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Well-Intentioned Accelerated Studies Class Struggles to Achieve Goals

By KAREN ZHENG

Every day during fifth period, 34 freshmen meet in room 233 to work on assignments, read books, and study for upcoming exams. No, this is not a midday club dedicated to studying, but rather the Accelerated Studies (GY2) class. GY2 seeks to improve students' grades by providing organization tips, a structured study hall period, and access to tutoring. However, despite its positive goals, the class has been largely ineffective this year.

The course was initiated in 2010 and is held in the spring term. Last year, students were selected for GY2 based on their middle school performance. The criteria for this year were two or more poor grades in the second marking period of the fall term. The Inquiry Team, a group of teachers that spearheads the course, has made other changes to the class as well. It has been moved from ninth to fifth period, to allow some ARISTA members to tutor during their lunch period; it is supervised by a different teacher, social studies teacher Joel Sklaroff; since former Korean and GY2 teacher Ji Sun Lee is no longer at Stuyvesant; and it meets in a regular classroom instead of in the library.

"Last year, the desks were in a circle, which is good for com-

munication," guidance counselor and Inquiry Team member Jay Bigelson said. "Having the desks in rows means there is minimal distraction. Students can choose what they want to do, whether it's read a book, do homework, study, or get tutored."

"During this class the students have more of an opportunity of approaching their own individual style of learning. That's not always possible during the normal classroom routine. Sometimes students have to work with the entire class and might have difficulties," Sklaroff said.

According to Sklaroff, at least three ARISTA tutors are expected to volunteer their services in GY2 every day. Still, attendance by the tutors fluctuated.

"The ARISTA tutoring didn't work out as well as we hoped," guidance counselor and Inquiry Team member Jeremy Wang said. "Sometimes five come, sometimes two, sometimes none."

Junior and ARISTA member Stacy Chun spent two weeks tutoring at GY2 before she stopped. "We [ARISTA tutors] would go in to offer help, but no one asked for any, so we sat and did nothing," she said. "Right now it's students helping students. The administration should be more involved to give them something to gain."

Participating freshman Aus-

tin Ostro saw another problem in having ARISTA tutoring. "The tutors showed up a couple days but didn't remember or specialize in the subjects that we needed help in. There should be tutors every day from all different fields," Ostro said.

In addition to having ARISTA tutors available, GY2 has continued having assistant principals, guidance counselors and other faculty members address the class about issues like organizational skills, time management, and note-taking every Monday.

"The assistant principals discussed general advice and then zeroed in on their specific subject areas," Wang said. "Different assistant principals go in because the set of skills needed are different from subject to subject."

However, some studying tips clashed. "One guest speaker told us to do our hardest homework first. Another one told us to warm up with our easiest one. One guest speaker told us to study for a while and then take a fifteen-minute break. Another one told us, 'Don't take breaks,'" Ostro said.

"I don't see the point of guest Mondays," participating freshman Calvin Baker said. "They're all teaching us different ways to

continued on page 2

Dress Code To Be Implemented

By EMMA LICHTENSTEIN

As summer draws near, there are marked changes in the way students are dressing. Hoping to stay cool in the warm weather, students pull out tank-tops, short skirts, shorts, and summer dresses, much to the displeasure of administrators.

These noticeable trends amongst the student body have prompted conversations between Principal Stanley Teitel and the cabinet, which is comprised of eleven assistant principals. "People were not wearing things we thought were appropriate for school," Teitel said. "It has been brought to my attention in previous years, but it became clear now that we have to say more that just 'what is appropriate to wear to school,' because everyone has their own opinion of what that means."

In the past month, the cabinet members have written and revised four drafts of a proposed dress code. They reviewed dress codes from other schools, such as Townsend Harris and Bronx Science High School, to help them formulate their own.

The provisions are thus: phrases and sayings on apparel must be in good taste; midriffs, lower backs, undergarments, and shoulders are not to be exposed; the hemline of all skirts, shorts, and dresses must fall below the fingertips when students stand upright with their arms at their sides.

"Many young ladies wear denim skirts which are very tight and are short to begin with, and when they sit down, they only rise up, because there's no where else to go," Teitel said. "If they're at finger length when they stand, then at least when they sit, the length will be livable."

Teitel feels that it is within the administration's jurisdiction to pass

the policy and amend it if the cabinet finds other styles of student dress to be inappropriate. "It's our responsibility to create a learning environment," he said. "The bottom line is, some things are a distraction, and we don't need to distract students from what is supposed to be going on here, which is learning."

Teitel plans on implementing disciplinary action for students who violate the dress code. The first time, students will have to wear a large grey t-shirt and lose their out-to-lunch privileges for the day. A second offense will result in parents having to come to the school.

The dress code will go into effect starting in September, and it will be both posted on the Stuyvesant Web site and e-mailed to students before the fall term commences.

The student body has mixed emotions regarding the proposed change.

Junior Teresa Tai feels the provisions of the code are impractical. "It's only natural that people will wear less as the weather gets warmer," she said.

Others believe that inappropriate dress is not a widespread problem at Stuyvesant. "Most students don't really push the envelope so to speak, and I don't think I've seen anything too provocative at Stuy," junior Drippe Debroy said. "It is kind of uncalled for, seeing as Stuy kids are relatively not slutty or inappropriate."

"With the new dress code, someone can wear a completely ridiculous outfit or super bright colored clothing that might be appropriate, but would be even more distracting than pair of short shorts or a spaghetti strap dress," sophomore Ellie Shanahan said.

Yet Teitel believes that his criteria are fair. "Remember that the length depends on the body, as it is all pro-

portional," he said. "It's not like I'm picking on tall people or short people, because I'm using you as your own measure."

Tai, however, finds that the dress code seems to target specific groups. "I feel that this dress code is targeted towards girls," she said. "This might be because there seems to be an idea that it is the nature of males to be distracted by the ways females dress or reveal skin and that females should then have a sense of self respect by limiting the way they dress."

Shanahan agreed, adding that, "it is hard to find shorts that are fingertip length since they usually come much longer or much shorter, and it is completely unfair to ask people not to wear tank-tops in 95 degree weather."

Students have already begun to take action against the proposed dress code change. Sophomore Leopold Spohngellert and junior Daniel Solomon organized a private event on Facebook to raise student awareness regarding the issue. According to the event's description, they believe "it is time to push back against an administration that consistently tries to limit our ability and to enjoy a happy existence as a student community."

Furthermore, Solomon created an online petition, via a Google spreadsheet, in which students could leave their name and Stuyvesant ID numbers if they were opposed to the dress code. In the past week, the petition has garnered 768 signatures, and Solomon hopes to present it to Teitel on Tuesday, June 14.

"I love the idea of us coming together as a student body and standing up for our rights and our freedom of expression," Shanahan said of the petition. "I am thrilled to be surrounded by such smart kids everyday who will fight against the man if need be."

Opinions

Reading Rejuvenated

Article on page 10.

A call to arms for all avid student readers.



Article on page 6.

Andrew Wong: Transcending the Vietnam War

Features

The story of Stuyvesant's technician.

Crush Lists Torn Down By Administration

By EMMA LICHTENSTEIN

Stuyvesant seniors have long honored the tradition of posting crush lists on the wall of the second floor atrium. Last year, however, The New York Post and New York Magazine caught wind of this annual event and published articles that depicted the crush lists as inappropriate and the students who made them as raunchy. There was much controversy surrounding the phrase "I'd Tap That," something students deemed light-hearted and the media called provocative.

"Crush lists are a way that the student body can become more open with each other and connect on a more personal level," senior Michael Lavina said. "It helps build a better Stuy community."

This year, the posting of crush lists was scheduled for Tuesday, June 7. Before school and during first period, the walls of the second floor atrium were filled with the artistic creations of members of the senior class. However, when Assistant Principal Organization Randi Damesek read through a few of the crush lists, she found that the offending phrase was still present. She notified Principal Teitel, who found many of the lists to be vulgar.

"When I was told that things of that nature were up on the wall again, I simply took all of them

down," Teitel said. "I can't spend my day reading each list as it goes up to make sure everything is appropriate. I saw two or three examples of inappropriate things that were up there, and that was all I needed."

In between second and third periods, Teitel ripped down the crush lists posted in the atrium, much to the chagrin of the seniors.

"He didn't have to tear down all of the lists like a mad man. It seemed like primal male puffing behavior," senior Billy Yang said. "I was there when he came in and tore them down, and he did not seem sane. He definitely could have handled it better."

Teitel believes that the reason why most seniors were upset was that crush lists have become more elaborate over the years. "They are becoming a sort of art project, but I think students should just keep it simple," he said. "I understand that if you spent four hours making it and I came down and ripped it down in three minutes, you would be upset, but the simpler you keep it, you won't feel like you put in so much time and effort and it's on the floor."

"Without forewarning, the cleaner crush lists, as in, ones that people had spent hours thinking

continued on page 3

Advanced Placement Mandarin and Japanese Exams No Longer Offered

By THOMAS ZADROZNY

Stuyvesant students who choose to take either Mandarin or Japanese as their foreign language have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement course during their junior or senior years. However, due to the circumstances surrounding this year's exam, Stuyvesant will continue to offer the AP classes, but as of next term, it will no longer offer the Mandarin and Japanese AP exams.

This decision was made due to issues involving the format of the exams, which have been administered at Stuyvesant for the past six years. The College Board has established an entirely paper-free test, where students each have a specially calibrated computer that is equipped with headphones for the listening sections. The finished exams were supposed to be automatically sent to the database of the College Board for scoring. The College Board has advocated for this technological system's easiness and cost-effectiveness.

However, the technical problems have resulted in examinations lost, sent in incomplete, or with wrong answers. Assistant Principal Organization Randi Damesek believed the issues of taking the exam were too great, and that the exams should be cut.

"It's not us, it's the College Board," Assistant Principal Foreign Languages Arlene Ubieta said. "Hopefully once they see that their business, Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Tech, drop out, maybe they will reconsider."

The College Board has suggested that the students retake the exam, but Japanese teacher Chie Helinski believes "that is putting the students through too much."

Though the exams are no longer being offered, the courses will still be taught at the same academic level. "One of the first questions students asked was 'Is the curriculum going to change?' No. Absolutely not," Helinski said. Furthermore, the

continued on page 4

News

Judge Danny Chun Talks to Stuyvesant Students About Career in Law

By RISHAM DHILLON and NABANITA HOSSAIN

Stuyvesant alumnus and Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Danny Chun ('80) visited Stuyvesant on Friday, May 27 to speak to the first, second, and third period U.S. History and American Government classes of social studies teachers Warren Donin and Linda Weissman about his path to a career in law.

After Chun graduated from Stuyvesant, he went to John Hopkins University and Fordham University to study law. He worked as an Assistant District Attorney from 1987 to 1999. In 1999, he was appointed to the Kings County Criminal Court by Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, and in 2005, he was appointed as a Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice, a position he currently holds.

Chun met Donin through the Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation organization, which intends to promote understanding between different ethnic groups. Through the program, New York City high school and college students can participate in discussions directed by judges in the state court system of New York.

Donin has invited Chun to speak at Stuyvesant for the past few years. This year, Chun spoke to Stuyvesant students about entering the field of law and the court system. In addition, because May was Asian American Heritage Month, he talked about how his ethnicity influenced him.

"Students got an insight into [Chun's] background of being Korean-American and his own struggle. They got to see how it affected his career," Weissman said.

"He grew up in a time period in which the Asian people were known as the ideal minority. They were known to work hard, be timid, and follow the rules," junior Mohammed Sumon said

in an e-mail interview.

After Chun gave his 15-minute opening speech, students were allowed to ask him questions about his life, his career decisions, and the American justice system. Some students considered whether "their lives [were] similar or different from someone who preceded them thirty years ago," Donin said. "Are his issues growing up their issues?"

Chun conversed with students in an informal manner. "He is the highest ranking Asian judge in the city, and it was actually surprising to see how [relaxed] he was. He didn't stick to formal language," Sumon said in an e-mail interview. "He spoke, instead, like he was one of us, and that was what probably appealed to many of the students in the audience."

Chun also talked about his parents and parental pressures. His father disapproved of his decision to attend John Hopkins University. Chun initially enrolled in a pre-medical program, but switched out as his passions changed.

"He felt pressured by his dad and he didn't want to do that to his own children," senior Sharmila Ahmed said.

Students were able to better understand what they had learned in class after Chun's visit.

"He talked about the judiciary branch and the structure of the federal court system. It helped put what we learned in class into perspective and helped us see the applications in the real world," senior Mary Emily Ficarra said.

With his rich life experiences, Chun was not only able to teach students about his profession, but also impart life lessons to them. "Many people who come to visit Stuy tell us what not to do and how to do well in life," junior Glory Kim said in an e-mail interview. "He gave us the impression that sometimes, doing what we want or have a passion for is better than what our parents want for us."

Columbia Professor Scott Snyder Gives Lecture to Organic Chemistry Class

By SHARON CHO

Columbia University Professor Scott Snyder came to Stuyvesant High School on Friday, May 20, to give a lecture to the Organic Chemistry class taught by Dr. Steven O' Malley.

Professor Snyder teaches organic chemistry classes for undergraduate and graduate students in Columbia, and is the head of the Scott A. Snyder Research Group, which performs research on the design and development of new strategies, biomimetic tactics, cascade sequences, and synthetic methods of creating synthetic molecules with which to replace naturally occurring molecules in compounds.

The lecture, which took place during the 10th period, was titled "Molecules that Changed the World." Dr. Snyder discussed the various uses of organic molecules throughout history, ranging from medicinal purposes to industrial applications.

Dr. Snyder's lecture helped "[students] to have a good appreciation for organic chemistry in general, and also the amount of work that goes into elucidating structures and finding the importance of molecules, as well as the historical consequences of molecules," Dr. O' Malley said. "I specifically invited him for the Organic Chemistry class, because I knew that the audience would be able to understand the structures that he would talk about."

Dr. O' Malley originally met Dr. Snyder in graduate school at a symposium. Dr. Snyder had invited Dr. O' Malley's class to visit him at his laboratory in Columbia last year and also offered to speak to his class at Stuyvesant.

One of the molecules Dr. Snyder discussed was taxol, an anti-cancer drug. One whole tree's worth of Pacific yew tree bark is needed to make enough taxol to treat one cancer patient. This example served to illustrate the im-

portance of synthetic chemistry, which is used to create artificial compounds that replace natural compounds.

"There's a point to having synthetic chemistry, in which we can make these [compounds] artificially, and they're exactly identical to what nature makes," Dr. O' Malley said.

Professor Snyder also spoke of the compounds aspirin, glucose, quinine, morphine, and vancomycin.

"I had long since wondered about how natural remedies, such as Chinese herbal medicine, had worked and if it was really just a placebo. He was able to enlighten me on how these plants can work on a chemical level to help people," senior Matthew Zin said. "His visit showed how organic chemistry can be used to help people and the world in general."

Defying Silence Documentary shown at Stuyvesant

By ANNE CHEN and SARAH MIN

Stuyvesant High School hosted a screening of the documentary, "Afghanistan: Defying Silence," in the Murray Khan Theater on Thursday, June 13, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The film, co-directed by Ed Robbins and Stacia Teele, a Stuyvesant parent, focuses on three performing artists in Afghanistan who pursue their craft while living in a society oppressed by the Taliban.

According to the documentary's Web site, the film follows the three artists: female director, Gul Makai Shah, singer Masood Khyber, and theater director Nalan Namatullah, from 2004 to 2005. It chronicles their triumphs and setbacks as they work to revive the arts in Afghan society, even as they are faced with the threat of Taliban resurgence.

"[The documentary] is an important story on a lot of different levels. One, I think it speaks to the importance of the arts and people's willingness to persevere and risk their lives to con-

tinue their craft and their love of art, be it literature or music or performance, but also from the perspective of a social studies student, having global awareness of what the Taliban was like, how other people live in other parts of the world," Assistant Principal Social Studies Jennifer Suri said.

In 2010, "Afghanistan: Defying Silence" was accepted to numerous international film festivals, including the Honolulu International Film Festival and the Globians Berlin International Film Festival. Most notably, the documentary won Best Feature Documentary at the Rhode Island International Film Festival and the North Country Film Festival.

Stacia Teele, the co-producer, director, and writer of the film, lived in Afghanistan during her ninth grade year. A graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, she created the documentary to show a different perspective of the country she loved after the September 11 attacks prompted western media to portray Afghan society in a predominantly negative light.

"I hope that people who watch this film will come away with a new understanding of who Afghans really are and I feel that this transformation of this idea who Afghans are will really transcend Afghanistan and will move into a global level," Teele said. "Here in America we treasure our freedom of speech and self-expression and we actually fight and defend those rights; in Afghanistan they have no such rights. You can see the human need to express and create to the point where they are willing to do it even if it is at the risk of their lives."

Ed Robbins has directed, written, and filmed a multitude of national and international award-winning documentaries spanning a wide range of topics. Together, Robbins and Teele have also worked on two half hour specials, "Vasila's Heart" and "Vasila's Journey" that aired on Ted Koppel's ABC Nightline.

Stuyvesant Alumnus Paul Zeitz Lectures on Mathematics



Paul Zeitz, a Stuyvesant alumnus and author of "The Art and Craft of Problem Solving".

By POOJA DESAI

Stuyvesant alumnus, author, and mathematician Paul Zeitz spoke to the Stuyvesant community on Monday June 6, in Lecture Hall A.

As a Stuyvesant student ('75), Zeitz was a top scorer in the USA Mathematical Olympiad, the final round of the AMC math contests in which many students participate. As a result, he was a member of the first American team to participate in the International Mathematical Olympiad. He has also won the Westinghouse Scholarship, now known as the Intel Science Talent Search. In addition, Zeitz founded the Bay Area Math Meet, co-founded the Bay Area Mathematical Olympiad, and, in 1999, wrote "The Art and Craft of Problem Solving," a textbook used at Stuyvesant today.

Zeitz's talk with the Stuyvesant community on Monday focused primarily on approaching problems from a non-conventional angle. He opened by addressing a 2007 AIME problem that seemingly required lengthy and advanced algebra to solve. "It looked impossible to solve with algebra," junior Jennifer Zhao said. "But then he explained that it could actually be solved using a simple geometry technique." He

worked through the problem by using basic strategies, such as dropping altitudes of a triangle and observing various ratios.

Throughout the talk, Zeitz aimed to explain how many math problems could be solved through graphical representations. He began by discussing the "radii of convergence," a complex concept dealing with power series, a topic explored in Stuyvesant's AP Calculus BC classes. He explained how this specific concept could be viewed with complex variables, rather than real ones, and could be observed by the use of 3D graphs.

"It was really fascinating and opened topics of interest for potential students who would like to explore the field of math research," math teacher Richard Ku said. "He presented interesting views of computer-generated graphs."

Zeitz then went on to explain the "cube roots of unity," discussing cyclic permutations through graphs. Lastly, he spoke about the "taxonomy of Bulgarian solitaire." Here, he explained the concept of combinations with theoretical piles and observations of the graphs of the recorded possible data. He searched for particular patterns in the graphs, which were made through the Wolfram's Mathematica program. Zeitz related many of the graphs to biology, noticing their dendrite-like structures.

"I thought he approached the topic very nicely," Zhao said. "For such a difficult topic, it was easy to follow."

Junior Michael Scheer found the topic worthy of further exploration. "Information like this is not often presented, and it really adds to the general knowledge of both Stuyvesant and the public. He [Zeitz] was an inspiring teacher, and I would consider thinking about this more for Intel."

Though clearly well-versed in the field of mathematics, Zeitz reminded Stuyvesant that many of math's problems are still unsolved. While closing in on the "taxonomy of Bulgarian solitaire," he explained that though the patterns were intriguing, it is still a mystery as to what the patterns represent. Despite this ambiguity, Zeitz continues to research and study these fascinating topics. "If you don't have a question after [solving a math problem], it probably wasn't worth spending time on," Zeitz said.

Well-Intentioned Accelerated Studies Class Struggles to Achieve Goals

continued from page 1

study, so what are we supposed to do? Are we just supposed to choose one? None of the study tactics we've been shown have really applied to me, or have helped me. I have my own specific way of studying."

The one requirement of the class is the folder, which is handed in each week with the prior week's notes from each subject. "[The folders] encourage stu-

"Right now it's students helping students. The administration should be more involved to give them something to gain."
—Stacy Chun, junior and ARISTA member

dents to keep up to date with their classes by going over their notes each night," Bigelson said. "They should have the subject, contact information of peers and a dated outline of what happened in class. Merely copying over notes is unac-

ceptable."

Not all students understood the rubric for the folders. "We were told about envelopes we need to keep track of, except we weren't told how exactly we were supposed to do it, and we're getting graded on it," Baker said earlier in the year. "We're supposed to do five-minute write-ups or something, and then we hand in the envelope with all of our homework. I haven't used it because it wasn't explained very well so I don't know how."

Another aspect of GY2 is SPARK counselor Angel Colon's pull-out program. Once a week, Colon discusses various concerns—such as grades and classes, social life, and adjusting to the high school environment—with one-third of the class in the SPARK office.

"This is a different angle to look at students' performances. Instead of study skills, we're looking at a different aspect of success, where social life is very important as well as how students perceive the school and how they're perceived by the school and by other students," Wang said. "One of the main issues we're looking at is how students can get more holistic support."

Though a quarter to half of a credit is added to each freshman's transcript who passed the class, some feel like it is not worth it. "[The class] has good intentions but it doesn't achieve its goal at all," Ostro said. "We're told to study but it's really hard to because there are kids who are so distracted. There's a kid who rolls around every day on his skateboard, and others who play games on their computers. It's very chaotic."

"Nothing was accomplished in this class," sophomore Paul Ma, who was in GY2 last year, said. "We ended up just talking and chilling in."

Still, the Inquiry Team hopes to continue the class and expand its ideas to all freshmen in the fu-

ture.

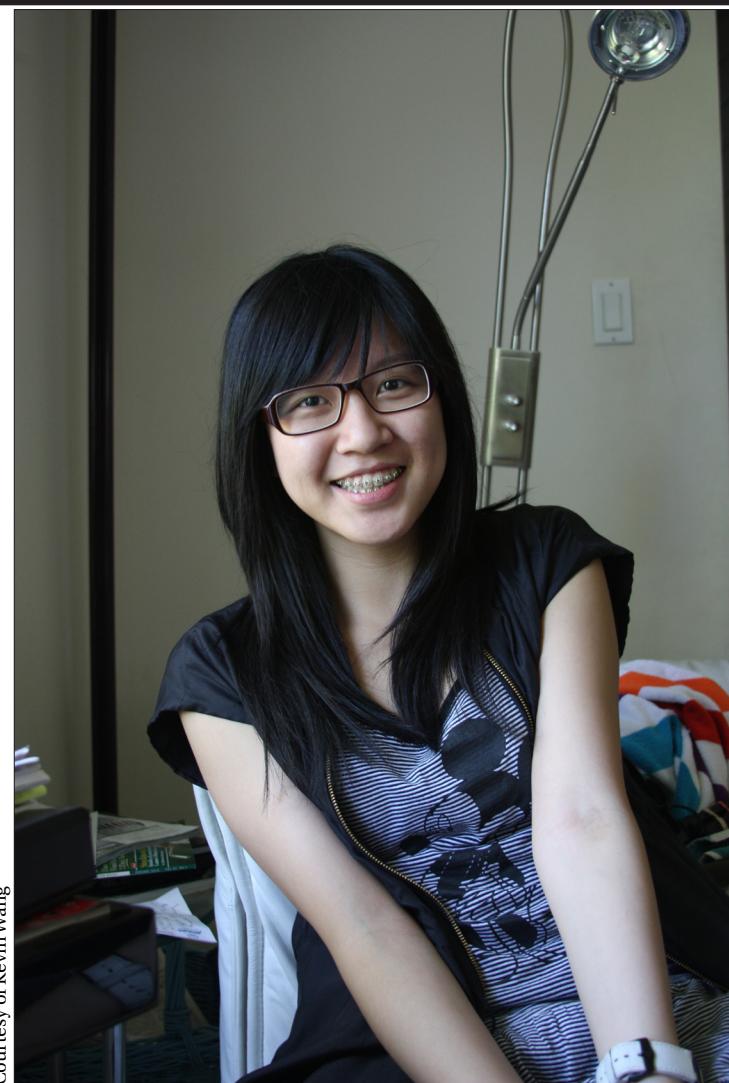
"Next year, we hope to put study skills into all classrooms. For example, specific subjects can

"It has good intentions but it doesn't achieve its goal at all."
—Austin Ostro, freshman

hold five to ten minutes of study skills discussions every day for the first two months for freshmen," Wang said. "We could also take half of the freshmen from a lunch period to receive study skills to compare to the freshmen who did not receive study skills."

"I'm sure that these are not the only students who have difficulties when they come to Stuyvesant. There might be other students who need the extra support," Sklaroff said. "It's a positive program, one that's needed. It's one that, in the end, will show us the effort was worthwhile."

"We saw a definite correlation last year between students in the class and grades, and hope to see a similar correlation this year. Running it again next year would be a good idea," Bigelson said.



The Stuyvesant community mourns the loss of sophomore Aileen Chen, who was hit and killed by a car while biking on Saturday, June 4. She was a wonderful person, and will be missed by students and teachers alike. The Spectator will honor her family's request not to publish further information regarding her passing.

Bierig Wins Teacher Who Makes a Difference Award



Biology teacher Roz Bierig won the annual Teacher Who Makes a Difference award for the second time.

**By ANNIE CHAU
and MADHURIMA CHOWDHURY**

Many high school students who are focused on their own busy schedules are oblivious to the hard work of their teachers. However, senior Faheem Zaman did not forget the commitment of his Advanced Placement (AP) Biology teacher, Roz Bierig, when he recommended her for the annual Teacher Who

he was selected as one of eight winners of the 2011 New York Times College Scholarship, which will cover the tuition for four years of college and provide him with mentoring and summer employment.

Zaman was unable to comment due to interview restrictions placed by The New York Times.

The winners of The New York Times College Scholarship Program recommend a teacher for the award Teacher Who Makes a Difference. Bierig won the award for mentoring Zaman, who won The New York Times Scholarship.

Both times that Bierig won this award, she was recommended by one of her AP Biology students. The first time she won was in 2002 when Ayana Morales, who is now a pediatrician, nominated her.

"It is an award that a student chooses [to give to] somebody that influenced his or her life," Bierig said.

Other students in Bierig's AP Biology class also value her as a teacher. "She dedicates a lot of time to her students. In the weeks leading up to the AP test, she holds long review sessions after school. She has a great sense of humor and often tells the class funny stories relevant to whatever topic we are learning," senior James Thompson said.

The award holds great importance for Bierig. "I was very excited and very honored and I still am and I will be forever," Bierig said. "I am ecstatic. I was so honored that I cried."

However, she feels that the award is not just for her. "Faheem has had many wonderful, dedicated teachers here in Stuyvesant that have affected him as well, so I accept the award on their behalf as well."

Bierig and Zaman attended the award ceremony, held in The New York Times building on Wednesday June 1, where they both received plaques. "It was a beautiful dinner, very elegant," Bierig said. "It was a very meaningful night because a lot of the students who won have overcome a lot of hardships and adversity in their lives in one way or another and have proven their academic achievements. It's a wonderful thing that The New York Times does."

Zaman was selected from a pool of thousands of applicants for

"She has a great sense of humor and often tells the class funny stories relevant to whatever topic we are learning"
—James Thompson, senior

the scholarship. "He's an academic scholar. He is a brilliant young man who's excelled in all of his subjects here in Stuyvesant [...] He has wonderful characteristics. He is like a sterling character," Bierig said. "He's a wonderful young man that I have really spent a lot of time with talking to after school, and I also mentored him in the Bio Olympiad for two years. Last year, he came through and took the semifinal exam, and this year as well."

The other seven scholarship winners and the educators they nominated were also at the dinner. Bierig pointed out the variety in the type of teacher students chose. "Sometimes it was a guidance counselor. In one case—very interesting—was a fourth grade teacher whom this student selected. So it goes to show the value of a teacher," Bierig said.

Being a teacher is very important for Bierig. "Teaching is a very special profession and I keep teaching year to year, even though I should be retiring, only because I love what I'm doing, because I really feel that I love the kids and that they touch my life as much as I touch theirs," she said. "Faheem has touched my life in a very special way, not just the award [...] I was very proud to have him as a student."

The Stuyvesant community mourns the loss of sophomore Aileen Chen, who was hit and killed by a car while biking on Saturday, June 4. She was a wonderful person, and will be missed by students and teachers alike. The Spectator will honor her family's request not to publish further information regarding her passing.

Crush Lists Torn Down By Administration

continued from page 1

about and creating, shouldn't have been torn down," senior Kathy Lin said.

Yang agreed, saying that Teitel "could have tore down only the tap lists or given us two minutes to take them down ourselves, because a lot of people put hours of work into their lists."

Other students stated that Teitel's actions were a result of the negative media influence surrounding last year's scandal.

"For a man who clearly wants to be perceived as unwavering and authoritarian, Stanley Teitel sure buckled quickly to the threat the New York Post apparently poses," senior Matteo Battistini said. "His trembling at possible negative publicity is unbecoming of a grown man."

Lin believes this will leave a bitter taste for the class of 2011. "By tearing down these crush lists, Mr. Teitel has given most of the senior class the impression that the administration of Stuyvesant solely cares about how the media portrays the school."

Junior Brenden Collins agreed. "The whole controversy was specifically about the 'I'd Tap That' sections, so if he had to tear any

down he should have kept it to the ones with that phrase," Collins said. "They never explicitly banned

"Mr. Teitel has given most of the senior class the impression that the administration of Stuyvesant solely cares about how the media portrays the school."

—Kathy Lin, senior

crush lists, so he really had neither the right nor the need to tear all of them down."

Teitel has stated that he sees no problem with the crush lists themselves, but is placing a restriction for next year: crush lists are not allowed to have the "I'd Tap That" lists or other offensively named lists on them. "I am hopeful that the class of 2012 will be smarter, though students tend to have short memories," Teitel said.

"The majority of the Stuyvesant population, especially the seniors, deserve some degree of independence," said junior Charles Bagley, regarding the change. "The crush list is truly a tradition that has happened every single year I've been at Stuyvesant, and both my siblings participated in it. It was a major part of their Stuyvesant experiences, and I know that I won't get the same experience as either of them next year, which makes me sad."

"I love what I'm doing because I really feel that I love the kids and that they touch my life as much as I touch theirs."
—Roz Bierig,
biology teacher

Makes a Difference award, which she won for the second time.

Zaman nominated Bierig after

"I can't spend my day reading each list as it goes up to make sure everything is appropriate."
—Stanley Teitel,
principal

News

Advanced Placement Mandarin and Japanese Exams No Longer Offered



Ms. Guan's eighth period AP Mandarin class.

continued from page 1

fact that the exams will not be

"Colleges have placement exams that trump the results of an AP exam."
—Chie Helinski, Japanese teacher

offered gives teachers an extra month to teach interesting material. "Personally, I hate to teach a class for an exam," Helinski said. Now, she suggested, she can spend more time on the culture of Japan and other parts of Japanese that she wishes to teach.

Despite the assurances of the administration, the absence of the exams is changing students' minds about taking the courses. When asked if he would take the class even though there is no exam, sophomore Michael Yee, who is currently taking Mandarin, said, "Probably not, because it's a waste of time to take a class for

four years without taking the AP [exam]."

Helinski tells students not to worry about receiving college credit, which is a concern for many students. "Colleges have placement exams that trump the results of an AP exam," Helinski said. "I expect 90% of the kids to still take the class," she said.

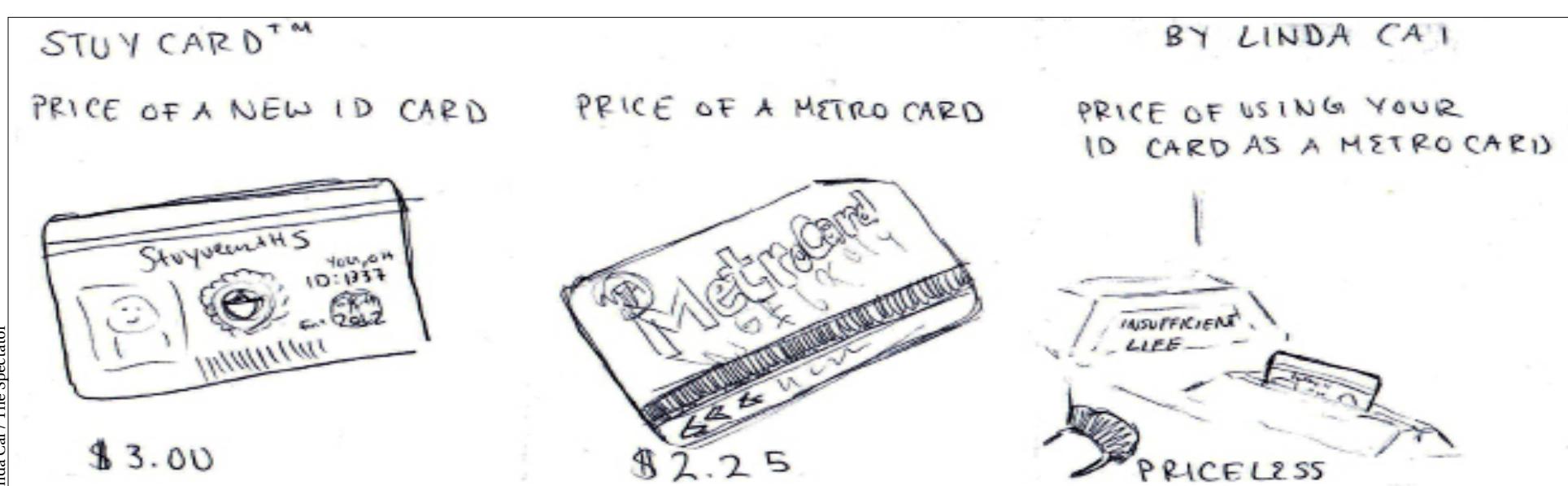
Chinese teacher Fan Guan is more doubtful. She says motivations change, and kids might prefer to take classes that will better suit their applications if not their knowledge of the language they are studying.

Looking forward to next year, the students who will be taking AP Mandarin or AP Japanese will be the first to experi-

"It's a waste of time to take a class for four years without taking the AP [exam]."
—Michael Yee, sophomore

ence the new version of these classes. What will happen? "We'll have to watch what the kids do," Guan said.

Cartoon



Students Excel in the Jewish Heritage Essay Contest

By MIRANDA LI and GEORGIANA YANG

Inspired by Jewish traditions and values of spiritual and cultural awareness, Stuyvesant High School students participated in the 28th Annual Jewish Heritage Essay Contest, sponsored by the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools.

"The beautiful thing is that it promotes diversity, open-mindedness, and gets people to think about themselves [and] their backgrounds."

—Michael Waxman, social studies teacher

The competition is divided into elementary, middle, and high school sections. In the elementary and middle school sections, there are first to third place winners, and the high school section also has a fourth place winner.

Approximately 60 students from Stuyvesant entered this competition. Students placed first, third and fourth place in the high school division. Over 130 students from all five boroughs and grades participated in the essay contest.

"A nice thing about this [contest] is that even though it's sponsored by [a] Jewish [organization], it is open to everyone. They want people from every background," Social Studies teacher Michael Waxman said. "The beautiful thing is that it promotes diversity, open-

mindedness, and gets people to think about themselves [and] their backgrounds."

The students were given a choice from nine topics: Tikun Olam, a meaningful experience that creates a considerate human being; the impact of music on the spiritual feelings of teens; a favorite Jewish holiday; a memorable experience that affects attitudes towards Judaism; a reflection on the effect that a Bar/Bat Mitzvah has on the rite of passage into adulthood; the personal impact of immigration; being a student in a multi-cultural environment; standing together to combat racism, prejudice, and discrimination; and the impact that the Holocaust had personally.

Waxman gave his students this opportunity, acting as the representative between the school and the organization. "This year, the freshmen were all very enthusiastic about the contest. There was a lot more participation and they were very eager and willing," he said.

Freshman Matthew Dalton won first place with his composition, "Throwing the Ball Back." His piece on 'Tikun Olam' was about "a mentor program called Best Buddy, in which we had one-on-one sessions with autistic kids. My essay was about how our bonds grew through spending more time together," Dalton said.

Placing third was freshman Irene Elias with her essay, "My Reflections on the spiritual impact my Bat Mitzvah experience had on my rite of passage into adulthood." "My essay discussed my Bat Mitzvah in Israel, and how it changed me spiritually," Elias said. "This competition was particularly easy for me because I had a personal connection with what I was writing about," she said.

Tying together for fourth place were Freshmen Megan Wong and Pollob Das. Wong's piece, based on an earlier work, was titled "Tikun Olam: Life Lessons." "I wrote about [how] when I was little, I wanted a doll that I couldn't have and the life lessons that I gained from my mother," Wong said.

The Awards Ceremony was held on May 12th, at the office of the Honorable Charles Hynes, a Brooklyn District Attorney. Students, parents, teachers, and principals were all invited

to the ceremony. Hynes gave each award winner a Certificate of Merit and a monetary prize. The first place winner received \$100, second received \$75 and third received \$50. Each award winner read an excerpt from his or her piece to the audience. Additionally, all participants from Waxman's class received a Certificate of Merit from him.

This competition has left an impact on all of its participants.

"It forced me to think about how I live my life. I really appreciate the experience and I got to reflect on my heritage and values."

—Irene Elias, freshman

"It forced me to think about how I live my life," Wong said. "I really appreciate the experience and I got to reflect on my heritage and values."

Dalton agreed, and believes that participating in the competition was very rewarding. "The people there were nice and formed a close community. I also enjoyed reading my essay," Dalton said. "It has made me into a much more accomplished writer," he said.

The confidence that the winners gained from this competition has inspired them to continue writing. "I have joined two or three other contests in my life, but never won until this one. It was really nice to get an award for my efforts," said Elias. "After all, writing is a big part of my life."

Features

Bridging the Gap

By JENNY FUNG

For many Stuyvesant students, the only destination after high school is college. However, some students decide to take a detour in the form of a gap year before they continue their academic journey. Alumnus Jeffrey Roman ('10) participated in a volunteer program that allowed him to build a medical center in Honduras. This coming year, senior Rebecca Temkin plans to spend her time in Israel learning about the country's politics and history. Similarly, senior Aia Sarycheva is deferring her college acceptance to study German culture and language in Europe for a year. All three made their decisions in search of something than only the real world, outside the classroom setting, can provide.

Jeffrey Roman ('10)

After spending a year doing various volunteer work and traveling abroad, alumnus Jeffrey Roman ('10) will be starting college this September. Roman chose to take a gap year after evaluating his college options and deciding that he wanted a different academic career. "I did not want to commit to the colleges I was admitted to, so I kindly rejected their offers and decided to apply during my gap year. I saw the gap year as an opportunity to develop aspects of my life that are difficult to foster in an academic setting. For me, these were service work and my life of faith," Roman said.

Roman participated in a one-year full-time volunteer program called Special Task Force (STF). "It's a 501-c3 non-profit for college-age youth of the Unification Church, primarily for faith-building through service. I was referred to STF by my father, after he heard that another Stuy graduate was having a great experience in the program," Roman said. The program focuses on character development, service work, and the development of faith. It helps participants attain leadership skills by holding fundraisers, discussion groups, and workshops. Overseas service work is an important part of the program, and it is used to teach participants the process of healing and unity under God. Their faith is further strengthened through programs held at the Lovin' Life Learning Center in New York City.

Roman spent the first three months of his gap year at the Lovin' Life Learning Center, which is part of Lovin' Life Ministries. "I helped to organize community programs like Open Mic Night, ballroom dance classes, and personal improvement seminars. I also spent time organizing weekend events with the United Nations, Women's Federation for World Peace, and the Universal Peace Federation. In a few galas, I gave ballroom exhibitions, with other

STF members, in front of dignitaries and leaders in the effort toward world peace," he said.

He then went to Nueva Flores, Honduras for three months to build a medical center as part of his overseas service work. He and his fellow volunteers stayed at the local's house and "would wake up to the sound of roosters, take cold showers with buckets, and sleep with mosquito nets over our heads. The living conditions were humble, but that did not deter us from working on the medical center," Roman said. "We did everything with the community: work, play, eat, talk. I am grateful to Sra. Ubieta and the foreign language teachers, who gave [me] the skills to communicate with the locals in Spanish. In time, we all felt like family, even though we came from different parts of the world. The medical center was quickly established, and it now services the townspeople of Nueva Flores and nearby villages."

Afterward, he traveled across America from Seattle to Miami to fundraise for the next group to go overseas. He set up charity events and asked local businesses and residents to donate. "We were received very well, and we raised over \$600,000 in funds for the next few service projects," he said.

Roman believes that his experience with the Special Task Force was invaluable. "It helped develop my character and renewed my determination and focus for my next years in school," he said. It also led him to establish different life goals, such as obtaining a Ph.D. in bioengineering and having a large, loving family. "It gives a greater sense of purpose and fulfillment in life, especially when taken in the context of being a global citizen," he said. His added that his service at Honduras allowed him to support the "global family" and made him further appreciate his opportunities in the United States.

Now that his gap year is coming to a close, Roman is getting ready for college. With the help of Stuyvesant faculty, he reapplied during his gap year, believing that gap year experiences such as his own give "colleges a better sense of your character, aspirations, and initiative," he said.

To all the students wary of taking a year off of school, Roman said, "There are many who don't think well of taking a gap year, but it can be a very fulfilling experience that better prepares you for the future, both in college and in life."

Rebecca Temkin

Like Roman ('10), senior Rebecca Temkin is also participating in a religious gap year program. She was involved in Habonim Dror North America: The Labor Zionist Youth Movement since she was ten and has participated in many of its summer programs. Next

year, she will be part of a nine-month program called Workshop 61. She is part of the schichvah age group and will "spend the first four months living on a kibbutz, a communal settlement, taking Hebrew language and history courses, participating in seminars, meeting other Jewish groups from around the world. We then split into three groups and move into apartments in cities like Akko or Carmiel, and work in schools teaching English," Temkin said. Participants will also get to explore their destination and have a "one week trip to Poland, where [they] will learn about the youth resistance during the Holocaust." The goal of the program is to foster leadership skills and prepare students for future leadership roles.

Though the program is sponsored by a religious group, religion plays a minor role. "The program's emphasis is on history and Israeli politics rather than religious studies. Religion is obviously a huge part of Israel's history, but the point of the program is to teach us how, as Jewish youth, we can help our communities through leadership and education. Something that a lot of people don't know about Israeli culture is that the majority of people are fairly secular," Temkin said.

Temkin chose to take a gap year "not because [she] is not ready for college, but because [she] is ready for an educational experience outside the structured institution [she] is used to," she said. In addition, she has enjoyed her time at Habonim Dror, through which she has "helped plan and run activities and seminars during the year for campers. We do holiday parties, ice skating, Shabbat dinners, and educational activities."

She is still unsure of her goals in college and hopes that her gap year experience in Israel will inspire her. "I am also not exactly sure what I want to major in college, which I know is fine, but maybe in Israel I will discover something that I am very passionate about and decide to make it my career. Again, I don't really know, but why wouldn't I want to find out? I love learning. I'm in no rush to grow up," Temkin said.

Temkin's parents are in favor of her decision, since many of her relatives actually participated in the program. "My older sister also went on Workshop, and even my dad and my uncle did the same program when they were my age so this movement and the program both run in my family. My parents have full faith that this program will benefit me and enhance my education," she said.

"If you have a program or some plan in mind, there is no better time than after high school to explore and travel and experience things that you never have before," Temkin said. "I feel lucky that I have this program, or else I might not have taken a gap year."

Aia Sarycheva

For senior Aia Sarycheva, taking a gap year was a decision she made after she was accepted to two travel abroad programs. "It wasn't a conscious decision. I just found some really cool programs that took up a year. Initially, I wanted to go to Japan for a year but there weren't many programs for that, and then I found NSLI-Y and [CBYX]," Sarycheva said.

NSLI-Y, which stands for National Security Language Initiative for Youth, is a program created by the U.S. Department of State that provides scholarships for high school students to travel abroad and study foreign languages. According to the programs Web site, the department "offer[s] summer, semester, and academic year language programs in Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Persian, Russian, and Turkish countries." The goals of the program are to advance student language skills and better the relations between the United States and the countries involved in the program. Though the program is geared toward high school students, high school graduates may partake in it during a gap year. Sarycheva took advantage of this opportunity and she decided to apply, especially since she was interested in studying Korean. She was selected as a semifinalist and was contacted in January for an interview, after which she was accepted into the program.

However, Sarycheva will not participate in the NSLI-Y program next year. She rejected the acceptance in favor of another program called the Congress-Bundestan Youth Exchange Program (CYBX).

CYBX is basically a program that has an exchange between German and United States students to better the relations between the two countries. There is a high school component in which you go to Germany and stay with a family for a year and also attend a German high school. The program that is for gap year students only is called CYBX Vocational. You do language study for a couple of months, half a year of high school and half-year internship in an area of your interest," Sarycheva said.

CYBX provides a full scholarship for students to attend school for a whole academic year in Germany. The program is subsidized by the United States Congress and the German-Bundestan, but the program is designed and carried out by the Nacel Open Door Inc., a foreign exchange agency. To apply for this program, students need to be nominated by their high schools. They also have to provide recommendation letters and write multiple essays. "The German one had around ten essays: how do you deal with new experiences, how do you deal with conflicts. It really just wants to test how you are going to

handle travel aboard without your parents and dealing with stressful circumstances," Sarycheva said.

The reason Sarycheva chose to participate in the Congress-Bundestan program instead of NSLI-Y is CBYX's focus on older students. "This program treats you more like an adult. You can travel to other countries in Europe and hold an internship at a German company, and you get to stay out [at night] for a longer time. THE NSLI-Y program is a high school program and just a high school program. Students there are [age] 15 to 16 so [the program] can't allow students to go out, stay out really late, or travel to other countries," Sarycheva said. The CYBX program is also more suitable for her interest in the field of international affairs. "I really wanted to go Korea, but I decided it would be better to learn a European language if I am going to be in foreign relations," Sarycheva said. In Germany, she will hold an internship related to international relations, international business, and law.

After she confirmed that she was going to spend a year in Germany, Sarycheva notified her college and asked for a deferment. On the subject of college credits, Sarycheva said, "Check with your own college whether about their policies on gap year. Many colleges actually encourage taking one. I don't think I get credit on this, but again, it depends on the college. But I am doing this more for myself, because if I end up really like German culture and language, when I get to college I can skip a year and learn advanced German literature or some other class."

A common concern about gap year programs is that students might not return to college afterwards. However, Sarycheva is confident that she will go back to school. "If you want to go to college and are excited about the college you got into, but also want to take a gap year, then you should. But if you are not interested in college in the first place and use gap year as an excuse, then it might not be a good idea," Sarycheva said.

Sarycheva is excited to go to college, but, at the moment, she is more excited about spending a year in Germany. "Especially here [Stuyvesant], I feel like we are on a track that we have to do everything we are supposed to do and we forget to go out there and try new things. I am definitely excited about it. I mean, I am scared, but I am excited," Sarycheva said. "If I have the opportunity now, why not take it? Especially after a rigorous academic career, I want to take a year off just to pursue something I want to do purely for just the heck of it and not be tied down by any expectations." Next year, while the majority of Stuyvesant's seniors study in American colleges, Sarycheva will be attending a German schule.

Focus on the Little (Stuy) Things

By ARIELLE GERBER

"189. The sand on the stairs of the bridge during winter."

"122. Sneakily using the elevators after school."

"211. Being distressed because the library is closed due to AP tests and you can't print out your damn homework."

To the average Stuy kid, these are all familiar sights and experiences, compressed into one concise half-sentence. Scrolling through the pages of "Little Stuy Things," a tumblr run by an anonymous sophomore, more small, recognizable wonders, humors, and annoyances can be found.

The tumblr was started in April of this year. The first post referred to the constant breaking of Stuyvesant's escalators. Over 200 posts, 150 comments, and hundreds of page likes later, the tumblr has joined the ranks of stuybash.org as a go-to source for user-submitted observations on Stuy "as long as [they're] accurate. Or not even accurate. Just somewhat related to Stuy," according to the Frequently Asked Questions section of the site.

The site, while receiving mixed reactions, is a common destination for Stuyvesant web surfers. "I read it, because at the beginning, it was just really funny and seemed cool.

But things got a little bit ridiculous and now, I read it since it's just there," freshman Carolyn Fisher said.

"I can relate to a lot of it," junior Vasia Patov said. "I'm sure that ev-

**"I'm sure
that every
single note
can relate to
somebody."
—Vasia Patov,
junior**

pected, many of the comments are mean-spirited or demand to know the identity of the tumblr's manager. However, the still-anonymous maker engages in as little of the drama as possible. The typical response to a mean post is a .GIF or image with a sarcastic comment usually meant to express exactly how little the maker cares. In one such post, a commenter sent a link to an imitation of the posting style of the site, saying "when sophomores think they know everything about stuy."

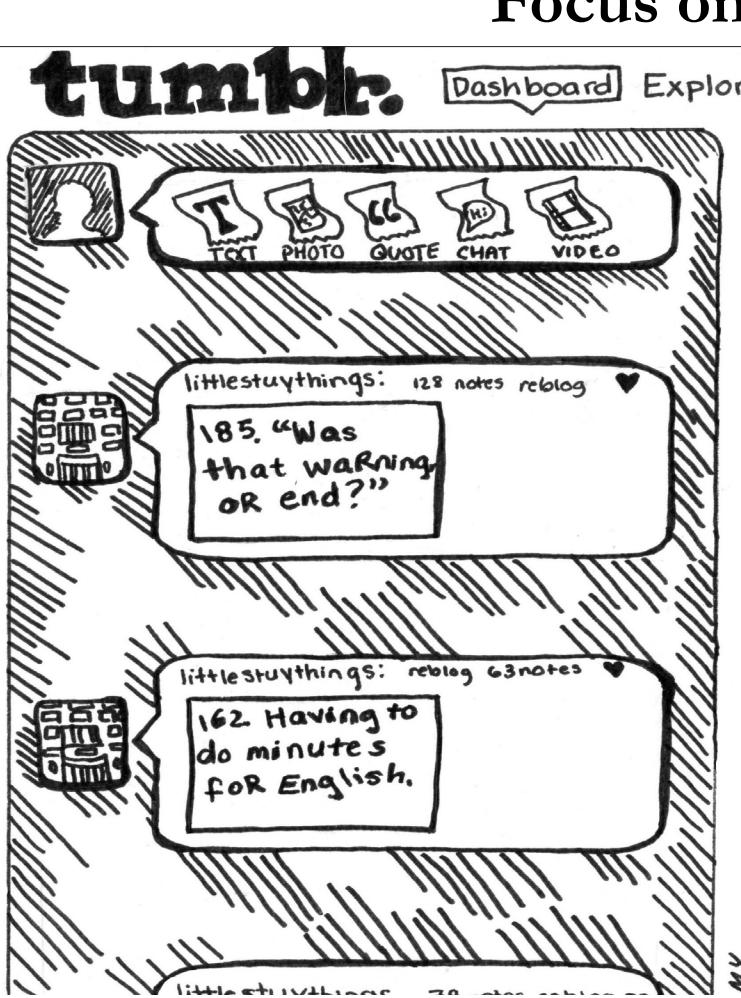
The maker responded with an image of an empty box, with text reading "Oh look at that ... I'm all out of [expletive] to give."

To preempt further drama, the tumblr is accompanied by a disclaimer insisting that the blog is just for fun and is not meant to be taken literally or cause offense. The disclaimer specifically tells certain news entities known for publishing negative stories about students at Stuyvesant to "calm your [expletive]."

"The scariest thing is, we are the future," the description says. But in a school so heavily focused on the future, it's good to focus on the little things that make the present special every once in a while, or at the very least, weird.

every single note can relate to somebody. You can't know all the teachers, after all."

With great popularity comes great drama, and, as can be ex-



Features

Andrew Wong: Transcending the Vietnam War



Joann Lee / The Spectator

Andrew Wong, technician.

**By TASNIM AHMED
and KAVERI SENGUPTA**

In a small niche on the second floor, beyond the chaos of teenagers bustling through hallways and the chatter of teachers and students, sits Stuyvesant Technology Support Andrew Wong by his computer. While Wong usually operates from behind the scenes, his history and life experiences mirror the stories students may find in a history textbook or a movie. He lived through the Vietnam War, which proved to be a big impediment to his life.

During the beginning of the communist regime in China, Wong's father fled from China to Saigon, Vietnam, because Communist China greatly limited people from embracing opportunities or living independently. His family moved to a more stable life in Vietnam, though it too presented difficulties. "In communism, nobody has any possessions, not even their own life," Wong said. Though Vietnam had been in the midst of economic decline and political strife since the 1900s, it seemed to provide more freedom for Wong and his family. His father had only two months of formal schooling, and

his mother was illiterate. However, his father made a living as a carpenter and later became an interior designer. Wong recalls that he was discriminated against because he was Chinese, and his family was striving to make a living despite such hardships.

As a child, Wong remembers he had only one or two pairs of shoes a year and a few pieces of clothing. His family could not afford to buy toys, so he resorted to making his own. He compares his childhood with the childhood children in America often take for granted. "I only had books to read, and not much else for entertainment," he said. "I read a lot of philosophical things." One of his favorite stories was The Dream of Butterflies, an old Chinese tale, which he says helped him keep moving forward. "It is another Vietnamese story written in Chinese. I read three languages: Vietnamese, English, and Chinese. The story is about a poor peasant who sells salt. Nobody is buying it. Under the hot sun, he gets hungry, thirsty, and tired. He sits down under the tree and falls asleep. When he's sleeping, he dreams he is a butterfly, so he becomes happy. He asks himself, 'Am I myself or am I a butterfly?'" Wong said. "Life is

sometimes very harsh and tough. If people have nothing, sometimes they feel better, maybe not. You know in the old days you don't have things to distract you. You imagine you can get yourself out."

At a very young age, Wong suffered through living in a country in war. "I lived in Saigon, which is now Ho Chi Minh City," Wong said. Vietnam was heavily bombed by the United States, defined as "carpet bombings." Often, it was difficult to distinguish between who was friend and who was foe, because enemies, Communist soldiers, dressed like civilians. "Life in war is not comfortable, you never know what tomorrow will bring. Everything is always changing, it can drive a person to insanity," Wong said.

Wong graduated from high school in 1970. "School was very happy for me. My father had to pay for me to go to school. It was very expensive. I had to study Vietnamese, English, and Chinese. I'm very lucky. I'm the only one in my family who finished high school," Wong said. He described that one reason his siblings did not attend school was that it was unnecessary. "If you have a business mind, you can make a lot of money. My brother is a successful interior designer, and he never went to school," Wong said. Shortly after graduating, Wong was drafted into the South Vietnamese Army, although he was disinterested in war. However, because Wong was very skilled in technology he was sent to the city of Vung Tau to study English and technology. While there, he met John Bookhardt, an American soldier who would become his teacher. Many American soldiers were often suspicious of Chinese residents, but Bookhardt and Wong became good friends. During their farewell, Wong presented Bookhardt with a Vietnamese-English dictionary, and Bookhardt gave Wong a Bible in Vietnamese.

Wong was then transferred to Danang, but Communists overran the city and subsequently Wong fled back to Saigon. There, he became a street vendor. After being accused of being an American spy, Wong was taken by a soldier into a prison camp. At the prison Wong faced dehumanizing conditions including abuse and malnutrition. For over a year Wong worked for ten to twelve hours until he was released. "In any country, if you lose the war, you get tortured. I did not do anything wrong; I was a technician. Holding a gun is not in my nature. It is not in my nature to kill. However, if you are a loser, you become whatever they [the winners] say you are. Eventually, they didn't find anything I did wrong. I stood up for myself internally, no matter what they thought of me. Even if they beat me, I stood up. I said no," Wong said.

Finally, his father spent his life savings of ten ounces of gold to help Wong escape from Vietnam

by boat. The trip was extremely dangerous. Pirates attacked several times, stealing the refugees' only possessions, raping the women, and even robbing them of their compass. When it reached shore in Thailand, the Thai Coast Guards sent them back to sea.

Wong's long and treacherous journey finally came to an end when his boat reached Thai shores once again with the help of a fisherman's navigation through the use of stars. "I lived in a refugee camp in Thailand for about 2 months. In the camp, I didn't have many relatives to send money to me. Good thing I learned English. A lot of people are eager to learn English. I collected one dollar for each hour. In total, I earned about 300 to 400 dollars," Wong said.

After a few years, Wong, given precedence because he had worked with Americans, moved to the United States. "I have experience on the open sea. The Thai Coast Guard, they raped the

United States was not without difficulty, but his attitude remained positive. "Like Darwin said, you need to evolve," Wong said on becoming accustomed to the U.S. "You cannot swim against the current flow, you will die and run out of energy. I appreciate American society for giving me the chance to relive in society. I can give my story to the younger generation so they can learn."

Wong's daughter, Stuyvesant alumnus Tiffany Wong, was four years old when she answered a phone call from Michael Rosen, the group director for Systems and Technology at the New York Times, offering him a job. He cites her as the reason why he obtained the job. "I worked with the Camex advertising system, which was a complex computer system. I was very good at it, plus I had a degree for electrical engineering," Wong said. His daughter also had a sixth grade teacher who was interested in Wong's story. He knew he had lived through the Vietnam War, and asked him to present to his class. Wong was then laid off from his job as a technician for the New York Times, where he had been working for nine years. When his daughter received admission to Stuyvesant, he found that Stuyvesant has a large Asian population; he then asked principal Stanley Teitel if he could work as a translator or interpreter assisting guidance counselors or parents. He did not earn much money at this position, but did not really mind. "I have a passion for people. I did translation for the guidance office, and translated documents in Chinese. I believe that helping other people at my age is very good. It's not about the money anymore. When Communists took over, they had tons of paper money. It didn't mean anything anymore. I had to live in a Communist country for 34 years."

He also began to fix computers for the school, resulting in him gaining the position he has at Stuyvesant now: technology support.

Though his life now is incredibly different from his previous one in Vietnam, the memories still remain strong in Wong's mind. "In my childhood, it was all at war. You walked on the street, and it was not guaranteed you would live your life the next day. We lived day by day. You never knew if tomorrow would come. Most of my lifetime was spent in Vietnam," Wong said. "You have to have a heart for other people to carry on. Sometimes a bomb doesn't work." It is clear that his experiences in Vietnam are a large part of who he is today. His ability to forgive those who harassed him in Vietnam is amazingly apparent. "In order for you to survive, you must forgive first to look forward. The greatest part of humanity is to forgive and forget. Nobody has a perfect life. Sometimes they didn't do it on purpose," Wong said.

**"It is not in
my nature to
kill... I stood
up for myself
internally,
no matter
what they
thought of me."
—Andrew Wong,**

Is Math REALLY Number One?

3

Number of broken clocks

4

Number of classrooms with-
out working TVs

1

Number of broken computers

14

Number of broken desks

JUNE 10TH, 2011 ON THE 4TH FLOOR

Thanks to juniors Claire Adams and Libby Dvir

Features

Will You Go With Me?

**By LIBBY DVIR
and BEBE LEGUARDEUR**

The end of every senior year is marked by a night of glitz and glamour. Girls shine in their prom dresses with tuxedoed partners by their sides and dance the night away. Prom is a high school tradition that students across the country eagerly await, planning and preparing for months on end to ensure a night filled with fun and excitement. At Stuyvesant, while a lavish prom night at the Waldorf-Astoria is certainly the moment seniors have been looking forward to, much of the enjoyment for some comes from the touching and unique prom proposals they craft. Here's a look at some of the particularly impressive "promposals" students have made this season.

Eddie Cytryn and Jaimie Meyers

A month prior to Cytryn's proposal, Meyers played a trick on Cytryn, fastening the lock on his locker backwards, which made it especially difficult to unlock. In revenge, Cytryn locked his backpack to Meyers's belt loop and walked away, leaving Meyers stuck with a heavy bag bolted to her body. She decided to get back at him with another prank; when Meyers saw that Cytryn had temporarily abandoned his book bag one day, she "skinned" it—she removed all its contents, turned it inside out, and put the contents back in. When prom season came around, Cytryn "essentially did the same thing and locked [his] bag to her again, except [he] put

a bouquet of flowers in my bag, so that when [he] told her to try and skin [his] bag now, she found the flowers," Cytryn said. To top it all off, Cytryn personalized the flowers by adding a photo of Bill Hader's character, Stefan, from one of Meyers' favorite shows, "Saturday Night Live," and wrote under it, "Stefan really wants you to go to prom with Eddie." "It felt really nice to be asked, especially in a cute way that wasn't like really showy, but was just clever and funny," Meyers said. "That's the way to do it."

Felix Handte and Yana Azova

When senior Yana Azova accepted longtime boyfriend Felix Handte's invitation to sail with his family in the Caribbean, Handte knew the vacation would be a perfect opportunity for a prom proposal. Anchoring near a small, secluded island the Handte family had visited on a previous trip, Azova and the Handte family went below deck to change into swim attire. "When I came up, Felix and his dad Malcolm had already taken the dinghy [a small boat used to get from a large boat to shore], because Felix wanted to get a photo of something, and he could not wait," Azova said. "At least that's what his mom, Janis, told me." When Azova and the rest of the Handtes finally reached the island, Janis Handte, who was in on the proposal plan, told Azova to go get her son, who she said was probably on the other side of the island. "When I saw Felix standing at the far end of the island staring down at the

sand, I realized what was happening, but up until then I had no idea. I jogged over to him and in huge letters dug out in the sand and outlined with coral, were the letters P-R-O-M and a question mark," Azova said. "I felt elated, excited, and euphoric. I was beaming." Hand in hand, the couple made their way back to the other end of the island.

**"I felt elated,
excited, and
euphoric. I was
beaming."
—Yana Azova,
senior**

Gabriel Hwang and Disi Chen

When senior Gabriel Hwang sang a One Republic song as is his prom proposal to girlfriend, senior Disi Chen, he had, as the song said, "All the Right Moves."

"I wanted to do something musical, because I'm a musician, and I'm very performance oriented," Hwang said. Hwang, the lead guitarist in his band, had been giving Chen his versions of the songs she requested for a while, and when she asked for "All the Right Moves," he thought it would be the perfect song to sing for his proposal. Ironically, on the day of the performance, there was some confusion as to where the performance would take place; when Hwang was on the second floor, Chen was on the tenth, but by the time Hwang reached the tenth floor in search of her, Chen had gone down to the second. When they finally reunited in the second floor atrium, Hwang and his friends rolled in a cart with all their instruments. A crowd gradually formed and, "I pulled her [Chen] in front and started playing," Hwang said. At the close of the song, Hwang asked Chen to prom. To a chorus of "Aw" and a ring of applause, Chen said, "Yes," before the couple embraced.

Shilpa Agrawal and Konrad Surkont

As members of Stuyvesant's outdoor track teams, senior Shilpa Agrawal and junior Konrad Surkont were both at the Manhattan Borough Championships on Saturday, May 21. Knowing that Surkont would win his event, the 1600-meter Run, Agrawal went up to the announcer and asked if she could announce Surkont's win. After the second place finisher was announced, Agrawal broadcasted Surkont's time and

first place finish over the loudspeaker and then said, "Konrad, I have a question: will you go to prom with me?" The stadium erupted in applause as Agrawal walked over to Konrad and gave him a homemade cake that said "PROM?" Agrawal admitted that proposing to Surkont in such a manner was "definitely a very scary thing to do, because it was so public." However, "it was very exciting," Agrawal said. "It was definitely a lot of fun."

Emily Martin and Shuwen Qian

Both senior Emily Martin and Shuwen Qian are huge fans of the television series "Arrested Development," a show about the dysfunctional Bluth family that aired on Fox from 2003 to 2006. For his proposal, Qian decided to borrow an idea from the series. In one episode of the show, G.O.B. (Will Arnett) tries to show his nephew George Michael (Michael Cera) a card trick; G.O.B. tries to guess the card George has in hand. When he guesses wrong however, he says, "Well, I guess you won the shirt off my back," and opens his shirt to reveal another wrong card. Qian did a re-enactment of this card trick, except instead of taking off his shirt and having a card on his chest, he wrote, "Will you go to prom with me?" on his undershirt and gave Martin flowers. "I was very surprised, even while it was happening. For some reason, I had no idea what was going on," Martin said. "And it was very unique."

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Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

The Problem with Teacher Recommendations

Toward the end of every school year, juniors strive to fulfill an important part of the college application process: teacher recommendations. Most colleges require applicants to submit at least two letters of recommendation from their teachers in order to demonstrate academic ability, work ethic, and the individuality and personality of the pupil. Ideally, the teacher recommendation should be an aspect of the college application process that helps students; even those who are less academically successful get the chance to show colleges what makes them special. However, at Stuyvesant, obtaining these recommendations presents a daunting challenge to many, and even once they have secured a teacher to write a recommendation, many students receive a generic letter lacking in content, uniqueness, or accuracy, one that in fact could hurt their chances of being accepted to their dream school. The issue of teacher recommendations affects every Stuyvesant student during his or her time in high school, and something must be done to ensure that in the future, each and every pupil can obtain recommendations that show the colleges who they really are.

Many students often have trouble finding a teacher who is willing to write a recommendation for them. Because writing letters of recommendation is not a service required of Stuyvesant teachers, teachers can refuse to write any. This puts students who have classes with those instructors at a heavy disadvantage; even pupils who excel in a particular subject never get to make that success part of their college applications. Some teachers say that because they are not required to write recommendations, doing so would just mean more work for them, with no incentive. While these points are valid, if every teacher at Stuyvesant used such arguments and refused to write recommendations, no student would be able to apply to college. Teachers, regardless of their current obligations, must take up the mantle of writing recommendations for their students.

Because so many teachers refuse to write recommendations, the ones who do are often overloaded with requests. There is no standardized time period during which students may ask teachers for recommendations, so many become locked out of getting one from a particular teacher, no matter how well they might have done in his or her class. Furthermore, those few teachers who do take on a substantial amount of recommendation letters are officially prevented by the administration from working on them as given no way of working on them during their preparatory periods. While it is understandably difficult for the administration to come up with a system of incentive, there is absolutely no reason why they should present this hindrance to a necessary component to every student's college application.

These limiting factors lead

some teachers write recommendations on a merit basis, having students apply to them for recommendations; while this is clearly fair, students who may not have achieved very high grades in a class may be passed over, despite how hard they might have worked.

Others, especially in the math and science departments, never really get to know their students, and therefore cannot write a compelling testimonial on the pupil's behalf. This also hurts shy students, who may not participate in class or speak to the instructor as much as others, but could do very strong work academically. Also, many teachers write very generic recommendations that vaguely discuss the student's aptitude in the subject, or maybe citing some of the student's grades in the class. Even more appalling is that some simply tell students to write their own recommendations, promising to sign and submit these. Putting aside the questionable nature of these actions, this also leads to poor recommendation quality, which of course, hurts the student in the end.

Even teachers who are willing to write recommendations are often not trained in doing so, and are unable to effectively communicate their opinions of the students. While a workshop was held earlier this year to instruct teachers on how to write recommendations, teachers still have little or no practice in writing these documents. Because few people aside from the teacher and the college ever view letters of recommendation, teachers who do not write good ones are rarely held accountable. In addition, for many of Stuyvesant's teachers, English is a second language, and while this may not be true for every teacher who grew up speaking another language, some may not have enough of a grasp of the English language to effectively, eloquently, and expressively tell colleges about their students.

Students who, due to programming, are stuck with teachers who do not write recommendations, or who write ones of very poor quality, are incredibly disadvantaged in the college application process, for no valid reason. The administration has a duty to help each student with his or her college applications equally, and because of this, changes need to be made in the way that letters of recommendation are dealt with at Stuyvesant.

It's hard to fix a broken system, but it's even harder to forge one that wasn't there in the first place. Creating a better college recommendation process requires a more efficient communications network, which would allow students, teachers, and guidance counselors to stay on the same page when it comes to writing recommendations. Too many teachers operate on a first-come, first serve basis, automatically disqualifying some students from being considered. This is partially due to the mixed messages sent out by college counselors and teachers. Some counselors

urge students to begin inquiring about recs in the beginning of May, while others adamantly ask them to wait until June.

To curtail this problem, a clear set of instructions regarding college recs should be posted on the Stuyvesant website, along with a standardized request system that would ensure that no students fall through the cracks in the process. If all the student requests of a specific teacher are documented, the administration will be able to set a minimum number of requests that need to be fulfilled by the teacher in question. This number could not, of course, be uniform across the board, since some teachers receive significantly more recommendation requests than others. However, it is imperative that all teachers do everything they are capable of in aiding their students in the college process.

But even with an improved request fulfillment system, the question of recommendation quality still remains. Mandatory workshops on the subject can go a long way in making sure that teachers write unique recommendations of sufficient length for every student. However, it is important to remember that sometime workshops can often do more harm than good. The last one, for example, gave many teachers the impression that college recommendations weren't all that important and that students worry about them for no good reason. This point of view is unacceptable. It undermines the effort pupils put into their applications and devalues the work some teachers already put into crafting fantastic recommendations.

Guidance and college counselors can also be a big help in improving recommendation quality. If teachers knew that their work was to be read by other faculty members, they might think twice about writing a single generic paragraph. While it is impossible to expect guidance counselors to look over every single recommendation, it's perfectly fair to ask them to randomly select one out of every twenty recommendation for proof-reading. This would not only result in better quality of recs, but also allow for those teachers who refuse to put any effort into the process to be held accountable.

Stuyvesant students have enough to worry about when it comes to college applications. Essentially, they must present themselves to a group of people who have never met them, and somehow convince those people of their positive academic and personal qualities. Teacher recommendation are supposed to augment that description, adding invaluable insight that only a teacher who has watched the student learn and develop can give. Pupils should have to wonder whether they didn't get into the college of their choice because of an inadequate recommendation. To ensure that, changes have to be made, and they have to be made now.

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

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of the
Student
Body"

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The Spectator

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A Note to Our Readers:

The Spectator will now accept unsolicited Op-Ed pieces written by outside students, faculty, and alumni. These columns, if selected, will be published in The Spectator's Opinions section. Recommended length is 700 words. Articles should address school related topics or items of student interest. Columns can be e-mailed to specreaderopinions@gmail.com.

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

FOR THE RECORD

- In the article "Stuyvesant Students Sweep Armenian Genocide Essay Contest," it was mistakenly stated that junior Sam Levine criticized the American government. In his essay, he only talked about the importance of universal recognition of the Armenian Genocide and the effects this might have on society.
- In "Columbia Professor Dr. James Yardley and Graduate Students Speak About Nanotechnology," published in Issue 13, Salima Bahri is an undergraduate student at Barnard.

Opinions

Why Does it Matter?



By AZRA TANOVIC

Skimming through emails on my BlackBerry on early Thursday, May 26, I quickly scrolled to the most promising one—the Google News update. The first headline immediately caught my eye as I, stunned into silence, smiled—Europe's most wanted fugitive, Ratko Mladic, had been arrested. Unable to fully believe it, I stared quietly, blinking at the fluorescent, white screen of my phone. It seemed almost too good to be true; one of the major officials in the war from which my family was forced to flee was now being put on trial for the atrocities he had committed. Almost cautiously, I clicked the link.

Mladic, 69, was arrested in a chance raid on his cousin's estate. After 16 years on the run, the well-armed fugitive was taken away from his home in Lazarevo, Serbia without any resistance. However, during his decade and a half as a fugitive,

Ratko Mladic in no way kept a low profile, often making completely undisguised public appearances at weddings, soccer games, and other events—considerably bold behavior for a man “hiding” from international authorities for the abominations he had committed in Bosnia nearly two decades before. Now, after having been charged with 15 counts of genocide, including charges regarding his involvement in the infamous Srebrenica massacre, a very ill Mladic awaits his trial.

Although this event does bring a level of closure to victims of the Bosnian genocide, myself included, it rings hollow in a way, because this news comes 16 years too late. The almost two decades that Ratko Mladic spent living freely were marked by trying events in the lives of thousands of Bosnians; many became stateless refugees overnight. My family members, among countless others, found themselves in exactly that situation in 1993. Expelled from the country with nowhere to go, they made their way to America where they faced everyday trials of resettlement and refugee life. Even though my family was able to quickly adapt to the new life, the fact remains that all of our life paths were pushed out of their normal trajectories, as we still remain displaced due to the war.

As a Bosnian-American, I can't help but notice that many Americans have not heard of the war in Bosnia, a matter that irrevocably altered the lives of millions of people. Even in Stuyvesant High School where we rightfully pride ourselves in remaining up to date on socio-political issues, certain topics still remain overlooked. Due to various factors, such as time constraints, the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina receives little attention in our classroom dis-

cussions. I would go as far as to say that some of our students would not even be able to locate Bosnia-Herzegovina on the map. I mean this literally; many of the maps in our school neglect to acknowledge the breakup of Yugoslavia, which happened 20 years ago.

Stuyvesant students' ignorance of socio-political issues is only apparent when in regard to certain matters. Recently, this ignorance was particularly highlighted by the general reactions of our student body to the captures of two infamous individuals—Osama bin Laden and Ratko Mladic. The fatal capture of the former generated a lot of traction among Stuyvesant students. Days after his demise, bin Laden was still a prominent conversation topic both in our school's hallways and our classrooms. In contrast, the arrest and ultimate extradition of Ratko Mladic seemed to merit very little attention. Both Osama bin Laden and Ratko Mladic targeted and terrorized innocent civilians, so why then did their respective captures illicit such different levels of reactions among our students? The general indifference exhibited by our student body to Ratko Mladic's arrest is an indication that we may not be as well informed as we say we are.

In a school that prides itself on its intellect and its students' abilities to analyze difficult political situations in classrooms, how did we fail to acknowledge the importance of certain situations in both a global and educational context? The omission of certain topics in our daily discourses is leading to an overall intellectual degradation of our students; many remain oblivious to such momentous events as Ratko Mladic's capture.

The Return of Big Brother

By ADAM SCHORIN

I arrived at the hotel in Xian, China. Staving off exhaustion, I opened my computer and logged into the hotel's Internet. “Google.com” redirected to “www.google.com.hk”, where I typed into the query box: “Tiananmen Square Protests.” Chinese Google returns one million fewer results than American Google. I clicked on the top result -- a Wikipedia page. To my distress, an error message appeared: “This webpage is not available.”

I returned to the query page and tried “Jasmine Revolution.” This time no results appeared and I was confronted with the same error message. I tried to log onto Facebook, YouTube, Megavideo. All returned the same error. I open Wikipedia – a site that exists marginally in China. With increasing frustration and exasperation I searched, “Censorship in the People's Republic of China.” My computer responded with irony: “This webpage is not available.”

These disturbing observations led me to an unpleasant truth: Modern China is a country built on hypocrisy. The national government, for one, claims to be communist but has made its fortune through capitalism. The word “luxury” was recently outlawed in Beijing, a city rife with Porsche dealerships and Armani outlets. A country of skyscrapers and high-speed trains, a country that leads the world in annual economic growth, a country that boasts of freedom and modernity, is still living in 1984. Indeed, as I was confronted by error page after error page, it was impossible not to think of the Orwellian nightmare.

China is not a third world, pseudo-legitimate, war-torn regime; it's an economic powerhouse and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council – China is supposed to be a model nation but it has the same level of freedom as Rikers Island.

Against a backdrop of repression, however, some noble citizens have spoken out against the constrictive governmental policies, the best known of whom is Ai Weiwei. An artist and political activist, Ai has long been an open opponent of the CCP. Ai is probably best known for designing the Bird's Nest stadium for the Beijing Olympics and for taking a photograph of himself giving the middle finger to the Forbidden City. But, like Orwell's protagonist, Winston Smith, Ai was eventually silenced. On a bright cold day in early April, just weeks before I arrived in China, Ai Weiwei was arrested by the national police while attempting to board an airplane in Beijing. His whereabouts have not been released, and the government has yet to inform the public of his condition.

The CCP has tried to justify these brutal and unfair techniques by claiming they are the reason for the country's current economic success. However, as *The Economist* argued a few months ago, Chinese capitalism has been successful because it is capitalism, not because it is Chinese. In other words, the country's archaic social policies are not benefitting the economy, but the adoption of basic human liberties would help both Chi-



Sofia Pidzirailo / The Spectator

na's people and its prosperity. This change will likely not come from within China – as I've said, any opposition to the government has been repressed. Change has to come from outside. If the other world superpowers do not take a stance against the Chinese government, the CCP will continue to exploit the freedoms of a strangled nation. The world, and its population, has a moral responsibility to defend human rights, but China has yet to be confronted by any external powers.

A country of skyscrapers and high-speed trains, a country that leads the world in annual economic growth, a country that boasts of freedom and equality, is still living in 1984.

Unfortunately the United States, for one, owes China a multi-billion dollar debt and, as a result, has thus far been silent about the corrupt rule. If the U.S. wants to live up to its role as a superpower and UN Security Council member, however, it needs to confront the Chinese government from within the United Nations. If other powerful nations were to demonstrate Ai Weiwei's courage and audacity by challenging China's oppressive regime, the People's Republic of China will have a chance to become an actual republic. If not, the reign of a tyrannical Big Brother will continue unabated.

And believe me, I too thought Big Brother was just a thing of the past. But it turns out he never really left.



Hana Yampolsky / The Spectator

The Solomon Column: A Clarion Call



By DANIEL SOLOMON

Predicated on personal liberty, political freedom, economic fairness, and social justice, liberalism is an ideology that is quite easy to apply to the issues of our day. On the basis of these four basic tenets, I have arrived at many positions that fit squarely within the progressive mainstream. Reproductive rights? Yes. Censorship? No. Social safety net? Certainly. Educational inequity? Absolutely not. However, I have parted company with my fellow liberals several times, sharply disagreeing with their answers to some of America's most vexing foreign policy questions.

Indicative of this split was my break with the left-wing on the subject of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Liberals like President Obama and his cohorts have treated Israel and the Palestinians as if the two parties were equally responsible for the interminable impasse over a peace deal. They have called for the Jewish state to return to its 1967 borders, indefensible lines that existed before the improbable coda of the Six Day War. They have sought to emphasize the supposed suffering of the Palestinians over the security needs of Israel, an attitude that extends beyond the leftist leadership

to the grassroots. Feminists lambast the Jewish State, gays hoist “Queers for Palestine” signs in pride parades, and human rights organizations release reports savaging the Israeli military.

To the honest observer, the multiple layers of hypocrisy are apparent and can be peeled back quickly. Historical evidence casts a great deal of doubt on the Palestinian land claim. It also shows us how the Arabs have thrown away opportunities to create a State of Palestine multiple times—in 1937, 1948, and 2000. My progressive comrades can try as much as they like to create a moral equivalency between Israel and the Palestinians, but one simply doesn't exist. The Jewish State is a vibrant democracy that stands up for human freedom; a prosperous nation that is committed to the rights of all of its citizens--no matter their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. The Palestinian leadership, on the other hand, comprises one current terrorist organization and one former one.

With whom should American liberals side? They should speak out for Israel, especially the legions of liberated women and members of the LGBT community who are largely despised across the Arab world.

So why is this not the case?

The disconnect can be chalked up to moral relativism, a philosophy that treats human rights like a Western invention, justifies horrifically backward cultural practices, and requires liberals to abandon their traditional values and defend those who do not share them. It's a corrosive way of looking at the world—there is no right, no wrong, no objective truth. Besides the West's betrayal of Israel, there is further evidence that the rot of moral relativism has spread. In France, the birthplace of “Liberty, Fraternity, Equality,” leftists have vociferously attacked a ban on the Muslim full-face veil, a symbol of oppression that runs counter to the egalitarianism we liberals claim to cherish. In England, there has been talk of allowing Sharia law, which is as misogynistic as it is archaic, to be used in resolving disputes between Muslims.

Things weren't always like this. Before the Vietnam War in America and decolonization in Europe, leaders spoke with stunning moral clarity. Franklin Roosevelt recognized the existential threat that Nazism posed to the Western world and went to war to protect our civilizational values. Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy unyieldingly defended democracy around the globe in the face of Communist encroachment. Lyndon Johnson fought tirelessly for civil rights, turning aside arguments that segregation and discrimination were parts of the Southern way of life.

Progressives need to replace their moral relativism with moral clarity, they need to supplant the equivocation of Obama with the surety of Roosevelt. Today that means standing with allies like Israel, countries that are engaged in battle with the violent political ideology that is Wahhabi Islam. It means that we cannot coddle those who would trample on the rights of their people. It means recognizing that in a free society citizens must sometimes be forced to be free.

Opinions

Reading Rejuvenated



By OLIVIA FOUNTAIN

For me, the subway ride is no longer a place for listening to music, browsing through AM New York, or napping. Increasingly, it's become a time for me to read, frantically flipping through pages on my morning commute in an effort to reach the page assigned in last night's English homework. With my workload, reading for fun has taken a back seat – the way back seat, in fact. I don't think I've read a book that I picked out on my own since spring break, but I didn't realize how much I've missed it until my English class tackled *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, about a month ago. For the first time all year, I found myself really enjoying a school book, looking forward to discussing it and eagerly awaiting the next chapters. *Dorian Gray* reminded me how fun reading really can be, but it has also made clear to me a serious issue plaguing Stuyvesant students: we don't read enough. I don't read

enough. I don't appreciate books enough. School has turned reading into a chore, something to do in the few minutes before the late bell, lest there be a quiz in English later that day. Novels have become merely a weight in my backpack, a thing I associate with essay writing and school. It's a sad state of affairs, and steps should be taken to fix it.

In middle school, I loved reading. I didn't need TV or videogames – prepare for the cliché, here – I had books to keep me company. Gag all you want, but I know that was the case for many teens nowadays. Then high school came along, and with all the homework-ing, internet surfing, and TV-watching I found myself doing, books slowly made their way out of my daily routine. Reading became confined to the novels we were reading in English. Now, on weekends, the time I would have spent buried in a book is replaced by time on the computer. Facebook is great, but does it really have the same value as a good read? For the most part, the answer is no.

I think that one of the main perpetrators in turning books into more of a chore is the choice of literature that we read in class. If the class is reading a book the students don't enjoy, and if that book is the only thing we are reading for a given stretch of time, I, for one, begin to resent the activity in general. Once I've finished the required chapters for the night, I'm so sick of the volume that the idea of reaching for another one doesn't seem very appealing. But how can we fix this? I think the English curriculum should become a little more flexible, so students get a chance to vote on the books that they read. That way, they are at least skimming

something they are more likely to enjoy, making nightly reading less of a bore. Who knows, maybe we'll all be choosing a good book over computer time in the near future!

Different skills may be required in different areas of life, but a love of reading is important everywhere you go. Actively reading and enjoying what one reads makes a person more eloquent, more literate, and, simply, a happier person. An appreciation for literature is, in my opinion, crucial.

How much I read increases exponentially when I have more free time – that much is clear. With APs barely over and finals fast approaching, it's safe to say that finishing that novel will not be ranking very high on my list of priorities in the coming weeks (or even ranking at all, for that matter!). That is totally legitimate: I love reading, but passing my classes is definitely more important. I worry, however, that this is an excuse we present to ourselves over and over throughout the school year. There will always be something, from needing to finish a project to snatching a few precious hours of sleep to simply hanging out with friends, which seems more pressing than spending some time stuck in a book. With so much going on in my own world, I simply don't have time to get lost in someone else's.

However, it doesn't mean I can't start trying. I've started setting aside time to read on weekends, and I've been revisiting some old favorites to help re-instill that love of reading I miss so much. Summer is on its way, bringing with it the prospect of car trips and plane rides: perfect times to get deep into a book. This summer, don't forget to give reading a chance.

Margot Yale / The Spectator



Cartoon



A Laboratory of Democracy, Not a Police State



By DANIEL SOLOMON

You would be hard-pressed to find someone who would compare the hallways of Stuyvesant to the mean streets of New York City. It would be even more difficult to discover a person who would say that the Broken Windows Theory, which helped crash the crime wave of the 1980s, had any practical application in our school. Yet, there are some security staff who seem to subscribe to this inappropriate and outmoded method of policing.

Over the past few months, many students have had unpleasant experiences with a few safety agents. I have heard of many incidents that disturb and, to a certain extent, amuse me. Even when it had been exceedingly obvious that they attended Stuyvesant, pupils have been denied admission to the building, because they forgot their ID cards. Others have been screamed at for sitting on the seventh floor benches, chastised for talking quietly outside of the library, or threatened with arrest for giving lip to security guards. Several weeks ago, one of the Spectator's editors was treated to a five-minute lecture on the importance of not wasting instructional time after, with the permission of his teacher, he went to retrieve a textbook from his locker.

I do not point to these events to disparage all of Stuyvesant's safety agents, most of whom are valued and kind individuals who form an indispensable part of the school community. Rather, I seek to shed light on the actions of a few bad apples in order to advance one of education's most cherished beliefs that, in the words of the great John Dewey, "schools should be laboratories of democracy." Translating this conviction into reality requires a safety regime based on mutual respect and common sense, not one that increasingly makes Stuyvesant resemble a police state.

Mutual respect, a quality that is integral to the proper functioning of any organization, is completely lacking in the student body's relationship with certain members of the secu-

rity apparatus. Some think that their badges entitle them to talk to pupils in the nastiest and brashest manner, to arbitrarily exercise their power, to bark orders loudly, and to behave like petty tyrants. Quite simply, a uniform isn't license to be rude and imperious. When students are asked nicely to do something, they will often comply. Courtesy, of course, is a two-way street. Pupils have been known to utter intemperate remarks in response to the directives of safety agents, expressing a frustration that might be understandable, but also engendering a resentment among officers that may contribute to a vicious cycle of negativity. To break this cycle, both students and staff should try to be more civil to each other.

Respect is important, but common sense should be the guiding light of school safety. Students should be given the benefit of the doubt most of the time. If someone is trying to get into Stuyvesant, has a backpack on, and looks like a teenager, chances are that he attends the school. If someone is at his locker, he is probably getting a binder for class, not loitering in the hallway. This law of common sense also applies to the administration, which should make sure that the rules it has formulated are not implemented in a hard and fast fashion. Studying on the ninth floor tables or reading on the seventh floor benches is not the same thing as disrupting a class, and security guards should be trained to recognize this distinction. As many have previously stated, certain regulations should be eliminated all together. Some, such as the food-and-drink policy and the prohibition from exiting out the main entrance, are just nonsensical and create unnecessary tension between students and safety agents.

We all desire a secure school environment. However, there are better ways to attain this ideal than the few of which our safety agents have utilized, ways that keep us out of harm's way while remaining true to our values, ways that preserve order while maintaining basic student rights and freedoms.

Michelle Guo / The Spectator

Opinions

A Crushing Blow

By SHILPA AGRAWAL
and HANNAH O'GRADY

About a year ago, we published an article titled "Tapping Some Integrity into the News" that pointed out the journalistic blunders in articles published by local tabloids. We stated that our school would stand up to crass and sensationalist news pieces that have attacked us and our tradition of crush lists. Unfortunately, actions taken by the Stuyvesant administration this year have proved otherwise. On the morning of Tuesday, June 7, Stuyvesant seniors rushed to tape up their crush lists in the second floor atrium where the lists stood on display—for a full two periods. Moments after the start-bell for third period rang, Assistant Principal Organization Randi Damesek began taking down crush lists that she deemed inappropriate. Within minutes, Principal Stanley Teitel joined her and began to violently tear down all of the lists in sight.

While it is true that some content on the crush lists was not tasteful, a quiet cross-out or removal of those specific lists would have sufficed. However, Teitel was spotted ripping down the lists immediately when

Perhaps one of the most insulting aspects of last week's incident is the neglect of the administration to mention or acknowledge the event in any way.

he arrived at the wall. Not only were the crush lists completely innocent in nature, but also held a lot of sentimental value for seniors. Many had stayed up for hours the night before preparing their lists; one created a paper CRUSH soda machine to play on the pun, while another made a paper closet that opened to show a list of names, revealing the student's homosexuality. To see lists like these torn in half was baffling and upsetting to the student body.

Because students were neither warned nor restricted from posting crush lists, we view the actions taken by the administration as unwarranted and unfair. Last year, in the face of deprecating news articles that called the day of posting crush lists day "Tap Day," students were outraged by attacks on a good-spirited, community-building tradition. They were shocked this year to find that the people who were supposed to serve as their mentors and protectors had turned on them as well and had folded in the face of petty attacks from newspapers last year. If the administration had an issue with crush lists, they should have said something about it and faced the situation up front, even if the senior class would

the diary of a mad senior

have been unhappy about it. Instead, the first action taken regarding crush lists was their actual removal and, in many cases, actual demolition; Teitel

least had the courtesy to explain his actions or inform next year's senior class of the repercussions of posting crush lists. Now, rumors are perpetrating the senior grade as to why he torn them down—perhaps because the words "I'd Tap That"—a friendly, joking phrase equitable to "attractive" that was portrayed by local tabloids as an invitation for school-wide sexual relations—appeared on some of the lists, and many seniors talk of rebelling in response. By failing to communicate directly with his students and justify his actions, Teitel has made the community believe that his actions have no rational basis.

As seniors, we would greatly appreciate an explanation from Teitel. We are still high school students who have looked forward to this senior tradition for four years. To deny us of crush lists and other basic rights as students is unfair and will add to the tension between the students and the administration. Unless Teitel addresses the issue and agrees to be more understanding with students, he risks not only leaving a terrible impression on the senior class, but also dealing with outraged students in years to come.

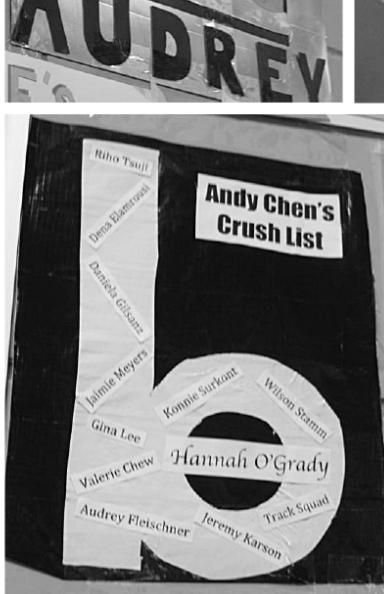
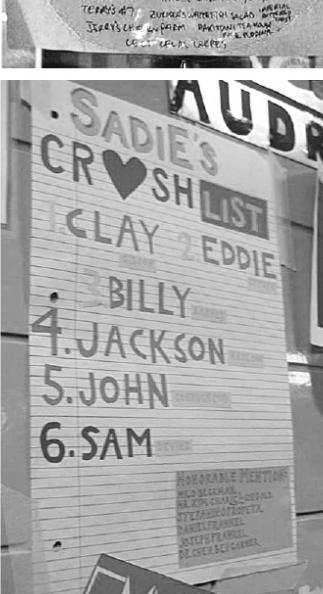
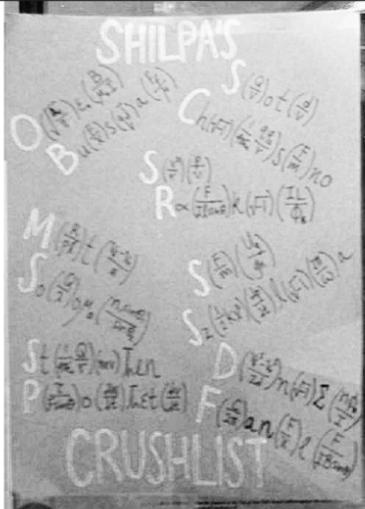
To see lists like these torn in half was baffling and upsetting to the student body.

was spotted tearing the lists in half.

Perhaps one of the most insulting aspects of last week's incident is the neglect of the administration to mention or acknowledge the event in any way. After such a strong reaction to crush lists, Teitel could have at

Crush Lists

By Shilpa Agrawal and Kathy Lin



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Humor

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

Teitel Angered by Exclusion from Senior Crush Lists

By ELI ROSENBERG
with additional reporting by WILSON STAMM

Principal Stanley Teitel, in a fit of uncontrollable rage, viciously tore down the array of senior crush lists, which had been posted on the second floor, on Tuesday, June 2. Teitel's rampage was apparently spurred on by the fact that his

cluded in the past.

"I've gotten at least three 'I'd Taps' every year since I've grown out my beard," Teitel said. "This is outrageous."

Senior Konrad Wojnar was surprised to hear about Teitel's reasoning. "I just thought that they removed the crush lists because my name appeared on them too frequently," Wojnar said.

Despite the confusion as to why the crush lists were taken down, near universal anger has arisen in the senior class as a result. "Teitel needs to realize that he isn't the only one who wants to see his name on a crush list," senior Jack Zurier said. "It's hard to compete with him. I don't think any of us students could grow that kind of facial hair."

The Spectator has received many reports on the tearing down of the lists. Teitel's actions were "frightening, at best," sophomore Everett Ross said. "People could hear his roars from across the building."

"I saw him leap what must have been 25 across the second floor atrium," senior Sara Lu said. "He was foaming at the mouth. I was terrified."

Teitel's actions have not gone without ramifications. "Now I will never know who I could have had awkward sexually charged encounters with," senior Damian Siniakowicz said.

This infamous affair may have struck a blow to the senior class of 2011, but they were not the only group affected. "We are at a loss for words," New York Post spokesman Gregory Steinman said. "Without the Stuyvesant crush lists, we might have to report on real news."

name did not appear on a single crush list, including in the "I'd Tap That" and "Honorable Mention" sections.

The lists are usually put up in the form of creative posters in which seniors note the people on whom they have had a crush in their four years of high school. While the lists mostly contain the names of students, teachers and school administrators have been in-

Extreme Physical Unattractiveness of Student Body Leads to New Dress Code

By JAMES FRIER and WILSON STAMM

Starting in September 2011, students who try to enter Stuyvesant while exposing any skin can expect extreme

The dress code was, according to Teitel, driven by the need to counteract the overall unattractiveness of the student body. "I'm tired of throwing up in my mouth a little bit every morning when I walk through the halls," Teitel said. "Students have gotten more repugnant, repulsive, and repellent every year, and frankly, this excessively revealing clothing is not helping in the slightest."

Many teachers echoed Teitel's sentiments. "Thank god I won't have to see any more backne when I'm trying to teach a class," math teacher Bernard Feigenbaum said. "I find skin conditions particularly distracting, and I have a sneaking suspicion that my other students do too."

However, the new dress code has not gone unopposed. "If I want to show off my salivary, chafing skin at school, that should be my right," said junior Renata Horowitz.

The dress code will also help the security guards in their protection of the school. "We often have trouble monitoring the security footage when all we see on the other side is greasy teenage skin," School security guard Rodriguez said. "I think anything short of a mandated paper bag over the head is cutting it short."

Although most students oppose the new dress code, a small group has expressed support for the new policy. "I can finally sit through a class and pay attention all period without being constantly distracted by girls' exposed shoulders," junior David Vander said. "Although I am a little bit sad that I will no longer be able to impress chicks with my short, backless shirts."

Protests have also been or-

ganized by students to fight the dress code, including a petition submitted to Teitel, and a planned walk-out if the administration does not repeal the dress code. However, Teitel remained adamant about the

"I can finally sit through a class and pay attention all period without being constantly distracted by girls' exposed shoulders."

—David Vander, junior

implementation of what will be the first formalized dress code at Stuyvesant since the infamous "No Hammer Pants" rule, repealed in 1993. "I'm determined to keep the 'class' in 'classy,'" Teitel said. "Or at least to keep my breakfast in my stomach."

Stuyvesant High School Lives Up To Mission Statement

By CHESTER DUBOV

In a rare display of public hubris, the Stuyvesant High School administration announced that the school has succeeded in fulfilling the mission statement outlined online on the school's Web site, at www.stuy.edu. Principal Stanley Teitel made the announcement during a special assembly for parents, students, and alumni, held in the Murray Kahn Theater on Tuesday, May 31 at 6 p.m.

According to the school's Stuyvesant High School Web site, the school's mission statement reads: "The Stuyvesant High School philosophy is that each student is a worthy human being and 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. The

"Nothing makes me feel more validated in my humanity than getting screamed at for doing my math homework on the third floor."
—Jonathan Lessinger, junior

school seeks to provide positive direction in an academic environment that offers the individual intellectual, moral, athletic, aesthetic and social opportunity."

In his speech, Teitel made reference to the text of the statement, in order to identify successful policies that the school has implemented. "Due to our planned improvements to [Technology and Art] course offerings, future students will be offered even greater and more meaningful 'aesthetic opportunities,'" he said. "We believe in a minimalist philosophy: 'less is more.' [I get that this is a reference to the 5Tech thing, but I don't quite get the joke.]

Teitel spoke about the decision to publish the mission statement on the school's redesigned Web site. "The school stands for very concrete and specific values, and we wanted our Web site to reflect that," he said.

"Due to our planned improvements to [Technology and Art] course offerings, future students will be offered even greater and more meaningful aesthetic opportunities."
—Stanley Teitel, principal

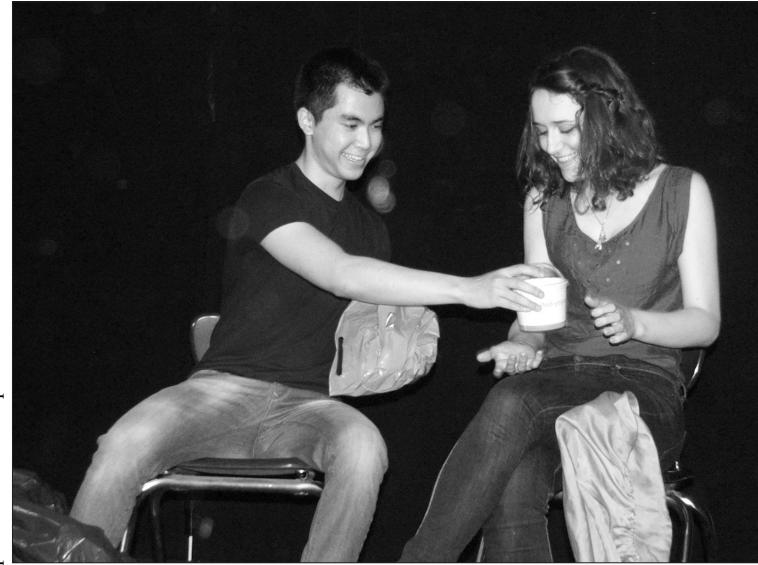
However, according to internal administrative documents obtained by The Spectator, the school's institutional philosophy was articulated in a first draft of the mission statement as "We do everything in our power to keep our name out of the [New York] Post."

Education experts have questioned the validity of the administration's announcement, citing the school's recent "B" grade in the "school environment" section of the data driven city-wide 2011 School Report Card, but students seemed to take the statement for granted.

"Of course we've fulfilled our mission statement," junior Jonathan Lessinger said. "Nothing makes me feel more validated in my humanity than getting screamed at for doing my math homework on the third floor."

Arts and Entertainment

A Fistful of Funny: Hilarity Ensues At One-Acts



Peter Liu (Dr. Horrible) and Clarissa Sorenson (Penny) sharing froyo in Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog.

By JOSHUA BOGATIN
and EMRE TETIK

Laughter bellowed out of the Black Box Theater in room 1025 on Monday, May 22, and Tuesday, May 23, during the annual STC One-Acts Festival. Comprised of four short, student directed plays, the last of which ("The Diner") was written by junior Jeremy Cohen the festival provided a great opportunity to combine artistic vision with stress-relieving comedy. Starting with singing superheroes in "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog" and ending with a psychopathic waiter serving matzoh ball soup in "The Diner", the selections showcased all the colors of the humor spectrum.

Doctor Horrible's Sing-Along Blog

The festival opened with a light-hearted rendition of the smash hit viral video musical "Doctor Horrible's Sing-Along Blog," directed by senior Shuwen Qian. Starring senior Peter Liu as Doctor Horrible, a supervillain smitten by a social worker named Penny (sophomore Clarissa Sorenson), whom he meets at a laundromat, the play follows his journey in winning back Penny after she falls for the cocky, womanizing superhero Captain Hammer (junior Josiah Mercer).

Watching "Doctor Horrible's Sing-Along Blog" was a hilarious experience, as the show mixed so-corny-it's-funny kind of humor with subtle (and, at times, not so subtle) sexual innuendos. In one scene, as Captain Hammer taunts Doctor Horrible about Penny, he says, "I'm going to hammer Penny with something long and hard, and my fingers aren't the hammers." Then, checking that Penny has left

the scene, he turns back to Doctor Horrible and blatantly says, "The hammer is my penis."

The good performances by the cast brought funny scenes like that to life. The awkward exchanges between Doctor Horrible and Penny are characterized by Liu's comically nervous movements and Sorenson's naivety towards her [admirers' pursuit]. But while Sorenson's voice was well projected and powerful, Liu's voice was barely audible, even to the first row. Mercer's singing, though, strongly shot out to the audience, with both his voice and acting radiating a confidence well suited for his arrogant character. In addition to the main actors, the chorus added to the moments of comedy and sadness with its skillful harmonies and full sound.

From the Mouths of Babes

Following the lighthearted performance of "Doctor Horrible" was a dark comedy examining the twisted minds of three murderous preschoolers. "From the Mouths of Babes," directed by sophomore Nabanita Hossain, begins with Dave (senior Simon Ayzman), a troublemaker at Happy Feet Daycare, being reprimanded by his teacher, Mrs. Havisham (freshman Israt Hossain). The show follows Dave's psychological tricks to convince the other students, Kimberly (sophomore Mallory Miller) and Eli (junior Joseph Solomon), to help him plan Mrs. Havisham's murder.

The comedy of the play stems from the way the script and the actors translate serious criminal activity to a preschool setting. In one scene, Dave explains being in time-out. "It changes a man," he says with a disturbed voice, mirroring an ex-convict talking about his prison experiences. As Ayzman says these lines in the play area, he picks up a toy bus with trembling arms and starts repeatedly running it over a Barbie, leaving the audience in an uproar of laughter.

Ayzman's wavering, hissing voice made his innocent and childish toddler character appear demented in a way that was hilarious to watch. Miller's portrayal of a naive child, marked by infantile expressions and delivery of lines in a babyish voice, was also comical, though a little overwrought at times. Solomon's role was not a major one, but he played it convincingly, and Hossain's calm portrayal of the authoritarian Mrs. Havisham was authentic, with brief outbursts of craziness as she tries to pacify her students.

Though dark and deeply disturbed, the childish mindset of these preschoolers adds a different interpretation to the tone of the play. Judging from the riotous laughter of the audience, the darker side of the humor spectrum was very well received.

Woody Allen's Dracula

"Brevity is the sole of wit," junior Benjamin Koatz claimed in his introduction to Monday night's performance of "Woody Allen's Dracula," directed by seniors Ben Garner and Rebecca Temkin. While far from the best play of the night, "Dracula" managed to be short and almost sweet. The play follows the titular character, Dracula, (sophomore Ian Outhwaite) as he arises from his coffin and descends upon the home of a married Romanian couple (junior Lucinda Ventimiglia and senior Keiji Drysdale). Hoping to drink their blood, he discovers that what he thought was nighttime was only a temporary eclipse, giving him precious few seconds to seek shelter before the sun emerges. Finding himself unable to leave for fear that the exposure to sunlight will kill him, Dracula is forced to hide in a closet for the remainder of the day while the couple, the town mayor (senior Nils Axen), and the mayor's girlfriend (senior Jamie Meyers) hold a luncheon.

Outhwaite was wonderful as Dracula, with a near perfect Woody Allen impersonation, taking the classic monster and making him whiny and neurotic. Unfortunately the play fumbles in storytelling, as

it takes a scenario ripe for humor and draws it out past the first few laughs. The first time Dracula fretted over the sun, it was hilarious to see him nervous and distraught. However, as the situation carries on, it becomes tiring to watch Dracula complain about being trapped in a closet for the tenth time.

These problems proved most unfortunate for Ventimiglia, Drysdale, Meyers, and Axen, who were all able to give decent performance, but played characters that were either under-utilized or completely unnecessary. A testament to this is Axen, who provided a hilarious performance with a great Eastern-European accent, but had less than five lines and added little to the play other than the accent. Adding to this lackadaisical handling of plot is the abrupt conclusion, which leaves things unresolved and the audience disappointed. Despite its errors, the play managed to leave a few people laughing.

The Diner

Playing a deranged waiter who creeps out customers with spontaneous rants about how good Jewish people are, sophomore Muki Barkan became the highlight of "The Diner," a one act directed by sophomore Lucy Woychuck-Mlinac and written by co-star junior Jeremy Cohen. While containing little in the way of plot—three friends (Cohen, senior Alex Treitel, and junior Paul Khermouch) try to order lunch from a waiter who may have one too many screws loose—the play shines in its crisp dialogue and memorable performances.

Barkan steals, and at times carries, the scene, leaving the other actors little to do but react. Cohen proved his acting abilities despite the little that he was given, and the other two actors, Alex Treitel and Paul Khermouch came across as weak in comparison. Hilariously written, the script is rife with witty, lifelike dialogue, reminiscent of a Quentin Tarantino movie. With anecdotes about how bacon can become kosher as well as musings on how confusing the word "deceptively" is, the play leaves one laughing continuously throughout.

The direction also does not disappoint, while containing no extravagant staging, Woychuck Mlinac managed to take over the top performances and keep them from becoming too cartoonish. A solid play filled with many fine performances and a great ending for a festival filled with laughter, "The Diner" will leave you wary of waiters for a long time to come.

Bamboozle!

By OTHILLA WLODARCZYK

Piercing arrhythmic drumming and ardent vocals resonated through the air, reaching the ears of thousands of self-proclaimed "number one fans." Apparently unaware of the humidity, the sweat-clad attendees jumped and head-banged in unison, pushing desperately to get closer to their idols as they have done for the past eight years in the annual Bamboozle Festival.

The first Bamboozle Festival, then known as "The Great Bamboozle," was held in 2003. Since then, the highly-anticipated three-day celebration has been held in the parking lot of the Meadowlands Sports Complex in New Jersey. This year's Bamboozle, held from Friday, April 29 to Sunday, May 1, featured many popular bands, including MayDay Parade, Wiz Khalifa, Taking Back Sunday, Plain White T's, We The Kings, Bruno Mars, and Lil Wayne.

Though Bamboozle is traditionally a collection of rock and metal bands, the festival opened up to many more genres of music this year, particularly hip-hop and rap. Two stages were added to the concert area to match the larger audience.

Some first-time attendees had a hard time adjusting to the raucous mood of the festival. "A couple of the sets were too loud for me. I was taken aback by the loudness

"I was taken aback by the loudness and intensity of it all. It was a little too much for me."

—Josh Maulay

and intensity of it all," attendee Josh Maulay said. "It was a little too much for me." Because there were no organized sections for different bands, fans had to duke it out to get to the band of their liking. All hell broke loose when the more popular bands came to perform. The crowds pushed from all sides to filter the weak from the strong. Thus, only the elite few fans made it to the very front, leaving behind a trail of mosh pits.

In terms of performances, Breathe Carolina stole the show. "They are one of the most energetic and fun performers I've seen live, especially in an outdoor festival," freshman Isabel Le said. "The crowd was really into their performance, and there was a lot of hard core dancing in the mosh pits." Lead singers Kyle Evans and David Schmitt made an impressive entrance; Evans came out greeting fans with his adorable pug. They also dove into the crowd numerous times.

Other groups were met with a similar response from audience members. Crowds that came to see A Day to Remember, one of the most popular bands playing at Bamboozle this year, started forming over half an hour before the set time for their performance. As the energy reached an all-time high, lead singer Jeremy McKinnon jumped into the crowd inside an enormous plastic ball. Surfing the crowd while inside it, he continued his striking show.

This year's Bamboozle was an experimental success. Between the chaos and the joy, it was an event unlike any other. For conglomerates of talent and fandom, gathering under the blistering sun was a small price to pay to attend this oasis.

Unearthed From the Slushpile: The Not So Joyful Division

By JOSHUA BOGATIN

Ian Curtis packed his bags early in the morning and set out on his first American tour. Curtis, the lead singer and the vanguard behind the band Joy Division was the face of a burgeoning new-wave musical movement that looked ready to set the 1980's rock world on fire. Unfortunately however, what began as a highly anticipated journey ended in tragedy. The next day before the band left for their tour, Curtis was found hanging from his kitchen rafters and left the Joy Division to die with him. Now, just 30 years after his suicide, the band has become recognized as one of the greatest unsung influences on the modern day musical landscape.

Named after a traveling Nazi brothel, Joy Division mixes the slow riffs of guitarists Bernard Sumner and Peter Hook, both of whom played the bass and synthesizer, and the heavy drum beats of Stephen Morris with the subversive

lyrics of Ian Curtis, taking listeners through the dark side of life. In the song "Love Will Tear Us Apart," the band takes an age-old love song and flips it on its head as they focus solely on the destructive nature of love, which is portrayed through Curtis's haunting voice and bitter lyrics; Curtis sings, "When routine bites hard/And ambitions are low/And resentment rides high/But emotions won't grow/...Then love, love will tear us apart again."

"Atrocity Exhibition" on the band's second album "Closer" takes a much darker approach and is exactly what you would expect from a mentally unstable musician. Sumner's opening guitar riff buzzes like a drill-saw as Morris's heavy background beat gives way to Curtis's hollow voice, which echoes through the track and surrounds you with a sense of claustrophobia. As the lyrics flow, describing numerous horrors, it becomes apparent that Curtis views himself as the atrocity on exhibition. When he sings out the chorus's sole lyric,

"This is the way, step inside," the pain that pushed him into suicide is almost tangible.

"Closer" illustrates the state of Curtis's mind and features many tracks that will leave you contemplating the bleak nature of the world. In the album's second track "Isolation," Morris's beat starts off bland and mechanical, but grows unrestrained as the song progresses. As the song is about to reaches its climax, the beat unexpectedly disappears, only to quickly sneak back in seconds later, mirroring Curtis's life and reemerging presence in pop culture. The three-beat, rapid rata-tat-tat drum accompaniment of "Heart and Soul" provides an almost pop-ish vibe to another demented love-song in which Curtis sings, "Heart and soul, one will burn." In the album's finale, "Decades," a melody is used to provide an almost baroque background to a plodding drum beat, which supplements a tale of the pain that comes with leaving behind youth.

That's not to say the album is all doom and gloom. In the song "Transmission," Joy Division transitions from desolation to a crowd-pleasing radio hit. Hiking the tempo way past the band's down-trodden norm, "Transmission" tells of the solace that one finds through music and the way music can blind one's problems. Mixing disco with depression, the track has an electronic sound that is only enhanced by Curtis' metallic vocals.

No matter what you think of the music, it is hard not to look at Joy Division and ask what might have been had Curtis's tragedy been avoided. The band developed a wholly unique musical style, proving that its musicians were innovators as well as artists. While the group's successor, New Order, was more successful, New Order's songs never reached the same depth. Depressing as the band may be, Joy Division packs a lot into its limited library of songs, and thus, its musical proficiency often rises up from the dead.

Arts and Entertainment

A Few Things We've Covered This Year (With Numbers!)

Simply Eva: 8.5

Famous American cover artist, Eva Cassidy's eighth posthumous album which released this year.

Waiting for Superman: 6.0

An insightful documentary tracing the lives of promising kids through the education system.

L'arte de Gelato: 9.5

Located on 75th Seventh Avenue South, the scrumdiddlyumptious gelato chain is known for its exquisite gelato sandwiches.

Off The Rez: 7.5

A documentary following the life of Shoni Schimmel, an exceptional basketball player and her family's transition from a Native American reservation to Portland.

It's Kind of a Funny Story: 7.0

A movie telling the story of a clinically depressed teenager who rethinks his life after checking into a psychiatric ward.

Angles: 8.5

The Strokes' latest album featuring classic Strokes sound with an experimental twist.

Bronson: 9.5

A movie revolving around a man with an alter ego who serves 30 years in solitary confinement after robbing a post office.

Gourmet Market: 8.5

Once known as "Fake Terry's," this quaint deli is starting to form a reputation of its own.

Jr. Sushi 2: 8.5

Stuyvesant's new go to location for good sushi and bubble tea.

Book of Mormon: 9.0

From the creators of South Park arrives a musical satire depicting the story of two young Mormon missionaries.

Bubby's Pie Company: 9.0

Tribeca's own Bubby's on 120 Hudson St. which has been serving traditional family recipes since 1990.

Radiance Tea House & Books: 8.5

A haven for bookies with a taste for both classic and gourmet tea.

Rubber: 7

The story of a rubber tire with extraordinary telekinetic powers.

Terry's: 8.0

The closest deli to Stuyvesant, one of the most popular go to locations for grub.

The Icee Guy: 9.0

Daniel Castro's humbly delicious icees on Chambers.

Arts and Entertainment

The Icee Man on Chambers Street



Daniel Oliver Castro sells icees on the corner of Chambers Street and Greenwich Street.

By BENJAMIN KOATZ

Daniel Oliver Castro squints into the late afternoon sun, stoic like a statue, letting the hustle and bustle of lunchtime on Chambers Street pass him by. He looks down and grins as he sees a familiar face. "Hey! Coco with Rainbow, amigo?" laughs Castro, a Bronxite who lives near Morris Avenue, as he reaches for his scooper and prepares a medium

cup for the customer who hadn't even ordered yet. They drop into casual conversation as another customer walks up. "Hey Danny!" Castro glances forward, hands the first customer his order and unhesitatingly fills out another, smiling under the shady umbrella of his Icee stand just two blocks from Stuyvesant.

"The Icee Man on Chambers Street," as some refers to him, is a 56-year-old Nicaraguan native who immigrated to America about 30 years ago. His stand is on the corner of Chambers Street and Greenwich Street, and he offers three cup sizes: 3 oz for \$1, 4 oz for \$2 and 5 oz for \$3. His Ices come in six flavors: Coconut, Cherry, Mango, Rainbow, Blueberry and Pineapple.

A father of two and a self-proclaimed entrepreneur, Castro moved from Central America with his second wife to escape political strife and find economic opportunity, leaving his children behind with family.

Castro began his life in the United States as a coffee vendor. As years passed, he consistently searched for any odd job he could find, leading to his eclectic work record as a restaurant assistant, waiter, and factory floor worker. After ten or so years of career-less

wandering, Castro got started in the job he has held ever since: a proud member of the highly mobile street-vendor company called Cocolados.

His ties to the company are loose; he buys his Icee flavors from them daily, puts them in the cart that he rents from the company, and stores it in their garage at a cost. All other profits are completely his own, and his work schedule is unregulated. From late April to about Halloween (generally the hottest days of the year), Castro is basically the CEO of his own small business.

"I love working for my own pay check," Castro said. "This way, the more work I do, the more money I get." He works from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., staying longer on hotter days and often skipping cold, rainy ones. These six to seven summer months are grueling, but necessary, because he has no sustainable income during the winter. "I usually try and find any job I can," Castro said. "But [because of the recession,] I haven't been able to find a [winter] job for the past two years."

Under these circumstances, Castro has to be an astute business owner. He not only works far away from the company headquarters in the Bronx to

avoid rivals, but also refrains from employing people to work other carts for him, realizing that he might then be "creating new competition," he said.

Despite the exhausting work schedule, Castro keeps his customers' satisfaction as his number one priority. Many of his customers know him by name. "Everyday I'm around here, I get an Icee," Jeff Rogoff, a regular customer who works in Lower Manhattan, said. "There is great service, always [...] and it's because of Daniel that I get [the Ices].". Others even order from his car during red lights. Castro jokes that the customers were taking advantage of the stand's "drive-thru service."

Castro is a self-made man, an emphatic consumer of his own product (his favorite flavor is coconut) and someone who has never worked a day without a smile.

"I've always wanted to have a little ice cream shop somewhere where I can have my own location, my own business," Castro said wistfully.

With great service, dozens of regular clients who love him,

and a location right near a high school of over 3000 insatiably hungry kids, he might reach that goal someday.

Castro is a self-made man, an emphatic consumer of his own product (his favorite flavor is coconut) and someone who has never worked a day without a smile."

Sun, Sand, And Stories: Summer Book Recommendations

By MOLLIE FORMAN,
EMMALINA GLINSKIS,
and DAVID KURKOVSKIY

Personal reading time is the first casualty in our four-year long fight for Stuyvesant success. With the number of books we have to read for our English and history classes, it is nearly impossible to find time to read for the sake of reading. However, summer's approach provides a new freedom in what we read. Listed below are books recommended by the A&E staff to help you recover from a long school year.

The Wheel of Time
by Robert Jordan

Totaling over 11,000 pages and currently spanning 13 books, "The Wheel of Time" series can intimidate even the most intrepid reader. A true member of the "epic fantasy" genre, the series crafts a world in which politics and cultures are as complex as ours.

On the surface, the premise seems cliché: naive farm-boy Rand Al'Thor and his friends are told by the sorceress Moiraine, a mysterious member of the magic-wielding Aes Sedai, that they are destined to lead the world in a Tolkienian struggle between light and dark, good and evil. She whisks them away from their sleepy village after an attack by the monstrous Trollocs, agents of the Dark One, in hopes of finding them shelter in the Aes Sedai stronghold of Tar Valon. At the end of the first book, Rand discovers that he is the reincarnation of the man who last defeated the Dark One—destroying the world in the process—and that if he is not killed or driven mad, he is destined to do the same.

Jordan's attention to detail and massively complex plotting bogs down the narrative later in the series, but at the core of every volume is an intricacy and moral ambiguity that few fantasy works possess. Throughout the narrative, Jordan explores the difference between women and men, the fragility of love and alliances, and the seeming inevitability of the encroaching madness that Rand must fight in order to unite the world. It is a disparate world indeed, as all the nations and their peoples have identities that make their lands eerily similar to our own.

The twisting alliances, explo-

sive battles, and mounting sense of doom make it impossible not to devour these books. Even after hours spent working through an 800-page piece of the puzzle, one still always wants more.

Palo Alto: Stories
by James Franco

"Ten years ago, my sophomore year of high school, I killed a woman on Halloween."

So begins actor James Franco's "Palo Alto: Stories," a compilation of rough and vivid stories of troubled Californian teens. A book that is purposefully curt in style, the novel portrays the disturbing, confused, and raw feelings of modern-day youths in a place where movie star media shrouds real, everyday struggles. Franco, a Palo Alto native, spices the novel with hints of his own personal experiences.

The novel is told in first-person by an inter-connected group of misfits who narrate their emotional struggles, regrets, and haunting experiences. Franco's writing is harsh and sharp with Holden Caulfield-esque satirical comments sprinkled throughout. Although some of the dramatic and traumatizing experiences the teenagers share, such as attempted school shootings, might seem far removed from our normal Stuyvesant reality, their craving for love, anger towards authority, and desire for something more than what lies ahead of them are relatable to any reader.

This anthology is a web of deeply intertwined stories; one lonely boy may narrate a few stories, his best friend the next, and a random girl that just happens to be at the same party, another. This creates unexpected and fascinating connections as the book proceeds. Franco's stark short stories may not make for the cheeriest book to read on a beautiful day at the beach, but the thought-provoking and powerfully narrated minds of his unsettling Californian teens will leave anyone—Franco-phile or not—taken aback and emotionally attached to the novel from start to finish.

The Master and Margarita
by Mikhail Bulgakov

A sharp-witted satire on the horrors of the Stalin-era Soviet re-

gime, "The Master and Margarita" is a story of love amidst an atmosphere of repression and stifled creativity. The devil, under the pseudonym, Woland, arrives in Moscow on a blisteringly hot summer day. With his retinue, including a haughty witch, a clever and conceited cat, and a mischievous choirmaster, he wreaks havoc upon the Muscovites, punishing them for their hypocritical ideals. In the midst of this disorder, a fantastical love story is allowed to flourish. The Master, a writer struggling under the limitations placed on Russian artists in the Soviet era, is separated from his lover and muse, Margarita. While the rest of Moscow is torn apart, the supernatural forces of Woland and his entourage attempt to reignite the romance and creativity between The Master and Margarita.

Throughout the novel, Bulgakov's bitterness towards the Soviet regime can easily be seen when he demonstrates the pain an author feels when he cannot write. Through his deep, personal connection with the central character, Bulgakov makes the novel believable, even with the constant air of magic. Descriptions of the supernatural, such as a ball hosted by the devil and the charm of a talking cat, fill the reader with marvel. At the same time, the insightful reality of the text creates suspense, teaching the reader the importance of passion in art—a truly romantic notion.

The Master and Margarita is both a brilliant fantasy and a grave account of a turbulent time in Russian history. The presence of magic in the book keeps one guessing, excited by Bulgakov's manipulation of reality and his dark love story, which create a piercing element of suspense that makes the story an irresistible read.

Jane Eyre
by Charlotte Brontë

No one wants to read a stuffy Victorian classic during the free respite of summer, and luckily, "Jane Eyre" is no musty tome. Despite its reputation as a "classic," the eldest Brontë's masterpiece is as engrossing as any modern tale with a depth of emotion that transcends pieces written in the ensuing centuries.

The heroine could almost be a Dickens character so great is her



tale of woe. Orphaned at a young age, Jane is taken in by an aunt who does not want her and spends her childhood at the mercy of her cruel cousins. Her aunt does not know what to make of this watchful, self-possessed creature and sends her away to a puritanical boarding school where she spends eight years, cold and lonely after her only friend dies of tuberculosis. At the end of this time, she advertises as a governess and finds employment in gloomy Thornfield Hall under the mysterious mastership of Mr. Edward Rochester.

Jane Eyre could be called the godmother of chick-lit, but that is like calling "Jaws" the forefather of "Piranhas 3D." Jane is no swooning damsel, and Mr. Rochester is certainly no Fabio—Jane herself is plain, and she tells Rochester several times that not even magic could make him handsome. What makes this book special is the true magic in their relationship and how it builds from tolerance to great mutual respect to passion. The subtext provides more than a hint of physical desire, but their spiritual need for each other, powerful enough to connect them across the continent, negates any thought of the bodice ripping that usually accompanies a romantic novel—and the book is all the richer for it. In the end, "Jane Eyre" is not a mere romance—it is a love story. Without Brontë's masterwork however, we would hardly be able to tell the difference.

Neverwhere
by Neil Gaiman

A truly modern urban fantasy,

"Neverwhere" mixes an elaborate magical world with the stark realities of the London Underground. Centered on the crumbling life of office grunt Richard Mayhew, the book begins with his fall from his mediocre yet thriving life—which includes going to museum exhibitions with his girlfriend Jessica and entertaining famous company heads in fancy restaurants—to a life of destitution in the sewers of London. His demise begins upon meeting Door, a teenager suffering from her family's violent death. Their meeting induces Richard's exposure to a world of magic, murder, and mystery. Richard becomes invisible to his old acquaintances as he helps Door in her quest to find her family's killer and avenge their deaths.

Gaiman creates a light and arcane fantasy in "Neverwhere." His descriptions of an elaborate, magical paradise beneath an urban world are fun and airy—including floating markets, clandestine animal whisperers, and ethereal angels. Amidst the fantasy however, Gaiman imbues his story with dark subtext, describing how easy it is to "fall through the cracks."

"Neverwhere" is a thrilling novel, both a classic tale of the fight between good and evil in a fantasy world and a penetrating lens into the graveness of city life. One should read it not only to be whisked past the wonders hidden within a large city, but also to witness the sad realities of urban life. In his heroic journey through magical realism, Gaiman paints a powerful picture of the life's complexities—both its looming sadness and ebullient merriment.

Arts and Entertainment

Chaos at a Yard Sale



John Mennell / The Spectator

(left to right) Madeline Emerick, Eliza Mitnick, and Jessie Lawrence play Libby, Summer, and Marilyn respectively in Cul De Sac.

**By THOMAS DUDA,
BENJAMIN VANDEN HEUVEL,
and OTHILLA WLODARCZYK**

On the opening night and world premiere of the STC's 2011 Spring Comedy, "Cul-de-sac," the curtains went up to reveal part of a well-constructed, two-story brick house next to an open lawn filled with tables piled high with junk. The yard setting, complete with actual grass, looked perplexingly like someone had piled up the old, unneeded props from backstage into a chaotic pile. The audience, on Wednesday, June 1, was intrigued.

"Cul-de-sac," (written by Clare Kent, directed by senior Miryam Coppersmith and sophomore Ivy Wanta, and produced by sophomore Neeta D'Souza and junior Brenden Collins), revolves around middle-aged Libby (junior Madeline Emerick) and her husband Pat's (freshman Andrei Talaba) yard sale. The couple decides to sell as much potentially enticing junk as they can find in the hope of raking in some extra cash. Libby develops a heated rivalry with her neighbor, Marilyn (senior Jessie Lawrence), who creates her own massive yard sale, and the two partake in thievery and sabotage to see who can sell the most. The play is sprinkled with a smattering of unusual buyers, who come and go from Libby's yard.

The play focuses on Libby's attempts to overcome the challenges to her sale's success extensively supplied by her menagerie of neighbors. Though this plotline did leave room for lots of amusing gags, it was fundamentally too simple to remain interesting for the duration of the play, and by the conclusion, felt overstretched.

During the course of the per-

formance, Pat and Libby juggle working on their yard sale, appeasing the impatient customers, and sorting out their myriad family problems. Talaba and Emerick remained calm alongside the extremely energetic—and often overbearing—acting of freshman Cobin Allardice as Pookie, their highly confused son who suffers from a condition that is never clearly explained. Pookie crashed around the stage, screaming and throwing fits, and at some points even playing—though it is more aptly described as banging—the piano. As funny as this display sometimes was, Pookie's constant tirades became so over-the-top and unprovoked that they stopped eliciting as many laughs.

Alongside the yard sale hubbub, Libby clashes with her daughter, Haley (sophomore Ellie Abrams), who uses drinking to deal with her disappointment in college, where she struggles to make friends and enjoy herself. Libby tries, and fails, to discipline her child by grounding her repeatedly. Abrams's performance was one of the most memorable, effectively portraying both her quiet sadness and the influence of her alcoholism. Haley's secret crush on her shy neighbor, C.J. (senior Igor Tes), only enhanced the realism of the performance. With their brilliant acting, Emerick and Abrams's scenes together added a much-needed gravity to the play.

Despite the principal actors' talent, the buyers coming in and out of the yard sale were the most entertaining characters, providing the majority of the production's humor. You would be hard-pressed to find a collection of characters more unusual than these, including a confused grandmother (sophomore Allison Geismar) keen

on buying items she is incapable of carrying, an irritatingly frugal buyer (senior Matthew Varghese), a taciturn hunchback (senior Michael Lenci), and a wealthy couple (Geismar and junior Benjamin Koatz) who visit local yard sales in their stretch limo. The humorous eccentricities of these minor characters could have proven silly and unentertaining, had they not been performed with such sincerity and acted with such precision.

Though the play's unique characters provided for a few gags, the play could have been enhanced by more memorable, intricate jokes. The premise itself was highly simple, which allowed the audience to focus more on the individual characters, but also posed problems with regard to the length of the play. With intermission, the play was over an hour and a half long, and the plot was not meaty enough to fill the time. Though the situation was highly entertaining, it took a vast number of insignificant parts and strange disasters to befall Libby and Marilyn to keep the material going, and by the end of the performance, the plot was stretched thin.

One of the most significant flaws of the comedy was its ending. After over an hour of entertaining but slow-paced conversations, Marilyn and Libby begin to plot against each other in earnest. The final stretch of the play is chaotic: a furious Libby and Pat, who find out that Marilyn is stealing their items, spy on and sabotage Marilyn as she creates diversions and continues to steal Libby's items.

The confusion continues until a fire is accidentally sparked. The tech crew portrayed the fire by increasing the lighting and playing a soundtrack of crackling noises. The actors ran around the stage in fright as Libby poured glitter (representing water) on the parts of the yard that were apparently on fire. All of this disaster ensues in the final twenty minutes of the show, a drastic change from its simple opening, and it was incredibly difficult to follow. Furthermore, the issue of the fire was hardly resolved; the play ends with the family deciding to spend their money at the mall. The curtains close, but the play fails to do so properly.

Overall, despite the confusing ending, the well-acted, well-designed production was fairly amusing, and the smattering of odd characters left many viewers chuckling as they exited the madcap theater.

Lounging "Pool" Side, With an Indie Flair



RBC Coffee is located at 71 Worth Street

By NINA WADE

At first glance, RBC Coffee, located at 71 Worth Street (a mere ten-minute walk from Stuyvesant), looks like any other hole-in-the-wall independent coffeehouse. Calm rock music plays from the speakers, while a communal table fills much of the small, cozy space. In the far corner, two armchairs enclose a small side table equipped with fresh flowers and barista magazines. However, it's far nicer than the average counter-cultured coffee shop; the coffee is flavorful, the prices manageable, and the ambience upped by a live video feed of a doggy swimming pool, from which it takes its nickname, "The Dog Pool."

Positioned right above the wall opposite the counter, underneath a TV perpetually set to a news station, is the monitor playing a video feed of a swimming pool. Sometimes the pool is empty, other times, handlers can be seen helping the dogs swim as they paddle around. The video feed comes from Water 4 Dogs, an aquatic rehabilitation center for dogs. Both Water 4 Dogs and RBC Coffee are owned by Jodi Richard, hence the monitor, which is meant to feel "unique and entertaining," said manager Cora Lambert in an email interview.

However, there's more to this café than recuperating puppies. Though there's a distinct lack of specialty drinks, the focus is on doing the basics well, a fact that is evident in the shop's classic iced coffee (\$3.00). It is perfectly bitter, with a warm undertone, and it was recommended by both the manager and the barista as a favorite. The drinks are well-flavored, but refined, without the feeling of having been made heavy-handedly. They

are far better than the overpowering fare that can be found at other smaller coffeehouses.

The iced chai tea latte (\$4.00) has the familiar taste of gingerbread, and the icy cold tempers it, smoothing out the taste and consistency to that of thin milk. RBC's hot chocolate (\$3.00 small, \$4.30 large) is not too sweet, and it is mild enough to drink even in the sweltering heat and humidity of early summer. Served with a thick layer of sweet foam on top, complete with a traditional heart or leaf foam drawing, these drinks are the perfect accompaniments to the relaxed air of the shop.

Yet, beverages are not all RBC has to offer, as the shop's pastries are also good for a quick, albeit somewhat pricey, treat. A small chocolate chip cookie (\$2.75) is moist, but not thick, with chocolate that is melt-in-your-mouth soft, making this treat worth the indulgence. Croissants (\$3.30) of all kinds, from almond to chocolate, are slightly more expensive, and while they are often very good, they can be a little too sweet. However, the flakiness of the dough makes up for this. The chocolate croissants offer the best balance of sweetness, but they are never dry, a problem that faces many common croissants. RBC also offers healthier choices, such as fruit (\$1.25) and granola (\$2.25), if you crave something less sugary.

The overall vibe is, in a word, chill. The volume is low, the drinks mild, and the music never too loud, which adds to the feel of a little corner secluded from the nearby, more bustling neighborhoods of Tribeca and Chinatown. RBC Coffee was opened to bring good coffee to the area, and it is safe to say that it has succeeded in its goal.

Epic Meals

mare, showcasing a delectable smorgasbord of bacon, booze, and unrestrained machismo. The idea for the show came when a friend filmed Morenstein eating a six-patty Wendy's burger containing 18 strips of bacon.

The premise of the series lies in creating fattening junk food hybrids such as a "fast food" pizza, an extra large pizza topped with dishes from KFC, Taco Bell, McDonalds, and Wendy's. Each episode is a narrated guide through the process of preparing and consuming terrifyingly unhealthy culinary creations. The video series has even developed recurring elements: a strong presence of bacon, vigorous Jack Daniels consumption, heavy swearing, and a digital meter at the bottom of the screen displaying the total grams of fat and calories present in each dish. While Morenstein and his food-loving buddies primarily experiment with classics such as mac n' cheese and hamburgers, they occasionally try more peculiar dishes, including turtle meat.

The response to the show has been overwhelming, with nearly

a million views generated by each video. Morenstein, after quitting his job as a substitute teacher, said, "In this day and age, I feel like there's a big emphasis on organic foods or a lot of negative media in regards to obesity and stuff like that. We are there eating this, and viewers are eating vicariously through us," in an interview with ABC News on Friday, January 14. The series has generated so much buzz that the popular techno artist Deadmau5 asked to be featured in an episode.

While being a tour de force of a web series itself, Epic Meal Time has also spawned several spin-offs and parodies. One variant, an excursion in Nordic cuisine called "Regular Ordinary Swedish Meal Time" features university student Niklas Odén cooking food in a humorously violent manner. The show, like "Epic Meal Time," has also come to include several notable characteristics, including Odén's part-Swedish part-English narration, the fierce throwing of foodstuffs, and scenes depicting enthusiastic consumption of mayonnaise.

Another similar cooking show,

"Vegan Black Metal Chef," is well-worth mentioning. Introducing the theme of Black Metal, a Nordic variety of extreme metal, the show juxtaposes well-explained recipes with a whimsically unorthodox presentation. Its host, a chef dressed in traditional metal garb (black leather clothes, spike bracelets, black and white face paint), screams and growls throughout the course of the ten-minute video. As he presents a Pad Thai recipe set to the soundtrack of heavily distorted and dissonant guitars, it is easy to marvel at the production of this video: the ambiance is dark and brooding, with candles set all around, and it is hard not to note the Gothic-looking cutlery with which the chef ferociously chops onions. Though only one episode has been released thus far, the concept seems odd enough to be enjoyable and promising enough to guarantee decent longevity.

It is difficult to say how long this oddball cooking fad will continue. However, while it lasts, we can appreciate it for what it is: the avant-garde art form of manly home-style cooking.



Eric Li / The Spectator

through viral videos on YouTube.

The forerunner of the "Extreme Cooking" movement, Canada's "Epic Meal Time," grew infamous for its depiction of wild eating habits. Described by Harley Morenstein, the series' main player, as a "Jackass in the kitchen," the weekly YouTube cooking show is a vegetarian's worst night-

Arts and Entertainment

July: Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				<p>1 (F) "Terri," the coming of age comedy about an over-weight teen seeking help from his high-school principal and starring John C. Reily, opens in theaters. (M) "Love Etc.," a documentary of five intimate love stories in NYC and winner of the Audience Award at the Hamptons International Film Festival, opens in theaters. (T) "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind," a fast paced show attempting to complete thirty plays in sixty minutes shows at the Kraine Theater at 10:30 p.m. \$17.</p>	<p>2 (O) Harry Potter Exhibit featuring props from the movie at the Discovery Times Square Exposition open until Sept. 5. \$25 (F) "Seven Samurai" from director Akira Kurosawa will be showing at the IFC (Independent Film Center) cinema on 323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street @ 11 a.m. \$13. (M) Sing for Hope Pianos at Pier 1: Sing for Hope, a NYC-based non-profit, will place 88 pianos in parks and public spaces throughout the five boroughs from June 18 - July 2. A symbol of Sing for Hope's commitment to make the arts available to everyone, the Pop-Up Pianos will unite and engage diverse communities throughout the city. From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. FREE</p>	<p>3 (T) "Billy Elliot," a Broadway musical about the life of motherless Billy Elliot, shows at the Imperial Theater at 2 p.m. \$60 when purchased at the TKTS ticket booth in Times Square. (O) "Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty" exhibit features a collection of Alexander McQueen's most intriguing and daring fashion works at the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Exhibition Hall of the Metropolitan Museum(1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street). Open every day from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$10 with student ID.</p>
<p>4 (F) "Easy Rider (1969)," the story of two counter-culture bikers traveling across LA to New Orleans in search of America, shows at the Bryant Park HBO Summer Film Festival. FREE. 8 p.m. (F) Buster Keaton, the king of slapstick and creator of some of the best comedies ever made, is on full display in this retrospective of some of his finest work. Classics such as "Steamboat Bill Jr." and "Seven Chances" provide a great alternative to the gross-out comedies that swarm cinemas during the summer. Every Monday at 7:30 p.m., until August 8, at the Film Forum (209 West Houston Street). \$15</p>	<p>5 (T) "Chicago," a Broadway performance about love and murder in Chicago, shows at the Ambassador Theater at 8 p.m. \$35 when purchased at the TKTS ticket stand in Times Square. Shows are everyday until December. (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the Upper Terrace every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mats provided. FREE.</p>	<p>6 (T) "Jersey Boys," a jukebox musical about the lives of one of the most successful, 1960s rock n' roll groups, shows at the Virginia Theater, through January 2012, at 8 p.m. \$24 when purchased at the TKTS stand in Times Square. (F) "The Social Network" shows at Pier 63 at 8:30 p.m. Free popcorn provided. FREE.</p>	<p>7 (M) Ted Leo and the Pharmacists, a four man band who draft indie pop-punk tunes with a smart politically charged bite, kicks off the Voice's 4KNOTS Festival at 6 p.m. at the South Street Seaport. FREE (F) "Manhattan" shows at the Brooklyn Bridge Park lawn @ 6 p.m. FREE (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the lawn every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mats provided. FREE.</p>	<p>8 (T) "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind," thirty plays in sixty minutes at the Kraine Theater at 10:30 p.m. \$17. Every Friday and Saturday. See July 1 event for more details. (T) "Hospital 2011: Episode One" is the first episode of a four part play revolving around a young grade school teacher who tires of the pills she depends on to control her epilepsy. She accepts the danger of a major seizure, and stops taking the pills. The day after, while up on a roof viewing the skyline, she has an epileptic episode, falls off the roof, and enters a coma. In the coma, she is guided to her end by dream-like characters from her memories, and imagination. At the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6.</p>	<p>9 (T) "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind," thirty plays in sixty minutes at the Kraine Theater at 10:30 p.m. \$17. Every Friday and Saturday. See July 1 event for more details. (T) Episode one of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details.</p>	<p>10 (TV) "Curb Your Enthusiasm" season premiere on HBO @ 10 p.m. (O) French Institute Alliance Française Bastille Day Celebration allows you to immerse yourself in French culture. The celebration on 60th Street between Fifth and Lexington Avenues from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. FREE</p>
<p>11 (F) "Gentleman Prefer Blondes (1953)," following the travels of two singers to Paris, shows at the Bryant Park Summer Film Festival. Free. 8p.m.</p>	<p>12 (T) "Mamma Mia!" at the Winter Garden Theater, through November, at 7 p.m. \$35 when purchased from TKTS ticket stand in Times Square. (M) Opera in the Park: a performance by the Festival Chamber Orchestra of W.A. Mozart's "The Impresario" and Schubert's Unfinished Symphony at Washington Square Park @ 8 p.m. FREE. (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the Upper Terrace every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mats provided. FREE.</p>	<p>13 (F) "Easy A" shows at Pier 63 at 8:30 p.m. Free popcorn provided. FREE. (M) James Maddock and the Brit Rock Troubadour plays at the top of the East 86 Street stairs on the John Finley Walk from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Limited seating. FREE</p>	<p>14 (T) Off Broadway revival of RENT at the New World Stages. The show will run through the summer. \$65 (M) tUnE-YaRdS, a soulful singer who, taking influence from African pop, chimes with bell-like melodies and gripping near-androgynous growls and hollers. Her live show, consisting of looping drum parts, layered ukulele, voice, bass, and a saxophone parts, will be at 6 p.m. at Pier 54. FREE (F) "Ghostbusters" shows at the Brooklyn Bridge Park lawn @ 6 p.m. FREE (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the lawn every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mats provided. FREE.</p>	<p>15 (F) "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows" opens in theaters. (T) Episode one of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details.</p>	<p>16 (T) Episode one of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details.</p>	<p>17 (TV) "Breaking Bad" season premiere on AMC @ 9 p.m.</p>
<p>18 (F) "In the Heat of the Night (1967)," the story of an African American detective investigating a murder in a racist southern town, shows at the Bryant Park Summer Film Festival. FREE. 8 p.m.</p>	<p>19 (M) The Joy of Unfamiliar Music: the Festival Chamber Ensemble performs Emmanuel Sejourne's Concerto for Marimba and strings at Washington Square Park at 8 p.m. FREE (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the Upper Terrace every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mats provided. FREE.</p>		<p>21 (TV) "Strike Force: San Diego: Sports Utility Vehicle" season premieres on Adult Swim. 12 a.m. (F) "Sweet Smell of Success" shows at the Brooklyn Bridge Park lawn @ 6 p.m. (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the lawn every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mats provided. FREE.</p>	<p>22 (T) Episode two of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details.</p>	<p>23 (T) Episode two of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details.</p>	<p>24 (O) Exhibit "Lee Ufan: Marking Infinity" at the Guggenheim until Sept. 28. \$18 (TV) "Entourage" season premiere on HBO @ 10:30 p.m.</p>
<p>25 (F) "The Lady Eve (1941)," shows at the Bryant Park Summer Film Festival. Free. 8p.m.</p>	<p>26 (M) Music Making By the Master: Stanley Drucker performing W.A. Mozart's Quintet for clarinet and Strings in A major at Washington Square Park at 8 p.m. FREE (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the Upper Terrace every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mats provided. FREE.</p>	<p>27 (F) "The Other Guys" shows at Pier 63 at 8:30 p.m. Free popcorn provided. FREE. (M) Steve Shaiman and the Swing Time Big Band performs at the top of the East 86 Street stairs on the John Finley Walk from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Limited seating. FREE</p>	<p>28 (F) "Basquiat" shows at the Brooklyn Bridge Park lawn @ 6 p.m. FREE (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the lawn every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mats provided. FREE.</p>	<p>29 (T) Episode two of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details. (F) "Toy Story 3" shows at Pier 63 at 8:30 p.m. Free popcorn provided. FREE.</p>	<p>30 (T) Episode two of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details.</p>	<p>31</p>

Arts and Entertainment

August: Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 (F) "Cool Hand Luke (1967)," the story of a prisoner refusing to conform to life in a rural prison, shows at the Bryant Park Summer Film Festival. Free. 8p.m. (M) Dan Deacon arguably a child trapped in a nerdy hipster's body, creates crazy layered synth masterpieces with a collection of electronic gadgets and gizmos that he hauls around in suitcase. Whimsically intense, his live shows are full of youthful absurdity, audience interaction, and lots and lots of dancing. Play at Le Poisson Rouge(158 Bleecker Street) at 7 p.m. \$15.	2 (M) The Charles Mingus Orchestra performs jazz pieces at Washington Square at 8 p.m. FREE (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the Upper Terrace every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mats provided. FREE.	3 Budos Band, the ten-member afro-beat ensemble, a group whose dynamic brass-driven sound calls to mind Fela Kuti's exuberant Nigerian-rooted jazz-funk, plays at Tappan Park, Staten Island at 7 p.m. FREE	4 (F) "An American Tail" shows at the Brooklyn Bridge Park lawn @ 6 p.m. (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the lawn every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mats provided. FREE.	5 (F) "Bellflower" the story of two friends as they build cars and flame-throwers in preparation for the apocalypse, opens in theaters. (T) Episode three of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details. (M) El Ten Eleven are Kristian Dunn and Tim Fogarty, who together, using a drum kit, a variety of double necked guitars and basses, and a slew of effects pedals, create intricate layered melodies that seem to drift into post-rock territory only to come back with a ferocious rock attack. Showing at Le Poisson Rouge(158 Bleecker Street) at 6:30 p.m. \$15.	6 (T) Episode three of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details.	7
8 (F) "Airplane!(1980)," shows at the Bryant Park Summer Film Festival. Free. 8p.m.	9 (M) Gavin Degraw releases his new album "Sweater." (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the Upper Terrace every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mats provided. FREE.	10 (F) "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" shows at Pier 63 at 8:30 p.m. Free popcorn provided. FREE.	11 (F) "Breakfast at Tiffany's" shows at the Brooklyn Bridge Park lawn @ 6 p.m. FREE (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the lawn every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mats provided. FREE.	12 (T) Episode three of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details. (F) "Shrek Forever After" shows at Pier 63 at 8:30 p.m. Free popcorn provided. FREE.	13 (T) Episode three of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details.	14
15 (F) "High Sierra (1941)," shows at the Bryant Park Summer Film Festival. Free. 8p.m.	16 (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the Upper Terrace every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mats provided. FREE.	17	18 (F) "Crooklyn" shows at the Brooklyn Bridge Park lawn @ 6 p.m. FREE (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the lawn every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mats provided. FREE.	19 (T) Final episode of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details. (F) "Tangled" shows at Pier 63 at 8:30 p.m. Free popcorn provided. FREE.	20 (T) Final episode of the four-part play "Hospital 2011" at the Axis Theater @ 8 p.m. \$6. See July 8 event for more details.	21
22 (M) "Dirty Harry (1971)," the adventures of a San Francisco cop trailing a serial killer who snipes at random victims, shows at the Bryant Park Summer Film Festival. Free. 8p.m.	23	24	25 (M) Wavves, the work of San Diego's Nathan Williams, is the quintessential summer-beach band. This 3-man group reflects on the simpler matters of teenage life: sitting on the beach, sitting in your room and water guns fights. Performing at the East River Amphitheater (between Cherry Street and FDR) at 7 p.m. FREE (F) "Rosemary's Baby" shows at the Brooklyn Bridge Park lawn @ 6 p.m. FREE (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the lawn every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mats provided. FREE.	26 (F) "Harold and Maude (1971)," the story of a life changing meeting between a young rich boy obsessed with death and a lively septuagenarian, shows at East End Avenue, 86th St. @ 8:30 p.m. FREE.	27	28
29	30 (O) Yoga Class in Bryant Park on the Upper Terrace every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mats provided. FREE.	31				

Legend

- (T) Theater Shows
- (M) Music Performances
- (F) Film Screenings
- (O) Other Events (museum exhibits, yoga classes, etc.)

Arts and Entertainment

Traveling Through Time and Space, With the Aid of a Police Box



Katherine Chi / The Spectator

By NINA WADE

"Trust me, I'm The Doctor." BBC's famed "Doctor Who" series, the longest-running sci-fi show on television, is back for season six of the reboot begun in 2005. The reboot included a new cast, starring Christopher Eccleston and David Tennant as previous Doctors, and a new style, with continuous serials rather than self-contained episodes. In season five, the show was again revamped with a new writer and cast, including Matt Smith as the 11th incarnation of the Doctor, the last of the alien Time Lords who can travel through time and space. The Doctor explores and saves various factions of the universe, traveling in his TARDIS, an iconic police-box-shaped ship far bigger on the inside than on the outside. In each incarnation,

the Doctor returns with a different appearance and personality. The sixth season, the first half of which premiered on Saturday, April 23, has been a fantastic, if confusing, ride.

Along with Smith, the three new characters who were introduced in season five have made it into season six: Amy Pond (Karen Gillan), her husband, Rory Williams (Arthur Darvill), and, occasionally, an enigmatic woman named River Song (Alex Kingstone). Focusing on "cracks in time" across the universe, the season has a new, much more confusing style, and the new serial format has opened the show to complex and sometimes bewildering story arcs. So far, the season, which has revolved heavily around Amy, has barely answered the questions it has brought up. Plot twists have been introduced at an alarming

rate, as the Doctor and Co. discover and defeat a new enemy race, uncover a factory filled with sentience-gaining doppelgängers, encounter a mysterious, recurring eye-patch-wearing woman who only Amy can see, and learn startling secrets about their futures.

The first pair of episodes, "The Impossible Astronaut" and "Day of the Moon," features a new enemy that rivals many of the past nemeses in terror level. The episodes are set in America. This location leads to a highly amusing scene when the TARDIS materializes in the middle of the Oval Office, prompting the Secret Service to spring into action, pointing their guns at a hapless Doctor and crew, who are later enlisted by President Nixon to help find the source of some mysterious phone calls. In the process, they uncover an alien threat thus far unknown to the world: The Silence. This pair of episodes is tightly written, deftly tying up loose ends while leaving a few hanging as incentive to come back for the next installments.

The next two episodes, though filler, are nonetheless extremely entertaining. The first, "The Curse of the Black Spot," takes place on a pirate ship and toys with the mythos of the Black Spot, which kills those on whose hand it appears, and the Siren, a beautiful woman who lures sailors to their death. Despite the interesting concept, this episode suffers from overusing the running joke of nearly killing Rory, which was already stale in season five.

The next episode, "The Doctor's Wife," was written by beloved British author Neil Gaiman and is one of the best episodes of the revived series. It lands the crew on a planet in another universe, where the Doctor comes across his TARDIS in female form, her

soul having been sucked into a human shell. The two play off of each other with great chemistry and sexual tension, providing a most memorable line when, upon being asked her name, she responds with, "I think you call me... Sexy?" to which the Doctor replies, "Only when we're alone!"

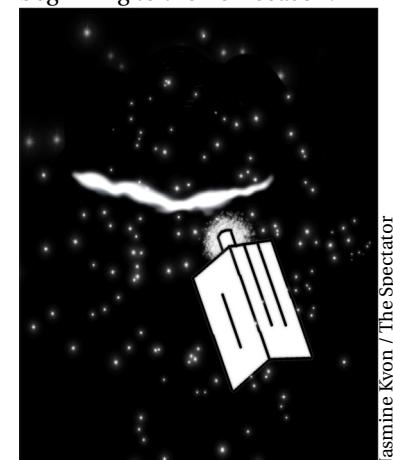
The last pair of episodes, "The Rebel Flesh" and "The Almost People," forms yet another two-part story-line, which revolves around, as the titles sug-

rise to a too-high prominence.

Finally, in the last episode of the spring season, "A Good Man Goes To War," Amy is held hostage on a faraway planet, and Rory and the Doctor gather allies from past episodes to rescue her. This episode is also notable in that it reveals River's origins, which come as a shock to not just Amy and Rory, but to the usually unfazed Doctor, as well. It ends on a "To Be Continued," leaving the audience hanging until the season continues in September with the episode's second half.

From the get-go, this season is much more confounding than the other revival seasons. It dives straight into puzzling plot lines without much setup or exposition. Consequently, it makes it difficult for the viewer to understand how all the arcs manage to come together in the end, or how they will continue. Also, while the story is incredibly intriguing, the characterizations often falters. The Doctor is as mystifying as ever, but Amy starts to fall further and further into the role of the annoyingly prominent side character, and the focus on her personal issues serves to make her increasingly unlikable. All in all, it is a wicked puzzler of a start and, as long as the writers can handle all the moving pieces, a brilliant beginning to the new season.

From the get-go, this season is much more confounding than the other revival seasons.

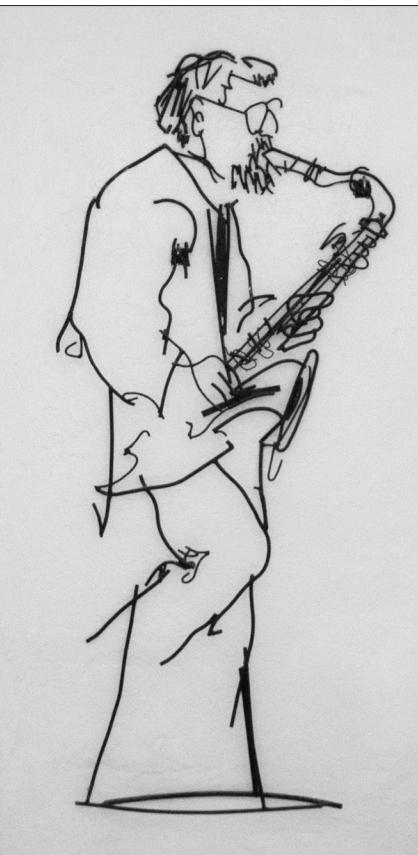


jasmine kyon / The Spectator



Carolyn Kang / The Spectator

Keeping It Jazzy



the Jazz Gallery is now a center for jazz lovers and artists. However, appreciation for the Gallery has extended beyond jazz circles, and it has received praise from publications such as The New York Times, The New York Post, and The Wall Street Journal.

The Gallery hosts not only famed local musicians, but also international acts. For example, two months ago, bassist Alexis Cuadrado performed songs from his new album. Though it has featured veteran performers, such as influential saxophonist Steve Coleman, the majority of the performers are up-and-coming talents. One such artist is drummer Marcus Gilmore, who played a few weeks ago. "One of the best things about the Jazz Gallery is the way we foster the careers of emerging musicians," Steinglass said. "What we do is bring forward the next generation of jazz musicians."

The musicians who perform there often play for more unconventional, experimental styles of jazz. "In more commercial venues, there are limitations on the artist," Steinglass said. "Because we're non-profit, we place more investment in the artist than commercial venues would."

One very unique aspect of the Jazz Gallery is the closeness between the audience and performers on the stage. Walking in, you notice how small and cozy the place is, with a small stage seating area. Even when sitting in the back row, one is never more than about 30 feet from the dimly lit, velvet-curtained stage. You can feel the musical energy radiate to

wards you as the players take their impressive solos and sway you with their rhythms. An added bonus is that during breaks between sets, musicians are willing and enthusiastic to strike up conversations with audience members.

At \$20 a ticket for and \$10 for members, the Jazz Gallery is not

One very unique aspect of the Jazz Gallery is the closeness between the audience and performers on the stage.

By EMRE TETIK

Students at Stuyvesant, and teenagers in general, sometimes brand jazz as out of fashion, too dated to listen to. But within the Stuyvesant community, there are many who have a deep appreciation for the genre, be it talented student musicians, or music teachers who have studied and listened to it

throughout their lives. For those jazz aficionados, good performances can be found at a small venue nearby, the Jazz Gallery.

The Jazz Gallery, located not far from Stuyvesant at 290 Hudson Street, is, according to its mission statement, an "international jazz cultural center," where artists come to experiment with new sounds. The venue's executive director, Deborah Steinglass,

whose son currently attends Stuyvesant, welcomes Stuyvesant students with open arms. "If you're interested in hearing music, learning more about jazz, and opening your ears to new things, the Jazz Gallery is a great place," Steinglass said. Having started out as a performance space for Grammy-winning trumpeter Roy Harroone's Big Band to play in 1995,

the cheapest place a teen looking for a good time can go, but it is well worth the price. With top-notch performers, fantastic music, and a cozy atmosphere, the Jazz Gallery is a place for anyone who's in love with jazz, or just wants to find out more about it.

Sports

buildOn Brings 3-on-3 Tournament Back to Stuyvesant

continued from page 24

lip Fisher, Jared Jeffries Fan Club, TuneSquad, Mambas, and Brooklyn Squad all made it to the semi finals, led by junior Roy Vleck, LaMountain, Choudhury, and Campbell, respectively—all members of the varsity basketball team.

The Mambas knocked out Brooklyn Squad quickly in the semifinals, which were played to

Despite the tournament being a grand success, there was some controversy over player eligibility before the tournament started.

ten points. The Jared Jeffries Fan Club, consisting of juniors Kris Lulaj and Shahed Hoque, was able to hold off TuneSquad longer, but consistently trailed, leading to an unexpected loss. The Fan Club team came into the tournament seeded first and was led by Vleck, who scored the most points and had the most assists last season on the varsity basketball team.

Hirschowitz Wins PSAL-Wingate Award

continued from page 24

bestows its prestigious Wingate Award to an athlete in every sport who they feel has embodied all of these characteristics. The Wingate Award acknowledges the most outstanding student athletes in their respective sports. Coaches, commissioners, and sports coordinators all have the ability to nominate athletes. Then, the PSAL committee meets and takes into account all the nominees and chooses the most deserving student-athlete. Winning the Wingate Award takes not only a high degree of physical and athletic achievement, but also a well rounded character and exemplary leadership.

This year the PSAL Wingate Award for girls' gymnastics was awarded to one of Stuyvesant's own athletes, senior and co-captain Chloe Hirschowitz.

When Chloe Hirschowitz tried out for the Felines, the Stuyvesant girls' gymnastics team, she was a soft-spoken, mellow freshman. However, it didn't take long for everyone to feel her presence. She quickly stood out as one of the best gymnasts on the team once her skills were clearly exhibited. "When I actually saw the things that she could do I was amazed. [It] was like nothing I [had] ever seen," coach and physical education teacher Vasken Choubaralian said.

Four years later, Hirschowitz is a co-captain of the team, and has emerged as a clear leader as well as motivator to the other girls. "[Hirschowitz] often spent

its loss led to a final match-up of Mambas and TuneSquad.

The Mambas, complete with personalized matching jerseys, were composed of sophomores Thomas Cui and Sanam Rahman, junior Mohammed Hoque, and Choudhury. TuneSquad, though lacking in attire, proved to be equally stacked, with seniors Xerxes Sanii and Luca Senise backing up LaMountain.

"At the tournament, I had no expectations. I had been very out of touch with Stuy's basketball crowd, so I had no sense of who was good and who wasn't, although I knew that with Casey and Xerxes, we were one of the stronger teams there," Senise said. However, both his teammates and opponents saw TuneSquad as the likely winner.

The game was close, and both teams took turns being in the lead. Choudhury and LaMountain took control, and Cui and Sanii both stepped it up for the finals, knocking down several significant shots. Senise, a member of both the boys' varsity soccer and volleyball teams, though not as natural a basketball player as his teammates, also had a lot to contribute as his team's primary rebounder.

As the tournament came to a close, the Mambas were one point away from finishing the game, with TuneSquad trailing behind by two. LaMountain shot the cleanest three-pointer of the tournament to win it for the TuneSquad team. "I came through in the clutch to hit the game winner which is a nice way to end my basketball career at

Stuyvesant," LaMountain said.

The three-on-three tournament not only gave players a fun opportunity to show off their skills, but also helped raise money for what many considered to be a worthwhile cause. "It went

"I saw exactly where that money is going and I saw just what it does.

So that was the inspiration, and all the money we made, all \$504, is going to that aspect of buildOn."

—Debanjan Roychoudhury, junior

very well, and I do look to do it again next year," Roychoudhury said. "I want it to be a stable buildOn activity and also, just for basketball players at Stuyvesant to have that opportunity."

more of her time helping others than actually practicing on her own," Choubaralian said.

"[Chloe] focuses more on teaching people new things,"

"We have a little bit more confidence in us as a team knowing that Chloe is going to be able to perform."

—Vasken Choubaralian, coach

senior and co-captain Anca Dogariu added. "She's very helpful because of her strong

background in gymnastics."

Hirschowitz has been taking part in gymnastics for around 13 years, and she still takes lessons on the weekends during the offseason. "I try really hard to work hard at practice, because sometimes there's a tendency to talk to your friends or sit and do nothing," Hirschowitz said. She has been one of the Felines' most consistent athletes throughout her four years at Stuyvesant, though she still continues to improve. "We have a little bit more confidence in us as a team knowing that Chloe is going to be able to perform," Choubaralian said.

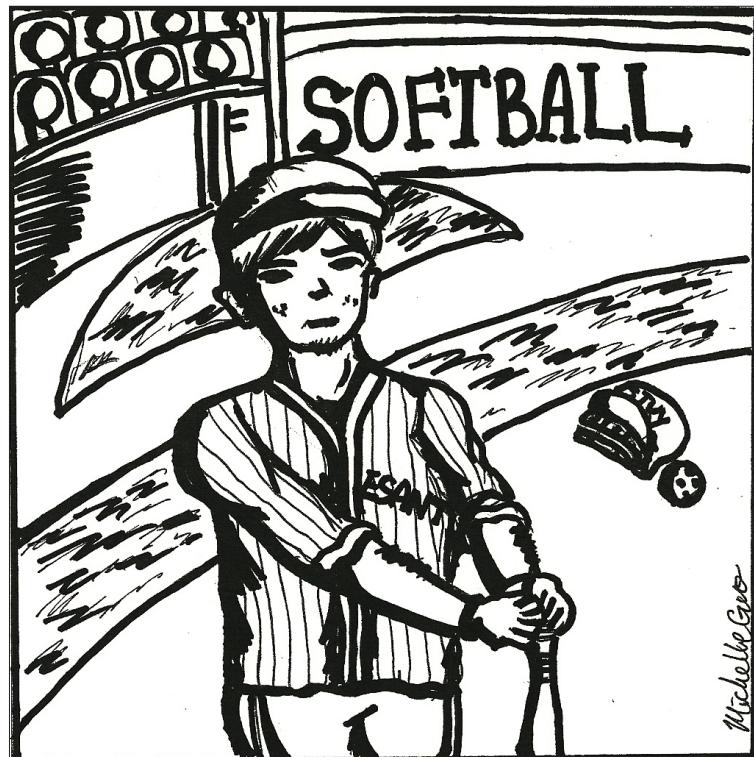
Her talent was finally recognized at the end of this season, upon her reception of the PSAL Wingate Award. "It's nice to know that for four years I've been doing something that meant something, and to get an award is extremely gratifying," Hirschowitz said.

However, winning the Wingate Award is not all about tangible, physical skill. "[Hirschowitz] is not only a great athlete physically, but she also brings a great attitude to the sport as well as sportsmanship," Choubaralian said. Hirschowitz won the Sportsmanship Award at this past PSAL State Championship.

Though such a stellar athlete will be difficult to replace, Hirschowitz has definitely left an impression on the team that will be difficult to forget. "I try to get people to do things they've never done before, just to keep morale up," Hirschowitz said.

Softball

Renegades Can't Connect in Playoff Loss



By BY KEVIN MOY

When the rain cleared on Saturday, May 21, the Renegades, seeded 17th, lost a heartbreaker to the 16th-ranked Tigers, 2-1. The Renegades struck first during the second inning on an RBI single by sophomore shortstop Miranda Kalish. The Tigers answered back, scoring two runs in the third inning on a pair of costly errors.

Aside from the errors, the Renegades played competitively throughout the entire game. Junior, co-captain, and pitcher Morgan Higgins went six strong innings, striking out four batters and only surrendering five hits.

The Renegades could not capitalize with runners on base against pitcher Maria Delacruz, and the early score held for the remainder of the game.

"[Delacruz's pitches] might have had some rising thing because we were all popping up. She wasn't overpoweringly fast, but she was hard to hit," Higgins said of the opposing pitcher, who ended the game with three strikeouts.

Coach Vincent Miller was disappointed with the playoff loss, knowing that his team had the potential to go further. "It was a good game, but a tough loss. We had a lot of opportunities to win the game, but we couldn't do it," Miller said.

Miller noted that the team's offensive players looked good, but they could not produce a hit with runners in scoring position. "A couple of innings in a row, we had runners on second and third, or a runner at second or at third. We couldn't knock in those runs," Miller said.

Despite the loss, the Renegades showed they could match up with any team, displaying the fight they had throughout the season. The last regular season game was a loss to eventual City Champion Tottenville High School, which was ranked first in the city. Though the final score was 8-1, Tottenville had mercied all but one other team prior to facing the Renegades. It averaged just under 16 runs a game.

The Renegades' success this year has been unexpected due to the drastic changes the team underwent. With the departure of key graduating seniors, the infield had to be retooled. Junior Ana Slade was moved from right field to third base and Kalish moved from second base to shortstop. Slade transitioned exceptionally well and won the team's Golden Glove award.

It took a couple of games before Kalish was comfortable with her new position. "At short, you get more plays and it is quicker and it is a longer throw. The first couple of games, I made errors, but I think,

as the season went on, I definitely improved," Kalish said.

Sophomores filled the remaining holes on the right side of the infield, with Katie Mullaney playing second base and Gabrielle Gillow taking first. "All the sophomores took a big step from their freshman year," Miller said.

Despite the changes made, the attitude of the entire team was positive throughout the entire season. This can be attributed to the three co-captains, Higgins and seniors Audrey Fleischner and Carolyn Lehman. They set up spirit days throughout the season during which the teammates put face paint on or wore their uniforms to school. "They were very nice, very inclusive, and kept us very informed on practices and games," Kalish said.

"All of our wins and losses were close and we played tough. I walked away pretty happy with the season."

—Vincent Miller, coach

"This year we played exceptionally well, a lot of the girls stepped up and I do believe it was because of the captains," Miller said. "They show what hard work is like and they lead by example."

The three captains were a core part of the team and performed consistently during the season. In the regular season, Lehman had a .333 batting average, which included a home run. Fleischner batted .250, with three doubles and five stolen bases. Higgins was the ace of the staff, often pitching complete games and kept the opponents' runs down. In 95 innings, she struck out 72 batters and gave up 103 hits.

Even with the playoff loss, Miller was still proud of the way his team played this season. "All of our wins and losses were close and we played tough. I walked away pretty happy with the season," Miller said.

Sports

Girls' Outdoor Track

By MAGGIE YEUNG

The Greyducks, Stuyvesant's girls' outdoor track team, ended its successful season by placing third in the Manhattan Borough Championships, held on Saturday, May 21. Several runners set personal records and placed among the top ten in their respective events.

"We had some impressive performances, notably one of our freshmen, Lily Lee, who made it to the 100-meter Dash final," senior and co-captain Shilpa Agrawal said. Lee placed sixth in the final.

The girl's varsity 4x800-meter Relay team, which consisted of Agrawal, co-captain Anna Tsenter, freshman Vera Pertsovskaya, and junior Hema Lochan, performed above expectations as well, coming in second place.

With a good transition under a new coach, seven girls qualified for City Championships this year in both track and field events. Unlike the team's previous coaches, who also coached teams in other schools, Anna Markova directs all her attention to the Greyducks.

Greyducks Finish Third at Boroughs

"She gives us really hard workouts and talks to us personally. Coach makes sure our injuries are healed before working out again," junior Linda Zheng said.

Sophomores Bebe Legardeur and Alicia Vargas-Morawetz came in first and second, respectively, in the long jump. Morawetz also qualified in the triple jump, placing fourth. "It's really exciting because I didn't make it to Cities at all last year and now that I do long jump and triple jump, I'm going for two events," Vargas-Morawetz said.

Racewalker junior Karen Zheng, who finished second, and sophomores Janie Ou Yang, Amanda Huang, Qi Wen Huang, and Mei Yin Wu all qualified for City Championships in the 1500-meter Race Walk. Zheng qualified for both indoor track City Championships and Nationals in this event and Yang also qualified in the javelin throw.

"This is the first time we've had so many girls qualify for City Championships in various events," senior and co-captain Vanessa Yuan said.

While the more experienced

runners thrived at Boroughs, the future is bright for the younger runners as well. "Our freshmen, Hsu, Lee, Danielle Polin, Pertsovskaya, and Dzvinka Stefanyshyn, are rising stars of the team," Markova said.

Freshman Paula Carcamo is a promising javelin thrower who is also a member of the volleyball girls' junior varsity team. Carcamo placed seventh in the Frosh/Soph City Championships held on Sunday, May 29. The remainder of the freshmen and sophomore girls had impressive results as well. Both Legardeur and Vargas-Morawetz qualified for City Championships with provisional limits.

"The team is excited to have more freshmen and sophomores qualify for Cities in field events whereas in the past it was just racewalkers," Yuan said.

The success of this team is largely attributed to captains Agrawal, Tsenter, and Yuan. "I cannot forget my three captains. Without them, our team would not be as cohesive and wonderful as it is," Markova said. They inspired the other girls to work

hard and keep track of their progress to improve their times.

"They are really supportive. Even if they're sick or not able to run, they still come to meets and cheer on the team," junior Mei Ki Cheung said.

At the same time, they instilled team spirit and closeness into the squad. The Greyducks had a scavenger hunt earlier on in the season in which the girls were divided into four teams and given a list of clues. "Our team is a big team, so it was nice to work in smaller teams to get to know each other a lot better," Lochan said. They had to run along the Hudson River to find different monuments, write rhymed prompts, or sing songs aloud. Some even took amusing photographs with tourists. The winner won a carrot cake from Lloyd's Carrot Cake in the Bronx.

Overall, it was a successful and developmental season for the Greyducks. The girls participated in different field events at each meet and scored many points for the team as they stepped out of their comfort zones and attempted new events. "Overall,

we've had a really good transition with our new coach and everyone has improved a lot since the beginning of the season," Agrawal said.

"This is the first time we've had so many girls qualify for City Championships in various events."

—Vanessa Yuan, senior and co-captain

Senior Leaders a Testament to Hitmen Success

By QUINN HOOD and WASIF ISLAM

This year the Stuyvesant Hitmen have completed yet another successful season, extending their playoff-clinching streak to 15 consecutive seasons. Before the season began, the team looked very promising, full of remarkable players, including twelve seniors. However, the team began with a slow start, losing five of their first seven. However, the Hitmen made an impressive comeback to secure a playoff spot under the leadership of seniors and co-captains Scott Chiusano and Eddie Cytryn, along with the help of their senior ace Michael Zurier.

Jack Zurier, Pitcher

In their first league game of the 2009 season, one inning away from being mercied by the Murry Bergtraum Blazers, Coach Carlesi handed the ball to pitcher Jack Zurier to come in relief of Nicholas Gallo ('10). At the time Zurier was a sophomore on a team with a pitching staff of notable Hitmen alumni, such as Nolan Becker ('09), and Nick Rozar ('09).

Zurier quickly retired the first two batters, and with one out away, committed an error on a routine groundball. With two outs he gave up five unearned runs. "I was completely nervous, but I was able to work with those three [veteran starters] and they helped me pitch a decently successful sophomore year," he said.

As a child, Zurier initially enjoyed soccer, but through his father, a baseball enthusiast, grew to love the game as well. He was never the best kid on his little league team but at Stuyvesant, coaches John Carlesi and Matt Hahn have instilled in him a good work ethic, which has played a large role in his success throughout his high school career. "I was never a particularly talented baseball player with natural abilities. I've consistently had to work hard, run and lift as much as I could,"

"I was never a particularly talented baseball player with natural abilities. I've consistently had to work hard, run and lift as much as I could."
—Jack Zurier, senior

round, he lived up to expectations and pitched seven strong innings, allowing just three hits.

"Pitching that complete game shutout was an accumulation of his four years. It said a lot about him," Hahn said.

The win extended the team's season by just a few more days, until the team lost to second seed Grand Street Campus in the second round.

Though Zurier may not have had the best debut as a varsity player, he ended his senior season on a high note. He pitched a total of 42 innings over eight games. Although his 3-4 record did not reflect his success as a pitcher this season, the 1.50 ERA

awarded the number one spot in the pitching rotation. As the team's ace he debuted against High School of Environmental Studies with a rough outing in which he gave up five runs, two of which were earned.

"Starting the season off with a loss was kind of hard," Zurier said. "This year has been about not giving up," Jack said about their 2-5 start.

After a successful Spring Training in Florida turned both the Hitmen's and Zurier's season around, the team was confident in putting their playoff lives on Zurier's shoulders. In the first

Right before he pitched his last game of the season, a close friend of Jack's told him, "Don't forget that feeling. You're never going to get that on the mound again or be as dominant as you were".

That meant a lot to Zurier, who over the last four years shared many great experiences on the mound, made many close friends on the team, and has learned to be a better ballplayer as well as a better person.

Looking forward, Zurier has been in contact with the baseball coach at Tufts University and is likely to play there next year.

Scott Chiusano, Third Base

Repeatedly praised and lauded by his teammates, Scott Chiusano has made an enormous impact on the Stuyvesant baseball team ever since he made his first appearance during his sophomore year.

Scott's passion for the game is undeniable and it has shown on the field. "I don't think there's a person in the world who doesn't love Scottie," Hahn said.

"I think four years of baseball at Stuy has really humbled me," Chiusano said, remembering his experiences while playing for the Hitmen. "When I made varsity as a sophomore I thought it meant I'd be ready to play right away, until I realized playing on varsity took way more work than I understood."

Scott's improved statistics from sophomore year are a testament to the time he put into it in the offseason. In his sophomore year, he hit with a .139 average, which improved to .292 his junior year, and then to a very impressive .327 average this year.

Even more impressive than his development as a hitter may be his development into a great leader and captain. "Being captain was certainly not always easy. With so many seniors on the team it was hard to always prove myself as a leader," said Chiusano, whose leadership at times was vital to winning games.

Scott knew when the season started that he and the rest of the seniors had to live up to the standards of previous teams.

"Honestly, a lot of us thought we had no chance after that horrible start, but Florida was obviously the key," Chiusano said. The Hitmen, under the lead of Scott and co-captain Eddie Cytryn, really bonded during their annual trip down to Florida over spring break.

Most noted for his prowess at the hot corner, Scott is also a four-year member of the Stuyvesant Basketball program, playing on varsity for the past two years. Scott attributes his time on the basketball team to also helping him develop into a better baseball player. "I learned a lot about working your ass off and leaving everything you have out on the court no matter how much talent you have," he said.

Although Scott was extremely emotional after the team's second round loss to the Grand Street Campus Wolves, he remained very positive about the outcome of the season. "We were able to put together arguably the best season Stuy baseball has had in a long time," Chiusano said.

Eddie Cytryn, Second Base

Unlike Zurier and Chiusano who were both three-year varsity players, Eddie Cytryn joined the varsity team his junior year. However, he has undoubtedly made his presence felt as both a player and a leader on the field. His first year on varsity, Cytryn earned a starting position at second base and played a successful season with a .250 batting average and a .449 on-base percentage.

Cytryn worked hard during the season and offseason. He consistently showed up to winter workouts and off-season training to improve his game and develop a keen sense for where the ball will be hit and where to position himself on the field.

During his senior year, he led the offseason workouts as co-captain. "I never really thought Eddie would last all four years," said Hahn, who admitted that he never told that to Cytryn about it. However, the coaches were truly impressed with Cytryn's abilities as a player and his ability to lead and named him captain along with Chiusano.

Together with his teammate and close friend, Cytryn found it enjoyable to lead the team with

someone who he was able to communicate with and understand. "We both throw together before games and we both think the same way," he said. He drew a lot of inspiration as a player during his junior year from last year's captain Nicholas Gallo ('10') and applied that as the captain during his senior year. "Gallo not only led by example, but knew how to get guys into the game," he said.

Although the teams anticipated a promising start to season, the 2-5 run was disappointing and Cytryn played a large part in keeping the team motivated through the entire season. He described sweeping Beacon High School, the division leader, as one of the highlights of the season and the turning point of the season leading to the team's comeback from a playoff outsider to a contender. "It's great when you're able to beat your rivals," Cytryn said. He described the atmosphere at the games was unlike any he had experienced as a Hitman.

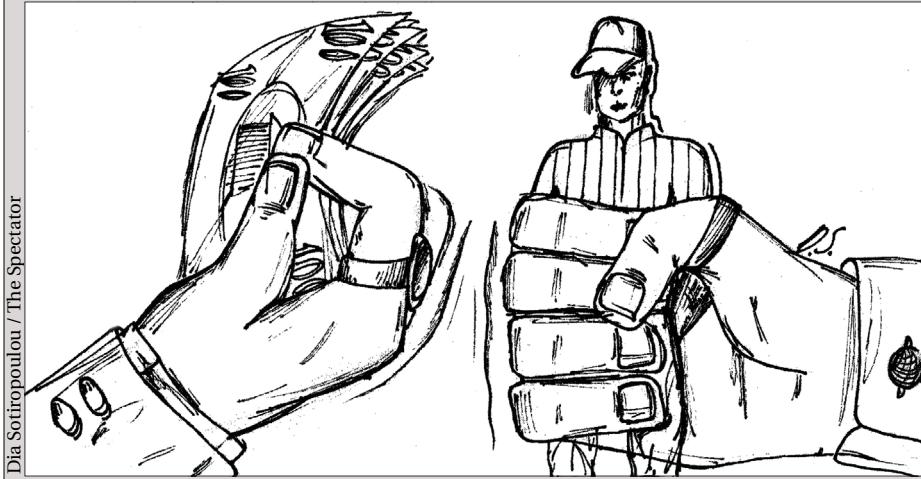
This year, Cytryn covered the infield from second base, playing shortstop at times when Junior Kyle Yee was pitching. After a slow start at the beginning of the season in a 3-for-23 slump, Eddie regrouped and by mid-season was swinging the bat well. He finished the season with a .244 batting average and a .415 on base percentage.

"There was a lot of pressure on us," Cytryn said. "But we never lost faith." He led the team to their fifteenth consecutive playoff appearance not wanting to be the first captain to break the streak. Cytryn was disappointed to lose in the second round of the playoffs, but was proud of the team's performance as they lost in a hard fought 2-0 game against the Grand Street Campus Wolves.

Leaving the team will be a major step for Cytryn. "We've become a family, especially the twelve seniors," he said, describing the relationship amongst his teammates. He added that not only do they play baseball together, but they hang out after school and on the weekends. He only hopes that his future teammates are like these guys as he anticipates playing at Northwestern, at least on a club level.

Sports

Point: Higher Payrolls and the End of Competition



By KATIE MULLANEY

Since the 1999 season, the New York Yankees have had the highest payroll in baseball, and have also won three of 12 World Series, placing them first in their division. Spending more than \$100 million per season on their payroll since 2001, and now almost breaking \$200 million, the Yankees are the prime example of the various big-market teams that are spending more than quadruple the amount of other teams in the league—and are ruining baseball.

These statistics display a clear correlation between payroll and record; high payrolls lead to good records, higher rankings, and more World Series championships than other, smaller market, lower paying teams.

With more money, it is understandable why a team would win more games. They are able to offer the best players in the game better contracts, and therefore, they are able to be more selective about who they want on their team. In addition, they have access to the best resources and the best coaches.

As players see that they are not making as much money as comparable or weaker players who are on big market teams, most players make the obvious decision of trying to sign with the bigger teams that will pay them more money. This leaves most of the small market teams, which have less money to spend on their payrolls, with the worst players, causing many of them to rank at the bottom of their division and the league year after year.

Take the Pittsburgh Pirates, for example. In the 2010 season, their payroll was \$34,943,000. If they were to employ players at the average salary of the Yankees (\$8,253,336 per player), the Pirates would be able to pay for fewer than five players. With these limited funds, the Pirates ended the season with the worst record in baseball that season.

Though it is not foolproof, a common theme has emerged that clubs with higher payrolls often enjoy far greater success. Of course, there will always be a few exceptions. However, high payrolls of the big market teams are also leading to another problem in baseball: greed.

Baseball players have taken greed to a

new extreme in recent years. Major League Baseball (MLB) is the only professional sporting league that does not have a salary cap, and therefore, players can get paid as much as is offered to them, especially by big market teams, leaving them to want, and expect, more money. In 1994, the owners of the MLB teams were going to implement a salary cap. In protest, the players went on strike, forcing a cancellation of the post-season. They only returned following Supreme Court intervention in 1995 which caused the proposition of a cap to be repealed.

The greed of the players has also led teams to sign outrageously large contracts with big-name players who end up not being worth it in the end. For example, in the middle of the 2007 season, the Yankees signed a 45-year-old Roger Clemens to a one-year contract of \$28 million, for just half a year's worth of work. Already past his prime, he pitched in only 18 games, averaging \$1.5 million a game, and ended the season with a mere 6-6 record.

Another contract signed in 2007 was with Alex Rodriguez, who agreed to \$275 million over 10 years. Other contracts the Yankees got themselves involved in have them paying CC Sabathia \$23 million a year, and Mark Teixeira an additional \$22.5 million a year, effectively buying their 2009 championship by signing all the premiere free agents.

The absence of a salary cap has directly affected small market baseball teams. Pittsburgh's football team, the Steelers, is thriving, with a .500 or better record since 2004. The players are able to succeed in the same Pittsburgh market that the Pirates fail in. The salary cap allows the Steelers to compete fairly for the best players in the game. Every other major sport has a salary cap.

If the big market teams in the MLB such as the Yankees continue pumping so much money into their players' salaries and continue having payrolls so much higher than those of smaller market teams, it becomes unfair to the smaller market teams. The great monetary offers of the big market teams combined with the greed of the players causes the teams to be so unevenly matched that a main part of America's favorite pastime will disappear: the competition.

Counterpoint: Money Can't Buy Me Championships

By PHILLIP GODZIN

The past decade has undoubtedly proven that a high payroll means little in terms of success in modern-day Major League Baseball. Small-market teams like the Tampa Bay Rays, Florida Marlins, and Anaheim Angels have proven that teams with less than half the payrolls of the New York Yankees can be successful, and even win a World Series, with proper management.

Therein lies the issue. Regardless of payroll, the single most important factor in a team's success is the way they spend their money, not how much money they have. Big-market teams have proven that a poor front office can quickly ruin a team.

Just look at the Mets. At one point, the Mets were second to the Yankees in annual payroll. Instead of signing winning players, General Manager Omar Minaya signed pitcher Oliver Perez, among other duds, to a three-year, \$36 million contract. Since then, Perez has been released, forcing the Mets to eat the remainder of his contract, and most of the Mets' front-office personnel have been fired. Recently, even the owner of the team admitted that one of the team cornerstones, Carlos Beltran, was worth just 60 percent of what he was paid in his contract due to stupidity by the front office. Last season, the team was seventh in payroll in baseball, yet finished with just 79 wins.

On the other hand, the Tampa Bay Rays have proven that a good front office can lead to a dramatic turnaround for a well-run team. After focusing on signing talented young players and compiling young prospects, the Rays went from the worst record in baseball in 2007 to the second-best record in 2008, with a payroll of \$140 million less than their division rival, the Yankees. The 2003 World Series exemplified the nature of payrolls in baseball, as the Marlins defeated the Yankees in six games with a payroll a third the size of the Yankees'.

Just last year, the eventual champions, the San Francisco Giants, won the World Series because of a series of great moves in the middle of the season. Despite being in the middle of the pack in terms of payroll, the team acquired several inexpensive key players to complement its young talent, and it eventually finished the season with more than half of the players not on their 2010 Opening Day roster.

Even though a well-run team has more than enough opportunities to compete against big-market teams, the MLB certainly has disincentivized such big spenders as well. A small market team can win on their own if they are properly managed, but the league goes even further and creates consequences for teams who spend a lot too, making it even more competitive. In 2003, the league implemented the luxury tax, which forced teams that exceeded a certain cap to pay a large percentage

of the exceeded amount in taxes. Multiple offenders pay 40 percent, and since its implementation, the Yankees have paid over \$190 million in luxury taxes.

Additionally, revenue sharing has been creating greater parity in the game since its inception in 1996. To create greater parity in the league, the most successful franchises are forced to distribute a significant amount of their revenue to the teams at the bottom of the revenue spectrum. Just last year, more than \$430 million was exchanged between high-revenue clubs and those struggling in terms of attendance and revenue.

However, the current system does not account for how this money is spent. While teams such as the Yankees are committed to putting the best possible product onto the field, many teams that receive money from revenue sharing are not quite as inclined. Those very same lowly Pittsburgh Pirates that have not seen a winning season in recent memory have failed to put on the field the best possible team, and have been rewarded for it. Last year, their payroll was the lowest in the league at \$34 million. However, records show that they made close to \$30 million in profits in 2007 and 2008. So instead of investing that into the team, the owner simply pocketed the money he received from revenue sharing. Instead of signing their rising stars to lucrative contracts, the team simply trades them away for a new batch of cheap youngsters.

Finally, the very nature of having a large team payroll should discourage a team. Teams readily able to hand out big contracts are often forced to bid against themselves and drive up the contract well above market price. In order to ensure that they would get their desired star, the Yankees have had to overpay on big names like Alex Rodriguez and CC Sabathia, when others teams likely would not have even approached such figures.

Teams constructed out of big contracts often have to deal with even bigger egos, creating a clubhouse dynamic detrimental with winning baseball. The Yankees faced drama earlier in the decade with Rodriguez, and the circumstances split the clubhouse in two, providing unnecessary distractions throughout his eight years in pinstripes.

The only advantage that a high payroll provides is a bigger window for success. The Yankees can often retool their team through free agency once their teams begins to show signs of weakness, while smaller-market teams, like the Rays, have to take advantage of their small windows in which all their young stars are at their best. While difficult, several teams this decade have shown that it is possible. Every team has the ability to field a winning team; it's simply a matter of their commitment to investing everything they can in putting the best possible product on the field.

Boys' Handball

Dragons End Season with Deep Run in Playoffs

By MATTHEW MOY

The boys' handball team, the Dragons, fell in the semifinals of the PSAL Boys Varsity A Division Playoffs to the Bayside High School Commodores, 4-1. Bayside was seeded first, while Stuyvesant was seeded fifth. The eventual City Champions were the Midwood High School Hornets, who upset the Commodores, 4-1.

Despite this earlier than expected exit, the Dragons continued their undefeated streak in the regular season; they have not lost a game since April 2005. The team finished at the top of its division, but was seeded two spots lower than last year and came just one win shy of reaching the finals, in its first year under coach Francisco Rivera.

Senior and co-captain Ricky Guan thought that the Dragons did well overall. "Our team had a great playoff run after another undefeated regular season," Guan said in an e-mail interview. "Although we did

not win the City Championship, our team fought really hard all year long, and I'm really proud of how hard the team has worked and how close we have all become."

Junior and co-captain Eric Han was more disappointed. "We ended on a pretty bad note," Han said. "I thought that we should have definitely done better, and that we had the capacity to do so." Han was the only Stuyvesant player to win a match against Bayside, defeating junior Jonathan Weng in his singles match, 21-8. Overall, the Dragons did not fall due to any playoff jitters, but because they were pitted against one of the top teams, stacked with a few seniors and talented sophomores.

The Dragons performed well under new coach Rivera, who has also been the Stuyvesant JV football coach for the past two years.

"It was a challenge to make the players believe in what I expected, but at the end, I believe I had the utmost respect from players in regards to the sport," Rivera said in

an e-mail interview. "The Dragons are a very vibrant and funny bunch. The team surprised me with how helpful and supportive they were to get me up to speed with the sport."

Players appreciated his help. "Coach Rivera did a great job coaching us this year. He was extremely supportive and fair towards all the guys on the team, starter or not. He made sure we conditioned every week, something we didn't do last year, and we were physically stronger throughout the season/postseason," senior and co-captain Jacques Cai said in an e-mail interview. Rivera often had the team condition themselves with the football team, and brought the same leadership that led the JV football team to an undefeated season.

Rivera also tried to get more of the team involved this year. "Coach Rivera was a lot more lenient in terms of coming to practice compared to [last year's coach, Robert] Sandler. He also spread out the playing time for all the

players. He let a lot of the substitutes play in for our regular league games, because our league games

ty because then people want to come to games as opposed to just watching the same seven starters play every single game considering the competition is not very strong at all." However, one pitfall was that starters had less game experience for the playoffs.

Nevertheless, Guan points out that this new strategy led to some substitutes providing valuable contributions to the team in the playoffs.

"Numerous starters on our team suffered injuries throughout the year, but this gave a chance to the subs and the underclassmen to step up, and they did so in a very big way, especially in the playoffs, when our second doubles team, of Jacques Cai and Cody Tong, went down. We had a team with so many strong players that it was tough to decide who would start in place of a starter that was unable to play," Guan said in an e-mail interview. The replacement doubles team, of juniors Donald Ho and Steven Lam, won 21-16 against Bronx Science.

"Our team had a great playoff run after another undefeated regular season."
—Ricky Guan, senior and co-captain

are practically nothing compared to playoff games," Han said. "That also builds a little more team uni-

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

Baseball

Hitmen Get their Target with Successful Season

By GABRIEL SUNSHINE

The Stuyvesant varsity baseball team, the Hitmen, began their season 2-5, and their 14 year playoff streak looked to be in jeopardy.

However, following their annual trip to Florida for spring training, the Hitmen rallied back, winning eight of their last nine games to finish 10-6.

Fueled by a core of 12 seniors, most of which have played together all four years of their high school careers, the team still believed in its ability. "Obviously, being on the same team with guys for at least three or four years has made us so much closer," senior and co-captain Scott Chiusano said. "We just have great team chemistry and we're all really great friends and do everything together. This really translates onto the baseball field."

The closeness of the team is evident. They were able to support each other and remain calm throughout the team's sluggish start, and were able to motivate each other to work hard fix the problems they were having.

"I don't think people really panicked. I think we put in the extra work because we're all very dedicated," senior and co-captain Eddie Cytryn said. Beyond the baseball field, many of them are attending the same colleges. Most importantly, they enjoy each other's company. In Florida, one of the highlights was "[playing] Laser Tag," Cytryn said.

With such a senior-centric team, the Hitmen could attribute their early failures to the stress of college admissions. "There was a lot on all the seniors' minds as far as college," Chiusano said.

Boys' Outdoor Track

Greyducks Fly High Above the Borough of Manhattan

By JORDAN WALLACH

Twelve years, 36 track seasons, 36 consecutive Manhattan Borough Championships. The Greyducks, Stuyvesant's outdoor track team, has answered Kanye West's famous question, "Can we get much higher?" with a resounding "yes."

On a typical humid New York City day in the middle of May, the Greyducks went out to Icahn Stadium and put down their competition easily.

"The Borough's were an overwhelming success. We scored in 18 of the 20 events, winning 8 of them. Our 248 points was more than the second place the second place [Hunter High School Hawks] and the third place [Beacon High School Blue Demons] combined," coach Mark Mendes said in an e-mail interview.

However, this year's competition was a bit tougher than previous years' due to a different strategy adopted by teams such as Hunter High School and LaGuardia High School. As it is well-known that the Greyducks' long-distance runners combine to form one of the best squads in the city, other schools have put more of a focus on field events, hoping to earn the same amount of points for a first-place finish as for a top finish in a running event. "At first, we were worried that their field events would overcome our distance events," senior and co-captain Andy Chen said. But the Stuyvesant team stepped out onto the track and still came out on top.

In order for the Greyducks to have such a successful finish, the team's top performers had to run multiple events. Sophomore Jack Stevenson, who was among that select group,

"I think their mind was not on the baseball field. It was more on making the right decision for life," coach John Carlesi said.

By their trip to Florida, most of them knew which schools they would be attending next year, and something finally clicked. "At the beginning, nobody was really hitting, and then after Florida we really stepped it up," Carlesi said.

After a tough exhibition game against Christian Brothers Academy while in Port St. Lucie, a locker room meeting became heated when senior Jakob Moran called out Carlesi over his coaching style. Moran complained that he had a negative attitude towards most things. "It took our heads out of it when he would [complain about trivial errors]," Chiusano said.

"[After that] I tried to change my demeanor a little," Carlesi said. "It seemed to have an affect on the kids being much more positive on their good play instead of [focusing on] their bad play."

Their first league game following their trip to Florida was an extra innings game against Frederick Douglass Academy, which was played over two days on two different fields. The Hitmen were down 2-1 in the top of the 7th inning (the last inning in a high school baseball game), when senior Clay Gibson executed a suicide squeeze to drive in Cytryn, tying the game until it was suspended four innings later due to lack of daylight.

Two days later, on a different field, Chiusano reached base on an error, and after a few more base on balls, Cytryn unloaded the bases with a ground rule double to give the Hitmen the lead for good. "The

FDA game showed us that we could really explode offensively," Cytryn said.

Throughout their impressive run, many players stepped up. Junior Kyle Yee had the highest batting average on the team, was considered one of the best fielders, and was also the second best pitcher behind senior and ace of the staff Michael Zurier.

Zurier really stepped up especially down the stretch," Carlesi said. "Hitting wise, [...] Scott Chiusano, Jakob Moran, and Erick Wong really came together and got the hits when they were needed."

In the playoffs, the team made it past Fort Hamilton in the first round. The game was tight, with the Hitmen squeezing out a 1-0 win. Zurier pitched a complete game shutout, allowing only three hits while striking out two. Chiusano batted in the only run of the game with a double in the first inning.

The team ended up losing in the second round to Grand Street Campus 2-0. Grand Street is ranked number two in the city and has senior Williams Jerez, the #1 prospect in New York City who was picked in the second round of the MLB draft by the Boston Red Sox. Yee managed to limit Grand street to just one earned run on three hits while striking out three and holding the MLB prospect to a season low one hit.

Although only making it to the second round, Carlesi views the season as a success. "To come back [from a 2-5 record] and go to the second round of the playoffs and to win your last nine out of ten is just fantastic," Carlesi said.

were to lose and the streak were to end, he would retire," Barnes said.

With that extra stress, team unity was on the rise this past season. "We've come together this year more than we have in the past, and we even hosted a party as a team a couple of weeks ago," Chen said. Even though this year's team was dominated by underclassmen and juniors, the few seniors provided leadership and served as role models by training hard and staying dedicated to the team.

Barnes and Chen especially helped lead a group of four other individuals to qualifications for the City Championships, as well as the 4x100 and 4x800 relay teams. Junior Konrad Surkont, who was expected to finish on top of the city in the 1600-meter race, fell short of a win by four-hundredths of a second—a minor disappointment.

Other notable results were a third-place finish in the 3200-meter from Stevenson, and a personal record set by Chen in the steeplechase, a 300-meter obstacle race involving multiple hurdles and a water jump.

Though Barnes finished eighth out of 12 spots in his last race as a Greyduck in the City Championships, he will still leave a legacy of his own at Stuyvesant, with a school record time in the 800-meter race. "It's not about my own personal achievements. It's about continuing Stuyvesant's legacy of winning, and I'm just glad that I got to be a part of it," he said. "Hopefully, I've inspired some of the younger guys so they could continue on long after I've graduated."

Hirschowitz Wins PSAL-Wingate Award



Victoria Stempel / The Spectator

Senior and Girl's Gymnastics Captain Chloe Hirschowitz and Coach Vasken Choubarian

By GABRIELLE GILLOW

Being a successful athlete is not exclusively determined by one's level of talent or skill. Being able to perform, and do it well, comes down to dedication, leadership, and character.

To be a respected and admired athlete, a certain level of graciousness and humility is required in your character.

Every year, the Public School Athletics League (PSAL)

continued on page 21

buildOn Brings 3-on-3 Tournament Back to Stuyvesant

By ODREKA AHMED

The familiar sound of squeaky shoes, pounding basketballs, and an excited crowd resonated through the third floor atrium on Wednesday, June 8. However, the basketball season had long since ended, and upon entering the gymnasium, it was clear this was not a normal PSAL game. Clad in semi matching-attire, 16 teams of three were playing to raise money for buildOn.

Players had to pay \$5 to participate and fans had to pay \$1 to attend. All profits went toward buildOn, a nonprofit organization that encourages American youth to make a positive difference in their communities. In addition, the organization's Trek for Knowledge program sends students to underdeveloped countries to help build schools and promote literacy. According to the buildOn Web site, the organization has succeeded in building more than 377 schools around the world, so far.

Junior Debanjan Roychoudhury is responsible for reintroducing the idea of a three-on-three basketball tournament and suggesting the proceeds be donated to charity. He organized the event with the help of fellow junior Jahmar Campbell.

"I actually went to Nicaragua in summer of 2009 and 2010, and I went to a village and I actually helped build a school. I saw exactly where that money is going and I saw just what it does. So that was the inspiration. And all the money we made, all \$504, is going to that aspect of buildOn," Roychoudhury said.

Despite the fact that the tournament was a grand success,

there was some controversy over player eligibility before the tournament started. Earlier this year, several teams lost key players due to a suddenly enforced school lateness policy that deemed PSAL athletes with an excessive number of latenesses ineligible to play.

For this non-PSAL, charity tournament, these eligibility rules extended to all Stuyvesant students, making about five to ten prospective participants, primarily seniors, ineligible to play. "I know a few good players in the school weren't allowed to play because of latenesses and cuts, which was disappointing because I would've like to play beat them too," said senior Casey LaMountain, the captain of both the varsity basketball team and winning team, TuneSquad.

Roychoudhury had mixed feelings about the situation. "Am I completely happy that so many people are ineligible? No. But at the same time, there have to be some rules that are upheld," he said.

The teams were limited to five players, with three playing at a time and two subs. To ensure fairness, each team was limited to one player of the varsity basketball team on the court at any given time. This, however, made the tournament much more enjoyable to watch, as "the talent was split throughout the teams [and] made it competitive," said junior Abid Choudhury, captain of the second place Mambas.

The first and second rounds went by quickly, as games were played until seven points and refereed by physical education teachers Howard Barbin and Phil-

continued on page 21