moses.

## Censorship is Not Security

Courtesy of Ethan Moses

of the law does not always mean protection under it. I, and most of my friends, colleagues, and many photographers around the city, have still been told by NYPD officers that taking photos in the subway is illegal, that we would be arrested, that we needed to stop what we were doing. 9/11 is almost always cited. The Patriot Act is often referred to, yet never properly cited. A handful of photographers have even been wrongfully arrested in the last few years for using their cameras on trains<sup>2</sup>.

Jeff Orlowski, my good friend, and Editor in Chief of The Spectator during 9/11, has been hard at work on a project bearing witness to global climate change for years now<sup>3</sup>. During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Jeff flew to New Orleans, where I lived at the time, and chartered a boat, and we went to see for ourselves what was going on. I will attach a few photos of what we found rather than describe it here. What I will describe is being run out of bays and off islands, out of marshes in the name of "safety" and "environmental protection." We were threatened with arrest and fines and told to leave by people who should not have had jurisdiction over those waters. We found beaches closed by BP, again for "our safety." Apparently beaches were only closed for safety if you had a camera, and we weren't part of the slew of poor men hired out of New Orleans by subcontractors of subcontractors to "clean" the beach with shovels. They had Tyvek suits covering some of their body. They were "safe." Safe, but safe for whom? I took their pictures.

Procedurally, the protection

police in one of the weeks that followed, as I took photos of a petrochemical refinery from the passenger seat of my car, heading back towards the spill. The officer told me that I couldn't take pictures of the plant. I noted that it was in plain view and we were on public land. 9/11 was again cited back to me, and I was told, "You can see how terrorists would use photographs." (You can see this refinery not only on a map, but satellite imagery and street view on Google Maps.<sup>4</sup>) I was given a choice and deleted my pictures rather than face arrest. The entire time I had in my head some wise words given to the photographer Mitch Epstein by his attorney and shared in his essay "American Power."

"Don't get arrested at all costs," he counseled, less than reassuringly. "You don't want to end up in some small town jail that won't be easy to get out of."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lawrence G. Reuter, president of New York City Transit. "These changes to our rules of conduct are intended to enhance security and safety, not only for our customers but our employees as well." <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/21/nyregion/21subway.html?scp=5&sq=subway%20photography%20ban&st=cse>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/18/nyregion/18about.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://chasingice.com>

<sup>4</sup> The Conoco-Phillips Alliance Refinery on Highway 23 in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, right alongside the Mississippi river.

<sup>5</sup> In his photo essay "American Power,"

Mitch Epstein creates a beautiful yet startling picture of how we create, harness, and use energy in America. In the accompanying text, he eloquently describes in detail the persecution that he faced while creating those images. His story, while unique in thought and detail, is not an uncommon experience for photographers. <http://whatisanamericanpower.com/about/>

Courtesy of Ethan Moses  
Cleanup boats burning oil off the surface of the gulf.

**By ETHAN MOSES,**  
*former Spectator Photo Editor*

Yesterday I was asked to write a piece for the Spectator reflecting on 9/11. Fortunately or unfortunately I will never have a clearer view than I did when I was 16. As the years pass, I become more distrustful of the media, the government, of words and images that mix with my memories of that day. Instead of recalling my memories here, I will write about something that has become increasingly clear to me.

Almost 10 years ago, I wrote in this newspaper that I had felt guilty for taking pictures as the World Trade Center fell, but discovered a responsibility to stand witness to history. I asked that we not let our sorrow go unrecorded.

Today I ask that we not let fact go unrecorded, that we not let truth be obscured. We must not let our right to photograph what is in public, in plain sight, be encroached upon in the name of "security." In the last ten years photographers have been increas-

Courtesy of Ethan Moses  
An oiled marsh in Barataria Bay.

It is, and will become, increasingly important to maintain the everyman's freedom of speech and freedom of speech through photography. We must do this by keeping a watchful eye both on written law, and those who enforce it. As not only news and media outlets, but also all branches of government are influenced by corporate interests, it is our job to keep a watchful eye on truth in news, and retain our civil right to record facts into history ourselves.

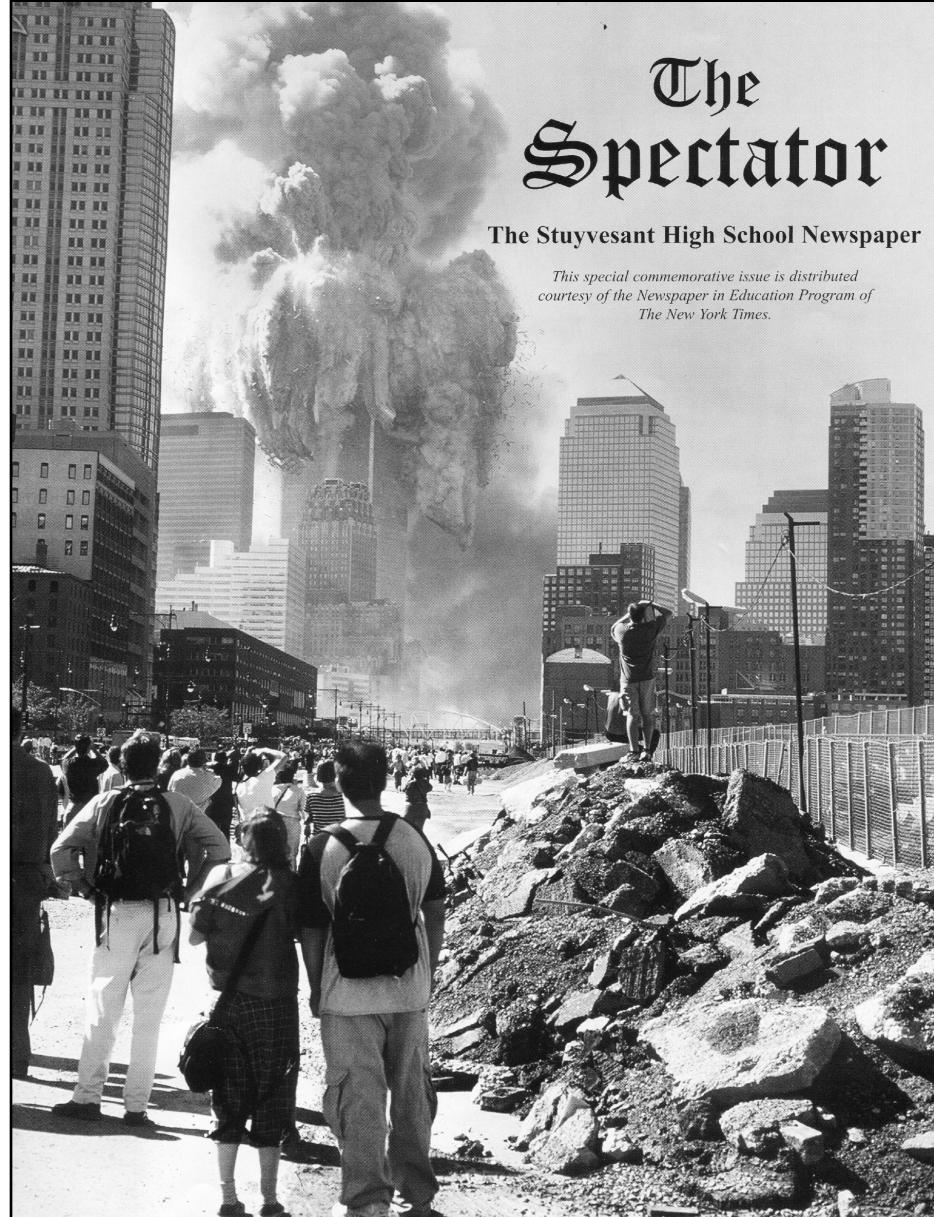
Never feel ashamed for taking a photograph. Never feel like a criminal for taking a photograph. Try your hardest not to be intimidated. Using your freedom to move, to see, to record and to speak is not terrorism. Do not let anyone tell you otherwise.

Mitch Epstein creates a beautiful yet startling picture of how we create, harness, and use energy in America. In the accompanying text, he eloquently describes in detail the persecution that he faced while creating those images. His story, while unique in thought and detail, is not an uncommon experience for photographers. <http://whatisanamericanpower.com/about/>

## Features

# One Decade Later:

## From the Archives



# The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

*This special commemorative issue is distributed courtesy of the Newspaper in Education Program of The New York Times.*

## A Different World

On Saturday, September 22, Laura Krug and Ben Magarik went to Stuyvesant to survey the scene. These are their stories.

### Stuy Reinvented

Laura Krug

A poster hangs on the wall of the second-floor entrance hall, right off the bridge. It announces, in bold black capital letters: CLUB/PUB INTEREST MEETING 9/20. It's a typical sight in the halls of Stuyvesant—except for the row of army cots set up on the floor below.

The Stuyvesant building has been transformed into a sanctuary for the rescue personnel working at Ground Zero, according to military police. And it shows. Almost every floor of the building has been affected in some way, from the lobby to the tenth floor.

It wasn't easy getting into the building in the first place. We were denied access by three groups of police officers in rapid succession. I was ready to leave, but Ben wouldn't give up. We next tried West Street, where a friendly group of officers stopped us and asked our business.

After a whole lot of kibbitzing and showing them every piece of identification in our wallets, they allowed us to pass. I'll never forget what one of the officers told me before we left.

"Smile!" he said, laughing at my serious face. "It's going to be a beautiful day."

It was comforting to know that despite the tension that rides the dust clouds all over Lower Manhattan, some people have retained humor enough to cheer up those who might be unhappy. I silently wished him every good thing I could think of as we walked away.

After talking our way through at least five checkpoints, surer each time that we would never get through, we find ourselves in the first-floor lobby of the school. Sensory overload rushes over me as I survey the building where I've gone to school for more than three years. Right away, I notice the loud, insistent barking of a dog, the strange mustiness of the air, and the crates stacked in piles—far taller than I am—leaning against the lockers past the security desk.

I run up as we run up the stairs to the second floor, where the steps are half-covered with dust. The custodial staff will have a fit, I think, as we race toward the even-floor elevators.

The fourth floor is littered with boxes, but the strangest thing is the yards and yards of electric wires, draped like cobwebs from outlets to lights, taped to walls, floors and columns. Generator power, I conclude silently. We also notice that the elevator banks are festooned with signs reading "Hot Food 2nd Floor," "Bedding 3rd Floor" and "Showers 5th Floor."

The sixth floor is dead silent. I've never seen or heard it that way before.

Finally, panting, we run into a teacher outside her classroom. She's shocked to see us, and asks how we managed to get in. We don't really know.

We collapse into chairs inside the room and start commenting on the things we've seen. She says the first thing she noticed was a pile

*continued on page 21*

## A Glimmer of Hope

Ben Magarik

The train doors open at Franklin Street, and we step out onto the platform. The first thing that hits us is the air. It's sharp and piercing, and full of sour pain. We walk out to a deserted street, a Saturday morning ghost town. In the distance, there's fog, or is it smoke?

Walking to the first checkpoint, we encounter jittery policy officers guarding the street. I'm not sure who's more nervous, us or them. They deny entrance, telling us to go to the next block, where the story's the same: keep walking.

We reach the BMCC park, where a man stands near the checkpoint, furiously videotaping. For the first time, I see Stuyvesant, and for some reason, a glimmer of hope strikes me. Here the officers radio their commander and we're told to walk back to the sergeant, a man in a white shirt.

He's a tall, stern fellow, full of harsh assurance. There's no way the two of us are getting in. Looking for "the right post" where we can get mayor's passes, the two of usamble around the BMCC area, being turned away by more cops. Laura despairs; she's sick of walking around; she wants to go to work. I insistently question her about her job, all the time leading us toward West Street. We finally reach some sheriffs from Suffolk County, and I talk to the first genuinely friendly person in Lower Manhattan. He smiles and points to a group of cops milling on the corner. Taking out our school ID cards, we walk up to them, and the negotiation begins.

I introduce myself in a firm, steady voice—in stark contrast to the timid, scared tone I'd used earlier. We show them the cards, and they note, in somber jest, that they could be fake. I take out my wallet, handing over my program, Jewish Theological Seminary ID, Ultimate frisbee membership card, video rental pass, and my student MetroCard. I pass them over swiftly and with phony confidence. Suddenly, the key turns in the lock, and the officers start laughing. They give us our cards back, saying it's all right, we can go in. Stay to the left as long as possible, there's heavy machinery on the right. I look back at the chuckling officers, noticing one in particular. As we walk away, I'm hoping he lives for another hundred years.

We're in. After walking on the left side of the highway alongside emergency vehicles, buses and barricades, we have to climb over flowerbeds to cross the street. My heart is pounding. There are soldiers at a command post on our left, heavily armed cops on our right, and everywhere construction workers. And at the corner of Chambers and West, yet another officer, after yet another explanation, smiles and lets us through. We thankfully tell him to have a nice day.

Into the school we walk, triumphantly holding our ID cards high, through the forbidden front entrance. As we enter, there's a crowd of cops, rescue workers, and National Guardsmen milling around. They don't look at us, and we don't look at them.

It's a different world down here. You breathe different air; the people move differently, and everywhere there is a quiet sense of urgency. Round here, there's no time for politics, despair, or flag-waving. As we walk away from the school, I see the site—the twisted skeleton of a dead animal, a giant whale. We hike through the empty streets, carrying philosophy textbooks.

I saw a lot of people crying around me and on me, and I couldn't figure out how it helps ease any pain that they were having by crying.  
—Levon McMullen, sophomore

The first one I thought was an accident, the second I thought was terrorists. When I heard the Pentagon had been done in too I thought I was gonna die. One kid walked into our class late and said that they were making a movie outside; we all laughed at the time because we hadn't realized what had happened.

—Rene Kessler, sophomore

Most people who experienced the atrocity on TV said they were terrified immediately. However, from a first-person perspective, watching a

World Trade Center tower collapse from the 8th floor, I can honestly say I was not in the least bit afraid. It was a feeling of great excitement instead, as if it was *Die Hard 4* or *Godzilla* 2 or something. I was just thinking of how insane it was, not how many thousands of people were dying as I was watching.

—Paul Banec, freshman

I got up, and I was trying to find a way to get downtown, because I was thinking, "I need to get to work; I'll miss my classes!" That's all I was thinking. Then I sat down and listened to the news. At that point I thought, "Okay, something's wrong. Forget about going to work; worry about what's going on here. Worry about finding your family, worry about getting home. I never made it downtown." —Jennie Chan, English teacher

My mom, who works on Canal Street, had gotten an urgent call from my dad telling her that one of the World Trade Center buildings had been accidentally hit by a small plane.... Her first thoughts were immediately of me. She ran down to Stuy in under four minutes flat.

—Manny Bierman, freshman

9

Commemorative edition by the students of Stuyvesant High School

Spectator staff members collected scores of personal accounts from Stuyvesant students and faculty members. These anecdotes describe their experiences before, during, and after Tuesday's attack as they remember them.

Reporting by:

Marlon Bishop  
Christina Chang  
Adina David  
Lindsey Gurin  
Jane Pae  
Susie Poppick  
Jessica Skolnick  
Daniel Walker  
Lisa Xu  
Lily Yoon  
Shali Zhang

## An Administration in Crisis

Abigail Deutsch

They were told the towers wouldn't fall.

Principal Stanley Teitel was sitting at his desk at 8:48 A.M. on Tuesday, September 11, when he heard a bang and felt the school tremble. He saw that the north tower of the World Trade Center was in flames and called the superintendent's office.

"The deputy superintendent" said, "Is anyone in danger?" and I said, "[There's] no danger to us," Teitel said. "She said, 'Then keep everyone in the building and they'll be safe.' And that's what we did. Until about ten minutes later."

The second plane struck the south tower at 9:03 A.M., jamming communications and leaving the administration without further guidance from the Board of Education. But the F.B.I. and Secret Service agents who appeared in Teitel's office on the first floor wanting to use it as a command center had some information to offer, the principal said.

"I looked over to [the agent in charge], and all I said was, 'I have just one question. What are the chances of those towers coming down?' He looked at me and said, 'No chance.' Based on that, I made my decision."

Teitel announced that students were to stay in the building.

"You need to understand at this moment that there are no trains and no buses in Lower Manhattan," Teitel said over the loudspeaker. "So leaving the building, you can't go home. There's nowhere to go, and I think it's dangerous in the street because of falling debris. Stay in the building. Stay away from the windows on the south side of the building. Those are the windows near the Statue of Liberty."

"We have security in the building, and federal agents," Teitel continued. "If anyone asks for ID, please, just present your ID or your program card so we know you belong in the building. Whatever you do, just stay calm. Try to go to class. If you stay in the hallways we just don't have enough room for walking. If you have a free period and you want to sit quietly, you're welcome to come to the theater. I will try to come on the PA before 10:30 and give you more information. Thank you."

Several days later Teitel said he could not recall making the announcement.

A little while later, Assistant Principal of Student Services Eugene Blaufarb announced

over the loudspeaker that students were to report to homeroom; he soon announced he was extending homeroom until further notice.

"The federal officials were talking around me, saying they didn't know whether the planes were part of an overall plot," said Blaufarb in a later interview. "It could have been a larger plot, with people on the ground, coming out of covert places. One of my concerns was closing the perimeters, keeping the students inside the building; that's why everyone was sent to homeroom."

They were told the towers wouldn't fall. But they did. At 9:50 A.M. the south tower collapsed, sounding a great boom and sending a shock wave through the school.

"And we realized the guy who told me we were safe had no clue," Teitel said. "No clue."

"A federal official came to me and told me the north building was in danger of falling, and it could hit us—which we couldn't," Blaufarb said. "But the shock wave, if it came at us, could bring our building down."

Teitel huddled with other members of the administration and after "just a few minutes" they devised a new plan. Blaufarb announced over the loudspeaker that students were to evacuate the building from the north side, slowly and calmly.

"My main concern was panic," Blaufarb said. "Many students were crying and getting scared, and for good reason. I wanted everyone out of the building as quickly as possible, but as safely as possible."

To that end, Blaufarb said, he had to appear calm. "It was important to say, 'Okay, there's no danger,' even though the danger was tremendous."

He added, "It's my job even when I'm scared. I have to keep in mind what my duty is."

Teitel and Blaufarb positioned themselves in the lobby. Teitel near the security desk, Blaufarb standing on a chair, instructing students "to keep moving slowly, exit the building, and move north towards Chelsea Piers," Teitel said. "We just wanted to get you north."

"We were trying to evacuate 3,500 people through two doors," Blaufarb said. "I'd let 200 through the door, wait 15 seconds, and let the next 200 through."

Teitel said he thought the evacuation went

very smoothly: the student body was quieter than he'd ever heard it.

At 10:30 A.M., as students were filing out, the north tower came down.

After the students left, Teitel went into I.S. 89, the intermediate school across Chambers Street from Stuyvesant, to see if he could help them evacuate safely.

But I.S. 89 had already been evacuated, so Teitel re-entered Stuyvesant to make sure it was empty too. Then he walked north to Chelsea Piers, where he and several teachers organized younger students into groups for transportation home. Other teachers came upon students walking home and took them under their wing, helping them find their way.

"Teachers walked students across the Brooklyn Bridge, the 59th Street Bridge; others went up to the East Side, the West Side," Teitel said. "Another teacher gave students his home phone number in case there were any problems."

Teitel then proceeded north to Superintendent Tony Sawyer's office, located in Martin Luther King, Jr. High School on 66th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

The superintendent was waiting to hear from Teitel so he could tell the Board what the status was of student safety in all the schools of that area," Teitel said.

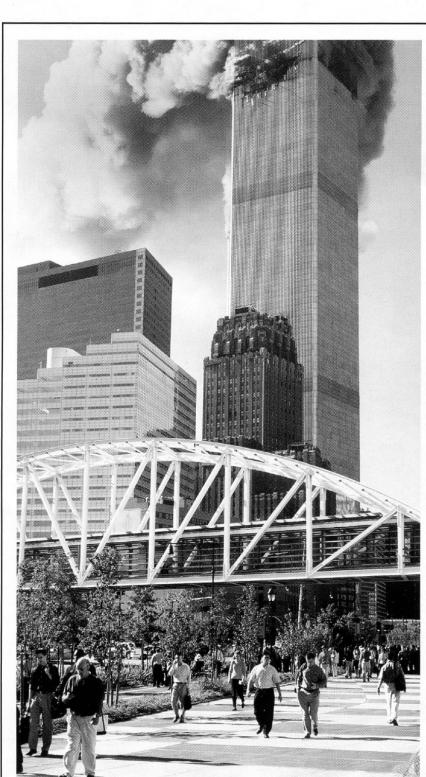
"Much earlier, his deputy had told me to sit tight. He had no way of knowing what had ensued from that point. As soon as I got there I went right into his office."

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Commemorative edition by the students of Stuyvesant High School

If this were a movie evacuation it would have been fun; my friends wouldn't be crying; I wouldn't be crying. If this were a movie my legs wouldn't be sore from walking from Stuy to Lexington Avenue, and dummies would fall from the buildings, not people; the Twin Towers would not be scattered across Lower Manhattan and that dark cloud would not have caught in my throat as I walked away as fast as I could. But this isn't a movie. —Lu Han, sophomore

These things happen in the world. The only way it's different from other events like this is that this happened in the U.S. You don't see the other people in other countries as crazy as we are—most of those people don't realize that it's perfectly fair to have an attack on our soil, considering the political stands we have all around the world. —Brian Chu, sophomore

I saw people jumping and they looked like debris. I didn't know people would jump. —Marisa Ip, sophomore

I had been called to the office immediately following the first plane crash, so I didn't get to see much of my teacher's reaction, because a friend's dad was there to get me.... Some of my friends were crying, others were trying to make jokes, because that was how they dealt with it.... I can't watch the news anymore, so I have been helping at fundraisers and clothing/food drives. I went to a candle lighting ceremony in the park, and it made me feel a lot better. —Erica Meyer, freshman

5

# Remembering 9/11

**Interview conducted  
and condensed by  
MAYA AVERBUCH**

When students learned that the first Twin Tower had fallen, many panicked, shocked by what seemed to be impossible news. However, the Editor-in-Chief of The Spectator, Jeff Orlowski, saw the events as news that had to be covered. In the weeks following the attacks, The Spectator produced a 24-page, full-color magazine with news articles, opinion pieces, photography, student responses, and other material to document the students' experiences during and after 9/11. After the first edition of the issue was published on Tuesday, October 2, a second was reprinted and distributed in The New York Times on Tuesday, November 20.

**Who decided to put together the special issue of The Spectator so soon after 9/11 happened?**

It was very much the whole staff's decision. 9/11 happened, we were all in school that day, we all evacuated, and we all went about to perform our respective roles. Our photographer, Ethan...went to take photographs...His dad worked very close to the Trade Center, and so Ethan was going north at a certain point, looking for a payphone, because the cell phones were all dead. As he was walking north, he saw the second building come down, and that was the photograph that made it onto the cover of that magazine. In part because we had all of Ethan's photography—it was this very strong color photography—and it was obviously a huge, momentous event, we decided when we were relocated to Brooklyn Tech...that we were going to make something special...Then, it was the matter of: this is going to cost a lot more. How are we going to pay for this? How are we going to pull it off?...Within a week or two, we had 10,000 dollars donated to The Spectator to cover the costs of making a small run of the color magazine, and so that was the first thing that we made, and we distributed that at Brooklyn Tech to their student body, and then also to the Stuyvesant student body.

**How long did it take you to put it all together?**

We made that first magazine in [less than] a month... One of the business managers, Gaia Filicori, had what, at the time, was the coolest, newest iBook, and we did all the layout for the magazine on [the] iBook, going from location to location, because we didn't have our school office anymore...The goal for a long time was to try and have more impact with it and to share it as widely as we could. The Newspaper in Education program within The New York Times made an offer to us to cover the distribution cost of putting our magazine into The New York Times. They said that

they would cover the cost of insertion and distribution, and they would distribute as many magazines as we could supply them. So we were trying to see how much money it would cost us to print hundreds of thousands of copies of the magazine, and it was very expensive. We went to the magazine publishers' association. They had a big conference, so we went to the conference and...the president of the [the printing company R. R. Donnelly] got up and said they were going to cover the cost of printing 850,000 copies of the magazine. They printed them for free...They went straight to The New York Times, and they inserted it and distributed it [...on] November 20th...A lot of schools around New York get Tuesday's paper specifically just because of the Science Times. We wanted it to go to as many schools as possible.

**How did it feel to return to your regular job as Editor-in-Chief and return to the newspaper so soon after September 11?**

We were in Brooklyn Tech's building, having class there... We finally get back into the building, and then the [Parents' Association] is flipping out, because apparently there's [asbestos] that's still in the air vents in the building. Then they were giving the school a hard time that we came in too soon and that we shouldn't be in there. Every day, we would have classes and people would come into random classrooms with this weird air testing equipment... It wasn't just covering a sports game. It wasn't just covering some teacher's retirement. It was: are we breathing asbestos? Did we come back into this building too soon? How is the school dealing with everything post 9/11? I guess, as a journalist, it was so busy and so exciting that we didn't have time to...process the event, because we were just running non-stop and going non-stop.

**How did you walk the line between being those objective reporters you were supposed to be and being students in the midst of these events at the same time?**

We had editors for The New York Times come into our class every week, every Thursday. I really feel like our training on the staff came from both our faculty advisor, who was Douglas Goetsch before it was Holly Ojalvo, and...from the editors from The New York Times...We were really getting an unprecedented level of experience in journalism as high school students. We were striving to make the best newspaper that we could. We were trying to push the boundaries of what the paper had done previously and really trying to make a top-notch, professional-quality product. We were doing that before 9/11 happened. That day...everybody [was] running around the hallways. I think the first build-

ing had just fallen down and the second one hadn't yet...I was running around finding my editors, finding the staffs, and giving out press passes, just trying to get people out there covering what was going on. Our photographer, Ethan, I saw him and...even though the building was locked down [and] they weren't letting anybody out, we snuck him out through a back door. I think my opinion editor, Ben Magarick, we got him covering stuff real quickly, and I saw other member of the staff in the hallway who were really just almost broken down crying...We just had to find out who was capable emotionally of working, and it was really interesting to see who kind of rose to the occasion as a journalist, and who put their journalist hat on and went out there, and who was really covering stuff, and ultimately, everybody really did an incredible job of it and really pushed themselves. But there was a moment when I did have that reflection on, you know, we are still students. We would like to think of us as being professional journalists, and we were striving to that level, but we were still students, and it was hard for a lot of people.

**I talked to Abigail Deutch, the former news editor. She described an incident in a piece that she wrote for us in which you recorded Principal Stanley Teitel's announcement, or first announcement during September 11th. Were you thinking about writing the issue from the start, while the events unfolded?**

The training that we had gotten had already put us in the mindset of news and what is newsworthy. Obviously, once the buildings hit, that was not a regular occurrence, and when Principal Teitel was on the PA, there was something that just screamed that this needed to be documented, so we recorded it...From the minute the first building was hit, I think the staff just knew that was something that we had to cover. Obviously, being one of the closest high schools to the towers, we had a different perspective than a typical school in New York City.

**What was your reaction from readers either within your school, at Brooklyn Tech, or after the New York Times distribution?**

We had an incredibly positive response after the magazine came out. In part, I guess within the school itself, it was something so different and so unique from what The Spectator had done before, that everybody was very proud of it and were impressed by what we accomplished. When it did go into The New York Times and reached the much wider distribution, it was incredible to see the feedback that we got from the community, especially from Stuyvesant alumni who weren't necessarily in the States or who would somehow come across

the magazine. I remember getting e-mails...from alumni in Germany, saying, "I just saw the magazine," and they were blown away by what we had accomplished...The flood of comments and feedback that we got, I think it helped engage our staff and inspired us to continue throughout the year, even through all the difficult times we had to deal with: walking to school every day when you look down the West Side Highway and you see a gaping hole with cranes everywhere. The smell of the air was just so completely different the whole month afterwards.

**What was your most vivid memory from that time? Are there particular incidents that, when you look back at the entire time that was so tumultuous, that really stand out to you?**

I have all these fragments of memories of working on the paper in different locations. Because we didn't have our regular office, and because we were working on this laptop, this borrowed laptop, we were working on it everywhere. I'd be working with the News editors, or the Opinion editors, or the Layout guys, and all the different teams. We'd be huddled around this tiny computer, whether it was in a classroom in Brooklyn Tech or we were scanning photographs at The New York Times photo office... We really had so much support from the New York community, giving us access and allowing us to do our jobs...When I think about 9/11, I think about Stuy, and, specifically, I think about the newspaper staff. It really was a time where I feel like all of us, as student journalists, learned what it was like to be real journalists.

**Did any of you—you or your staff members—go into a field related to journalism after-**

ward?

I am a photographer and filmmaker right now, so very much in that same realm.

**How did putting together the 9/11 issue contribute to your becoming a photographer and filmmaker, if at all?**

Without doubt, it was one of the most influential and life-changing experiences for me personally...My objective in my life is to use media and to use film as a medium for telling stories and to try and have social impact...The experience of 9/11 specifically, more than anything, gave me a real sense that, as an individual, we all have the power to capture something that's going on in the world and to share it with a huge audience.

**Can you elaborate on the kind of film and photography you do, or are doing, right now?**

I'm currently working on a number of documentary films. One of them is about climate change and a photographer who is creating time lapses of glaciers retreating. It's a film that's about art, and it's told through the perspective of a National Geographic photographer.

**Do you have anything to add?**

There was something so different in making that magazine, the first edition of the magazine. It was so hard to do, but at the same time, there was a renewed sense of drive and motivation for everyone on the staff. It still blows me away...how well the entire staff...rose to the occasion and contributed their best work and put in such long hours to make it the best thing we ever made as a newspaper.

## Scattering

**By BEN MAGARICK,  
former Spectator Opinions  
Editor**

The true New Yorker secretly believes that people living anywhere else have to be, in some sense, kidding.  
—John Updike

WASHINGTON, D.C.

I'm not kidding. Like many of my classmates, I no longer live in New York. We've traded in our metrocards, discovered wider boulevards, and learned to stop casually ordering Pizza or Bagels. It's a different world down here. The pace is slower, the buildings lower, and Stuyvesant is a half-block in Upper Chevy Chase.

I run into other alumni frequently, randomly, and purposefully. They stand on line in the old Marine Terminal at LaGuardia the Saturday

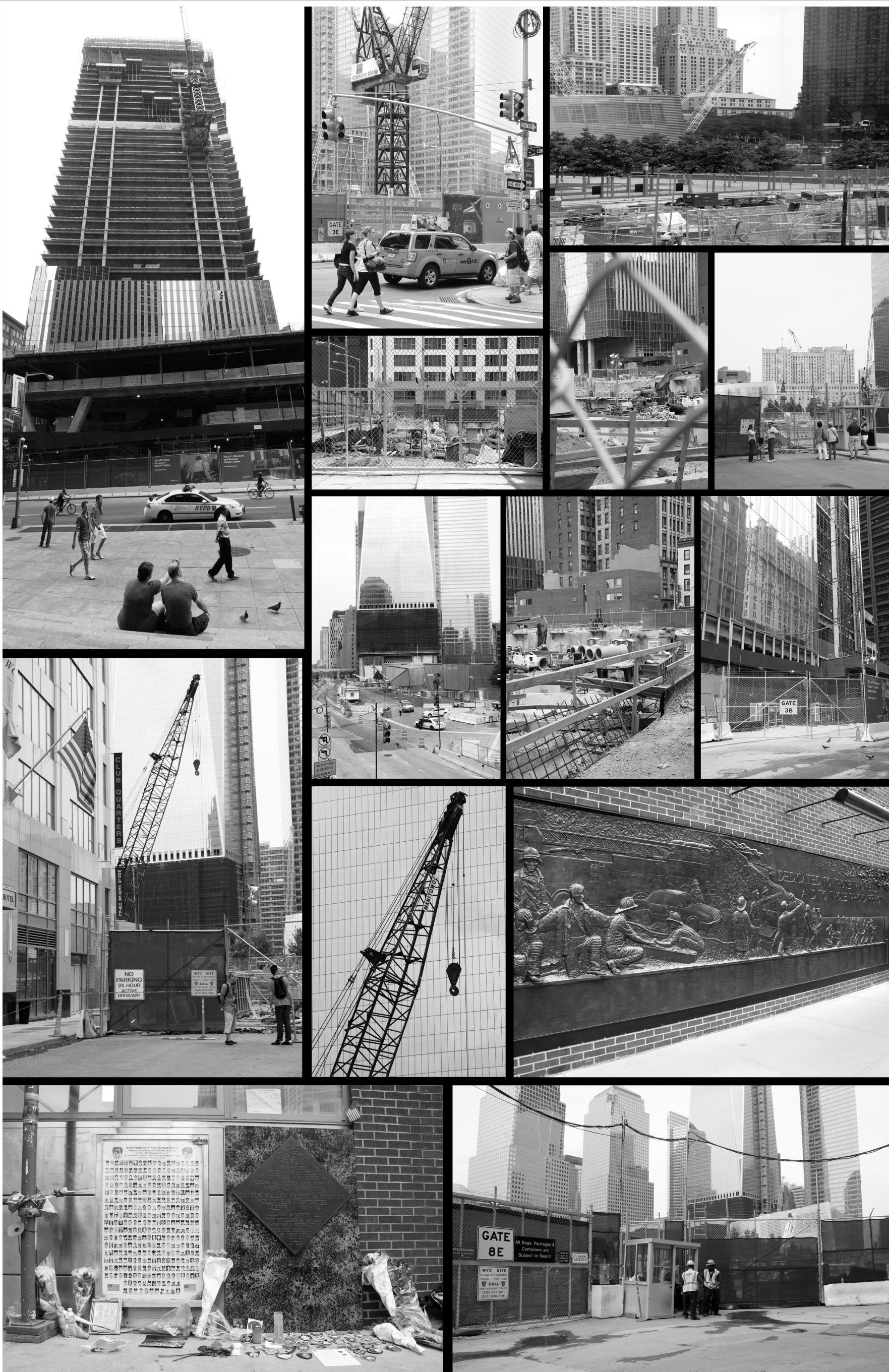
after Thanksgiving, hurry outside a law library in Foggy Bottom, even meander on my rooftop. When I find myself in San Francisco or Raleigh-Durham I seek them out as if they were prelates of a secret order. We examine our expatriate existences, trade updates on our classmates with a combination of pride and competitive interest, and mutter about quality of life.

Sometimes we talk about that day and how it impacted, impacts, might still impact us. Often it hangs perceptibly in the air and we inhale silent, unseen particles of the past. While we have no scientific basis for comparison, there is a theory that our class is special, somehow chosen. We are sown, we scatter. We re-root, we return.

I keep a metrocard in my nightstand.

## Features

# One Decade Later: Remembering 9/11



By Joann Lee

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## Cartoons

Linda Cai / The Spectator

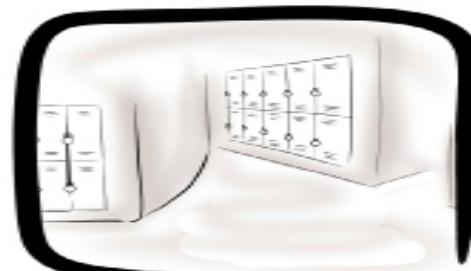
Katherine Chi / The Spectator

Michelle Guo / The Spectator

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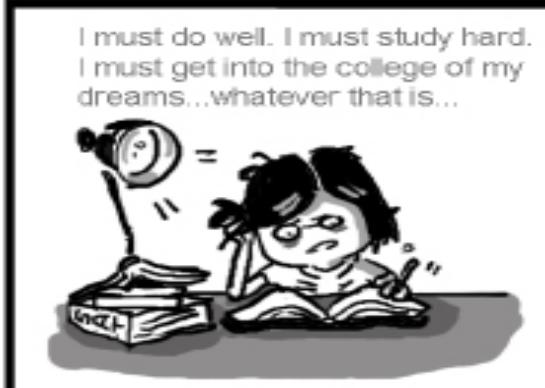
QUEENS

### LINDA CAI

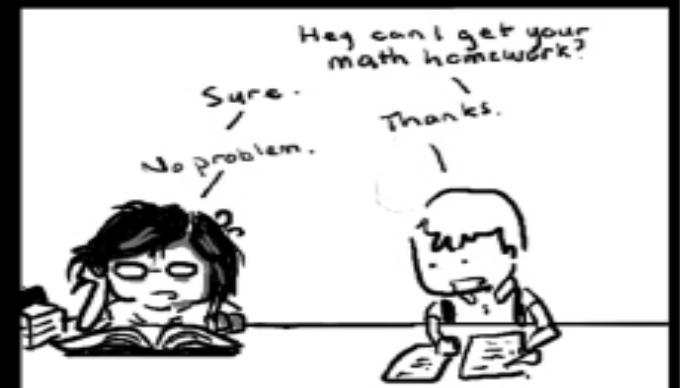


DAVY JONES'

**What is wrong with you people.**



And most importantly, I must  
**CRUSH THE COMPETITION.**



- Katherine Chi

### I'M LOVIN' IT.



### MICHELLE GUO

## Features

### Smaller Percentage of City's Teachers Receive Tenure

By ANNE CHEN  
and SARAH MIN

Teacher tenure has long served to prevent teachers from suffering due to arbitrary layoffs. However, in recent years, almost all teachers have been given tenure after three probationary years, resulting in complaints that sub-par teachers were being granted permanent positions. In response, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) passed a more stringent tenure policy in December 2010. As a result, according to a DOE report released on Wednesday, July 27, only 58 percent of eligible teachers received tenure this year. This is a marked decrease from the 99 percent of teachers who received tenure during the 2006-2007 school year.

"It seems to me that anybody working in a school should be evaluated effectively before they are hired or are allowed to teach, so this lower percent means that people are being more carefully evaluated," Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm said.

"We've turned what had been a joke interpretation of the state law to make it something that you have to work hard, earn, and show that you are better than the average bear to get," said Mayor Bloomberg in the New York Times article "Tenure Granted to 58% of Eligible Teachers in City," published on Wednesday, July 27.

Teachers are permitted to apply for tenure after their first three years of teaching, called the probationary period. The

new tenure policy is based on evaluations from school principals and assistant principals. Teachers are rated in three categories: higher standards of teacher practice, evidence of

parent feedback, among other categories.

"[The process] is recognizing what a lot of good teachers do anyway," Assistant Principal Social Studies Jennifer Suri said. "Most new teachers and veteran teachers are involved in professional development and are actively involved in the school community, but now it's just documented. I'm sure this is above and beyond what the DOE requires."

Mathematics teacher Gary Jaye, who is tenured, disagrees. "This policy has the potential of harassment on new teachers, in that if a supervisor doesn't like a new teacher, it can have adverse effects," he said. "As for old teachers, it probably just means assistant principals and principals will be observing us more often."

Though the superintendent grants tenure, it is up to principals to take care of the paperwork to recommend tenure.

"I have made it clear to the assistant principals that I will need to see some amount of data to back up their recommendation for tenure," Principal Stanley Teitel said.

The number of eligible teachers receiving tenure has been decreasing steadily since 2007. However, the number of teachers being denied tenure has only increased by two percent since 2007. This decrease is due to the fact that teachers are being given an extra year of probation.

"This year I extended the probationary period for some

teachers, who were new to our building," Teitel said. "In the past, most teachers at Stuyvesant received tenure at the end of the probationary period."

Thirty-nine percent of teachers had their tenure decision extended this year, compared to in 2007, when only two percent of eligible teachers had their decision extended. For these teachers, there is no limit to the number of years they can stay on probation.

making this decision had much of a choice," she said. "It's not a problem. I should theoretically get it next year."

Michael Mulgrew, president of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), raised concerns about the new tenure process. He found that the data reports were unreliable, principals were not all completing required classroom observations, and there was a correlation between a school's low progress report grade and the high number of teachers having their probationary period extended.

In a letter to Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott, Mulgrew wrote that "[the UFT is] outraged if teachers are having their probation extended because of the DOE's total inability to effectively manage its workforce or for other reasons that have nothing to do with individual performance," according to the UFT article "Big drop in number of teachers granted tenure troubles UFT."

According to Walcott, the number of denials is expected to increase in the next year. However, Assistant Principal Eric Grossman does not think it will affect Stuyvesant greatly.

"This new policy may slow down the tenure-granting process because as the city changes, there is a lag time for schools to catch up," he said. "But Stuyvesant is very diligent about observations and such, and I doubt it'll have a profound effect on the teachers receiving it."

**"This year I extended the probationary period for some teachers who were new to our building."**  
—Stanley Teitel, principal

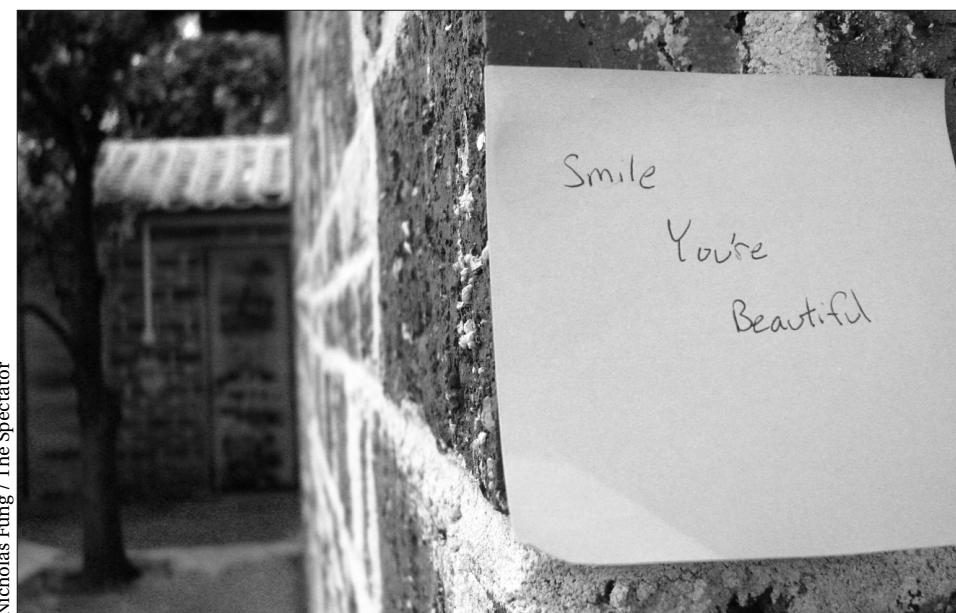
student learning, and contributions to the school community. Principals are to rate their teachers in each of these categories according to a four-point scale: highly effective, effective, developing, and ineffective. For teachers to be granted tenure, they must receive a rating of effective or highly effective for at least two consecutive years. Principals make their recommendations based on evidence from classroom observations, quality of student work, progress on state assessments, attendance, and student and

**"Stuyvesant is very diligent about observations and such, and I doubt it'll have a profound effect on the teachers receiving it."**  
—Eric Grossman, Assistant Principal English

English teacher Maya Zabar had her probationary period extended this year. "It's a lot of political base-covering, and I don't think anyone involved in

## Features

# Operation Beautiful: The Fight Against Negative Body Image



Operation Beautiful Post-It notes can be found all around the world.

By JOANNA GAO

If you take a quick look at the magazine rack in your local grocery store, you will find covers plastered with super-thin, gorgeous, smiling women. Though these ubiquitous models are simply used for advertising purposes, in recent years, people have begun to complain that they breed a sense of inadequacy in the female public. One woman, Caitlin Boyle, created the Operation Beautiful web log in June 2009 in order to combat what she calls "negative self-talk" or "fat talk."

"The biggest mistake we make is beating ourselves up for not looking like models or celebrities. It's time we stop emulating or striving for a type of perfection that doesn't even exist in the real world," Boyle said.

Participants in Operation Beautiful anonymously write and post inspirational notes in public places for passing viewers to stumble upon. These notes typically encourage a positive body image and include

makes people feel better and that's one of the most selfless things you can do," sophomore Anna Mo said.

The Operation Beautiful site displays photographs, submitted by participants, of Operation Beautiful notes. Each photograph comes with a description of the experience of participants. Boyle has received over 7,000 notes from all over the world since she started the movement, including notes from Asia, Europe, and Africa.

"I literally get e-mails that begin, 'This movement saved my life.' People underestimate the power of a little Post-It," Boyle said. "Maybe some people read them and just smile, but I bet some people are truly touched by the effort of a random stranger."

Since the start of her blog, Boyle has published a book titled "Operation Beautiful," which includes 125 of the most unique notes she has received, in addition to tips on how to lead a healthy, happy lifestyle, according to the Operation Beautiful Web site.

She hopes the movement will continue to grow and inspire other women. "If this little blog only does one productive thing, I hope it helps readers realize how truly toxic negative self-talk is. It hurts you emotionally, spiritually, and physically," Boyle said.

SPARK Counselor Angel Colon believes that this movement could have a positive influence on the Stuyvesant community because "it may help those individual with the negative self-talk and later empower them to think and act more secure about themselves," he said. "My approach with a new endeavor like this would be to first plan it out fully and recruit dedicated members to promote this."

Boyle advises the Stuyvesant students who want to extend the movement within the school to start an Operation Beautiful club, as other students and teachers have done across the country. "They get together and write notes to put in anonymous places or put them in cards or postcards and mail [them] to nursing homes or soldiers overseas," she said. "Some groups have fund-raised for girls' groups such as Girls on the Run or an eating disorder prevention program."

Students such as junior Sean Chee expressed interest in joining such a club. "Joining a club seems fun. We could think of ideas of what to put on the post-its. You don't have anything to lose and you have a chance to make someone feel better about themselves," Chee said.

Guidance counselor Audra Parris noted that many Stuyvesant students suffer from depression, stress, and/or self-esteem issues. "I am quite sure that the guidance team will be more than willing to work with an organization like Operation Beautiful," she said. "We can do much more by creating projects and events focused on inner beauty, confidence, strength, health, and wellness."

To learn more about the Operational Beautiful, visit [www.operationbeautiful.com](http://www.operationbeautiful.com).

**"Anytime I saw these inspirational notes, a smile would appear on my face. These messages would give people around the school a positive view of themselves, and overall help them boost their self-esteem."**  
**—Sarah Soo-Hoo, senior**

phrases like, "Smile, you are beautiful." In Stuyvesant High School, several notes have appeared on the mirrors in girls' bathrooms and physical education locker rooms.

Senior Sarah Soo-Hoo was one Stuyvesant student who noticed these post-its. "Anytime I saw these inspirational notes, a smile would appear on my face. These messages would give people around the school a positive view of themselves and overall help them boost their self-esteem," Soo-Hoo said.

Other students agreed that posting supportive messages is beneficial. "It

## Hurricane Irene Hits NY

*continued from page 1*

several hours.

"We had to use glow-sticks to navigate our way throughout the rooms. It was pitch black in the hotel. There was no air conditioning or food due to the power outage. We couldn't even go outside," Frolich said. Due to the severe weather, airports were closed, and Frolich's flight back to New York was delayed.

At Stuyvesant High School, which was Zone A in Battery Park City, no damage was done. "Stuyvesant was not affected by Hurricane Irene at all," Principal Stanley Teitel said.

When asked about the MTA's decision to shut down its system, Zilberbrand said, "The idea to shut down the MTA was a good one, because some people would have been crazy enough to go to work. It's better to stay at home and be cautious. Shutting down the MTA is basically shutting down the city. That was interesting to see, because I take the train every day to school, and it's just always there."

Still, the loss of mass transportation was irksome for some.

"The subway shutdown was inconvenient, because the hurricane wasn't even that big once it hit New York," senior Kevin Sheng said. "The shutdown was unnecessary and prevented many people from getting around."

Moreover, some thought the mandatory evacuations were superfluous, because Hurricane Irene did not do as much damage in New York as predicted.

"The mandatory evacuations were a little too extreme. Most people's homes were fine. It wasn't that bad, but the city was really good with setting up shelters for people who evacuated and homeless



people during the hurricane," Zilberbrand said.

The oncoming of Hurricane Irene certainly excited New Yorkers—with markets running out of bread and people evacuating from their homes. The storm eventually passed on Sunday morning, leaving certain areas of New York flooded and out of power. However, the mass transit system was back up and working on schedule the next day, and New York City streets were once again filled with pedestrians.

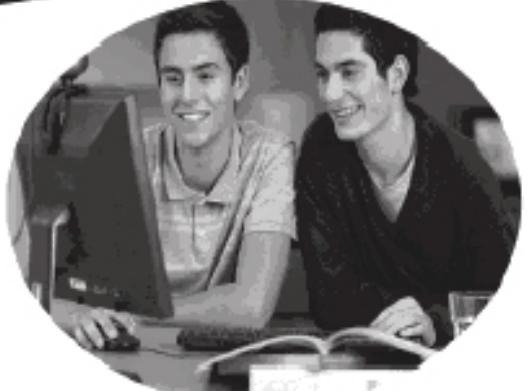
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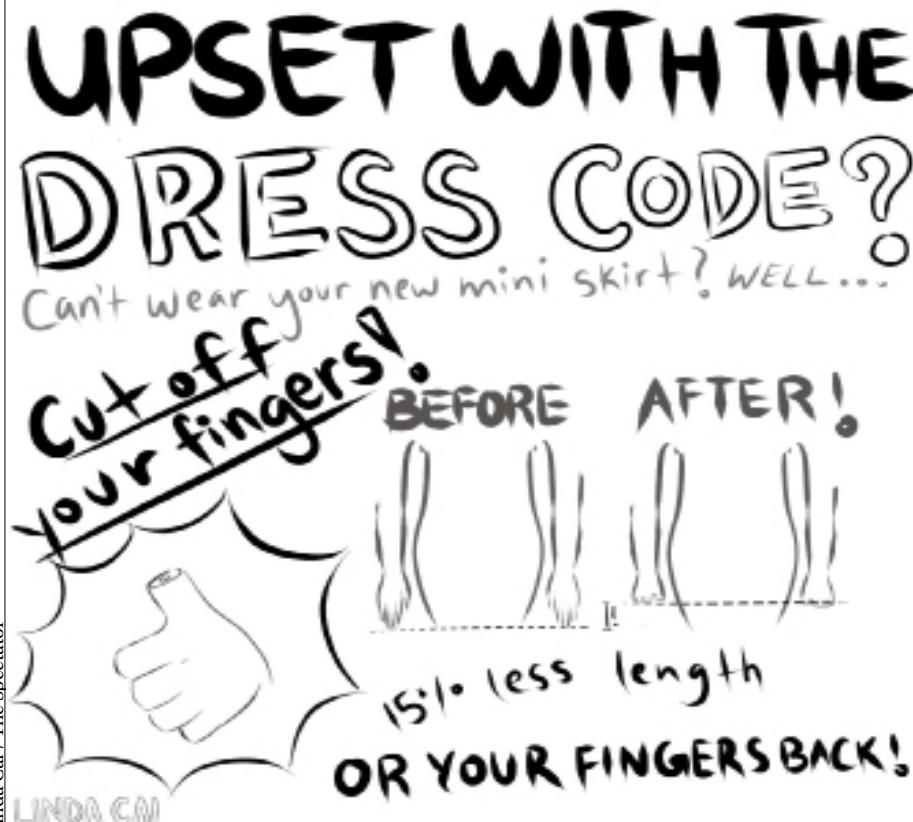
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# Features

# Opinions On

Article by Rebecca Gaebler  
and Lily Lin

Ladies who like wearing short shorts, miniskirts, sleeveless dresses, tank tops, or belly shirts will no longer be allowed to wear such clothing this school year. Likewise, boys will not be able to sport wife-beaters or expose boxers above low-slung pants without repercussion. The punishment: oversized grey t-shirts will cover scandalous outfits, and out-to-lunch privileges will be revoked for the day. The parents of second-time violators will have to pay a visit to the school. Here's what some students and teachers are saying about the new dress code policy.



Linda Cai / The Spectator

Claudia Yau, senior

Even from an academic standpoint, the policy eliminates a necessary learning opportunity. Before the policy was written, the way we dressed was a daily decision that reflected the way we wanted our peers to respond to us. Realizing that one style of dress is appropriate in a specific setting is an important skill for our futures, and if anything, social pressure served as a check on what we wore. Now, rather than deciding, either on our own or with encouragement from teachers or deans, to dress a certain way, we will do so to avoid punishment. The backwardness of the policy is especially clear when we consider Stuyvesant's mission statement: "The Stuyvesant High School philosophy is that each student is [...] a necessary partner in a program established for his/her future in a democratic society. With the cooperation of parents, the staff nurtures the developing awareness and responsibilities of each individual." Ultimately, the lesson learned with the policy is: "Follow the rules because your out-to-lunch privilege is something you want to keep. Also follow the rules because having parents come into the school is bad," rather than, "Dressing appropriately earns respect from teachers and peers." The latter lesson is always less likely to be achieved with a written policy. For instance, sleeveless tops can look classy. In fact, some teachers wear sleeveless dresses and they look perfectly presentable. Even if this really were a problem, the policy is not the way to fix it.

If school officials are convinced that it is necessary to limit freedom without giving us a say in it, at least make the effort to help us understand why. The whole policy sounds like a mix between "we know what's good for you better than you do" and "because I say so," and I can see why that's frustrating in an environment where we expect to be treated less childishly. We're able to juggle AP exams, college apps, heaps of homework, regular exams, extracurricular activities, social lives, and stay awake for class. So we're adults and responsible for those, but we can't be trusted to hide our undergarments when picking our outfits.

Victoria and Shawn Duncan,  
junior parents

Both male and female students can dress in ways that call an inappropriate level of attention to themselves and therefore would be distracting. This dress code is an attempt to minimize anything that would distract Stuyvesant students from their learning environment. I would not have itemized everything specified in the dress code, but I understand what the administration is trying to accomplish. Stuy students are smart. The punishments identified give our students the opportunity to correct how they dress on their own before involving their parents. I would like to believe that the awareness raised from being identified as non-compliant would be enough for a student to realize that he or she could be distracting fellow classmates from learning in the classroom.

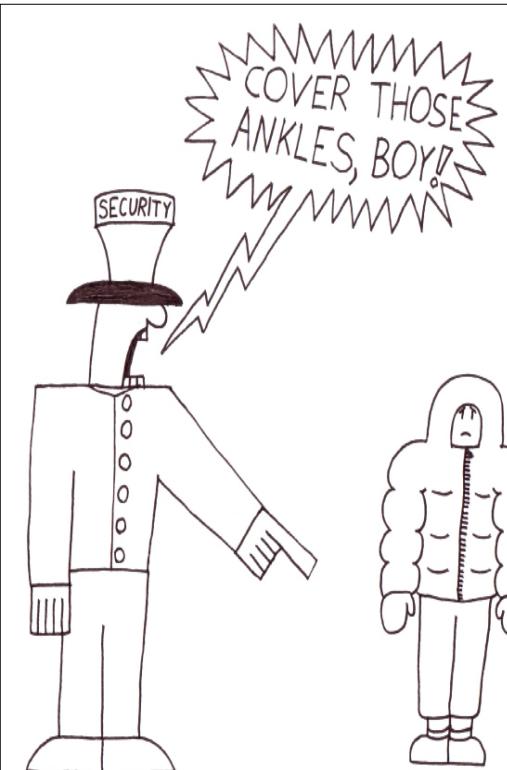


Dia Sotirouliou / The Spectator

Danielle Polin, sophomore

It's the thought that we're being oppressed that's the most demoralizing. To begin with, I don't think it's much of a problem. Other peoples' clothes don't affect the way everyone else learns. The problem with these punishments is that it makes seem as if we were violating a uniform code in a private school. The way people dress shouldn't have such a severe consequence in a school with previously no dress code. The policy might be practical if its goal were to hide people's shoulders, but it won't make the school environment any better, and definitely won't help learning. Also, it primarily targets girls since only girls wear tank tops and short skirts.

Our clothing is our choice. It's one of those nice things about public school—everyone is allowed to be different. Also, it gets really hot around May and June. Are shoulders really that distracting that we can't be afforded the luxury to not sweat all day?



Benito Kestleman / The Spectator

Aminah Sallam, junior

The school is completely justified in setting boundaries on what students can and cannot wear. Oftentimes, people forget that school is an institution of learning and not a place where people are interested in how cute you look. I honestly don't care much about the policy itself because it doesn't affect me directly. I've never worn clothes that would be prohibited by the policy. Further, I think that by forcing girls to dress more conservatively, we're forcing the Stuyvesant community to appreciate girls for their intelligence and personalities, and not just how they look. The policy does not prevent students from expressing their "individuality." All the school asks is for the students to express their "individuality" in a far less revealing, and appropriate way. If this rule precludes your ability to "find yourself" because you can't express yourself properly, then you can always wait until after school or days where school is not in session to "find yourself" by dressing in the manner that you deem appropriate in order to reach that end.

Jane Handorff, junior

Though I can understand some of the rules, others just seem impractical. It is going to be very uncomfortable to not be able to wear tank tops in the warmer months. I also think that parents in general can be the judge of what is and isn't appropriate. However, I'd definitely rather change my clothes than repeatedly lose my out-to-lunch privileges.

Many kids are going to have to go out and buy new clothes and I don't think that a public school can really ask this of its students. Lastly, Stuy is full of the most hard-working kids that I've ever met who actually enjoy learning every day, and I don't think that this dress code is necessary or that we need more limits than we already have. I feel bad about being concerned about a superficial issue when there are more important things to think about. All in all I am against it.

## Features

# New Dress Code

Lori Gutman, junior

It's limiting and unreasonable, especially in the summer when a lot of rooms aren't air-conditioned. Sitting in hot classrooms from 8 to 3:30 is already bad enough, and having to wear a lot of clothing in 80 plus degree weather can be unbearable for some people. Nonetheless, I probably won't change the way I dress because of the new consequences. A large grey t-shirt doesn't exactly scare me, and I don't always go out for lunch either. I'm sure I'm not the only person who feels this way, so these punishments might not really make a difference.

Jennifer Zhou and Erica Chan, junior President and Vice President

While we understand that revealing undergarments and shirts with inappropriate sayings can be distracting, we disagree with the other requirements. When summertime comes around, the temperature gets ridiculously high. Especially with a 3500+ [student] body running around a ten-story building, sometimes more revealing clothing is reasonable. Also, we feel that suppressing our chance to express ourselves during our precious teenage years can affect our creativity and the way we think in the future. Overall, we think that some of the requirements of the policy are too harsh, and could possibly lead to many students failing to obey it. If the dress policy is implemented, there should be different levels of consequences depending on how far one opposes the policy. The faculty and the student body should make a compromise so that we do not see half of the student body wearing a grey shirt everyday. If you're showing a bit of your shoulder, the administration can call you out on it. If, however, your shirt is showing half your stomach and your shorts are too short, harsher punishments are reasonable.

We definitely care about this issue because it affects the whole student body. It directly affects the way we dress and present ourselves. When Stuyvesant students react poorly to specific changes, it is up to the caucus of each grade to find a solution that can fulfill every student's needs and wants. We hope that students who oppose the policy can rely on the Student Union to help make a compromise with the administration on this issue.

Megan Wong, sophomore

Due to the fact that Stuy is portrayed as an ideal high school, we should dress to live up to its reputation, not to bring it crashing down. These requirements are quite reasonable, due to the fact that the school is putting an effort into trying to make us look respectable to teachers, staff members, as well as our classmates and peers. The punishments are appropriate and would make a difference. I would change my clothing choices if I were to endure the punishment because it would force me to realize that putting my toe out of line would not result in good consequences. It's pretty practical as far as I can tell. It's not like they are making you go home or suspending you. The policy is an overall rule that is trying to create a friendly school environment for everyone to feel comfortable in. Students could choose whether or not to follow it, and whatever fashions of clothing to put on.



Rachel Heineman, junior

I don't really mind the policy, but that's just because it doesn't conflict with any of the clothes I personally choose to wear. I guess I'm against it for the sake of my peers. The kids who wear clothes that violate the dress code are going to be the kids who are either passionate about fashion or passionate about usurping authority, and either way sticking them in an ugly grey t-shirt is going to breed resentment far more than obedience. I'd be supportive of a student group that wanted to work professionally with the administration towards compromise.

Max Liebeskind, junior

The administration needs to be more pragmatic and must not try to manipulate the fashion of our time. Although it is acceptable to ban revealing clothing, the regulation on shorts is impractical because long shorts generally don't exist for girls. Furthermore, short-shorts are not explicitly inappropriate the way that revealing clothing clearly is.

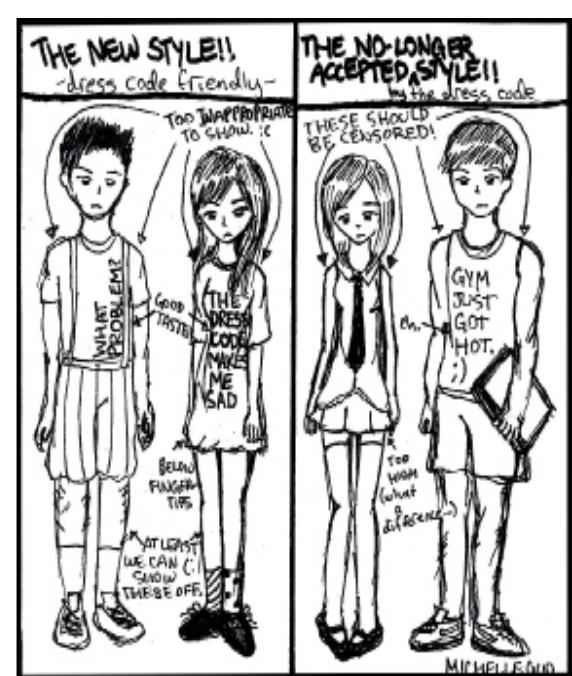
We don't need to push back against the administration, but we have to explain to the administration the insensitivity of its policy. An acceptable policy would have to take into account societal norms and only restrict fashion choices that are blatantly unacceptable.

Stephen Soiffer, junior parent

It's too strict and unreasonable. Who will be the arbiter of whether phrases and saying[s] are in good taste? The hemline requirement is silly and unenforceable. What's wrong with shoulders? The large grey T-shirt is a dumb idea. Might well become a visible marker of dissent and nonconformity—desirable rather than a punishment.

Kristyn Pluchino, Chemistry Teacher

I am in favor of the dress code policy. I think the requirements are very reasonable. The majority of Stuyvesant students come to school dressed appropriately; however, I have seen students, especially in warmer weather, who look as though they are dressed to go to the beach instead of school. While it may not prevent learning, it can be a distraction in the classroom. I think these punishments are appropriate. The dress code is very simple and straightforward and is really just asking students to respect the learning environment at Stuyvesant. Seeing a fellow student wearing an over-sized, grey t-shirt will hopefully make most students think twice before they wear something distasteful or overly revealing to school. I like the idea of getting parents involved. Most parents understand the importance of dressing appropriately for an environment, but in some cases parents do not see what their child is leaving home wearing. If I were a parent, I would want it brought to my attention that my child was dressing inappropriately at school, as it does not send a very positive message about who they are.



Vera Pertsovskaya, sophomore

Schools teach students that our country is a free one. But when school boards make students wear what they tell them too, it curtails the students' freedom. I know that if the school administration is indeed serious about this dress code, then I will have to change a lot of my wardrobe to fit with the school's policies. Many parents in the Stuyvesant community may not have the money to buy new clothing for their children, so those children will either have to go to school in their old clothing and face the disciplinary actions or wear clothing that is not appropriate for the season.



*Note: All interviews were through e-mail.*

# Features

## Museum Internships: Adventures Beyond the Classroom

By MELISSA SETO  
and ALIYA TUZHILIN

Finding new star systems, learning that the rock you pass by daily was significant to a religious movement, or meeting the Dalai Lama are not typical parts of the school day. Such discoveries and encounters involve stepping out of the box of a classroom and into the outside world. Over the summer, several Stuyvesant students were able to delve into fields of study that interested them with the support of some of New York City's many museums and other historical institutions.

### American Museum of Natural History: Science Research Mentoring Program

During her junior year, senior Hema Lochan embarked on an adventure in arguably the greatest territory unknown to man—outer space. She worked with astrophysicist Sébastien Lepine, who specialized in finding unknown star systems as part of the American Museum of Natural History's Science Research Mentoring Program (AMNH SRMP). After a year of scanning the night sky for stars and checking known star databases, Lochan ended up finding two new star systems, or groups of stars that orbit each other.

To qualify for the SRMP, Lochan needed to take three astronomy-related after-

to see if a star was there, and whether it was in a binary system—[which] means that two stars revolve around each other," said Lochan. "Once we [saw that a star was there], we checked databases to see whether they were already discovered."

Though her research was challenging, Lochan still found it enjoyable. "[Space is] so unknown and there [are] so many things you can discover," Lochan said. "It was interesting, and yet kind of daunting since space is so vast [that] the chance that we would find nothing was pretty high."

"The hands-on experience showed me what it was like to actually work in a field instead of just reading about it and doing problems. It showed me what I actually want to do [for a career]," Lochan said. "I gained so much respect for scientists. Although it was interesting, it was also really hard, especially trying to find something that might not even be there."

### Student History Interns Program

Seniors Joyce Huang and Kevin Tang wanted to discover something new about NYC's history, so, over the summer, they enrolled in the Students History Interns Program, which is run by the Manhattan Borough President's Office. As unpaid interns, they were allowed to choose a museum or historical archive they wanted to work at. While Huang discovered the historical importance of her everyday surroundings, Tang unexpectedly found enjoyment from interning at a church.

Huang found the ability to choose her own workplace "refreshing [because] it was nice that I could choose what to get involved in, instead of like in a classroom setting where the teacher assigns what to study or be involved in," she said. In the end, Huang chose to intern at the Queens Historical Society (QHS) at Kingsland Homestead in Flushing.

Working at the QHS gave Huang a new perspective on her surroundings. For example, when she learned the rock across the street from QHS was actually called the George Fox Stone because George Fox—a founder of the Religious Society of Friends, which was comprised of dissenters of the English Church in the 17th century—preached about religious freedom from it, she realized how oblivious she had been to the history around her.

"It's kind of amazing to know that history has happened all around us, and yet I bet there are many places that we pass that we are not aware of," Huang said. "History in textbooks feels very distant and somewhat like a tale, but being at these [historical] places reminds me that these events did occur."

Though she was working, the experience acted as an escape from the pressure of school. "I liked making a new bulletin board the most be-

cause they gave me free reign to use whatever materials and use my own judgment for the most part," Huang said. "It was like doing a project for school, but there were no grades involved and I was allowed to use whatever materials I wanted to."

On the other hand, Tang chose to intern at the archives of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. The church's archives keep profiles of members dating back to the 1800s. "I chose [the church] because I wanted to see what the inside of a church was like [since] I had never been in one before," Tang said. Tang helped the church's main archivist deal with genealogical requests from community callers and transcribe written records onto a computer.

"I have learned to appreciate the role of a church more," Tang said. "It's a valuable center of life for a community. It's a valuable source of information

At the same time, both Huang and Tang got to learn how to function effectively in a work environment. "You're working with people who are not your peers and yet not teachers. There is somewhat of a balance that isn't there in school because when a teacher teaches, usually they don't expect the student's feedback on what might be better, but when working I have to give ideas and try to speak up when I think someone can do something better," Huang said.

### RMA Teens and Teen Guide Council

The Rubin Museum for Art's (RMA's) internship for high school students is a fantastic opportunity for students who want to immerse themselves in the art and cultures of the Himalayas and share their interest with other people. The program is split into two parts: RMA Teens and the Teen Guide Council. Each part lasts one year and a select group of interns is chosen from the first part to participate in the second.

RMA Teens is meant to give students the foundation required for them to feel comfortable with Himalayan art and culture and be able to take part in the Teen Guide Council, while also familiarizing them with working in a museum.

"We participate in art workshops with renowned artists, meet with art professionals such as curators, visit different galleries," senior Wasif Islam said. "You don't realize how important these people are and how lucky you are to personally get a chance to meet with them. They really provide you with an insight which is really helpful if you are looking to pursue a career in the arts."

These workshops and visits serve to help students plan their own project in the second half of the year. "During that part we work in groups to put together a 'zine. [It] needs to relate back to the museum and Himalayan art somehow but we are pretty much free to be creative," Islam said.

Those who are chosen from the RMA Teens to participate in the paid Teen Guide Council internship are asked to choose a few of the museum's pieces to research and become experts in, with the goal of ultimately giving tours of the pieces to other high school students in programs and internships around the city.

Senior Emma Handte chose to participate in the Teen Guide Council internship because

"I've always been deeply interested in Himalayan and Buddhist culture, and this sounded like the perfect opportunity to learn more," she said.

However, there was an additional benefit to participating in the program that Handte did not expect: "[I] became much more comfortable with public speaking because I was giving tours to other high school students. I get pretty nervous talking in

front of large groups of people, and I really gained a lot of confidence in myself from giving the tours."

Her pieces of choice were a painting of the Hindu god, Shiva, and a replica of a Tibetan shrine room, both of which

**"The hands-on experience showed me what it was like to actually work in a field instead of just reading about it and doing problems."**  
—Hema Lochan, senior

[for genealogical records... Now] I'm more interested in my own genealogy."

Like Huang, Tang also made a surprising discovery about his surroundings: "Everyone knows about Central Park. What they didn't know is that they drove off hundreds of people from their land to build it. Seneca Village, a mixed race village, was forced to leave to build the park. [Their] ruins were bulldozed and buried," Tang said. He also noticed an interesting pattern from the genealogical records: "Most orphans back then were male. I'm still researching why," Tang said.

The internship also inspired Tang to become more interested in doing historical research. "The main archivist publishes papers often [concerning] church practices, figures, and events such as [the church] getting burned down and rebuilt," Tang said. "It got my own brain juices running." Tang found his work experience enjoyable because he was working with people who "liked what they were doing," he said.

**"I've always been deeply interested in Himalayan and Buddhist culture, and this sounded like the perfect opportunity to learn more."**  
—Emma Handte, senior

caught her attention early on. Though she only had to go to the museum once or twice a week, she found herself going more often just to visit the shrine room. "It's definitely one of my favorites. It's incredibly peaceful and relaxing, and there are so many tiny details that I see something new every time I go in," she said.

Through the Rubin Museum internships, students not only are able to submerge themselves in Himalayan culture within the museum, but also are able to take advantage of events in New York City.

When asked what her favorite experience from the Teen Guide Council internship was, Handte said it was seeing the Dalai Lama speak, which she was able to do with tickets provided through her internship. "It was really amazing and definitely made me feel as one with humanity, if that makes sense," Handte said. "He just spoke about compassion and the commonalities that we all share, and it really made me feel some brotherly love towards my fellow man."

Internships at museums and historical centers are unique opportunities for students who want to get a taste of the real-word application of their studies. "You can see any of the objects in a museum in a picture or read about it in a textbook, but you really never will notice all the details or get a true feeling for its quality," Handte said. The summer work allows students to open their eyes to the relics of history, science, and art that they are surrounded by, whether they are across the street from where they intern every week or hidden in the sky.

**"It's kind of amazing to know that history has happened all around us, and yet I bet there are many places that we pass that we are not aware of."**  
—Joyce Huang, senior

school classes at the AMNH during her sophomore year as well as pass an interview. She was paired with an astrophysicist due to her demonstrated interest in astronomy. "I feel that [astronomy] is very interesting and challenging, and I like it because it's so unknown and there's so many things you can discover," Lochan said.

Lochan met with Dr. Lepine for two or three days per week during her junior year to research new star systems. "[My mentor] had [made] a catalogue of coordinates in the sky, and [we] checked each

# Humor

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

## Senior Bar Rejects Class of 2012

By JOE STEELE

In an unprecedented move, the "Senior Bar," a concrete block located near the second floor entrance housing numerous lockers, has rejected the Class of 2012, citing the new senior class's dearth of coolness as its chief motive. Senior Felicia Rutberg attempted to sit on the Bar when she entered the school on Thursday, Sep-

taneously burst into flames.

The move surprised the Class of 2012, members of which had spent the previous three years looking forwards to being allowed to spend time at the bar. "I can't believe that this happened," Rutberg said. "I've wanted to sit on the bar and feel cool for years, and now, I'm scared to even go near it."

This year's senior class is the first to have been rejected by the Bar since the school moved into its current building in 1992. Until now, seniors have enjoyed the privilege of congregating near and sitting upon the Bar every year.

"This really doesn't come as much of a shock," Principal Stanley Teitel said. "As much as eating on the Bar and the general excess of fun being had in its vicinity annoys me—and believe me it does—upperclassmen showing disrespect to the Bar ranks among the worst offenses here at Stuyvesant, and the Class of 2012 has been nothing but disrespectful. Student's shouldn't take anything for granted, and now, they need to deal with the consequences."

"We predicted that this would happen," alumnus and former Bar denizen Jackson Maslow ('11) said. "The Bar has made several snide comments over the years regarding [the Class of 2012's] ineptitude and arrogance, and now they've gotten what they deserved. I guess they'll just have to hang out on the half floor like total losers."

Members of the senior class have expressed concern over the effects the Bar's rejection

will have on their senior year. "Where else will we go to show off the fact that we're older than other people?" senior Jonathan Lessinger said. "How will underclassmen know that we're better than they are?"

Teitel has been unsympathetic to the Class of 2012's re-

**"Where else will we go to show off the fact that we're older than the other people?"**

—Jonathan Lessinger, senior

quests for him to ask the Bar to refrain from electrically shocking seniors. "I respect the Bar's decision. The seniors have brought this on themselves. For three years now, they've been hated by school administrators and fellow students alike, and now, the Senior Bar has followed suit."

## Study Shows Freshmen Get Smaller Every Year

By JAMES FRIER and ELI ROSENBERG

A study released by New York University on Thursday, September 8, has confirmed the long-held belief that high school freshmen decrease in size every year. The study, titled "Diminution in Average Size of Ninth Grade Students over Time," cites 20 years of data that shows a general downward trend in height, weight,

surprise to me," Principal Stanley Teitel said. "When I first started here, we were getting freshmen six, seven, even eight feet tall, all with luscious beards to boot. Now they can barely see over the tops of their desks."

"I knew there was no way I was that small as a freshman," said senior Connor Justice, who now stands a robust five feet and four inches.

In anticipation of the Class of 2016, the school is downsizing a number of the buildings features that have been described as "big" and "scary" by many of the current freshmen. Windows, which currently open eight inches, are to be permanently locked. "The Wall," a popular hangout for degenerate freshmen on Chambers Street, has been shortened to a freshman-accessible height of one-foot, leading to its new nickname, "The Step."

However, despite the recent measures taken to make the school more accessible to diminutive freshmen, the administration has also begun to take measures to reverse the trend of increasingly short students. After hearing of the study, Teitel sent a letter to New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott proposing that height be taken into consideration as part of the Specialized High School Admissions Test in such a way that taller students can gain acceptance to Stuyvesant with lower scores. "We've got a reputation to uphold. I'm tired of my stu-

dents being confused with those middle school kids across the street," Teitel said. "Plus, increasing the number of tall students at Stuyvesant should help our basketball team finally bring home that championship."

Student response to the study has been varied. "It's a shame that we don't do Freshmen Fridays at Stuyvesant," junior Joaquin Pinto said. "It's never been easier to fit freshmen into garbage cans and lockers."

**"I knew there was no way I was that small as a freshman."**

—Connor Justice, senior

Some upperclassmen were surprised by the news. "In the past, I just assumed that the freshmen seemed smaller, because everyone else is bigger," senior Kevin Han said. "I guess I was wrong."

and overall physical maturity. It comes on the heels of the announcement that Stuyvesant has admitted the smallest freshman ever, Timmy Wilkens, who is three feet and five inches "tall."

"This study has come as no

## Senior Implicated In Locker Trading Ponzi Scheme



Eli Rosenberg / The Spectator

Knight was recently apprehended by authorities after his locker trading business was revealed to be a Ponzi scheme.

By JAMES FRIER and ELI ROSENBERG

Security guards forcibly removed senior William Francis IV from his 9th period Existentialism class on Thursday September 8, and took him into custody. Earlier in the week, suspicions arose around Knight's activities on a Facebook group entitled "LOCKER TRADING - SENIORS ONLY!." Later that night, Knight was charged with four counts of fraud bringing his weeklong endeavor to an end.

It began on August 30, at 3:03 PM, with a post offering to buy lockers from seniors with the intention of selling them back to people later at a higher price. Knight appeared to be successful, buying a total of fifty-seven lockers. By the end of the week, he had made an estimated profit of 2.6 hundred dollars. However, by the first day of school it became apparent that in almost every case, multiple students had been sold the same locker, with some students even being sold lockers with nonexistent numbers, such as 2-12345.

Victims pooled their resources together and quickly took action. An anonymous whistleblower has since been put under the watch of the Witness Protection Program after notifying the United States Securities and Exchange Commission of Knight's scheme. The SEC proceeded to conduct a thorough investigation of Knight's activities over the past week and uncovered the Ponzi scheme. After Knight was found to have booked a 4:15 flight to the Cayman Islands set to depart later that day, SEC officials began to collaborate on a sting operation with Stuyvesant School Security officers to apprehend him before he could flee the country.

[Knight] had been looking a little nervous and shifty-eyed all

period, which is unusual for the first day of school, " Existentialism teacher Rosa Mazzurco said. "Now I understand his strange behavior, although I do wish the SWAT team had waited until the students had finished filling out the Delany cards."

Knight has so far refused to cooperate with law enforcement officials. However, it is expected that he will plead guilty to the charges, for which, if convicted,

**"I personally am shocked that something this base and morally bankrupt could happen at Stuyvesant."**

—Principal Stanley Teitel

he could serve up to four life sentences of in-school suspension.

The scandal has rocked the Stuyvesant community, which had previously prided itself on being a place where students and faculty could trust one another completely. "I personally am shocked that something this base and morally bankrupt could happen at Stuyvesant," Principal Stanley Teitel said. "I guess we should have just let students pick their own lockers after all."

**"It's never been easier to fit freshmen into garbage cans and lockers."**

—Joaquin Pinto, junior

# Editorials

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Partners Instead of Prosecutors

In his speech at the orientation for freshmen last month, Principal Stanley Teitel welcomed the incoming students to an institution about which they could only speculate. They had already known for years that, once the end goal of acceptance to Stuyvesant was achieved, they would be introduced to an intensely competitive and intellectually rigorous academic environment. However, instead of hearing a straight account confirming that they would have to work hard, but would reap the many benefits of their work, they were tersely told that they would face work completely beyond their capacity, that they have "seen their last 99s," and that no one would care if they did not sleep.

The implications of such a speech, other than an auditorium full of petrified 13-year-olds, reflect a major problem that has been ingrained in our school for years: the unsympathetic, authoritarian manner in which administrators run the school.

Stuyvesant is a big place, and, as with any other large institution, there will always be complaints about the lack of individual attention and the insufficient allocation of resources to the student body. For these issues, the administration cannot be blamed. There is really only so much that can be done, and in terms of managing a school that, for reasons out of their control, has been pushed beyond its capacity, they have done a more than reasonable job. That being said, the size and nature of Stuyvesant is no excuse for the toughness with which the administration approaches the student body. While Stuyvesant may be a place where students do not always sleep, it is certainly no help to have it thrown in our faces that those who are responsible for us take a "sink or swim" attitude from the start. We do not exactly expect the individual attention and care for each student that, it would seem, has become more or less antithetical to the nature of the school. But it is not too much to ask, both for the benefit of the students and those who work in the school, that administrators see themselves as helping hands rather than law enforcement officials.

In the past several years, especially, we have seen the an-

tagonism this breeds. As bitter students act out, administrators become stricter, creating a positive feedback loop that deteriorates what little good feeling there is.

Most memorably, there was the introduction of ID card scanners to track students' entering and exiting the building. At the time, the scanners were supposed to protect the students by ensuring that strangers did not enter the building and that the whereabouts of students were always known. However, the subsequent abrogation of the right to leave school during free periods—a move vehemently protested by the student body—was a step too far.

Though severe security measures have since become a familiar part of the school, the unnecessary restriction of student freedom has continued. In recent memory, the crush list debacle: in response to pressure introduced by tabloid articles, Teitel tore down and destroyed crush lists deemed inappropriate, despite the hard work many students put into them. While the motives behind this were somewhat understandable, the decision to violently tear up a time-honored tradition, without even so much as an official warning to students, or perhaps a student forum to discuss what would be considered acceptable to put on a crush list, rendered these acceptable intentions moot. Instead of committing an act that served to only further alienate the student body, very simple steps could have been taken to prevent the outrage that many students voiced in response.

Perhaps more jarringly, the administration places so much more of a focus on these policies that they lose sight of the students. The new dress code, by virtue of its suddenness, strictness, and lack of any mode of student input into its restrictions, garnered quite a lot of student outrage on its own. However, even more disturbingly, it was decided that the optimal time to introduce the new dress code would be a few days after the passing of a student, Aileen Chen. But by then, final exams had resumed as if everything were normal, as if our community had already overcome its grief. Perhaps it was important to keep the school on schedule,

and the school must be given credit for providing counseling services for students and putting a book near the bridge entrance for students to sign, but the dedication to keeping everything ship shape, no matter the circumstances, sometimes crosses over into impropriety.

The truth is, however, that no matter how much students protest or how unreasonable certain regulations are, the administration does, in the end, wield the power, while the students are merely part of transient populations. The few who fight for healthy dialogue leave Stuyvesant after four years and forget about their high school aspirations. The administration, as the only semi-constant presence, can be sure that, after the initial uproar, students will throw up their hands, and when new students enter the school, they will not question the scanners, the strict dress code, the shortened SING! days, the lack of artistic classes, the endless lists of rules and regulations—and the administration.

However, there are some things people never forget. After a group of Stuyvesant alumni from the graduating classes of 2002 through 2005 were rejected in their attempt to hold a vigil and open mic memorial for all those who were at Stuyvesant during the attacks on the World Trade Center—mostly due to the city's expected bureaucracy, but also due to a reluctant, initially unsupportive school administration—they protested. They turned to the media and conveyed their plight. And in the end, they received permission, but only after putting up a fight.

We, as students, do not have the force of change that organizations like the Student Union would like to imagine. Time and again we lose and then forget that we have lost, only to lose again. Perhaps you, dear reader, feel like you have read this article before, and perhaps we have made these arguments in the past, but the chain of restraint keeps gaining new links and we are here to remind you of how long it has become. All we ask is that we are not treated like we are children who need to be controlled, but rather as one half of an ongoing partnership with the administrators who have our best interests at heart.

## The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



"The Pulse  
of the  
Student  
Body"

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New York, NY 10282  
(212) 312-4800 ext. 2601  
[letters@stuspectator.com](mailto:letters@stuspectator.com)

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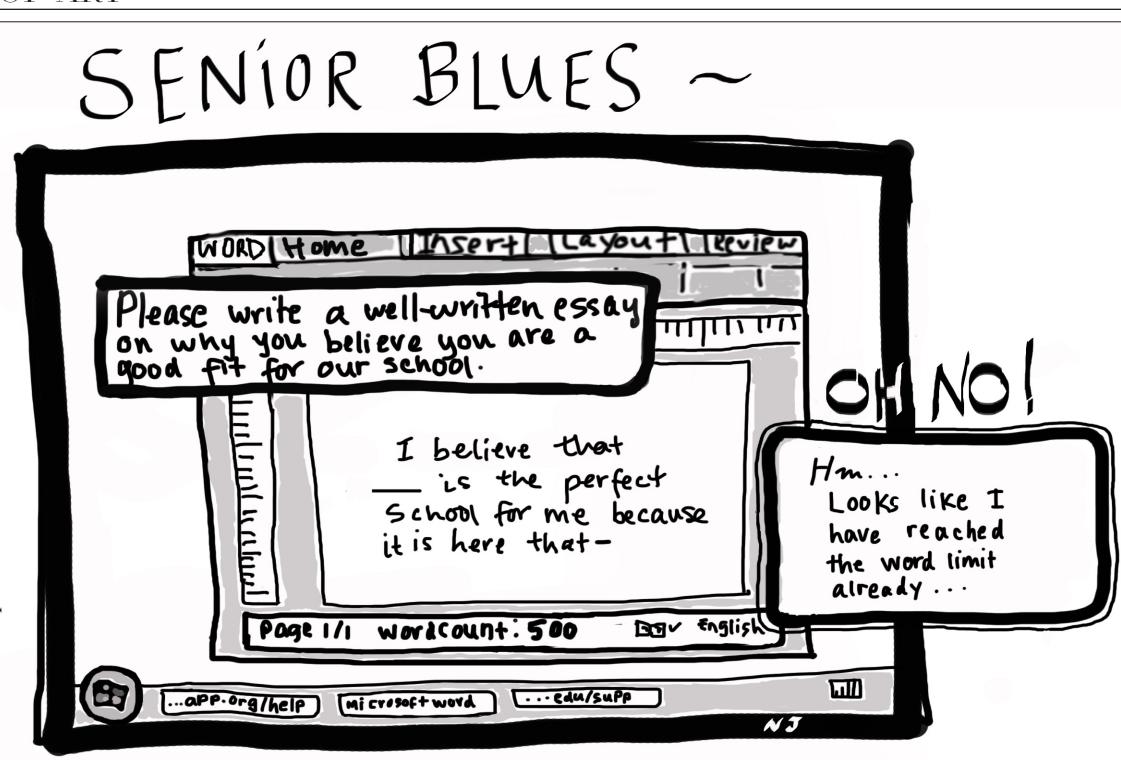
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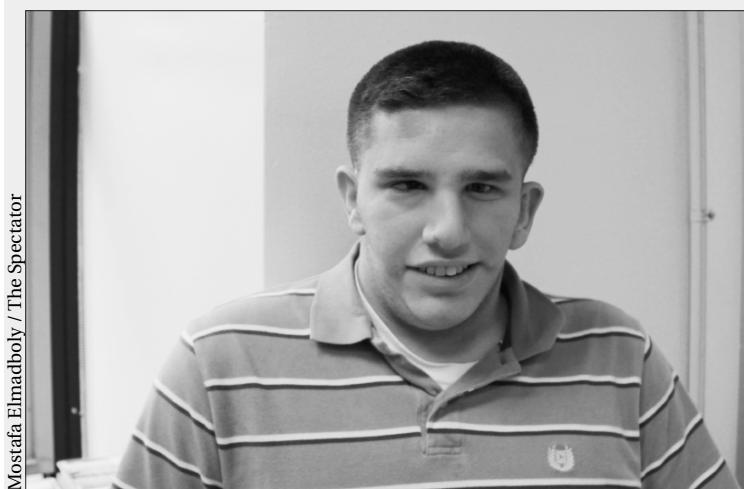
### FOR THE RECORD

- In "Greyducks Fly High Above the Borough of Manhattan," the steeplechase is a 3000-meter obstacle course.



# Opinions

## The Solomon Column



Mostafa Elmabdaly / The Spectator

By DANIEL SOLOMON

Class warfare is a phrase bandied with such abandon that I cringe whenever I hear it. It's the charge conservatives lob at anyone who ever proposes policies to redress our society's enormous economic inequality. This summer, in the pages of *The Wave*, the community paper where I interned, it was the customary accusation hurled at me by local righties as they tried to discredit logic and objective fact with fallacies and slogans. As much as I am loath to deprive Republicans of a favorite refrain, let's embark on a little thought experiment and see where it takes us.

Close your eyes and attempt to turn "class warfare" into a fixed image. Before I snapped out of my Ayn Rand-induced psychosis, I'd always visualize scenes of sans-culottes spilling the blood of innocents in the streets of Paris, Marxist-Leninists looting the mansions of the Russian aristocracy, Wobblies sabotaging the industrial ma-

chinery of America's great capitalists. You, dear reader, are very likely to cook up similar pictures. Perception, however, is not reality. So I invite you to invert these images. Now, the French poor straining under the corvée and the taille, the peasants murdered by the Cossacks at the Czar's orders, the Uprising of the 20,000 crushed by the hired thugs of clothing manufacturers.

That's actual class warfare, and I would argue that what is happening in America today belongs in the latter category of historical events rather than in the former. Look at the United States's intensifying wealth disparity, for starters. According to government data, the top five percent of earners take home 61 percent of national income, the top one percent has a higher combined net worth than the lowest 80 percent does, and the richest 400 Americans have more money than their 150 million fellow citizens at the bottom do.

Many of us would be shocked, some outright disturbed, by those statistics. But not the Tea

Party crowd, which has a stock answer ready. I heard it for myself in July, when the Republican running for Anthony Weiner's Congressional seat, Bob Turner, moseyed into *The Wave* office for his endorsement interview and I confronted him with these numbers. Even if some people were born into poverty, he breezily said, they could pull themselves up by their bootstraps and rise to riches. After all, the U.S. is the land of opportunity.

In 2011, though, the Horatio Alger stories are just that, stories, and American exceptionalism is what it always was: a myth. Indeed, as my favorite New York Times columnist, Paul Krugman, has repeatedly pointed out, someone in Europe is more likely to achieve upward mobility than someone in our country is. (The Continent, despite its recent troubles, continues to lead us in indicators of individual prosperity and wellness.)

The primary reason behind this is that the ladder of opportunity, which used to move the destitute from nothing to the suburban, white-picket-fence American idyll, has been allowed to rust and corrode. Anti-poverty programs are a shell of what they were in the middle-class's 1960s heyday. After Bill Clinton reformed the system 15 years ago, public assistance no longer helps as many people as it should. The well-paying union jobs that allowed millions to raise families and retire in dignity are gone, swallowed by globalization, lost with the unions themselves, and replaced with Wal-Mart wage employment.

At the same time, the revenues that bank-rolled the

Great Society of a half-century ago have disappeared into the pockets of the wealthy, who have seen their income and capital-gains taxes plummet, and corporations, which have concocted elaborate tax-dodging schemes, exploiting loopholes and off-shore shelters.

By now, the solution to the income inequality I've decried should be apparent: raise taxes on those who can afford to pay

everyone. That means the government has to actively create jobs for idled workers and stimulate private-sector employment.

My suggestions? Resurrect the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps to revamp our infrastructure and give people the hope and self-esteem that comes with a paycheck. Penalize companies that outsource and reward those that don't. Invest in alternative energy and approve generous subsidies to firms involved in green technology. Build a world-class education system that prepares children to think, innovate, and compete in the 21st-century economy.

This would take a lot of money, to be sure. The Republicans—and plenty of corporate-owned Democrats—would stand in the way. These investments, however, would pay dividends in the long run and lay the foundations of a new shared prosperity.

And then, there's the flip side. I advocate this course of action not just because of compassion, but also because of prudence. In Mexico, whose income inequality is comparable to ours, the rich have armed guards and live in fortresses. Here, the wealthy have short gates and few guns and the Upper East Side is just a train ride away from the South Bronx. There is always the potential for revolution, for the plebs who inhabit the projects to turn on the patricians who luxuriate in the high-rises. It's already occurred in London and it could happen here too. Of course, that would be the exact type of class warfare that conservatives fear so deeply.

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everyone.**

them, hike the minimum wage and index it for inflation, fully fund social welfare programs, and strengthen and expand unions. Still, there's more we must do. We don't only have to split the pie fairly; we also have to expand it to provide for a higher living standard for ev-

## The Gas Industry Taps into Our Tap Water



Christy Ku / The Spectator

By REMY MOORHEAD

As New Yorkers, it is very difficult for the majority of us to imagine living without clean water at our disposal. We often forget how privileged we are to have the luxury of safe tap water in our homes and schools. We drink from water fountains, wash our hands at the sink, and open our mouths in the shower, all without a thought. However, with the government's selfish quest for natural gas becoming more localized, it seems that if action is not taken soon, we may just have to kiss such luxury goodbye.

With the energy crisis in America kicking into full gear, it is no wonder why the gas industry has begun looking for alternative energy sources. When it was discovered that a layer called the Shale, which possesses an exceedingly large quantity of natural gas, exists one mile

beneath the earth in many parts of the United States, people everywhere rejoiced. They had finally found a non-foreign energy supply that would boost the country's economy. Specifically, the Marcellus Shale, which is located between Ohio and West Virginia, contains the third largest deposit of natural gas in the world. In order to tap into this supply, the Marcellus Shale must be cracked using a process called hydraulic fracturing.

Since Halliburton, a major technological development corporation, developed hydraulic fracturing in 1948, gas companies have made it their business to portray this process as relatively simple and harmless. Unfortunately, this supposedly safe practice involves drilling a well up to 8,000 feet below the earth, thereby disturbing the drinking water aquifers. Next, the well is lined with a cement casing and a concoction of one to eight million gallons of water and 80-300 tons of chemicals, including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, and many carcinogens, is injected into the well under extremely high pressure. In short, it is poison. Each blast creates fissures in the Marcellus Shale, and often in the cement casing as well. Every well can be fracked up to 18 times and each time, only 30 to 50 percent of the wastewater—which at this point also contains radiation emitted from the shale—is effectively removed.

As a result of the process, the groundwater and aquifers in contact with the well can be contaminated, and once that is done, there is no going back.

The water supply only becomes potable after passing through a massive filtration plant, which costs billions of dollars and up to 10 years to build. Even then, harmful chemicals can still re-

**What seemed like an easy way to add some stability to their lives does just the opposite, resulting in flammable tap water, a decrease in agricultural production, and health problems amongst animals and families.**

main in the drinking water, seeing as most of the chemicals in the fracking fluid have not been disclosed by the gas industry

and adequate technology is not yet available to remove all toxicity and radiation.

How is it possible that something as potentially destructive as this is even a remote possibility in a country like ours? Well, it's not just a possibility; it is a reality. What is worse is that most of America either doesn't know that fracking exists or isn't aware of its potential impact. Hydraulic fracturing has been legally utilized in 34 states since the Energy Act of 2005 was passed under the Bush-Cheney administration. The act created a loophole for the gas industry by exempting natural gas drilling from the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 and the Clean Air Act of 1970, giving gas companies the right to not disclose the list of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing. Under the Energy Act of 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency is deemed useless so long as natural gas is involved.

Presently, over 450,000 drill pads are being fracked throughout the country, all of them potential Superfund sites, or areas deemed so toxic that they are uninhabitable and require government intervention and cleanup. So why do people agree to have their land and livelihood fracked? The gas industry appeals to landowners all over America by offering them large sums of money in exchange for the right to drill on their land. As soon as the lease is signed, what seemed like an easy way to add some stability to their lives does just the opposite, resulting in flammable tap water, a decrease in agricultural production, and

health problems amongst animals and families.

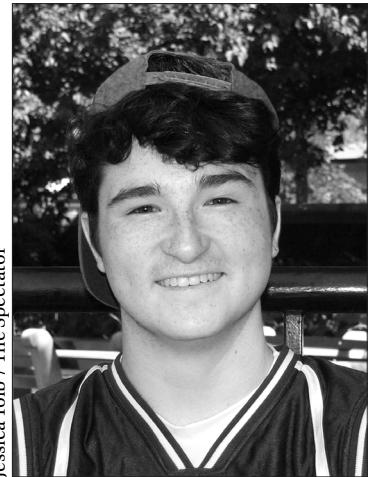
The lengths to which the gas industry will go for energy are unfathomable. At this point in time we are about as reliant as it gets on energy, but it irrational to sacrifice the water we need to

**The Environmental Protection Agency is deemed useless so long as natural gas is involved.**

survive. By informing the general populous, creating petitions, and even going up to Albany to speak to senators, organizations like NYH2O are doing everything in their power to stop hydraulic fracturing in its tracks before it gets to New York State. Money-hungry corporations don't care about the future of our nation, but we do, so it is absolutely imperative that we be well informed, inform others, petition, protest, and take action before we're all fracked.

# Opinions

## In the Name of Community Service, We Pay



By GEORGE KAISER

When I was younger, summer was about going to day camp, playing sports, and just having fun under the sun. Since the beginning of high school, the carefree nature of summer has been dismantled completely. Now, summer is about engaging in activities that will look good on a college application. What makes it worse is that most of these activities are way over many parents' heads, financially.

**Perhaps the worst part about these community service programs is that they have created a new level of competition for what looks better on a college application.**

The origin of a relatively modern and incredibly expensive category of summer programs comes from private schools and their community service requirements. For example, Horace Mann School requires students to complete 80 hours of extra-curricular community service prior to graduation. Though Riverdale Country Day School does not post the exact number of hours of community service required, it states that all students from Middle School and above are required to participate in community service, and Riverdale actually has a Director of Community Service who helps students design programs and fulfill their requirement.

As a result of this requirement in schools populated by students whose parents have the means to pay exorbitant tuition, an entire industry of community service programs has developed. These programs,

many of which are held during the summer, advertise the fact that they offer a combination of recreation, adventure, and, yes, community service credit. For example, Lifeworks International offers a 21-day trip to the Galapagos Islands at a cost of \$5,770, not including airfare. The company's Web site advertises that it is a "certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award," which is an award that is given out by the Corporation for National and Community Service. But there are also leisure activities offered, such as whitewater rafting and horseback riding. West Coast 360 Degrees Student Travel boasts a 28-day trip to Costa Rica for \$6,399, with 36 hours of community service included. This program has an adventure component including—to name a few—surfing, snorkeling, zip-lining, and relaxation at hot springs.

Perhaps the worst part about these community service programs is that they have created a new level of competition for what looks better on a college application. After my research into these programs, I began to wonder which would look better on my application, a \$5,450, month-long program/vacation in the Galapagos or a \$4,900, three-week program/getaway in the British Virgin Islands.

As Lifeworks says on its Web site, "It is an increasingly competitive world, one where college admissions directors and potential employers look beyond the grades of students to the experiences that have shaped them. Lifeworks offers a unique and extraordinary experience that stands out on college applications and resumes. As an inspiration for school essays, video projects and more, many alumni credit Lifeworks with giving them a 'leg up' in the application process." What this says to me is that kids whose parents can afford an expensive excursion can give them an advantage, but parents of lesser means cannot. In the end, these trips are no different from the other outrageously expensive college prep items like SAT tutors and college coaches.

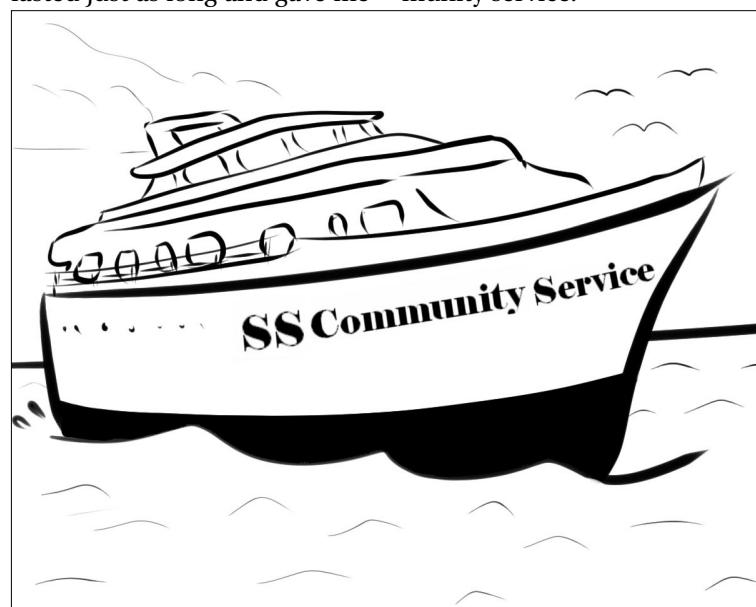
Just a summer ago, I participated in a free, three-week-long, community service program in North Carolina through the Student Conservation Association. This program gave me a total of 126 community service hours. I managed to find a program with no cost, with the exception of airfare, that lasted just as long and gave me

nearly four times the hours offered by several of these multi-thousand dollar programs. The cost difference is due to the fact that my program did not include any exotic recreational activities—not to mention the fact that I did not sleep in a facility with air conditioning and running water; I slept in a tent. My program was truly focused on community service. This comparison makes me think that these expensive programs are designed not in the spirit of community service, but rather in the name of community service. This disingenuousness has, in turn, taken over a large portion of the college application process, even though there are free programs out there that help kids make actual contributions to the community.

At the end of the day, the process isn't something we can necessarily change. These programs will continue to flourish

**As a result of this requirement in schools populated by students whose parents have the means to pay exorbitant tuition, an entire industry of community service programs has developed.**

and have their impacts on college applications. For people who can't afford these programs, like myself, it is our responsibility to find better ways to present ourselves to colleges—while having worthwhile experiences—so that these programs don't dominate. In essence, the best way to overcome this slight disadvantage is to emulate the "spirit of community service."



## Desperate for Leadership



By LEOPOLD SPOHNGELLERT

As a result of years of greed and selfishness on Wall Street, the 2008 financial crisis, infamously known as the Great Recession, damaged the lives of millions. Hedge fund owners and CEOs made risky decisions for years with little thought to the long term repercussions, should their risky ventures fall apart. Three years ago, they fell apart. Dishonest business tactics poisoned the American economy and the livelihood of honest citizens. The real estate markets collapsed, leaving millions with homes worth only a fraction of what they were paying for. The markets collapsed, leading to major job layoffs and Americans everywhere jobless. Today, the same executives who made the irresponsible decisions and turned the American economy into shambles continue to receive fat checks, despite the fact that nine percent of workers are jobless and drowning in debt.

The woes of the economy are prominent in our ever-escalating national debt, which is nearly 14 trillion dollars. This summer, our government had to debate legislature concerning the extension of our debt ceiling and the methods of debt reduction. This process presented our federal government with a chance to demonstrate its leadership and bipartisanship in its efforts to find solutions to get our ailing economy back on track.

Instead of seizing the opportunity, our government fell into weeks of political games and disunity as chaos took over Washington and Americans watched in frustration and disbelief. Debt negotiations became a debt crisis as solution-less politicians bashed each other's proposals, negotiators walked out of meetings, and Tea Party members refused to compromise—all of which ended in the weak and ineffective Budget Control Act.

This bill accomplishes little of either political party's agenda. The debate over its enactment damaged our nation's reputation, stripped away money designated for the middle and lower classes, brought the nation to the brink of default, and resulted in the first credit rating downgrade in history. The following weeks saw the financial markets falter and induced talk of a second recession. To describe this as "wasted opportunity" is putting it lightly; Washington failed us miserably.

The failure in Washington starts with the Republicans who established the feeble framework of the debate, eventually forcing the passage of the unproductive and harmful bill. This bill resulted from weeks of hostage tactics played by the G.O.P. which refused to embrace any sort of bipartisan or balanced legislature.

Even within their own party, Tea Party members revolted against leadership, forcing last minute and senseless concessions to be added into the bill. The stubborn tactics that Republicans used may have produced the more conservative bill they were looking for, but the political games they played show their utter disregard for the stakes.

While Republicans may have destroyed all hope of a grand compromise, the Democrats are guilty for failing to put their foot down as leaders when the strength of the bill was in danger. Most guilty of all is Washington's most powerful Democrat, President Obama. He who had once promised "a new era of responsibility" failed to stand strong in the face of political tactics. He could not force the bill of compromise that would ease the turmoil which Americans face.

Regardless of the party, politicians in Washington are unable to let go of their agendas and lead. Be it the agenda of its political organization, the agenda of lobbyists, or the agenda of their upcoming campaigns, the polarized and dysfunctional government produced a harmful bill as a result of its inability to lead the American people. It is this inability that has produced a deep-seeded anger and frustration in the public. The only agenda Washington should have is the good of the American people, but that agenda seems to be the only one it lets go of.

The citizens are angry, but they cannot take control. They are helpless as they fall into ruin in the current economic climate. The populace attempted to take action at the polls. In 2008, they rejected eight years of Republican leadership and elected current President Obama, candidate of the Democratic Party, into office with the promise that challenges would be faced. When those challenges proved too steep, voters switched back to the other side, voting Republicans into power last winter.

This back and forth does not indicate swaying loyalty to one party or another, but rather a lost search for strong leadership. This summer showed us more than ever how lost that search truly is. As Wall Street crumbles, politicians move further and further away from leading. With an election year looming, Americans don't know who to turn to this time. They need leaders, those who will come together, rise above politics, make sacrifices, and end our downward spiral. Politicians will promise it all again next year, but we who have seen every promise fall short will not get too hopeful. The people are more alone than ever, and in this era of irresponsibility, they have no reason to believe help is on the way.

Christina Bogdan/The Spectator

# Opinions

## The Value of a Liberal Arts Education

By ALEX WANG

In Amherst College's viewbook, Matt Murumba, a college senior majoring in political science and psychology is quoted as saying, "Going into the financial industry, I was concerned that other people were coming from business backgrounds. But most of the people at Goldman Sachs [...] told me, 'If you can think, that's all that matters.'"

Amherst College is among the top three liberal arts colleges in the country. A liberal arts education is one in which students, as opposed to narrowly focusing on one field, study a broad range of topics in order to achieve a more well-rounded perspective and body of knowledge. It is the opposite of a pre-professional education, such as focusing on pre-medical studies, or attending an engineering or business school.

A liberal arts education does not intend to teach practical knowledge. As Murumba's quotation suggests, a liberal arts education intends to cultivate the skills—rather than imbue the knowledge—that are necessary for a student to succeed in the real world. Some might argue that the knowledge is just as crucial as the skills, but proponents argue that this necessary knowledge is taught in graduate school and need not be taught in a student's undergraduate years.

Among the necessary skills that a liberal arts education develops is communication. Liberal arts schools aim to offer as many small seminar classes as

**As it says on the Harvard Medical School Web site: 'Students are urged to strive for a balanced and liberal education rather than specialized training. No preference is given to applicants who have majored in the sciences over those who have majored in the humanities.'**

possible, and for good reason: small classes facilitate discussion. As cliché as it may sound, practice makes perfect, and it is certainly true for communication. Effective communication is too often overlooked as a skill to develop, but it is most certainly crucial in whatever field a person goes into.

There is more to communication than merely getting an idea across space to the intended audience; you must also get the idea inside of your audience's head. Thus, you need to learn how to persuade. Your English class, which is probably most similar to a typical seminar class at a liberal arts school, can help us understand how a liberal arts class develops persuasive skills. (Yes, your English class actually does serve a purpose in your education.) When you are speaking in a class discussion or writing an essay for your teacher, you are taking an idea that you have, presenting it, and persuading your audience that your idea is right.

Perhaps the argument that effective communication is a necessary skill is unconvincing. But the truth is, regardless of what field you go into, you will have to communicate with other people and present ideas to them that you want them to accept. This may occur at a large scale (presenting an idea in front of a city council), a medium scale (presenting your business proposal at a meeting), or a small scale (convincing your fellow doctor in the ER that a patient has Disease X and not Disease Y). Whether or not you choose to accept that

it's actually important to try in your English class, you cannot choose whether the professional world will place demands on you to communicate and persuade effectively.

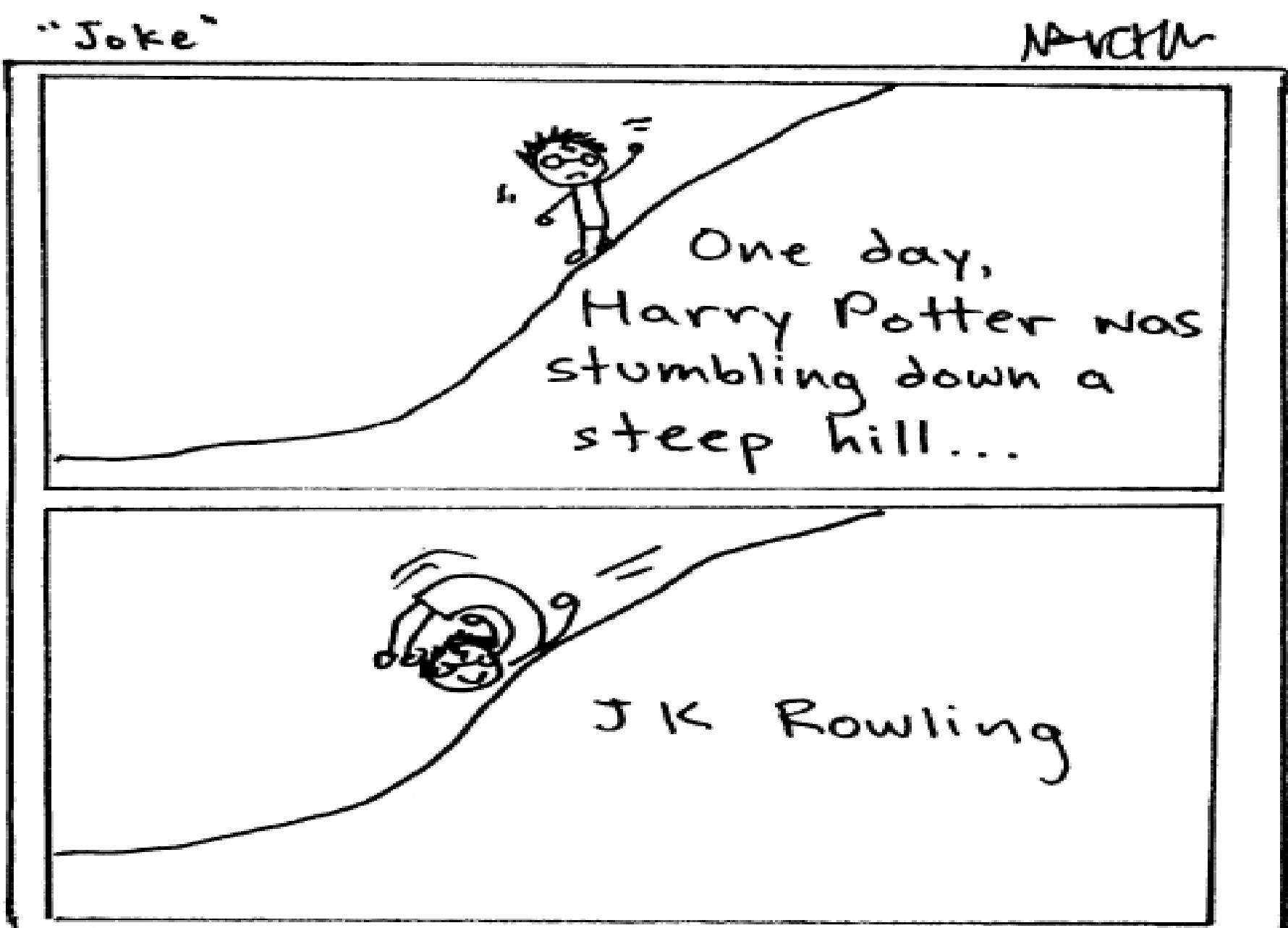
Perhaps one would fear that if he or she majored in history,

**Though a pre-professional education provides more security of where one will go, it does not foresee the fact that new types of careers will arise in the years that a student is in school.**

thirsts for knowledge. Many graduate schools value applicants with liberal arts backgrounds, despite the fact that these students may not have participated in traditional pre-law or pre-medical programs; they understand that these students will quickly make up whatever they lack against their peers who followed traditional pre-professional tracks, and acknowledge the inherent value of a well-rounded, diverse body of knowledge and skill set, as opposed to a marginally more focused education that most students would, regardless, eventually achieve by the end of their graduate education. As it says on the Harvard Medical School website: "Students are urged to strive for a balanced and liberal education rather than specialized training. No preference is given to applicants who have majored in the sciences over those who have majored in the humanities."

The problem with pre-professional educations is that, in exchange for security, they are limiting. Though a pre-professional education provides more security of where one will go, it does not foresee the fact that new types of careers will arise in the years that a student is in school or that job opportunities in that certain sector are subject to the whims of outside forces like the economy. Though a liberal education does not offer the security of a definite career track, it does offer security that, when the time comes, one can take on any career that one seeks to pursue.

OP-ART



# Arts and Entertainment

## Nickel-and-Dine: Mamoun's Falafel Restaurant



Mamoun's Falafel, located at 22 St. Marks Place.

By PRIA ISLAM  
and JAMES KOGAN

It's 2 a.m. and you have found yourself on vibrant MacDougal Street, shuffling your feet in the shadows of neon lights and bar awnings—the West Village is just waking up. You pass a faded sign; you can barely make out the letters, but the rich smells draw you in. The ethnic music and the robust aroma of cumin and coriander dispel all doubts; you have found Mamoun's Falafel.

Serving up delicious Middle Eastern fare since 1971, Mamoun's is a time tested New York favorite. A perfect place for a cheap bite, you can get a falafel here for a mere \$2.50. Those preferring meat can get kebabs or shwarma (seasoned lamb or chicken cooked slowly on a vertical spit). A sandwich with either of these costs \$5, while a platter containing extra salad and pita costs double.

With a flagship location in the West Village and another on St. Mark's Place in the East Village, Mamoun's is the perfect place to wander into when you're looking for a quick and satisfying meal—its still-hot sandwiches are a testament to the speedy service. Open until 5 a.m., it's also a great choice for a late night snack.

The specialty of this little joint, the falafel, is uncompromisingly savory; the fried balls of ground chick peas are moist and crisp, complemented by lettuce, on-

ions, and tomato, and doused with creamy tahini (a popular Middle Eastern sauce made of toasted sesame seeds and olive oil).

Not feeling like falafel? Try the same sandwich with hummus (a chick pea and tahini puree flavored with lemon and garlic) for \$1.75, baba ghanoush (roasted eggplant spread) for \$1.75, or tabbouleh, a salad made with a wheat cereal called bulgur and seasoned with mint, parsley, and onions, for \$2.50. For dessert, Mamoun's serves up classic sweets like baklava, mabrumeh, and knafe—rich pastries made with nuts folded into fillo dough and soaked in honey. Wash it down with fresh juices made from tamarind and mango (\$1.25), or even a glass of hot or iced tea (\$1.00).

Back in 1976, The Village Voice boldly commented on Middle Eastern affairs, stating that "Henry Kissinger can take a lesson in diplomacy. Mamoun's has Arabs and Jews eating at the same table." While the state of current events is still rather tumultuous, Mamoun's is as good as it's ever been, hanging on strong to a 40-year legacy.

West Village: 119 MacDougal St  
New York, NY 10012  
212-674-8685

St. Mark's Place: 22 St. Marks Place  
New York, NY 10003  
212-387-7747

By PATRICK HAO

Entering into the 1950s, Hollywood still had doubts about public interest in television—that is, until the premiere of "I Love Lucy" on CBS in 1951. The show and its iconic star, Lucille Ball, would etch their names in television history, providing a

foundation for all the sitcoms to come.

"I Love Lucy" follows the adventures of Lucy, a housewife who yearns to be in the spotlight. Desi Arnaz, Lucille Ball's real life husband, plays her Cuban bandleader husband, Ricky Ricardo. In each episode, Lucy thinks up a scheme to try and get

## The Bellflower Road Warrior

By JOSHUA BOGATIN

"Bellflower" is a dirty film. Splotches of dirt decorate nearly every frame, surrounding the characters and permeating their every action. Dirt lingers as two lovers, Woodrow and Milly, enjoy a day at the beach and later engulfs Woodrow as he builds a flamethrower in his backyard. This dirt doesn't come from the ground, and it's not a product of the time the characters spend outside testing their home-built muscle cars and heavy weapons. This dirt comes from the main character Woodrow himself; it's his shielding sense of masculinity.

The film goes well beyond mere technical proficiency, using effects to tell a fresh and exciting story that defies simple genre categorization. It follows shy-guy Woodrow (writer, director, editor, and star Evan Glodell), a Wisconsin-born suburbanite living in California on Bellflower Road. He and his playboy best friend, Aiden (Tyler Dawson), build flamethrowers and muscle cars in preparation for the apocalypse, so that, in the aftermath, their gang, "Mother Medusa," can rule the world à la the movie "Mad Max." Throwing a wrench in their bromance is tough-girl Milly (Jessie Wiseman), with whom Woodrow falls deeply in love after one meeting, defying Aiden's use 'em and lose 'em philosophy.

"Bellflower" examines what happens when the emotions of Woodrow's love story collide with his testosterone-filled thirst for violence. Through this narrative, the film presents an interesting and unique examination of what it means to be a man in a society that idolizes apocalyptic cowboys who prefer bullets to words and shun emotion. In the end, it proves to be love and emotion instead of atom bombs and world wars that provide Woodrow with his apocalypse, turning him into a real-life road warrior.

It is impossible to talk about the movie without mentioning the stunning cinematography. Glodell and cinematographer Joel Hodge play with the color

palette, giving the film a vibrant, yet ominous, yellowish color scheme. This coloring complements the specs of dirt that dot the frame and is a perfect tonal match for the internal struggles of the main characters. Shot on a special camera called the Coatwolf Model 2, which Glodell made specifically for the film, it is definitely one of the best looking films of the year.

Glodell is a man of numerous talents, managing to turn in an impressive lead performance as Woodrow. He showcases a wide emotional range, playing an unstable character who continually finds the world around him shifting and falling apart, and makes Woodrow's brash and at times irrational actions believable. Tyler Dawson also deserves high praise for his smooth portrayal of Aiden, who, despite first impressions, is not completely carefree, and will do almost anything to protect his best friend.

Further enriching the film is Jonathan Keevil's delicate, weepy, guitar-filled score,

which brings the film a sense of stillness and intimacy. His melodies drift and flow, providing the perfect mood for a love story while clashing with well-placed sound effects. Sounds like the roaring engine of the Mother Medusa muscle car or the whoosh of a flamethrower are frequent motifs, overlaying normal conversations with constant reminders of the apocalypse that perpetually rages in Woodrow's mind.

"Bellflower" is not a great movie just because it looks or sounds amazing, or because of the unique and genre-blending storyline that is pulled off by terrific performances. What makes it a truly great movie is how its parts add up to a haunting product that stays with the viewer for weeks. Evan Glodell pulls off something truly spectacular that cannot just be described technically, and that is filling the film with emotion—raw, affecting emotion that makes "Bellflower" the must-see movie of the summer season.



Dia Sotropoulou / The Spectator

## We Still Love Lucy

her husband's attention, only to realize she is in over her head. After Desi reprimands her, often in a string of incomprehensible Spanish, Lucy returns to her daily housewife duties—until the next episode.

This seemingly routine plot soon became the blueprint for later sitcoms. It inspired "The Honeymooners," a hit show in the 50s, and served as the model for both "The Flintstones," and today's popular show "The King of Queens." Both use the "I Love Lucy" formula of a main character dreaming of riches, only to see his or her plans fall apart.

Not only was "I Love Lucy" influential on the television front, but Lucille Ball's Lucy also became the first feminist character on television. Contemporaries of Ball played obedient housewives who cooked, cleaned, and imparted advice to their children. Lucy Ricardo did something more. She was not a woman who only cared about her family; she believed in her own self-worth, as well.

Ball herself was revolutionary because she was the first mainstream woman to be a slapstick comedian. Though there were other women who appeared in slapstick comedy films in the past, their roles were limited to setting up jokes for their male counterparts. While leading ladies were expected to look beautiful and graceful, Ball was not shy about getting down and dirty.

In one of her most famous comedic scenes, Lucy gets a job in the wrapping department of a chocolate factory after her husband challenges her to try working for a week. As a string of chocolates come down an assembly line, she leisurely puts each chocolate into a wrapper.

When her boss decides to increase the speed of the conveyor belt, Lucy finds herself backed up with so many chocolates that she decides to stuff them in her mouth and down her shirt. Her wide-eyed look of surprise and frantic movements to hide the chocolates leave one laughing

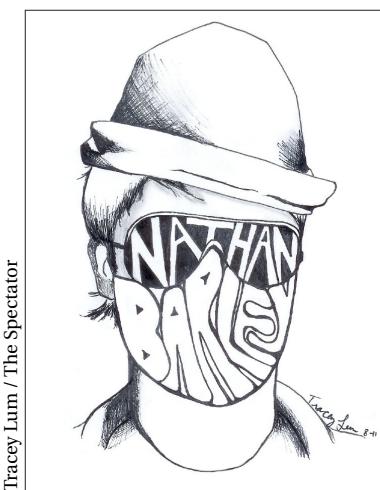
long after the episode is over.

Her comedic precision, coordination, and charisma inspired many young female comics. Watching Ball, they realized that they did not need to be a jaw dropping beauty to be a star. Carol Burnett, a Peabody award winner and a pupil of Ball's, went on to become a multi-time Emmy winner. The latest comedy blockbuster "Bridesmaids" has Kristen Wiig essentially taking up the "Lucy" persona, trying to get attention, though her efforts keep backfiring.

Lucille Ball is a first lady of TV sitcoms. No one has come close to her ability to make the audience both laugh at and sympathize with her. She was a physical tour de force on screen with an undeniable charisma. Despite the almost 60 years since "I Love Lucy" premiered, Lucy is still a household name. She proves that comedy and talent can transcend generations.

# Arts and Entertainment

## Ghosts of The Boob Tube: Night of the Living Hipsters



By JOSHUA BOGATIN

Dan Ashcroft (Julian Barratt) is surrounded; they are everywhere, growing rapidly in number. He knows the mindless freaks are going to get him eventually, and escape seems impossible. These are not zombies; they are hipsters, but Ashcroft would probably tell you that there is not much difference. The idiots, as Ashcroft calls them, look poised to consume the world with their inane, backwards culture, while

he is powerless to do anything but watch.

Created and written by British satirist Chris Morris, "Nathan Barley" (2005) may just appear to be a sitcom about the hipster culture of London, but it also serves as a warning about the dangers these hipster youths pose to our society. The show follows Dan Ashcroft, a columnist for the fictional hipster magazine "Sugar Ape" (or sugaRAPE, as it is spelled on the front cover). Ashcroft finds himself suffering an odd twist of fate after he writes an article called "The Rise Of The Idiots," preaching about the hollowness and stupidity that he sees in the modern day youth culture—clearly identified as hipster, though it is never called so by name. He soon finds that not only is most of his audience composed of these hipsters, but also that they have failed to realize that the article is about them and now idolize him for his writing.

Adding to Ashcroft's list of woes is the titular Nathan Barley (Nicholas Burns), a massive hipster who has a crush on

Ashcroft's sister, Claire (Claire Keelan). Barley epitomizes what Ashcroft defines as an idiot; he is permanently plugged in, believing that anything he says on the internet is important, and thinks that just because something exists outside of the mainstream, it is automatically cool. Barley is famous in the hipster community because of his Web site, "trashbat." He uploads stupid videos that he finds on the Internet, as well as videos of himself pranking his assistant with cruel gags, such as tasing him until he soils himself on camera.

Every episode finds Ashcroft assigned to cover a new story for the magazine, and some of the most hilarious examples of the "idiots" culture are presented through his endeavors. In one episode, he is tasked with covering an artist who takes pictures of people urinating, and in another, an art exhibit that is nothing more than a collection of one man's old laptops. These looks into the modern art scene provide biting commentary on the state of the hipster culture, criticizing it for treating anything one

person defines as art as artwork.

"Nathan Barley" succeeds in large part thanks to Morris's immense talents. Morris creates wonders with his ability to seamlessly blend comedy and criticism. Episodes are filled with witty lines of dialogue that often double as jokes and summations of the hipster mentality. In one episode, Ashcroft observes two hipsters playing a game of rock, paper, scissors, with the names of private parts substituted for the normal elements. As Ashcroft stares in disgust while they crack up over this infantile game, they explain to him that "the Idiots play this game. They think it's good because it's rude, but it's not. It's good because it looks like it's good because it's rude," completely unable to realize that just because they are aware that what they're doing is stupid, it does not mean it is no longer idiotic.

The great writing would be all for naught if not for the equal measure of talent in front of the camera. Nicholas Burns is excellent as Nathan Barley, never taking his cartoonish and jerkish character out of the realm of believability, while also managing to gain some audience sympathy. Julian Barratt does a fine job with Ashcroft, playing him as depressed, but never too snobbish or mopey. Barratt is also able to keep the show from coming across as too one-sided against hipsters by intentionally portraying his character as flawed and at times unlikable.

While the show is about the stupidity of the hipster culture, the most important thing to be gleaned from the program is the meta-question that it carries with it: How would you ever know if you were one of the "idiots"? If "Nathan Barley" presents the same sort of slander against hipsters that Ashcroft writes in his article, how can you ever know if you are not just one of the people who support something because they think it is clever, but remain ignorant of the real message? The most likely answer: we are the "idiots" that the show talks about, even if we can never fully realize it. But as long as we can laugh at ourselves, everything will be fine.

## Music from the Pedestrian Pianists

By NIKI CHEN

In the shadow of a large oak tree in City Hall Park stands a vibrant, vertical piano. Painted a bright, bumblebee yellow, the wooden instrument is covered with large cartoon flowers, some white with a pinkish center, others orange with petals shaped like the wings of a butterfly.

This is piano number 11. Its name is Summer Blossoms.

Summer Blossoms was one of 88 Pop-Up Pianos put out by the Sing for Hope organization in the parks and gardens of New York City from Saturday, June 18 to Saturday, July 2. Afterward, they were donated to the various schools and hospitals in the surrounding communities.

"The pianos are a symbol that the arts should belong to everyone, including people without ready access to them," said Camille Zamora, co-founder of Sing for Hope.

The organization, established in 1995 by singers Zamora and Monica Yunus, is a resource for artists who want to use their talents for a positive social change. The two singers, both sopranos, met while studying at the Juilliard School. Today, the organization introduces music to underprivileged children through its Art U! program, organizes live performances for patients in local hospitals through the Healing Arts program, and fundraises for humanitarian non-profit causes through the Community Arts program. The Pop-Up Pianos are part of Sing for Hope's best-known project.

"The original purpose of the street pianos was to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the arts, but they have succeeded in doing much more than just that," junior Daryl Sew said. "They've livened up entire communities, inspiring musicians and non-musicians alike to pour their hearts and souls into piano."

The people that stop to play are as varied and colorful as the pianos themselves. Office workers in crinkled, collared shirts and messenger bags stop to play

a quick tune. A bicyclist passing by props his bicycle on a nearby rock, drops his bag, and plays a fast-paced ragtime tune, swinging his head to the lively beat as two women smile and watch his nimble fingers.

The tunes played are varied as the pianos. There are smooth jazz numbers from the rainbow-colored plaid piano, aptly named the Plaid Piano, in Von King Cultural Center, Queens. There are classical sonatas from the anemone-covered, underwater-themed piano, named Whale Song, in Central Park's Dana Discovery center. The music depends on where you are and who is playing.

Though these pianos are open to any passerby, Sing for Hope has recruited several professional pianists to give free concerts, like the one held on Saturday, June 18 at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden. Featuring soprano Carla Janzen and native Staten Island band Joan Cadell and the Midnight Choir, the event from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. celebrated the 350th anniversary of Staten Island.

"We had a lovely audience of people waiting in line for [free] tickets to Shakespeare in the Park, and the location was beautiful," Janzen said. "My pianist, Todd [Almond], and I performed about a half hour's worth of music—some original songs that he wrote and some pieces by Kurt Weill that I have performed before."

Janzen and Almond were two of the eight Sing for Hope volunteer artists performing original pieces and American standards that explored New York City's diverse musical background. Their concert was just one of the 200 Sing for Hope concerts that took place this summer.

"It is a brilliant idea to put pianos in public places, so that anyone can play," Janzen said. "It is an enormous amount of work for Sing for Hope, but I think it enriches the community and gives artists an outlet for their work."

By JOYCE KOLTISKO

You can be sure to find a long line snaking out the door of Stuyvesant's latest go-to eatery, the Shake Shack, on any given day of the week. Every visitor is waiting for some juicy burger, fries, or smooth shake. Lying in the heart of lower Manhattan's food craze, the Shake Shack is a superb addition to Battery Park City's growing collection of comfort food joints.

Located on 215 Murray St. the newest Shake Shack, open every day from 11 AM to 11 PM, has become a hub for burger aficionados. Entering the restaurant, customers are greeted by a warm aroma of cheese-topped fries. The steady movement of the line, combined with the eager chatter and upbeat background music, creates a constant, warm buzz in the restaurant. After ordering, I am given a handheld buzzer and asked to step aside. Sure enough, after a momentary wait, the de-

**The steady movement of the line, combined with the eager chatter and upbeat background music creates a constant, warm buzz at the restaurant.**

vice starts to beep, and I return to the counter to grab my burger before setting out to conquer seats.

The considerable customer traffic and limited space makes seat-searching one of the more difficult aspects of a visit to the Shack. The wall-to-wall window, on the other hand, creates the il-

## Shake It Up



Shake Shack, located on 215 Murray St.

John Mennell / The Spectator

lusion of a deceptively spacious area out of a rather densely populated one. Luckily, I spot some seats by the window and enjoy the air conditioning before starting my feast.

The cheese fries make for an excellent side order or lone snack. They are always thick and crinkle-cut, clearly made just seconds before being served. The edges are crispy, and the inside is perfectly tender. The cheese itself is a creative, creamy combination of Shack cheddar and American cheese sauce.

The Shack's namesake menu items, "concretes," or custard blends, and shakes come in various mixes and flavors. While concretes combine peanut butter, hot fudge, chocolate truffles, vanilla custard, and more upon request, shakes can be ordered in vanilla, caramel, black & white, creamsicle, and other flavors. Unfortunately, both only come in one, disappointing size. Though each serving barely exceeds the size of an average water bottle, the combination of delicious ingredients packs a kick in every sip.

After enjoying a couple fries and some of the shake, I take a bite of the Shack's most popular item, The ShackBurger, which can be ordered as a double. The sumptuous burger contains American cheese, lettuce, tomato, secret Shack Sauce, and lean 100 percent Angus beef. Combined with the burger's various toppings, the tender meat cre-

ates a juicy, fresh meal.

Not only does the Shack serve delicious food, but it also boasts environmental awareness. Unlike most fast-food chains, Shake Shack was built using green materials and sustainable woods certified by the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The Shack reached the committee's Gold Level, the second highest rank available. Employees use energy-efficient kitchen equipment and make compost of all of the kitchen food waste. In addition, they only distribute paper bags, which are environment-friendly, for take-out orders.

Though the food is always tasty and fresh, Shake Shack is a place I would venture to a handful of times monthly at most. Their small portions make for a better snack than a meal; I have to spend at least \$10 here to feel anything close to full. In addition, during lunch hours, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the eatery is always crowded with lines of 20 people or more, so the Shake Shack is thus preferable in the afternoon when all you really need is a snack. Despite these shortcomings, the atmosphere is warm and makes for the perfect place to meet up with friends. The Shake Shack is becoming more accessible to all New Yorkers now with seven locations all over the city and more on the way. I know that I'll be returning soon, and this time, I'm going for a double burger.

# Arts and Entertainment

## Midnight in Paris: A Leap into the Golden Age

By ELIZA MITNICK  
and CLARISSA SORENSEN

A lanky blonde man wanders down a Parisian side street, his leather shoes click-clacking against the dampened ground. It is dark, and the streetlights cast glowing patterns on the cobblestones. As midnight approaches, rain begins to fall, running down the sides of buildings and forming pools on the ground. Though his shoes are soggy and his hair is wet, the man finds himself smiling. The air of mystery is exciting and beautiful to him. Nothing, he believes, is more enchanting than Paris in the rain. This man is Gil (Owen Wilson), who walks the streets in "Midnight in Paris," Woody Allen's newest film. It is a fantastical celebration of Paris and a warm embrace of the city's timeless beauty and magic.

Gil, a Hollywood screenwriter frustrated with the insipidity of his job, dreams of becoming a novelist. He travels to Paris with his fiancé, Inez (Rachel McAdams), where he becomes enamored with the wonder and beauty of the Parisian streets. Gil romanticizes about living in the Paris in the 1920s, along with the members of its lost generation. However, Gil is surrounded by a company that is less than excited about its time in Paris—his soon-to-be father-in-law hates French politics, and his fiancé couldn't care less about "Paris in the rain," Gil's Parisian fantasy. Her parents bicker with Gil about republican politics and support Inez's hopes to reside in Malibu, not move to Paris, as Gil wishes.

Wilson plays his role with a likeable innocence and captures Allen's whimsical yet deep, and often comical, style. He delivers his lines with a hint of romance, humor, intrigue, and profoundness.

Fulfilling his desire to walk through the streets of Paris at night, he finds himself lost on a late night stroll back to his hotel. Frustrated, he wanders down an abandoned side street, sitting down to catch his breath. As a clock chimes 12 times in the distance, a car that looks like it's from the 20s rumbles out of the silence, coming to a stop in front of him. A man in a sleek black suit holding a cocktail opens the door and beckons to Gil. Though the man is unfamiliar and the car strangely out of place, something feels very right to Gil. He jumps in, bewildered, hoping to experience the Paris he has dreamed of.

The car sweeps Gil off to a swanky Parisian party where women are dressed in cloches, sequins, and feathers, and a piano plays in the background. As he stumbles upon a couple who identify themselves as Scott (Tom Hiddleston) and Zelda Fitzgerald (Alison Pill), Gil realizes that he has been transported back to Paris in the 1920s. Hiddleston and Pill together create a dynamic caricature of Gil's "golden age," smooth as silk and

utterly hospitable, but with a wild instability lurking underneath.

Gil's love and reverence for the old Paris compel him to return to the 1920s every night, meeting the same car at the same street corner as the clock strikes at midnight. Gil makes the acquaintance of many great writers, artists, and thinkers of the time, including the brooding but deeply insightful Ernest Hemmingway, played by the hilariously deadpan Corey Stoll, patron of the arts and poet Gertrude Stein (Kathy Bates), and even painter Pablo Picasso (Marcial Di Fonzo Bo). Even if one lacks knowledge of these historical figures or the multitude of literary references, watching this diverse bunch is captivating, and therefore even an uninformed viewer is able to appreciate the film. Gil is most enchanted by Picasso's stunning mistress, Adrianna (Marion Cotillard). Though she lives in a time that Gil adores, Adrianna is unhappy with the 1920s, and dreams of living 30 years earlier in the Belle Époque, just as Gil is unsatisfied with the present and yearns to live in the past.

Allen does an incredible job of recreating a bygone era. The music, sets, and costumes transport the audience to the golden age. From Adrianna's delicate and chic dresses to Gertrude Stein's stocky American outfits, the diverse array of costumes brings the Roaring Twenties to life.

This whimsical earlier age certainly adds to the audience's willingness to dive into Gil's adventure without asking for explanations, which must be done in order to enjoy the movie. The fantastical occurrence of time travel is never rationalized, and this is perhaps one of the film's flaws. However, if the viewer is willing to jump in and experience the events without questioning how they happen, Gil becomes a vehicle for the audience to travel back in time and enjoy the magic with him.

"Midnight in Paris" is about the never-ending search for the ultimate time period. It explores the universal feeling that what once was is more glorious than what is now. "The present is unsatisfying," Gil states, "because life is unsatisfying." But perhaps it is Gil's outlook on life that needs changing, not the time he lives in. As Gil realizes this, he is able to open his eyes to the gifts that the present holds, finally appreciating what the existing Parisian streets have to offer him. Allen's statement may be slightly cheesy, but it is hardly cliché—the movie makes the point that the pursuit of satisfaction lies not in dreaming about past generations, but, more importantly, in changing yourself.

Whether the supreme time period falls amongst Gauguin and Degas, the flapper girls, or even in the present day, Allen suggests that perhaps the magic lies among the cobblestone streets and quaint alleyways of the City of Light.

## Crafting Genre: How One Director Made Us Love War



Victoria Siempel / The Spectator

The "Crafting Genre" exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art covers the work of filmmaker Kathryn Bigelow.

By JANE ARGODALE

A large, hand-painted poster depicts a headless man with his hands up and a gun lying at his feet. His body is sketched in loose, charcoal-black strokes. The caption reads "Irfaa E-dek," Arabic for "hands up." This warning reveals the image's true purpose: to evoke fear.

This poster, inspired by Iraqi military pamphlets, is one of several large-scale pieces of concept art produced by a production design crew for director Kathryn Bigelow's 2009 film "The Hurt Locker." This art is created specif-

**Throughout her career, Kathryn Bigelow has continuously blended and broken the boundaries of genre to fit her artistic goals.**

ically to flesh out the themes and visuals of a film in its early stages. The piece is on display with similar artworks until Monday, October 3 in the exhibition, "Crafting Genre: Kathryn Bigelow," at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) on 11 West 53rd Street. The exhibition, located below ground level in the museum's theater galleries, includes concept art, paintings, sound-mixing logs, storyboards, and scripts in order to provide insight into Bigelow's creative process.

"The Hurt Locker" is Bigelow's most successful film to date, having won six Academy Awards, including the award for Best Picture, and earning nearly 50 million dollars worldwide. In the movie, Sergeant First Class William James (Jeremy Renner) leads his bomb disposal team into potential disaster, recklessly ignoring protocol, because the chance of death is the only thing that makes him feel alive. Two hours of constant nail-biting suspense climaxes in a decision that James makes; seemingly crazy to a civilian audience, his choice is actually the only logical one he

can make taking into account his reactions to the frenetic brutality of war. It is because of, not in spite of, the violent imagery that the viewer is able to empathize with him. Though the seven films Bigelow has directed do not all boast this critical and commercial success, they are notable for their use of evocative imagery, which brings the viewer within the characters' psyches.

This powerful use of visuals is not surprising given Bigelow's background in painting and conceptual art. In 1970 at the age of 19, she enrolled in the San Francisco Art Institute where she studied painting before receiving a master's degree in film at Columbia University. Both her mixed background and the impact of her work on modern filmmaking have shaped the current exhibition at MoMA.

In 1978, Bigelow directed her first short film, "Set Up," a deconstruction of cinematic violence in which off-screen narrators narrate an onscreen fight. The sound-mixing logs on display at "Crafting Genre" show how the various audio tracks of a film are combined into a single soundtrack. Bigelow's meticulous attention to these technical details goes beyond a director's basic job of making sure a film is audible. Her style of filmmaking depends on the visceral impact of audio and visual cues and a tightly-crafted narrative. She knows that details, like the relative volumes of the fight or the narrators' voices, can make or break her films.

Bigelow often produces her own paintings and drawings in order to connect to her projects. This desire to immerse herself in her work is most clearly shown in her mixed medium drawings, which are related to her 1987 rural vampire film, "Near Dark." These drawings, with their loose outlines and bold colors, are more of a personal reflection on her artistic process than a direct part of it, but are still loyal to the film's deceptively open and inviting atmosphere.

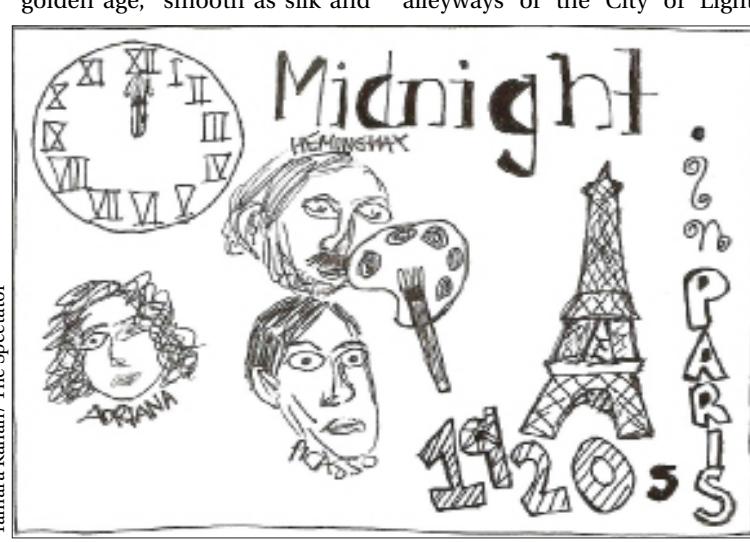
The most powerful works on display at "Crafting Genre" are the pieces of concept art. With few words and strong images, this art packs an emotionally-loaded punch. Banners created in production design depict photographs of children of many different nationalities with the caption "Faces of the World." These banners allude to the depiction of a post-national global civilization that is both futuristic

and painfully realistic in her 1995 dystopian science fiction film "Strange Days."

In her 2000 film "The Weight of Water," a photographer investigates a 19th century murder in New England. During pre-production, the film's production design crew made drawings of the house and the surrounding fields which make up the film's setting. These drawings show the process of finding the film's visuals, combining a lush atmosphere with darker undertones that feed into the film's events. The contrast of beauty and emptiness in the setting acts as a wordless code for the film's themes. MoMA visitors can see firsthand why Kathryn Bigelow is able to move audiences on such an emotional level.

The exhibition would be far more satisfying as an in-depth exploration of this Oscar-winning

**This powerful use of visuals is not surprising given Bigelow's background in painting and conceptual art.**



# Arts and Entertainment

## The Amazing Food Truck Race



Emily Koo / The Spectator

The Tribeca Halal Food truck is located at the corner of Greenwich Street and Warren Street.

**By MATTHEW DALTON**

Food trucks are the hallmark of every New York street corner. From the mini-bakeries on wheels to the Halal food hotspots, food trucks offer quick, cheap meals at any time of the day. Now, the city's collection of on-the-go eateries has expanded even more; Korean-Mexican cuisine, vegan delights, and dumplings have joined the amazing food truck race.

### Hola Korea

Entrepreneur Phillip Lee and chef Young Sun Lee have found the perfect mix: kimchi and tacos. Their Kimchi Taco food truck, which opened six months ago, serves Korean food in a Mexican style, such as grilled Korean BBQ beef tacos, kimchi, and green onion nachos.

"It's our love and passion for Korean food, and we wanted to make it accessible, because Korean food is relatively unknown, even in New York City," Phillip Lee said. "We kind of combined it with tacos [...] so people weren't intimidated by Korean food."

The truck follows a busy schedule, holding lunch hours from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It can be found at fourteen possible locations, complete with a weekly listing of its locations online at [kimchitacotruck.com/findus.html](http://kimchitacotruck.com/findus.html).

The Lees' food is quite varied as well. The truck offers a Kim-Cheesesteak of beef, pork, or chicken sautéed with kimchi and your choice of cheese, four types of sides, and a set of rotating specials, such as the kimchi quesadilla. In addition, it sells four types of tacos, including seared pork,

pulled chicken, tofu edamame falafel—the latter made especially for vegetarians. The palm-sized tacos, topped with pico de gallo, kimchi, and green onion, cost \$7 for three or \$9 for four. The meat combination, which comes with a pork, chicken, and beef taco, offers the greatest variety.

Sides (\$3) include BBQ nachos (Korean marinated barbecue beef and spicy pork with kimchi, queso blanco, pico del gallo, and green onion), kimchi, chips and beans, and grilled rice cakes dipped in Korean red pepper glaze topped with queso blanco and green onions. All of the food is kimchi-themed and is therefore, a little spicy.

Despite its unusual, cross-cultural food combination, Kimchi Taco has been very well received. "So far, people love it," Phillip Lee said. "It's been a big hit." Through a combination of its unique, tasty food, availability, and good service, the truck is a welcome sight for any hungry New Yorker.

### Vegetarian's Delight

At last, the vegetarians can eat well. Taim Mobile is a Middle-Eastern-themed truck that caters to veggie lovers. The truck has been open since November 2010, while the truck's associated restaurant, Taim, has been open in the Village for five years. The truck can be found either at the 30th St. entrance to the Highline or at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn on Sundays and is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at both locations.

Created by husband-wife team Einat Adomy and Stefan Nafziger, event organizer Nektar-

ios Loannidis, and former broker David Shapiro, the menu consists mainly of falafels, hummus, smoothies, and salads.

"The green falafel [falafel with green herbs, such as coriander] is what we're best known for, and so is our Date Lime Banana Smoothie and the Ginger Lemonade," Michael, the truck operator at the Highline said. For those in search of a refreshing beverage, the Date Lime Banana Smoothie has a unique flavor that should not be passed up.

Falafel options vary from the falafel sandwich (\$5.75) of green falafel, hummus, Israeli salad, pickled cabbage, and tahini sauce to the falafel platter (\$10), which also includes a quinoa salad and pita bread. Alternatively, the hummus options without falafel include the Mediterranean platter (\$9.50), and the hummus sandwich (\$5.50), which includes the Israeli, quinoa, pickled cabbage salad. The simple hummus and pita (\$5.50) are also available.

Individual salads range from \$4 to \$9 and vary from standard Greek salads of romaine, salad, kalamata olives, feta, and lemon mint dressing to pickled cabbage salads with a sweet and sour marinade.

Smoothies (\$5.50) include the usual strawberry-banana and the pineapple-coconut as well as the more exotic pear-mint-lemon and strawberry-raspberry-Thai basil.

### The Original Food Truck

Open since 2004, the Chinese-themed Rickshaw Dumpling trucks were some of the first to drive on New York City streets. What started as a bold business venture by NYU student Kenny Lao, who opened the Rickshaw Dumpling Bar on 23 St. between 5th and 6th Avenue turned into a revolutionary way of serving food.

"He decided trucks are the way to go," truck operator Jacky Tu said. "He was one of the leading truck vendors, because it kind of exploded, so he was the first to really pioneer it." With quick service, this is the truck to go to if one is in a rush.

Rickshaw Dumpling trucks can be found at Tavern on the Green in Central Park or at the Highline, where they are parked for most of the summer. They can also be found on 55th and Broadway or down by Wall Street. Rickshaw Dumpling trucks are open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and dinner shifts are from 5 p.m. onwards.

Their truck menu features three types of dumplings (\$6): pork and Chinese chive, chicken and Thai basil, and vegetarian edamame (soybeans). "The vegetarian edamame comes with puree edamame as well as full edamame and lemon sanchao dipping sauce," Tu said.

Sides (\$3) include edamame, miso soup, and one of two salads: the chili sesame noodle salad and the Asian green salad.

The three dumpling options are its most popular, though trucks offers many more, including the award-winning warm chocolate Shanghai soup dumplings, made of a sesame-crusted mocha wrapper filled with hot Callebaut chocolate.

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# Arts and Entertainment

## Point

### A Comical Industry

By CECILIA KIM  
and MARIUM SARDER

The movie industry today nurtures classic comic book superhero storylines on the big screen. Though comic book movies have been around for many years, they really only began to proliferate in the last decade; recent superhero movies have consistently performed successfully in the box office, causing Hollywood's faith in the genre to ensure its survival. In 2011 alone, five comic book blockbusters were released, and six more are set to premiere in 2012. Unfortunately, Hollywood is growing stale and banal with each new release. Today, the movie-producing giant is defined by films that are cobbled together for the sheer sake of profit.

**The high-quality stories they once stood by have now fallen prey to a fiscally obsessed industry.**

Though comic book adaptations have long been a part of the silver screen, the term "summer blockbuster" has, only recently, become synonymous with "superhero movie." Writer Scott Harris was right when he said, "these days, imagining movies without comic books is almost like imagining movies without sound or color." The appeal of the genre for executives is easy to see; comic book adaptations guarantee an audience of fan boys who rush to theaters with the original comic books in hand and wallets wide open. The superhero movie also easily falls into a formula that Hollywood has down to a science: flashy CGI, minimal plot development, and casts largely composed of eye candy. The combination is perfect for the short-term attention spans of kids who have learned to appreciate the testosterone-driven, shallow mov-

ies that all but guarantee a commercial success, though not a critical one.

Moreover, superhero movies are easily coaxed into franchises with multiple sequels and prequels all bound to produce a profit. The X-Men, Superman, Iron Man, Spider-Man, and Batman storylines are all prime examples of comic books turned into cash with their endless reboots. As a result, Hollywood is no longer ars gratia artis, art for the sake of art, but a business that cranks out lucrative movie dynasties instead.

Comics are continuously revamped without remorse. They are the perfect victims, because of their vast backgrounds. Though the idea of a thriving storyline appeals to many, the cost is too great. The deteriorating quality of the films being grinded out is as apparent as ever. In many cases, such as "The Green Hornet," original plots are neglected altogether in order to fit Hollywood's mold for a profitable movie. "Spiderman 3" is another archetypal example of a reboot that should not have been; by seeking to wow audiences with numerous villains and flashy visuals, producers left out the aspect that made the first two Spiderman movies so successful—a plot.

The more unconventional, thought-provoking scripts are being shoved aside in favor of "safe" movies that are guaranteed to be profitable. The exceptions that manage to trickle out have become Hollywood's endangered species, a genre that rarely outperforms their generic counterparts due to the industry's skewed standards.

Ironically, some fan boys have grown to become the harshest critics of the comic book movies. When the films don't live up to the original, those who were once willing to dish out \$13.50 to watch their favorite heroes duke it out against their arch nemeses are now disappointed by the adaptation of their beloved comic book; the high-quality they once stood by has now fallen prey to a fiscally obsessed industry. However, the fact still remains that the comfort, familiarity, and promise of great action that these movies provide ensure their supremacy in the box office and is the reason why moviegoers are often subject to watch the same movie in a different mask. Though comic book movies have achieved much commercial success, it is time for executives to take risks in order to revive a dying industry in a long overdue act of heroism.

## Counterpoint

### Reviving Adaptations



Michelle Savran / The Spectator

By DAVID KURKOVSKIY

It is difficult to expect any audience to remain involved in a movie after the closing credits. Once in a while though, an engaging blockbuster opens to spark interest in a world of intertwined story arcs told over several decades. Adaptations of popular comic books into major motion pictures have become increasingly prevalent since the release of "Adventures of Captain Marvel" in 1941. Through these stories, movies began to foster a new window into the world of sensational heroes and cunning villains alike.

Every comic adaptation today is rooted in the comic book Gold Age, between the 1930s and 1950, and Silver Age from 1956 to 1970. Considered to be the two peaks of the comic book era, these time periods saw the rise in popularity of titles such as Superman and Captain America from the Gold Age, and Fantastic Four, The Amazing Spider-Man, and X-Men from the Silver Age.

Though many spin-offs of these comics continue to be published, their legacies live on through adaptations in various media. Comics incarnated as movies are most common. These huge blockbuster series are known not only to fans of the original comics, but to an audience with no previous exposure to the original plots. High-grossing movies include the Spider-Man trilogy, the X-Men trilogy, and the two Iron Man movies. However, the crème de la crop is The Dark Knight, a cinematic version of Batman, and is ranked third on the all time highest domestic grosses at the box office.

However, comic book adaptations are not limited to large movie titles. Many comics have been adapted into TV shows—both cartoons and live-action series. Some popular cartoon examples are X-Men: Evolution, Batman Beyond, and Teenage

Mutant Ninja Turtles. TV adaptations on primetime include the popular Smallville, a Superman-based series that ended its 10-season run last May. In addition, these same comics have been adapted into video games and novels, further broadening comics' influence on pop culture. Adaptations provide a gateway for newer fans to enjoy a history adored by many. Rather than alienate devoted fans, these frequent adaptations and reboots make stories shared by an older generation more accessible to younger ones. Cult fans who feel that new versions of comics are formulaic and devoid of their genuine creativity can continue to enjoy the original publications, which are available online. At the same time, younger audiences who never had the chance to read the original Superman or Spider-Man can still see the latest blockbuster, play a video game, or even watch Saturday morning cartoons.

Some adaptations are so popular that they are constantly rebooted. An example is the cinematic Spider-Man trilogy. Though the third movie was released in 2007, a reboot (The Amazing Spider-Man) is already slated for production starring celebrities such as Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield. The fact that another addition to the Spider-Man movie franchise will be released a mere five years after the previous suggests the importance of regularly appealing to a fan base in order to remain prevalent.

Adaptations of comic books in various media help strengthen the foundations they were built upon decades earlier. Old fans can marvel at the ever-expanding stories they first heard as eager children and continue to enjoy as reminiscing adults while newer audiences can become interested in the comics of old through modern media. Ultimately, every addition ensures that the greatest stories ever told are still alive.

## Why Pizza Delivery Boys and Bombs Do Mix



By NIKI CHEN  
and DAPHNE LU

Pizza delivery boy Nick (Jesse Eisenberg) has a problem—a ticking, very explosive problem. Strapped to a nine-hour bomb and forced to rob a bank, he turns to his best friend, elementary school teacher Chet (Aziz Ansari), for help. After hearing Nick's desperate plea for help,

Chet shouts, "And your first thought was to come to a school filled with young children?"

This scene is from the hilarious movie "30 Minutes or Less," a new comedy from director Ruben Fleischer. Despite a far-fetched plotline and several unnecessary, inappropriate scenes, the star cast and raunchy humor make the movie worthwhile.

Nick's speedy driving skills, which promise pizza delivery in "30 minutes or less," catch the attention of low-life Dwayne (Danny McBride) and Dwayne's eager, dimwit sidekick Travis (Nick Swardson). The two want to kill Dwayne's lotto-winner father, "The Major," and need \$100,000 to hire the assassin Chango (Michael Pena). The two lure Nick into a junkyard and force him to rob the bank for them. However, like in most heist comedies, things do not go as planned.

This nine-hour robbery is filled with fast-paced action and snappy, laugh-out-loud dialogue. Screenwriter Michael Dilberti gives the movie conversational tone by adding pop culture references; the two heroes comb through Wikipedia and replay scenes from the recent Oscar-

winning film "The Hurt Locker" to try to diffuse the bomb. These little moments made the characters more realistic.

Aziz Ansari, known for playing the narcissistic Tom Haverford in "Parks and Recreation," brought laughter to the movie with his obvious comedic skill. Though he played Chet, a jumpy, worried, shallow character, Ansari could humorously pull off Chet's spastic quirks. In the scene when Nick and Chet attempt to steal their getaway car, Chet lightens the serious situation with his worries: "Do you think [the car's owner] saw my hands? There are only four Indian families in this neighborhood."

Jesse Eisenberg also had as much to offer as Ansari did. His responses to Ansari's lines were right on-spot and elicited some laughs from the audience as well. Though Nick's reaction to the bomb threat is more explosive, Eisenberg takes a more levelheaded approach to his character. Known for playing shy, pubescent boys, Eisenberg broke out of his shell as Nick and toughened up for audiences. He drank and smoked, delivering his lines with confidence and pinpoint comedic timing.

Though the dialogue has its laughs,

there are many scenes that do not, mainly due to excessive profanity. The foul language and unnecessary nudity distract rather than entertain. The women's roles are especially weak; Kate (Dilshad Vadsaria) plays the shallow role of Nick's romantic interest. Juicy's (Bianca Kajlich) only purpose is to take her top off. The female characters have no clear background, and their lines add nothing to the story.

The plot itself is shallow and poorly thought out; by the end, there are loose ends that are never addressed—we never find out what happens to The Major. Characters, like Kate, appear unexplained and her relationship with Nick is a failed attempt to appeal to a young audience. The simple, uncomplicated plot helps set up jokes, but leaves nothing for viewers to reflect on.

"30 Minutes or Less" opted for spunky dialogue, car chases, and explosions to entertain the audience rather than an attention grabbing storyline. However, lack of depth with action scenes and hearty jokes are what light summer movies are all about, and "30 Minutes or Less" is perfect for filling that role—it will have you laughing in thirty minutes or less.

# Panoramas

By Sam Kim, Joann Lee, Abe Levitan, and Victoria Zhao



# Sports

## Free Agency Marks True Start of Football Season



By YORKBELL JARAMILLO

Odds are that you are one of the 20 million viewers who watched a football game last season on CBS, FOX, or NBC. If not, it's even more likely that you were one of the 106 million spectators who stayed tuned to watch the game of the year, the Super Bowl.

The game of football touches all demographics. Die-hard fans such as myself make sure to follow the complete 17-week season. Many watch it just to see the hard hits and bruising runs. And yet, for some, football provides much more; with all the turmoil in the country, football gives millions of Americans an escape.

However, a lockout that loomed over the entire football

season threatened to take that escape away. Heated negotiations between billionaires and millionaires could have taken away the common American's chance to unwind every Sunday.

Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis is predicted even more drastic consequences of no football season, claiming in an ESPN interview that crime rates would climb drastically from previous years with no football season.

Fortunately, the lockout has been resolved, and here we are, at a shortened preseason and an even shorter free agency period. As the lockout prohibited teams from talking to their own players, or even free agent players without an existing contract, all negotiations started almost as soon as the lockout officially ended. All the deals that are usually made in a span of several months were squeezed into a three-week window.

Additionally, due to a strict \$120 million salary cap, superstars with unfavorable contracts were forced to be cut. In a period of days, big-shot players were shuffled around, ending up with new teams that offered them fairly large contracts. Fans were tense as they wondered whether their favorite players would remain with their favored teams.

Especially during this shortened free agency, with the risk of being left in the dust, it was critical for teams to act quickly. Teams like the Miami Dolphins, which failed to fortify its already-fragile defense, and the Oakland Raiders, which let go of the hottest player on the market, Nnamdi Asomugha, while not signing a top-notch receiver or legitimate tight end, chose to sit and let the river flow past them during the most intense period of player movement in the history of the NFL. Sitting and watching can be a good strategy once in a while, but as it stands now, these teams will regret their actions come December.

The one team that seems to be getting all the attention is the Philadelphia Eagles, or the all-hype team, as rival Dallas Cowboys defensive coordinator Rob Ryan called it. Already considered the team to beat, the Eagles was referred to by back-up quarterback Vince Young as the "Dream Team" because of its aggressive off-season moves, which have landed several big-name players.

The Eagles did not hesitate to acquire two Pro Bowl caliber cornerbacks, Asomugha and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, via trade. For once, the Eagles may get an opportunity to advance past the first round

of the playoffs, since it is now tied with the Patriots and last year's Super Bowl-winning Packers with 6-1 odds to win it all this year.

However, this storyline has been heard before. Try a different sports association: the NBA. Predictions for the Eagles sure sound a lot like those for Miami Heat last year, when the team obtained All-Stars LeBron James and Chris Bosh to accompany the flashy Dwyane Wade. Everyone had his chips all in for the Heat to win it all, but the team simply couldn't click early in the season or during the finals.

So if you have your playoff predictions centered on the Eagles, think again. The big issue of having an over-hyped team with lots of superstars is on the minds of the current players on the team. Sure, most may be aspiring for that Super Bowl ring to slip onto their fingers, but now current cornerback Asante Samuels is left a little edgy after realizing that his services may no longer be of much need after the acquisition of star players in his position.

"I want to be where I'm wanted," said Samuel to ESPN reporters, following the acquisitions. "If I'm wanted here, then here. If I'm not appreciated here, then life goes on, and I move on." With or without

Samuels on the opening day roster of the Eagles, the team's star-power may need some time to work effectively, just as the Heat's did. But due to the lockout and late free agency, time is not something that is working in any team's favor.

This year's free agency proved to be special in more ways than one. Not only did the free agency period follow the draft, but teams felt pressured to stay under the strict salary cap. Many of the teams that acted promptly during this year's free agency were top teams from last season that are being led by a strong line of management. In a way, this year's free agency made the best teams better and the weaker teams worse. You may expect to see the Eagles as strong contenders on the NFC East, but you have got to think about how long their luck will last.

Despite all the anxiety caused by constant threats of not having a season, the lockout created a frantic free agency with a huge mumble jumble of players that has quickly reinvigorated the fan base. The lockout could potentially make the season that may not have happened at all one of the most exciting ones in recent memory.

## The Road Less Travelled: The Path from Stuy to ESPN

*continued from page 28*

High School Chess Team for being too unathletic."

He was also far too busy to follow any of his journalistic endeavors. "I suppose I probably could have and should have gotten more involved in it then," Greenberg said. "But I was far too worried about finding any girl who would pay any attention whatsoever to me to concern myself with writing for a newspaper."

Greenberg did, however, pursue journalism after Stuyvesant, choosing to go on to the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, where he graduated in 1989. Through one of his father's connections, he immediately landed a job at the WMAQ radio station in Chicago after graduation.

Upon realizing in his junior year of college that he was better suited for covering sports than other news, Greenberg began as a production assistant and later a sports reporter at the radio station. There, he found himself in the midst of a thriving Chicago sports scene that included the division-winning Chicago Bears and the Chicago Bulls championship era under Michael Jordan.

He continued his career reporting and writing columns for various radio and news services, including anchoring and reporting for the local Chicago cable news channel CLTV. In 1996, Greenberg took his biggest step towards reaching his childhood dream by becoming the first anchor ever hired for the new ESPNews channel.

"My sole goal was to get onto SportsCenter," Greenberg said. "At that time, Dan Patrick

and Keith Olberman hosted SportsCenter, and they were legendary. I admired them so much, so my goal was to do with them did."

He soon had his chance, and began anchoring SportsCenter as well as ESPNews.

Despite not having any intention of returning to radio, Greenberg was approached in late 1999 to replace Tony Bruno on the Bruno & Golic Morning Show for ESPN Radio. He accepted the offer, and joined former NFL defensive lineman Mike Golic on the renamed

**"I had as a kid once said that if I could just work in sports somehow, it wouldn't feel like work."**  
—Mike Greenberg, radio host and sports anchor

Mike and Mike in the Morning show, while retaining his anchor duties.

"If I had to pick the best thing in my career, certainly it would be Mike and Mike," Greenberg said. "I love the company and I love the job and as long as Mike and I can continue to put up with each other and he doesn't kill me, I see no reason why we won't keep doing it for at least a

while longer."

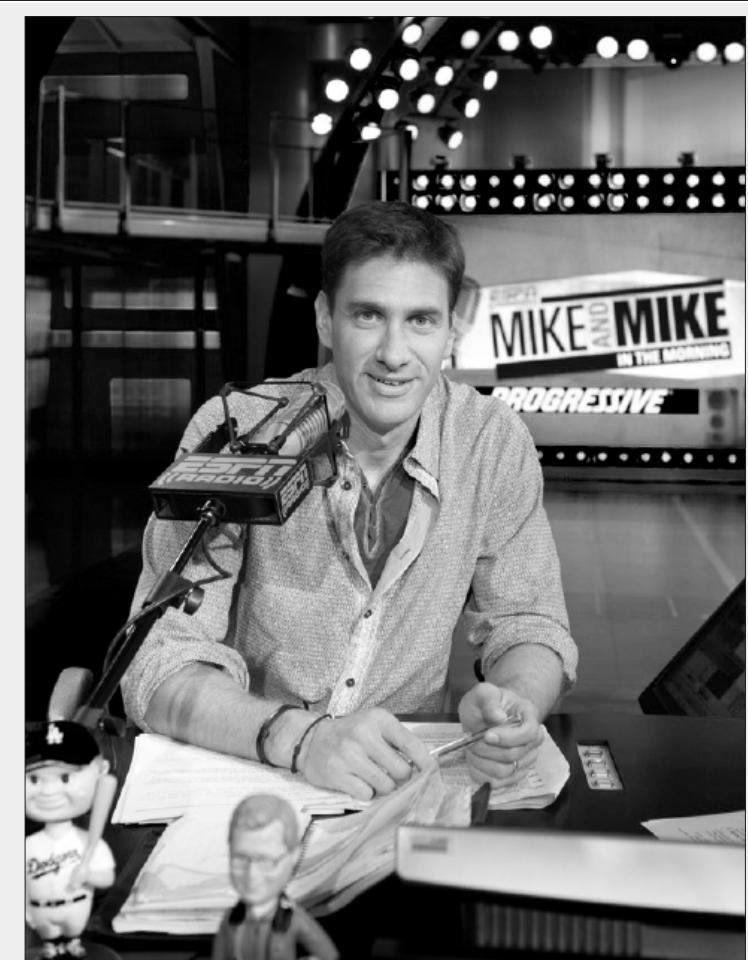
The show has been a huge success, with more than three million listeners and viewers per week after being simulcast on ESPN2 from 6 to 10 a.m. starting in 2005.

"We come off as regular guys," said Golic in the New York Times article "ESPN's Nice Guys May End Up Finishing First," published on Monday, May 23, 2007. "The chemistry flat-out works." The analysis from these "regular guys" is what millions tune in to listen to every morning on their daily commute.

"I had as a kid once said that if I could just work in sports somehow, it wouldn't feel like work," Greenberg said. He says he genuinely enjoys what he does, which may be why, according to Greenberg, his daughter, at three years old, described her father's job as simply "my daddy talks to Golic."

Greenberg's other child has not only helped him watch sports with a fresher perspective, but also reminded him of his youth, as he sees the same passion for sports in his eight-year-old son that he had when he was a child. Following in his father's footsteps, young Stephen gets upset at losses, and often yells at the television at bad calls.

In 2006, Greenberg wrote the book "Why My Wife Thinks I'm An Idiot," in which he reflected on his career and its effect on his personal life. It reached 14th on The New York Times Bestseller list and was nominated for a Quill Award in the Sports category. Last year, he co-wrote Mike and Mike's Rules for Sports and Life with



Mike Greenberg, the host of ESPN's SportsCenter.

Courtesy of Dan Quinn

co-host Golic.

The radio show has resulted in several other exciting opportunities for Greenberg. He has appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman seven times, hosted the game show *Duel* on ABC for a week, met former President Bush, sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at Wrigley Field in Chicago, and—his favorite experience—broadcasted a Monday Night Football game for ESPN in 2007.

Furthermore, Greenberg teamed up with childhood hero

and six-time US Open Champion Chris Evert earlier this year and just missed qualifying for the US Open in mixed doubles, living out one of his childhood dreams.

Despite all these off-air accomplishments, expect to see and hear Greenberg behind the microphone every morning, doing the job he loves. "There's nothing in the world better than investing everything into something that means nothing," he said.

**Boys' Cross Country**

## Greyducks Begin Quest for Yet Another Triple Crown

By ODREKA AHMED

Most Stuyvesant athletes practice only during their respective sports seasons. However, the school's runners can be spotted training almost every day of the week, every week of the year. The dedication and drive of the boys' track team, the Greyducks, is evident. The cross country and track teams, which are comprised mostly of the same students, are the most decorated team at Stuyvesant; the Greyducks have won every Manhattan borough championship for the past 12 years.

"On the borough level, it's always expected. This is cross country coming up where we try to win the city championship," coach Mark Mendes said. This season, the cross country team is looking to repeat last year's success and win its fifth city championship.

Despite constant success, the team must cope with the graduation and subsequent loss of two of its top varsity runners, Billy Barnes and Andy Chen, if it hopes to defend its title. "It's going to have a very strong impact," Mendes said. "They both scored in the top 25 in the whole city [...] 175 kids in a race and all five of our guys were in the top 25. That's pretty amazing, and we lost two of those guys."

Still, the Greyducks have excellent depth on their roster and are returning three of their top five runners: senior and captain Konrad Surkont, who came in first at cities last year, junior Jack Stevenson who came in fourth at cities and second at soph-frosh cities, and senior Mark Schramm, who came in 14th at cities. "If Konrad, Jack, and Mark stay healthy, all three of them could be amongst the top 10 in the city. They should

be in the top 10 in the city," Mendes said.

"Individually, I'd like to repeat as city champ. I have the additional goal of breaking 16 minutes for the 5k," said Surkont, who is currently two seconds short of Stuyvesant's 5000-meter record of 16:34, set by Daniel Hyman-Cohen ('09) in Cohen's junior year.

Also returning are senior Yorkbell Jaramillo and junior Kangqiao Lei, who rounded off the seven varsity runners at cities last year, and seniors David Kim and Ivaylo Madzharov, who ran the varsity race at boroughs.

"We have four varsity spots open—two spots that actually 'score points' and count in the team effort. Along with a slew of other Greyducks, my dream is to crack that top seven and help our team repeat," said sophomore Jeremy Karson who, along with Jaramillo, Lei, Kim, Madzharov, and junior Cameron Abma, is a strong contender for one of the four coveted spots. The final varsity runners will be decided prior to the Manhattan Borough Championship.

The teammates have been working together to get into shape for the upcoming races. "This summer has been really productive, so we're hoping that leads to a really successful season. I started captain's practices in mid-July and the turnout was good," said Surkont, who, along with Chen, has been holding team distance runs all summer.

In addition, most of the runners have been running on their own five to six days a week this summer. Mendes has provided the boys with a program dictating both the number of miles they should be running each day and the suggested rate at which they should be jogging

and running based on their own personal records.

"We've been training hard all summer. My weeks are usually 40 or 50 miles—six or seven per day, on average," Stevenson said. This is true of the more serious runners on the team, with weekly miles ranging anywhere from 40 to 70.

At the end of August, the runners attended a six-day cross country camp in Copake, New York, as they do every year. During this intense training period, every attending runner ran well over 60 miles.

"It's pretty special to have some of the best runners in the city to practice with, even if it is sometimes a little hard for me to keep up," said Karson, who had never run seriously before his freshman year.

Despite the loss of Barnes and Chen, a fifth city championship is not completely out of the picture. "We have an outside shot this year. We're definitely not the favorites," Mendes said.

Most of the top runners in the city are returning this year, leaving the field equally competitive, if not more so. However, both Bronx Science, last year's favorite and the second placed team, and Brooklyn Tech, the fourth placed team, lost three of their top runners to graduation. Curtis, the third placed team, lost two, leaving all four of last year's state qualifying teams similarly disadvantaged. Nonetheless, Bronx Science is again the favorite and the team to beat this year for the PSAL Championship.

"While we're fighting for varsity spots, we're all united in our hopes to repeat as champions and beat Bronx Science, and we're all looking forward to the start of another season," Karson said.

## More Than a Game

continued from page 28

Liza Minnelli sang "New York, New York." The Met players, coaches, and manager all donated their day's salaries to the families of the first responders.

What made the night most memorable, however, was Mike Piazza's two-run home run in the bottom of the eighth inning that turned a 2-1 deficit into a 3-2 lead and, later, a vic-

**"We thought it was our duty to go out and take a city and a country's mind off something terrible that had happened. If it was up to us to go entertain people for three hours, then that was our way of giving something back." —Chipper Jones, Braves third baseman**

In the postseason, the Yankees came as close to being a "Cinderella team" as they ever would be. After losing their first two games in the playoffs, the Yankees came back to win the American League Division Series after one of the greatest defensive plays in the history of baseball, "the Jeter flip," against the Oakland Athletics.

Then, they beat a Seattle Mariners team that won a record 116 regular season games en route to advancing to the World Series. Though the Yankees lost the Fall Classic in seven games to the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Series produced one of the greatest moments in the history of New York City.

As I look back on Game 3 of the 2001 World Series at Yankee Stadium, a game that I attended as a six-year-old with my dad, it is not the 2-1 Yankees' victory that I remember nor is it Mariano Rivera's six-out save that closed the game. It's what happened before the game that still sends chills down my spine and makes me proud to be an American.

As game time approached, the crowd began to buzz, and I heard the iconic voice of the late Bob Sheppard say, "Ladies and gentlemen, please direct your attention now to the area in front of the pitcher's mound for tonight's ceremonial first pitch, and please welcome the President of the United States."

President Bush emerged out of the Yankees' dugout and made his way to the mound, acknowledging the cheering sell-out crowd with a few waves. However, when he approached the dirt in the middle of the field, he did not stop walking on the grass in front, where most ceremonial first pitches are thrown from, nor did he stop on the white chalk line in the dirt near the foot of the mound especially marked for him. He walked straight to the top of the mound and toed the pitching rubber 60 feet and 6 inches away from home plate, the very spot where Roger Clemens and Mariano Rivera would pitch from later that night.

"Each and every one of us will tell you if there's been one game in our entire careers that we didn't mind losing, it was that one. You just felt like divine intervention was in New York's corner that day. We didn't mind it a bit," Braves third baseman Chipper Jones said in the ESPN article "Braves: Post-9/11 loss to Mets 'healing,'" published on Thursday, August 25, 2011. "We thought it was our duty to go out and take a city and a country's mind off something terrible that had happened. If it was up to us to go entertain people for three hours, then that was our way of giving something back."

In the same article, Braves

teammate John Smoltz said,

"It was like a game that wasn't

really a game. It was a healing.

It was everything it turned out

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Unfortunately, only one of

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ica's most hated team for a

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country rooting for them.

**Girls' Golf**

## Birdies Look to Defend Title at City Championship

By MAGGIE YEUNG

Stuyvesant's girls' varsity golf team, the Birdies, enters the fall season looking to defend its PSAL Championship title this season. Following an undefeated 8-0 season last year, the team wants to continue its streak of three consecutive postseason appearances that began in 2008 under coach Emilio Nieves.

"We had made an early exit the year before in the quarterfinals, and that was devastating to our team," captain and senior Sarah Soo-Hoo said. "However, this loss motivated us to work harder and practice on a daily basis throughout our season last year."

The newfound work ethic certainly led to results for the six-player team, as the Birdies swept every regular season match 5-0 before beating the rival McKee/Staten Island Tech Seagulls 4-0 to win their first city championship.

"I was extremely happy and proud. I couldn't stop telling people about our victory," ju-

nior Rosen Jeong said.

Despite their past successes, the Birdies have continued to work collectively as a team for the upcoming season, practicing two to three times a week throughout the summer.

"The entire team has been playing golf weekly since the summer started," senior Suzy Kim said. "Personally, I've been playing from two to five days a week."

The Birdies returned all of last year's six players, five of whom are now seniors with even more experience under their belts. They expect at least a few incoming freshmen and sophomores to join as well.

So far, each team member has been practicing diligently with Nieves to improve her personal game. "I have been working with them over the summer, trying to build a solid foundation for continued success in the future," Nieves said.

While the Birdies will be a major contender for the championship again this year, winning it all will undoubtedly be

harder. Under the radar last year, the Birdies are now seen as the team to beat. "It will be difficult to repeat as champions because this year we are the hunted as opposed to last year, when we were the hunters," Nieves said.

Nevertheless, Nieves knows the team's success will continue this season and add more momentum to its efforts. "I have a special team because they are self motivated, have a burning desire to win, and they are willing to work hard to do so," Nieves said.

The main competitors to watch out for are the last two teams the Birdies beat en route to their title, McKee/Staten Island Tech and Tottenville.

Nieves and the Birdies plan to retain last year's starting line-up, relying on their veterans to carry them once again.

"I am confident that the Stuyvesant Birdies can win the championship and maintain the title of the Best Girls' Golf Team in the PSAL," Soo-Hoo said.

tory. Of all the 41,325 fans that were in attendance—10,000 of whom had purchased their tickets that evening, forgot about their suffering and tragedy of the previous week for that one moment. The healing power of baseball brought them pure joy; their favorite team had just won a ballgame.

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# THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

## Girls' Volleyball

### Vixens Seek 13th Consecutive Division Title



Stuyvesant girls' volleyball team member, Natalie Kozlova, prepares for the upcoming season.

By KATIE MULLANEY

For the past twelve seasons, coach Philip Fisher has led Stuyvesant's girls' volleyball team, the Vixens, to 12 undefeated regular seasons and 12 division titles. Fisher and the Vixens hope to continue the streak this year, after winning two playoff games last year before losing to the eventual champion team, the Benjamin Cardozo High School Judges.

"Our biggest problem last year was that we psych ourselves out, especially when we played Cardozo. We got too worried about what the other team was going to do that we didn't focus on ourselves and what we could do," senior Ana Slade said in an e-mail interview.

Along with focusing on their strengths, which led to 2-0 sweeps in all but one regular season match last year, the Vixens are looking to improve their communication and defense on the court.

Without last year's captain, Dorothy Weldon, who graduated, communication will be an even harder issue to correct. Weldon was the main voice of the Vixens on the court, directing defensive alignments and placement. "[Weldon's] enthusiasm was vital during practice and games," Fisher said. "We have to address our lack of communication as a team."

Taking over Weldon's role as captain are senior co-captains Lisa Qiu and Melissa Chin. Both have years of experience, with Qiu playing on varsity since she was a sophomore and Chin since she was a freshman. "This year, Lisa and I plan to make sure the girls are working hard and having fun, but also help them with their techniques so we as a team can have an even better level of playing," Chin said in an e-mail interview.

"[Chin and Qiu] have a lot of experience that they can share with the team and [can] help us improve on needed areas to take us far this year," junior Anna Wang said.

In the preseason, the two captains, along with Fisher, plan to address the Vixens' weaknesses. "As a team, we need to play better defense. Our coverages on defense need to improve as well as our ability to pass the ball from those coverages. That would be the main thing to improve on," Fisher said.

However, improvement will prove even more difficult, as one

of the top defensive players, Clarey Hung, graduated last June. Hung was the libero, or the back row defensive specialist. "Our ability to adapt to her loss will be a huge factor in how successful we are this year," Fisher said.

Hard work will determine the success of the experienced Vixen squad. The team lost just two former seniors to graduation and will lose rising senior Morgan Higgins, who is planning on concentrating on softball in the fall.

The four remaining seniors on the team have all been playing at the varsity level since their freshman or sophomore year. The other players include five juniors who have all played on the varsity level for at least a season. Many of these athletes have been playing on club teams during the offseason to improve their game.

With Fisher in charge, individual improvement is necessary for players to hold on to their roster spots. "Fisher [helps] me grow as a player because I know that if I [can't] perform on the court, [I'll] be standing on the sidelines," junior Natalie Kozlova said.

Under their captains' leadership and Fisher's coaching, the Vixens are looking to continue their winning streak in a league that is steadily improving and gunning for them. "The pressure of having such a long winning streak is always present. However, I don't think it is felt very often. Until last year we hadn't really had much competition within our league," Slade said in an e-mail interview. "This year we may have more of a challenge."

### The Road Less Travelled: The Path from Stuy to ESPN

By PHILLIP GODZIN  
and JORDAN WALLACH

In his book "Why My Wife Thinks I'm An Idiot," Stuyvesant alumnus ('85), ESPN Radio host and SportsCenter anchor Mike "Greeny" Greenberg wrote, "I remember thinking about all the games I'd watched as a kid, and how, if someone had told that kid he would someday get to cover the Super Bowl, he would have said 'I am going to have the best life of anybody in the whole world.'"

Greenberg was born to two avid sports fans in lower Manhattan in 1967. As season-ticket holders for both the New York Jets and Knicks, Greenberg's parents brought him along to games, introducing him to sports and his eventual career path.

"Sports were a huge part of my childhood," Greenberg said. "The overwhelming majority of our familial bonding took place over sports and sporting events."

Greenberg also enjoyed playing tennis, basketball, and other pickup games as a child, but had few illusions of playing professionally.

After enjoying a sports-filled childhood, education be-

came increasingly important for Greenberg. His mother, a New York public school teacher for 25 years, often lauded Stuyvesant High School. "I had been aware of Stuy pretty much my whole life. To me, getting into Stuy was a bigger deal than getting into college. I was so thrilled," Greenberg said.

In Stuyvesant, Greenberg was not the prototypical Stuyvesant student, often struggling to perform well in his math and science classes. On the other hand, he fondly recalls his history and English courses, namely the English class taught by the late Frank McCourt.

Greenberg also spent much of his high school life enjoying the performing arts. He played trumpet in the symphonic orchestra and often participated in school plays, including SING!.

Though Greenberg always aspired to be a journalist, he failed to pursue sports or journalism in his four years at Stuy. He once justified his decision to not participate in sports by joking on the Late Show with David Letterman that he "was thrown off the Stuyvesant

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## More Than a Game



By JORDAN WALLACH

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 traumatized and temporarily paralyzed our nation. Thousands of people lost their lives, and millions were affected. Americans in New York, Washington D.C., as well as throughout the entire country were in a state of shock and struggled to return to their daily lives.

Sport became seemingly meaningless and absent in the days after September 11 with professional hockey and basketball still out of season, the National Football League postponing its first week of games, and Major League Baseball (MLB) postponing all games for one week. MLB Commissioner Bud Selig made the decision out of respect for the victims of the attacks as well as to ensure the safety of the league's players.

On Monday, September 17, President George W. Bush announced that Osama bin Laden was the prime suspect

in the attacks and was "wanted, dead or alive." It was also the day baseball was set to resume the last three weeks of its regular season. Six games were scheduled for that day in stadiums across the country with one of those games being held in Pittsburgh, just 60 miles northwest of the site of where United Flight 93 crashed after passengers' heroic effort to retake the plane from hijackers before it reached Washington D.C.

There in Pittsburgh, the New York Mets beat the Pirates by a score of 4-1, giving fans back home something to cheer about. Though there was once an intense rivalry between the teams, they showed solidarity that night; Pirates' fans were even given "I Love New York" buttons upon entry into the stadium. Fans donated about 100,000 dollars were donated that night to the New York fire and police rescue funds, and some even cheered when the Mets took the lead in the top of the ninth inning.

There were emotional pre-game tributes in every stadium that night, with fans waving small American flags in every one of them.

Four days later, the Mets hosted the Atlanta Braves in the first game in the New York City area after the attacks. The Mets, as well as the game's umpires, wore caps honoring the NYPD, FDNY, and other emergency personnel. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani took part in pregame ceremonies, and during the seventh inning stretch,

## Football

### Peglegs Gear Up for 2011

By WASIF ISLAM

Last season, the Stuyvesant Peglegs gathered around captain Ming Li ('10), who led the pregame huddles to invigorate the team's spirit—the very spirit that led the Peglegs to their first winning season in three years.

"We did very well last season," senior Shady Gabal said. "[However,] our expectations were higher."

Despite going 6-4 in the regular season, the team fell just one game short of the playoffs after an upsetting 32-0 loss against Petrides High School. "That physical final game against Petrides left us feeling angry," Gabal said. "If anything, it motivated us to be even better this season."

Repeating last year's performance and going further may be more challenging this season with the loss of several key seniors including co-captains Li, Mohit Kumar, and Michael Bucaoto. Li was an important force on the defensive side of the ball, recording 33 tackles and two sacks. Kumar was a threat offensively and defensively, playing multiple positions, such as running back, offensive lineman, and linebacker. He recorded 65 tackles and averaged 6.07 rushing yards per carry. Bucaoto, the starting running back, carried the Peglegs on offense with 1,130 rushing yards for the season, the most by a Pegleg in over ten years.

"Players like Ming, Mohit and Micheal, along with the rest of the senior class were instrumental to our success in the 2010 season, with their talent, determination, leadership, and, most importantly, their raw, animalistic instincts on the field," senior Gil Spivack said.

While it will be difficult to replace such players, rising seniors look to fill some of the starting positions. "The seniors have a great

opportunity to step up and bring what makes them special to the table," coach Mark Strasser said. Most, if not all, of the seniors will start on either offense or defense.

In addition, juniors from the junior varsity (JV) team, with whom coach Francisco Rivera has been working, will fill major holes in the depth chart. Last season, the JV team completed an 8-0 season, and the players moving up to varsity look to carry on their winning mindset.

Still, this will be their first year playing on varsity and the transition to a competitive league will be a test for these younger players. "It's hard to say who will be expected to start, as every position is up for grabs, knowing that coach will not hesitate to play whoever demonstrates the most skill, passion, drive, and work ethic," senior Ian Chan said.

Last season, current senior Caelin Kaplan led the team's offense as the starting quarterback with a balanced passing and rushing attack. He finished the season with 84 passing yards and 227 rushing yards.

This year, junior Alen Makhmudov, who led the JV team in an undefeated season, will join Kaplan. Makhmudov finished with an impressive 364 passing yards, 274 rushing yards, and six total touchdowns through the air and the ground. With a new, young arm, Makhmudov looks like he will be taking the starting quarterback position, while Kaplan will likely be moved around. "Caelin wants the ball more. I strongly believe that Coach Strasser will try to work Caelin into positions where he handles the ball other than as a quarterback," Chan said.

Such a move allows Kaplan to help fill in holes left by the graduating seniors. "Although guys like

Ming, Michael, and Mohit will be missed, we think we can do even better than we did last year," said Gabal, though he acknowledged some challenges. "Our biggest worry is our offensive line, because most of last season's starters on offensive line were seniors, and it will be tough to replace them."

Players have been working hard in the offseason, trying to improve their speed, strength, power, and conditioning. They have continued to work hard through pre-season camp. Attending Camp Scatico for the second year in a row, the players have come to call camp, which extends from Friday, August 26 to Wednesday, August 31, "hell week."

"Hell week is probably everyone's most hated and also favorite time of the year," Chan said. "It is our opportunity to shape all our hard work and passion into success on the field." It is an intensive and exhausting period, during which players put long hours into conditioning, practicing, and studying plays and films in order to be prepared when the season begins on Saturday, September 10.

The team owes its ability to hold this camp to two sizable donations from the Stuyvesant High School Football Alumni Association in the honor of two Pegleg alumni: Gene Farber ('55) and Bruce Van Boeckel ('70).

With a promising team of seniors and new junior players, the team sets very high expectation for the season. "People will be very surprised on some of the strengths the 2011 team will bring," Strasser said. "We will become a much more balanced team that is capable of making plays from many different positions. Our goal is always to reach our potential as a team, and as individuals."

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