



# The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

*"The Pulse  
of the  
Student  
Body"*

Volume XCIX No. 15

May 11, 2009

stuspectator.com

## Tribeca Film Festival



Leili Saber / The Spectator

See pages 10 & 11  
for red carpet coverage  
and film reviews.

## Speech & Debate Team Wins Big At States

By SHINNY HWANG  
and EMMA LICHTENSTEIN

Stuyvesant High School's Speech and Debate Team participated in the annual New York State Forensic League Championship Tournament held at Albany High School and the Albany Academics on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26. The New York State Forensic League consists of more than 85 high schools for the 2008-2009 school year. Nearly a quarter of these schools come from the New York City Department of Education's District 2, which is comprised of all public schools in Manhattan.

This is the 25th year that Stuyvesant's Speech and Debate team has attended the state championships. Last year, the team won third place at States with 104 students who qualified and 13 semifinalists.

"There were about a thousand people at States, and we were one tenth of the field," Director of Forensics Julie Sheinman said, regarding the turnout this year.

In order to qualify for States, students needed two half-qualifications, or merits for good performances. Each local tournament event consists of three preliminary rounds in which students are graded on a one to six scale, one representing the strongest performance and six indicating the lowest one. Students with the lowest scores advance to the final



Anna Menkova / The Spectator

Stuyvesant's Speech and Debate team had many successes at the New York State Forensic League Championship Tournament.

rounds, and depending on how many people attended the tournament, half-qualifications are distributed either for being in the final round or for winning.

Ninety-nine Stuyvesant students qualified for States this year. According to Sheinman, in previous years, there have been "more people certainly, but the results have been pretty much consistently excellent," she said.

"It's annoying when Stuyvesant has less people at States than other schools. Stuyvesant had 99 people [who qualified] while Regis High School had 159," freshman Loulyana Saney said. Saney, a Lincoln-Douglas debater, advanced from the preliminary rounds but was voted out during the elimination round.

The States tournament consisted of five rounds each of

Speech events, Lincoln-Douglas debate, and Public Forum, four rounds of Policy Debate, and three sessions of Student Congress. There were also two elimination rounds, Semi-Finals and Finals, for all categories involved.

"It was a lot of fun as opposed to the other away tournaments, since we've all known each other for a while. We got to practice and work the entire year together to get to States [...] and traveling with a team is always fun," freshman and Oral Interpretation speaker Joseph Frankel said. At States, Frankel performed in the preliminary rounds, but did not advance to semi-finals.

The topic for the Lincoln-Douglas Debate was, "Resolved:

continued on page 2

## Opinions

Article on page 9.

### If Life Were a Game, I'd Rather Not Play

Ever wish life was more like a first-person shooter?  
You're not alone.



Article on page 6.

### Earth Day Festival Strives for a Green Vindication

PETA was among the many groups present at Stuy's first ever Earth Day festival.

## Features

## Wands Out, Phones Away

By VICTOR MA

Students taking an Advanced Placement (AP) exams will now be scanned with handheld metal detector wands before entering the testing room. This policy is meant to prevent students from using electronic devices to cheat during exams, and will be in effect for the duration of the AP exams.

The wands, however, will not be used during finals/Regents week, as there will be more rooms occupied and not enough wands available.

"As we all know, a student can ask to go to the bathroom and find all the answers on Wikipedia," Principal Stanley Teitel said.

Additionally, Teitel said that if students decide to continue cheating with cell phone, the scanners would make the process more difficult because the students would have to pick up their phones from their lockers before going the bathroom.

According to Teitel, this is the first time students are being scanned for cell phones and other electronic devices. It has "never been done before," he said.

Last December, Teitel re-



Principal Stanley Teitel plans to implement a new metal detector policy throughout this year's AP exams.

quested that metal detectors be used during finals week, but his request was denied by the Department of Education (DOE). Teitel was informed that the "purpose [of metal detectors] is to respond to schools in which there is a known threat or they have some reason to believe there could be violence in the schools," Teitel said in the Friday, December 19, 2008 article

in The Spectator, "Metal Detector Request Denied."

The school has already purchased several metal detector wands and will retain ownership of these detectors after the AP exams. The "DOE has nothing to do with them" and was not informed of the metal detector wands purchase, Teitel said.

*continued on page 3*

## Recession Repercussions

By ANDREW CHOW  
with additional reporting by  
HANNAH WHALEN

Eight months ago, presidential candidate John McCain declared, "the fundamentals of our economy are strong." We are now in the largest economic slide since the Great Depression. Hard times have hit many members of our society, including Stuyvesant students.

"The possibility of my parents being laid off their government jobs has made itself real," junior Omar Akhand said. "My dad was expecting a raise but was told that the raise would be delayed."

"My father owns a camera repair shop downtown, and business is down by 50 percent," freshman Dennis Rim said. "I was surprised because his shop is in a very busy downtown area, and now we're a little unsure about our future."

With workers being laid off left and right, students are anxious about their situation at home. Families are preparing for financial losses. Many families are limiting spending on luxuries, like travel.

"We didn't travel at all this year, and we can't buy many of the things we want," junior Marko Oydanich said.

Students are also taking steps to reduce everyday spending. "I'm more aware of how

much money I have in my wallet and how I spend it," junior Lisa Lam said. "I love shopping, but due to the atmosphere of the recession I have almost come to hate it."

Although Stuyvesant is located in an affluent area, peoples' financial concerns are hurting local businesses. Pane Peppe and Ceci Cela recently went under, and some stores like Mike's Papaya have started offering "Recession Specials." Other stores are having money problems. Pan Latin owner Sandy Kraehling recently told the Battery Park City broadsheet that her business was down 45 percent.

The recession has also altered students' goals. Junior Kyle Hom, who volunteers in the Stuyvesant guidance office and has interned at various businesses for several years, has trouble finding internship opportunities. "Last year, I was actually offered internships," Hom said. "This year, I cannot find any to even apply to."

The recession has also left seniors applying to college scrambling for financial aid and reevaluating their choices. Many who thought they would be able to afford top private colleges are quickly reconsidering and choosing from a different set of schools. "A lot of families

*continued on page 4*

Anna Menkova / The Spectator

# News

## Speech & Debate Team Wins Big At States

### Results

#### Duo Interpretation of Literature:

Rebecca Temkin & Xander Palmer — 3rd

#### Declamation:

#### Original Oratory:

Kashyap Rajagopal — 1st

#### Dramatic Interpretation of Literature:

Chelsea Grant — 6th

#### Humorous Interpretation of Literature:

Sari Sharoni — 3rd

#### Oral Interpretation:

#### Junior Varsity

Omika Jikaria — 1st  
Emily Martin — 3rd

#### LD:

#### Junior Varsity

Aditya Vijay — Quarterfinalist

Amit Saha & Mathew Varghese — Octofinalists  
Lea Beltrmino, Evan Schleifer-Katz, Carolyn Dean-Wolf — Double Octofinalists

*Novice*  
Eric Han — Quarterfinalist  
Loullyana Saney — Double Octofinalist

**Policy Debate:**  
*Varsity*  
Michelle Huang — Best Speaker & Semifinalist  
Andrew Huang — 5th Best Speaker & Semifinalist  
Sandesh Kataria & Paul Lee — Semifinalists

*Junior Varsity*  
Daniel Frankel & Michael Lavina — Quarterfinalists

*Novice*  
Ian Grant & Mimi Yen — Quarterfinalists

**Student Congress:**  
Harlan Downs-Tepper — 1st  
Amitav Chakraborty — 2nd  
Joseph Puma — 5th  
Tousif Ahsan — Semifinalist

**Public Forum:**  
*Junior Varsity*  
Liam Downs-Tepper & Sam Saskin — Octofinalists  
Claire Adams & Maya Averbuch — Double Octofinalists

*continued from page 1*

Vigilantism is justified when the government has failed to enforce the law," and the topic for Public Forum was, "Resolved: That the Employee Free Choice Act serves the best interests of the American people." Speech events consisted of performances of formal commencement speeches, prose and poetry, monologues and original works.

For the Sweepstakes Awards, Stuyvesant placed third in the Lincoln-Douglas and Policy debate divisions, second in Speech, and first in Student Congress. Furthermore, Stuyvesant students claimed the State Champion title for four different events: senior and co-captain of Lincoln-Douglas Debate Georgia Stasinopoulos in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, senior and Speech and Debate team president Harlan Downs-Tepper in Student Congress, junior Kashyap Rajagopal in Original Oratory, and sophomore Omika Jikaria in Junior Varsity Oral Interpretation.

Stasinopoulos won the New York State Forensic League title after defeating Hunter College High School's Alex Bores in the final round and placing first in her division.

"I've coached her for three years now. She's always been really hardworking and successful and she's done well in a number of tournaments," Lincoln-Douglas Debate coach Caitlin Halpern said. "I'm really proud of her, she deserves it, and she's worked hard for as long I've known her."

"It was a great experience. There was a feeling of camaraderie between the competitors," Stasinopoulos said.

"The Speech Team is absolutely incredible and filled with some of the most talented, motivated people I've ever met," Jikaria said. "Through Speech, I've learned so much about my capabilities and I've been able to set achievable goals for myself."

As of now, Stuyvesant's Speech and Debate Team's exact ranking at States is unknown due to a computer malfunction in calculating the scores, but it is certain that first place will either go to Stuyvesant or Regis.

"With ninety-nine qualified students, this was our second-largest entry ever," Downs-Tepper said. "I attribute the larger entry to students' talent, teamwork, and dedication. In addition, none of us would have done so well without the hard work of our director, Julie Sheinman, and our other coaches, who work tirelessly nearly every day."

Additionally, sophomore Rebecca Temkin and senior Xander Palmer won third place for Duo Interpretation, an event involving a pair acting out a short literary piece without using props, or looking at or touching your partner.

"It was my third time going [to States]. It was more competitive and really grueling," Palmer said. "There were seven rounds, each a little over an hour long."

"It was fun," Temkin said. "It was a little nerve-wracking, but everyone does better at States because it's the last tournament. It's not as stressful and you're not trying to qualify."

"Of the four State Championships I've attended, this was my favorite. My teammates never cease to bring glory to themselves and make us all proud, and this year was no exception," Downs-Tepper said. "Everyone works to help everyone else, and, whether or not we win, observers always hear us screaming our support for each other at the Awards Ceremony."

"I'd just like to say how proud I am. Everybody was so cooperative and supportive of each other, and that kind of spirit was great," Sheinman said. "They're great ambassadors for Stuyvesant as a team with great sportsmanship and character."

## A Stuyvesant Record of Thirteen Students Compete in USAMO

By RUCHI JAIN

A Stuyvesant record number of thirteen students were invited to compete in the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO) on Tuesday, April 28 and Wednesday April 29. The previous record, set last year, was ten.

The USAMO is a two-day examination that lasts four and a half hours each day. There are a total of six proof questions that involve number theories, geometry, inequalities, algebra, and combinatorics which is the study of counting that deals with sets the selection, arrangement, and operation of elements within sets.

Over 500 students competed in the examination nationwide. Of these, the top 25 freshmen and top 18 non-freshmen will be invited to the Mathematics Olympiad Summer Program (MOSP) where the US Olympiad team will be selected to compete at the International Mathematics Olympiad that will be held in Germany this July.

The thirteen students were freshman Genghis Chau, sophomores Milo Beckman, Jao-ke Chin-Lee, Daniel Mendelsohn, Joseph Park, Yichi Zhang, juniors Yevgeniy Rudoy, Shaoxiang Wang (two-time qualifier), and seniors Paul Fisher, Daniel Gitelman (two-time qualifier), Benjamin Hirsch (two-time qualifier), Daniel Jeng, and Adam Sealfon (two-time qualifier).

"Stuyvesant ranked third in the nation for the most students that were invited to the USAMO" Assistant Principal of Mathemat-

ics Maryann Ferrara said. The first was Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia with eighteen students attending and the second was Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire with sixteen students attending.

The Mathematical Association of American invited students to the USAMO based on their combined scorings in the American Math Competition (AMC) and American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME).

The participants felt great about competing in the USAMO. "I was excited and proud of my accomplishment," Mendelsohn said. "It was almost a relief because last year I just barely missed qualifying."

Students were prepared for the USAMO in their Math team classes. "In class we went over some problems and techniques," Math teacher and Math team coach James Cocoros said in an e-mail interview. "The students also use books and on-line resources like Art of Problem Solving."

"I did not have much time to prepare this year," Hirsch said. "Last year, I also did a training program called Worldwide Online Olympiad Training through the Art [of] Problem Solving Website, and looked at far more USAMO problems as well as problems from other countries' Mathematical Olympiads than I did this year."

"Although four and half hours seems a like a lot, it went by really fast," Mendelsohn said. "It was actually pretty fun."

## Students Sell Snacks Illegally

Despite the regulations prohibiting the selling of candy without permission from the Student Union, candy is still sold illegally throughout the school.

By CHRIS LEE

Several clubs have been found violating the Student Union's (SU) new snack policy, which states that students cannot sell snacks without first requesting permission from the SU. Those who have been granted permission are required to sell their candy in green SU-approved boxes. Many club members, such as those in Ultimate Frisbee, did not receive permission from the SU before selling

their snacks.

According to junior and SU Vice President Casey Griffin, the policy originated from a Department of Education law stating that students are "only supposed to sell things in school for certain things and during certain times," she said.

Additionally, senior and SU President James Kim said that the snack policy was created and enforced by the administration, not the SU. "[It's the] administration's policy to try to

crack down on illegal candy selling," he said.

However, in spite of this new policy, many students have been selling candy without being granted the right to do so first.

According to sophomore Jackson Sheng, a member of the Ultimate Frisbee team, "our season is in full swing. We need all the money we can get to pay for all the expenses that our team has," he said.

Some students agreed with Sheng, saying that the policy is unreasonable.

"It just makes things harder for everyone," junior Jin Suh said.

"It's way too much of a hassle to have to ask the SU for their approved candy," Sheng said.

Others, however, said they are indifferent to the policy.

"I have no objection to buying candy from anyone, selling illegally or not," sophomore Ha Gyun Chung said. "If I'm hungry, I'll buy it."

However, even though it is illegal for the club to sell candy without the SU's permission, Kim and Griffin said that they are not responsible for making sure students adhere to the policy.

"It is certainly not our job to police students," Griffin said. "If [Principal Stanley] Teitel wants any sort of policy to work, he will have to convince his faculty to monitor candy selling."

"It would be unfair of [the administration] to ask us to do this on top of the ordering, storing, distribution, and paperwork behind the snack selling," Kim said. Still, the SU hopes to make a compromise for next year.

"I do plan on speaking to Mr. Teitel about the funding," Griffin said. "There is no way for students to follow the rule and meet their needs."

## Proposal to Require Course Evaluations Rejected

By GAVIN HUANG

At the Student Leadership Team (SLT) meeting on Tuesday, April 21, teachers and Principal Stanley Teitel rejected a proposal made by Student Union (SU) representatives to require course evaluations after each semester. "The proposal was that teachers would ask students at the end of the semester to evaluate the course," Teitel said. "The concern raised was that sometimes it is difficult to separate the course and the instructor."

**"Students should also feel that their voices are valuable."**  
—Eric Grossman, Assistant Principal English

Teachers cited restrictions by the United Federation of Teachers' (UFT) contract, which states that "educators shall exercise proper discretion prior to referring students for evaluations, either for the provision of or decertification of special education services."

UFT representative and social studies teacher Ellen Schweitzer, who opposed the idea during the meeting, declined to comment.

The issue was first brought up at the Stuyvesant Open Forum two weeks earlier on Tuesday, April 7, where a discussion of academic dishonesty led to a proposal to require official teacher evaluations. It was thought that students would be less inclined to cheat or plagiarize if teachers and administrators became more involved. Course evaluations similar to those in the proposal are given at public schools like Bard High School Early College.

"At Bard, every teacher gives every student an evaluation, and the teacher sits down and discusses them with an administrator," SU Vice President and junior Casey Griffin said. "Obviously, there aren't severe consequences for evaluations that

say 'this teacher is boring.' Students and teachers take [the evaluations] seriously."

**"I do evaluations in my classes and I find them valuable."**  
—Brad Badgley, history teacher

The teachers' contract allows teachers to use evaluations at their own discretion but only if administrators do not view them. Teachers at the SLT meeting also rejected an alternative proposal to have administrators require or recommend course evaluations without viewing them, dismissing it as a form of coercion.

"Sometimes [students' evaluations] are based on other things," Teitel said. "Students may have had problems in other ways, for example if the teacher was a

cafeteria supervisor."

"There are two very clear and mutually exclusive sides, both of which by their own lights are unassailable," Assistant Principal English Eric Grossman said. "A teacher shouldn't be terrified, and students should also feel that their voices are valuable and have some say to provide feedback about the classes that they take."

However, students believed inaccurate evaluations could be avoided by writing questions specifically about the teacher's teaching.

"A personal bias won't get in the way of specific questions like 'Did this teacher give out any writing assignments?'" SLT student representative and junior Briana Last said.

"We're not using it to determine their job in any way," Griffin said. "It doesn't have to be a 'you're fired' kind of thing. It's more of a 'let's see how you can improve' kind of thing."

Other students, as well as some teachers, were divided on the issue.

"Evaluations are good for new teachers because they can learn about what their students need," sophomore David Lu said. "But I don't think they would help for

older teachers."

"I do evaluations in my classes and I find them valuable," social studies teacher Brad Badgley said. "They're good in a sense that positive feedback helps teachers understand if they're doing well. Any negative feedback is also helpful in terms of improving projects and how they're set up. I would recommend teachers do them,

**"Evaluations are good for new teachers because they can learn about what their students need."**  
—David Lu, sophomore

but for the administration, I don't think they would work."

## Junior Accosted by Undercover Police, Arrested

By ROBERT COLGAN

Junior Omar Akhand was accosted by undercover police officers in the early morning on Sunday, April 26. According to Akhand, he was arrested after trying to run from the officers, unaware of who they were.

After a night of studying, Akhand walked outside his home in Queens at around 2 a.m. Sunday morning to make a phone call. "I just wanted to make a phone call in peace. I felt like I'd studied a good amount and I just wanted to take a break and get some fresh air," Akhand said.

According to Akhand, he was walking near 72nd Street and 41st Avenue when the two officers pulled up to him in an unmarked vehicle and told him to approach their car, without identifying themselves as police officers.

**"They shouldn't just view everybody as potential suspects or criminals."**  
—Omar Akhand, junior

"They were like 'Hey kid, come over here,' and I was really suspicious," Akhand said. "I slowly backed off because it was just too suspicious and I thought they were trying to hurt me or something."

The officers exited the car and began to approach Akhand, who started to run from them.

"They didn't have any badges, they didn't say they were police, so I took off. I just ran as fast as I could," Akhand said.

According to Akhand, one of the officers began chasing him on foot, and the other got back into the car and pulled up in front of

him and tried to stop him, but he managed to evade the officer. He ran onto a busy street and called 911 at around 70th Street and Woodside Avenue.

By the time he finished calling, the two men caught up to him and tried to force him into a submissive position. Still unaware they were police officers, he tried to resist them, Akhand said.

More police officers then arrived to assist the two undercover officers and hit Akhand on his stomach, back, and head. It was at that point that he realized the two men were police officers. He stopped resisting and allowed them to put handcuffs on him, but they did not immediately stop hitting him.

"All they're telling me is to 'shut the [expletive] up,' and they're just yelling profanities at me, and they're accusing me of assaulting one of them, but I didn't throw any punches, and I just wanted to get away because I thought I was being harmed," Akhand said. "I tried to tell them but they completely didn't understand."

Akhand was put into a police car and taken to a nearby precinct, where he was booked for assaulting a police officer and spent the night and most of the next day there, he said. He was released at about 8:00 p.m. on Sunday and then went to an emergency room, from which he was discharged at about 3:00 a.m. in the morning and missed school the next day.

Akhand said he did not know why the officers accosted him in the first place.

"It was late at night and they might have thought that I maybe would have been on drugs or something, I'm not sure. They didn't have a real reason to stop me but I guess they just saw a person walking out late at night and they thought that that might be suspicious," Akhand said.

"They want to indict me for assault, so I'm going to try to defend myself," Akhand said. "I'm just trying to clear my case for now, just get this scrubbed off."

"Policemen have a difficult job, and it's a huge responsibility. I respect that. They take on so many risks and it could be dangerous, but they shouldn't just view everybody as potential suspects or criminals," Akhand said. "It's just important that they follow procedures exactly how it's supposed to be, or else a misunderstanding like this could happen."

## Wands Out, Phones Away

*continued from page 1*

For now, parents have to pick up confiscated cellphones during school hours. However, Teitel said he is considering keeping the cell phones until AP exams end.

Students have mixed reactions to the metal detectors.

"The implementation of metal detectors will only cause students to seek another method of cheating," junior Andrew Fong said.

"It makes sense from the administrative perspective, but it's annoying," senior Molly Schaeffer said.

Junior Seth Schonberg, on the other hand, said, "It's necessary. There's nothing really you can complain about. You can see why they're doing it," he said. "People don't inherently have the right to

cheat on tests."

"It's a fair process in that everyone should just leave their cell phones in their lockers," sophomore Daniel Frankel said. "In a school known for cheating, these precautionary measures are justified."

According to Teitel, the only problem that could occur with the metal detectors is a long wait, "especially for the big exams," he said.

According to junior Raisa Shnayder, who took the AP Statistics exam, the metal detector wands caused a slight hassle. "I came in with my bag and then they asked me to go put my stuff back," she said. "Then they just scanned me with the metal detector."

Senior Vincent Dao disagreed, saying the process was extremely short. "She just said 'put your hands up' and used the wand up and down. It was less than five seconds," he said.

ADVERTISEMENT



179 DUANE ST, NY NY 10013 • 212 274 8447

[www.madelines.net](http://www.madelines.net)

# News

By CHESTER DUBOV  
and M.E. FICARRA

At the Student Leadership Team (SLT) meeting on Tuesday, April 21, Principal Stanley Teitel raised the possibility of next year's Saturday performance of SING! being made into a matinee.

"I proposed the idea after receiving an email from a parent of a freshman who was concerned about her child being out in the city late at night and who asked me 'why don't we just start SING! earlier?'" said Mr. Teitel. "It would not be hard to do, we own the building. It's not like I'm re-

serving a certain time at another venue."

Traditionally, the Saturday performance of SING! begins at 7:00, and ends around midnight following the judging and awards ceremony. "I don't get home until one in the morning," Teitel said.

There are also generally several after parties not affiliated with Stuyvesant High School that students can choose to attend.

According to Sophomore Caucus president and SLT member Mohammed Hossain, "There have been some parents concerned about how late the after parties go," he said. Personally however, Hossain does not think

that starting SING! earlier will curb any post-performance revelry, "Kids will go to after-parties anyways," Hossain said.

Despite the flurry of speculation surrounding the possible time change, Teitel emphasizes that nothing has been set in stone. "I am not opposed to starting at three or four, but nothing has been decided yet," Teitel said.

There has been some concern among students regarding the proposed time shift.

"It is natural for teenagers to want to release some of their tension by congregating after the show. Changing the time of the

performance won't eliminate an afterparty or decrease the amount of partygoers, it will just cause more kids to travel there on their own--after returning home first--instead of in large groups, endangering their safety more. Twenty teenagers on a lonely subway at midnight are a lot less likely to be assaulted than one. In addition, a showtime during the day will make SING! feel like more of an amateur performance than a legitimate musical. Students put so much time and effort into SING!, and they deserve to feel like they are participating in something important," Senior SING! Executive Producer, Samantha Whit-

more said.

Others expressed similar concerns. "There is something exciting and bizarre about being at school at midnight after SING! and to take that away would make the whole event somewhat anticlimactic. Also, if you ended SING! earlier people would just begin to party earlier and for longer so I don't think that would necessarily solve anything," Soph-Frosh Executive Producer Daniela Gilsanz said.

Teitel, however, dismissed the idea that an earlier start time would run contrary to SING! tradition. "The tradition is SING!, not the time when it's performed."

## Stuyvesant Chess Team Wins First Place at National Championship

By AMIT SAHA

Stuyvesant's chess team placed first at this year's National High School Championship at the Supernationals Tournament, defeating Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology of Alexandria, Virginia by 1.5 points, for a final score of 22 to 20.5 out of a possible 28. Hunter College High School came in third with 19 points.

The 2009 Supernationals, the most important scholastic chess event of the year, was held in Nashville, Tennessee, from Friday, April 3 to Saturday, April 5. At least 45 states were represented at the tournament, forming a pool of over 5000 players hailing from 1515 schools from around the country. The Stuyvesant team won the High School Championship section, besting nearly 400 other players to officially become the best high school team in the nation.

The Stuyvesant team consisted of senior Arthur Wei, juniors Robert Hess, Andrew Ryba and team captain Zachary Weiner, sophomore Eigen Wang and freshmen Nicholas Ryba, Loren Weiss and Zachary Young.

"I felt somewhat nervous before the tournament started because I did not touch chess for a month before the tournament," Wang said in an e-mail interview. "I was proud to play for my school, especially because we won. I was also proud of my teammates for playing well and winning the tournament together."

According to team coordinator and history teacher William Boericke, the team had two main strengths. First, Hess, an International Master, was the highest rated player at the tournament, becoming the National High School champion with a perfect 7-0 score.

"Hess made it look easy while the rest of us just stared in awe," Young said in an e-mail interview.

Second, the team had many players who were capable of earning very high scores. The tournament was structured such that only the top four scores on any team would count in the final decision. Andrew Ryba, Nicholas Ryba, Wang and Wei each scored

five out of seven points. Thus, Stuyvesant's final score was the sum of Hess's seven points and three fives, individual results which were higher than any other team in the tournament achieved. Weiss and Young finished with scores of 3.5 and 4.5, respectively. Weiner also finished with a 4.5.

The tournament has been held annually since 1969. Stuyvesant has competed at the tournament every year since its inception, frequently taking first place in the tournament's early years.

Recently, however, Stuyvesant has faced increasingly tough competition. The last time Stuyvesant placed first was in 1999. Stuyvesant came in fifth place in 2008 and seventh in 2007.

Teams like Thomas Jefferson had approximately 30 players, months of preparation and great funding, and were a stiff challenge for the eight-person Stuyvesant team.

"We knew from the beginning that Thomas Jefferson High School in Virginia was the team to beat," Young said in the same e-mail. "TJ is our primary rival in math, and so that made the competition more dramatic. We were watching them for the whole tournament, and they were playing well. But we thought that we would have a slight edge because our team has more depth: we had more players that were competing for top scores, so we had more room for error."

"All of the players on the team were very motivated, and played a lot of great games and fought very hard to win," Andrew Ryba said in an e-mail interview.

"I was obviously extremely proud of the team and their outstanding performance individually, but what really touched me the most was the unity that we all felt in trying to accomplish our goal," Weiner said in an e-mail interview. "In chess it is easy to become enamored with individual success, but every single person on this team had an extreme appreciation for what we were trying to accomplish as a group."

"With only Arthur Wei graduating this year, Stuyvesant should have a very tough team for a couple of years," Boericke said in an e-mail interview.

## New Senior English Selective and Physics Elective Courses Offered



Emily Koo / The Spectator  
'Books of a lifetime,' a selective course taught by English teacher Kerry Garfinkel, is one of the new classes available to next year's seniors.

By NICOLE ZHAO  
and BEN GARNER

'Books of a Lifetime,' which will be taught by English teacher Kerry Garfinkel, and 'Modern Physics,' which will be taught by physics teacher Dr. Jamal Ali, are two new senior courses that will be available during the 2009-2010 school year.

'Books of a Lifetime' is a one-term English selective which can fulfill the English requirement for all seniors. It will focus on books written during the senior students' lifetimes.

The books would "all be written within the past several years," Assistant Principal English Eric Grossman said. While several English courses already study some recent literature, "this would be the first class that included it exclusively," Grossman said.

Students will study fictional books set in the present that reflect on topics such as world politics, global events, contemporary city life and the technological Internet era. The course will be taught through both analytical and creative writing and will also cover college essay writing in the fall term.

"The one thing that is unusual about this class is that students are expected to buy or borrow all the texts themselves," Grossman said.

According to Grossman, students who should take the course include "students who really love to read or to be exposed to some authors they might not have heard

about, students who want to get a sense of how the world is reflected in literature today," he said.

School budget cuts did not affect the creation of this new course because it is a selective course. While an elective must be taken in addition to the regular course, a selective may be taken as the regular course itself. "We're not running more classes," Grossman said. "Budget cuts aren't applicable here."

Although budget cuts were not an issue in creating this new course, the English department is wary of programming issues that may arise. "The number of classes we run with one to two sections makes it very time-consuming and difficult to give everyone the classes that they want," Grossman said. "We're trying to be sensitive to those programming issues while still offering the strongest and most varied curriculum courses."

"Hopefully, the course will show you that serious literature is a part of life and not just a part of school," Garfinkel said.

Students are generally happy with the creation of the new course.

"With books written within our lifetime, students would definitely be able to relate to them," junior Tiffany Choi said. "I would sign up for this class because of the role it may play in revamping my views of reading."

"[The course] sounds cool," senior Lucia Hsiao said. "It would have been a real opportunity to have taken that class."

In addition to Books of a Lifetime, another new senior course is Modern Physics, a single-term course that will meet two periods a day and fulfill the 10-tech requirement. According to Dr. Ali, it will cover a wide range of physics topics such as atomic physics, photonics, nanotechnology and imaging techniques such as the early detection of cancer. "The course is related to a lot of recent technology and application," Dr. Ali said. "Most of the recent technology and research are based on photonics, which is part of Modern Physics."

Students who wish to take the course must have completed Regents physics and must have completed, or will complete as a co-requisite, Advanced Placement Calculus with a minimum average of 90 in both courses. According to Dr. Ali, while exams are 40 percent of the final grade, a hands-on project and poster session comprise 50 percent of the final grade. The reason for this distribution of weight is that the class focuses on research. "I want students to have fun. I don't want students to be under stress for exams," Dr. Ali said. "Learning about research and how it's done is the focus."

In addition to research, the hands-on project and poster session also emphasizes creativity. "If you're creative, this class would be good for you," Dr. Ali said. "[Students] have to be able to carry out their own research. They have to come up with their own ideas, by reading other research papers and through discussion."

**"If you're creative, this class would be good for you."**  
**—Dr. Jamal Ali, physics teacher**

"If you go to college later on, you have to do research and this course is the closest to it," Dr. Ali said.

Students think the new class will be helpful.

"If there are new things to be learned in a class such as Modern Physics, then it sounds like a wonderful idea for a class," senior Alex Lampert said.

"I think it would be great for students to get a better understanding of how physics is used in the modern day instead of just dealing with abstractions," junior Daniel Fleishman said.

ADVERTISEMENT

**OLYMPIAD ACADEMIA**

# Olympiad Academia

450 7th Ave. Suite 804 New York, NY 10123  
**Office (212) 239-2797** olyacademia@gmail.com

## 2008-2009 National Award Recipients

***First Freedom Student Competition***

2nd Place

Honorable Mention (Top 4-10)

Alice Choi, Bergen County Academies

David Park, Herricks High School

***USA Biology Olympiad (USABO)***

Finalist (Top 20)

Finalist (Top 20)

David Park, Herricks High School

Alvin Jeon, Jericho Senior High School

&amp; 11 Semifinalists

***USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO)***

USAMO Qualifier

Joseph Park, Stuyvesant High School

***U.S. Physics Team***

Semifinalist Peter Cha, Stuyvesant High School

***Intel Science Talent Search (ISTS)***

Semifinalist Angela Jung, Jericho Senior High School

***Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology***

Semifinalist Angela Jung, Jericho Senior High School

Semifinalist David Jung, Jericho Senior High School

Semifinalist Sang Hee Shin, Great Neck South High School

Semifinalist Lisa Hwang, Northern Valley Regional High School

***2008-2009 SAT & PSAT Perfect Scorers***

SAT I Esther Jang, Hunter College High School / PSAT Peter Cha, Stuyvesant High School

**Conveniently located steps away from the Penn Station**

## Summer Program

**Open  
7 days  
a week*****SAT I Morning Classes*** (Mon - Thurs) 7/6 ~ 8/13, 6 weeks

- Time: 9:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM
- 8 different groups with varying levels and speeds
- SAT I Math choices: Math A, Math B, Pre-Cal
- Optional science preview classes: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

***SAT I Afternoon Classes*** (Mon - Thurs) 7/6 ~ 8/13, 6 weeks

- Time: 2:00 PM ~ 5:30 PM
- 5 different groups with varying levels and speeds

***SAT I Two-Week Intensive Class*** 8/17 ~ 8/27

- Time: 9:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM, Mon - Thurs
- Will focus on solving problems rather than reviewing basic concepts and principles

***Friday/Saturday AP Classes*** (36 hours) 7/10 ~ 8/15, 6 weeks

AP Biology 9:00 AM ~ 12:00 PM

AP Chemistry 9:00 AM ~ 12:00 PM

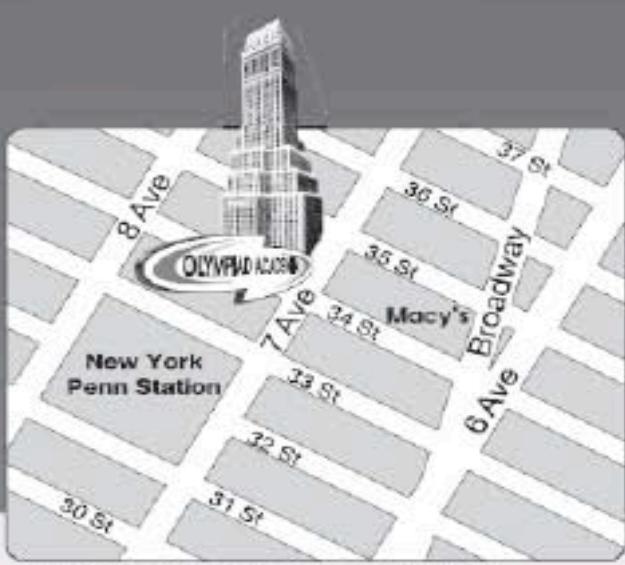
AP Calculus BC 12:00 PM ~ 3:00 PM

AP Physics B &amp; C 9:00 AM ~ 12:00 PM

AP U.S. History 12:00 PM ~ 3:00 PM

AP World History 12:00 PM ~ 3:00 PM

AP Spanish TBA



# Features

## Earth Day Festival Strives for a Green Vindication



Joann Lee / The Spectator

About one thousand people attended Stuyvesant's first ever Earth Day Festival, hosted by STRIVE on Wednesday, April 22.

**By DANIELLE OBERDIER and HANNAH O'GRADY**

Becoming a vegetarian is one of the most effective things you can do to help the environment. Compact fluorescent light bulbs last 10 times longer than incandescent ones do and use 75 percent less energy. If everyone at Stuyvesant was to install an energy conservative heater in his or her house, we would eliminate significant amounts greenhouse gases.

These are just a few of the persuasive statistics circulated at Stuyvesant's first-ever Earth Day Festival, held on Wednesday, April 22. Organized by STRIVE (Students Take Resolute Initiative to Vindicate the Environment), a club unique to Stuyvesant, to raise awareness about environmental issues and to encourage people to go green, the event was originally supposed to be held outside in Rockefeller Park. However, untimely rain forced the event organizers to scramble to set things up inside in the third-floor atrium instead. Still, Antara Chowdhury, a sophomore and one of 50 festival volunteers, considers it "a great success."

An estimated 1,000 people, according to senior and co-president of STRIVE Marcela Rodriguez, crowded into the atrium, stopping by the various tables manned by volun-

teers from such organizations as Mercy Corps Action Center, PETA2, Covanta Energy and the Go Green Initiative. Students demonstrated how to do craft projects with recyclable materials, including knitting with pencils and plastic bags and making earrings out of

**STRIVE sees the festival as the launch of a "Green School" campaign to promote resource conservation and recycling.**

Starburst wrappers. Festival attendees were showered with freebies (an Energy Smart light bulb, canvas "Earth Day Fest" cotton tote, and "Go Veg!" stickers) and had the opportunity to sample organic, vegetarian and vegan food. Amanzi tea and Pan Latin also made contributions. All the edibles were served on

reusable plates that attendees could purchase for a dollar.

Music added to the festive atmosphere. A Cappella sang "Hallelujah" and "Good Old A capella," and junior Margaret Borowczyk performed "Aramba."

STRIVE sees the festival as the launch of a "Green School" campaign to promote resource conservation and recycling. The group also developed a "Green School Incentive Proposal" for all New York City public schools that would give schools that save energy a percentage of the money they save.

"Currently, New York City public schools do not pay a cent of their energy or waste disposal bills—the city does," Rodriguez said. "So their administrations lack an incentive to save because they don't get any monetary savings back for cutting these costs. While the Department of Education is trying to 'go green' with its own 'Green Schools 2009' program that gives schools energy saving goals, it would be much more effective if schools directly benefited from these initiatives."

STRIVE's other goal is to make the Earth Day Festival an annual event—one that can be held outdoors, as planned, in the coming years. "Next year," junior and STRIVE co-president Divya Dayal said. "We will make sure that we have a rain date so we can definitely go outside."

## Recession Repercussions

*continued from page 1*

had been putting money every year into college savings accounts, and after the recession, a lot of those were cut down by a third, or in half," senior Amy Crehore said. Because of the economic situation, Crehore decided to attend SUNY Purchase instead of an expensive liberal arts school. "Now I don't have to worry about debt at all after college, and can do a lot of traveling on study abroad programs," she said.

Top colleges are struggling financially and have cut back on financial aid and programs. For example, Harvard's endowment lost 20 percent of its value, and Brandeis was forced to shut down its arts museum.

The recession has affected Stuyvesant's artistic community. Junior Alexis Wint is an aspiring poet, and often travels across the country to showcase her talent. But because of the economic con-

traction, funding for her and other poets is being slashed. However, Wint thinks that the recession encourages creativity. "The recession takes away the glitz and the glamour," she said.

Sophomore musicians Shourya Sen and Huei Lin are spending less on their musical pursuits. Sen, a jazz guitarist, has been spending less on guitar equipment like pedals and amplifiers. Saxophonist Lin has been more careful with his saxophone reeds. "I used to buy them in bulk," Lin said. "I've been buying a lot less and I make an effort not to break them and to preserve them for longer amounts of time."

Although the recession is harming Stuyvesant students, they're taking it in stride. "I can live without traveling over spring break," junior Kasun Navarantha said.

Added Wint, "In these times, true artists begin to emerge."

## Life in a Catholic High School

**By NANCY MA**

Life for students of Archbishop Molloy, a Catholic Marist school in Briarwood, Queens, differs from the life many Stuyvesant students are used to living.

The school has a student population of 1,561, less than half of Stuyvesant's population, and the school goes from seventh grade to 12th grade. The building itself is also much smaller than Stuyvesant's. There are three main floors on which students take classes. The fourth floor is where the Brothers live, so students are not allowed up in their residencies.

Admission to Molloy is by the Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools (TACHS), which is similar to the admission test for specialized high schools. Students in grades six, seven and eight are also considered. Once admitted into the school, tuition is 7,000 dollars annually. Molloy students wear a uniform consisting of gray, blue or tan uniform slacks or skirts, and a blue or white uniform shirt or blouse.

Most of the classes at Molloy are similar to those offered at Stuyvesant. Molloy provides a large selection of Advanced Placement classes. Some such classes include American History, World History, Biology, Calculus, English Literature, English Composition, Spanish and Psychology. In their senior year, students get a choice of classes such as forensics, drama, human anatomy and public speaking.

Some classes are lectures. "My global history teacher would write the notes on the smart board and talk, and we copy it and listen," Molloy sophomore Carina Bunnag said.

Other classes may include hands-on experiences, which depend on the teacher. "My religion teacher took us to the theater and made us throw bean bags to prove a point about the covenant," Bunnag said.

The amount of time it takes to complete homework depends on the classes students take.

**"My religion teacher took us to the theater and made us throw bean bags to prove a point about the covenant."**

**—Carina Bunnag, Molloy sophomore**

Homework could be done in 10 minutes or it could take hours.

Freshman and sophomores have an eight to two o'clock school day, which is already shorter than the schedules for most students at Stuyvesant. Juniors have either first or last

**"There's the sense of someone always being there to help you if you don't know what you're doing."**  
—Carina Bunnag, Molloy sophomore

period free, so they either come in at 8:45 or leave at 1:15. Seniors get frees throughout the day, depending on the schedule they choose.

However, unlike at Stuyvesant, a first period free does not allow for extra sleep. Homeroom is at 8:45, which means that everyone has to come to school early even if they don't have class.

Molloy's sports teams consist of track and field, basketball, soccer, baseball, golf, handball, swimming, hockey and tennis. There is also a diversity of clubs, such as the Asian culture club, the French language club, the Environmental club, the Science Fiction club and Mathletes. Molloy also has an accomplished step team as well as a general dance team. Its Science Olympiad Team, like Stuyvesant's, is strong and is consistently among the top three schools in the state.

Archbishop Molloy was originally a part of St. Anne's Academy at East 76th Street and Lexington Avenue. In 1957, the school was moved to a new site and renamed Archbishop Molloy.

To this day, the term "Stanners" is used to describe Molloy students, a reference to the old building. Molloy's newspaper is called The Stanner, and the drama club is called the Stanner Players. Many "Stanners" achieve success in their lives following their high school careers. In the most recent graduating class, 350 graduates received 381 academic college scholarships. The faculty has an average of 18 years experience. Ninety-one percent of the faculty has earned Masters or Doctoral degrees.

In Molloy, the student body is generally polite and willing to help. "The teachers and students provide a nice atmosphere to be in," Molloy sophomore Kanad Ghosh said.

Students tend to feel comfortable with the school's atmosphere. "Everyone in Molloy is nice, accepting and helpful," Molloy senior Anna Cedrowski said.

"Molloy is like one big family even if people don't know each other," Bunnag said. "There's the sense of someone always being there to help you if you don't know what you're doing."

## Cartoons

### SWINE FLU

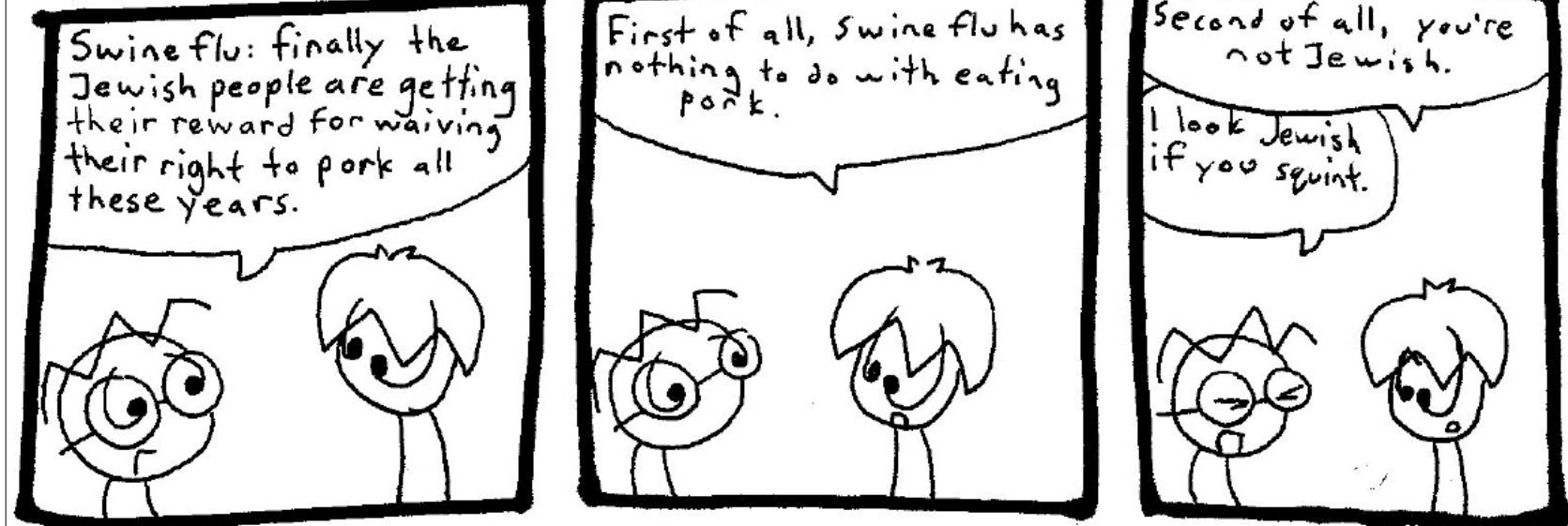
by: NAFIZ MOSHARRAF



### PICKLE ON A STICK

www.pickleonastick.com

garreth o'brien



### VICTORIA'S TRUE SECRET

BY YUN CHO AND SINGHA HON



### NO EATING IN CLASS

by Jin Suh



# Editorials

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Mutual Assessment

At the end of each marking period, we are presented with a single slip of paper in homeroom: our report cards. This consistently agonizing, but occasionally uplifting list of numbers is the sole source that informs us whether we have been working hard or hardly working. Our teachers evaluate us, and more often than not, their evaluations are fair. But here's a question: what if we could evaluate them?

The Student Union proposed that the administration implement department-wide course evaluations at the Student Leadership Team meeting on Tuesday, April 21. At the end of each term, students would anonymously evaluate their teachers.

The ideal situation would involve the Assistant Principals (APs) of individual departments reviewing these evaluations. Student evaluations would be used to assist an AP in grading a teacher at the end of every term, thus providing more insight into what the classroom environment is like on a day-to-day basis.

However, such a system is unattainable. Presently, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) prohibits the review of course evaluations by APs. While this guideline is meant to protect teachers, in reality it prevents a strong

flow of communication between students, teachers and the administration.

Because effectively petitioning the UFT to change its contract is unlikely, the second best option would be to institute course evaluations in both a legal and beneficial way. This would best be achieved by implementing course evaluations that only the teacher would be able to see. The evaluations would provide teachers with an honest and specific student perspective.

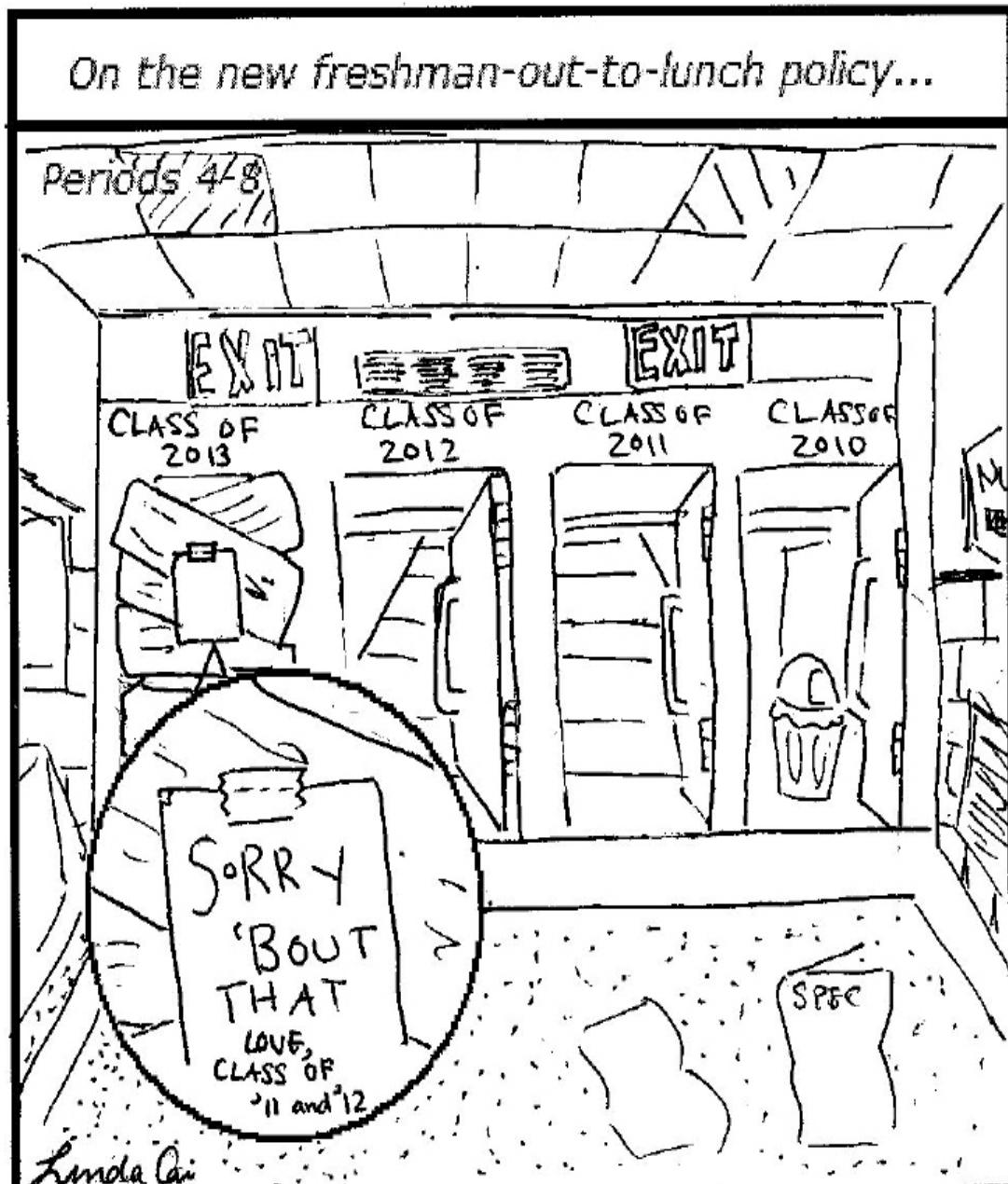
Currently, some teachers ask their students to evaluate them at the end of every term in order for the teachers to improve their lesson plans and course structure. This practice should be expanded so that all teachers would be required to have their students complete course evaluations. Each AP would create a standard evaluation that best fits their department, and then allow teachers to distribute the evaluations to their students.

Evaluations would be shaped based on the department, but would generally involve both positive feedback and constructive criticism—it is important that students acknowledge their teachers' strengths and not just focus on their weaknesses. Still, because evaluations would be anonymous and not screened

by the department head, it is unrealistic to assume that every student will fill out the evaluation seriously. Some will evaluate teachers based solely on whether or not they like them, and teachers should recognize that some evaluations may be unsubstantiated or overly critical. However, those students who treat the evaluation fairly will be providing teachers with valuable information—the critique necessary to make positive changes.

While course evaluations may seem fruitless to some, they could be extremely helpful. Students should realize that answering free response evaluation questions will improve their learning environment and ease tensions with teachers. Much like grades given every term, where a student is given the responsibility to improve, course evaluations would allow the teacher to make changes without being forced to do so by the APs. If students and teachers can foster a strong, understanding relationship, there is no need for the mediation of a superior. And if all parties pledge to take course evaluations seriously—as seriously as they would a student's grades—the mutual learning between a student and a teacher will be solidified.

## OP-ART



## The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



"The Pulse  
of the  
Student  
Body"

### SPORTS EDITORS

Scott Chiusano  
Eddie Cytryn

### PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS

Christina Bogdan  
Anna Menkova

### ART DIRECTORS

Yun Cho  
Singha Hon

### LAYOUT EDITORS

Lodoe Sangmo  
Vivian Sze  
Laura Ye\*

### FEATURES EDITORS

Sarah Kaplan  
Danielle Oberdier

### OPINIONS EDITORS

Emma Dries  
Gavin Huang  
Kiran Sury

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

Leili Saber  
Alan Sage\*

### COPY EDITORS

Divya Dayal  
Jonathan Lerner

### BUSINESS MANAGERS

Denny Kim  
Jamie Yu

### WEB EDITORS

Victor Ma\*  
Marcin Skok

### FACULTY ADVISOR

Kerry Garfinkel

Please address all letters to:

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

We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and length.

© 2008 The Spectator

All rights reserved by the creators.

\* Managing Board Members

## The Spectator

We are compiling an archive of past issues.

We are looking for issues published before 1995.

Please send any newspapers to:

The Stuyvesant Spectator  
345 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10282

If you have any questions,  
e-mail us at:  
[archives@stuyspectator.com](mailto:archives@stuyspectator.com)

**Do you want to reflect  
on an article?  
Or speak your mind?**

Write a letter to the editor and e-mail it to  
[letters@stuyspectator.com](mailto:letters@stuyspectator.com) or  
drop it in The Spectator box  
in the second-floor mail room.

### FOR THE RECORD

- In Issue 14, the name of the organization Kiwanis International was misspelled in "Stuyvesant's Key Club Wins Awards at Conference."
- In "Stuyvesant's Key Club Wins Awards at Conference," the number of Key Clubs who were in attendance was misstated 400 Key Clubs attended the Conference.
- In "Stuyvesant's Key Club Wins Awards at Conference," the name of the New York District Key Club Web site was misstated.
- In "Stuyvesant's Key Club Wins Awards at Conference," the award that Stuyvesant won was misstated. It was the most hours served in the governor's project.
- In "Curbing the Calories," it was incorrectly stated that the school lunch program is free.
- In the cutline for "Perfect," senior Nolan Becker pitched, not played, a perfect game.
- In the cutline for "Prescod Wins World Championship Second Year in a Row," the championship junior Nzinge Prescod won was incorrectly stated. She won teh Cadet Fencing World Championship.

# Opinions

## If Life Were a Game, I'd Rather Not Play



By ROBERT VINLUAN

When a friend recently told me that he had some FPS stuff to take care of at school, I was stunned. FPS is a videogame acronym for First Person Shooter, so I was debating whether to call the cops on him or just ignore it when he informed me that FPS is also an organization of students at Stuyvesant called the Future Problem Solvers. Even though I was relieved, I now had a new question: What would have happened if my friend had actually been in a first person shooter?

It would have been horrifying.

At first, it might seem like living in a video game would be enjoyable: a fantasy world with hints on what to do next, background music that changes depending on the mood and an attractive lead character of the opposite sex to fall in love with at the end. But after you

get past all of that, you realize that if the entirety of human existence were one big game, it would be disastrous.

Doctors would be useless, thanks to re-spawning health packs. Mobsters would be set loose stealing cars in all of our major cities. The civilian population would be under constant attack by space aliens, zombies, and zombie space aliens. And the world's governments would be perpetually fighting World War II.

Stuyvesant would be even worse. Students would fight off monsters on their way to the 10th floor. But if they died, they would have to start from the first again. Escalators wouldn't just be broken, they would be death traps with swinging axes and randomly falling steps that would plummet unsuspecting students into a pit of fire. Students who want to buy food from the cafeteria would have to play an annoying puzzle mini-game while being yelled at by dozens of other students behind them. And if they couldn't do it in time, the machine would explode.

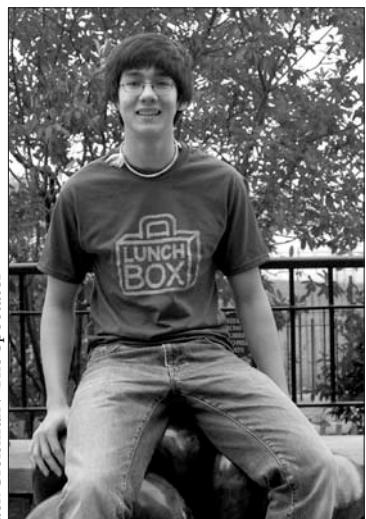
Even more traumatizing would be the epic final bosses: teacher recommendations and college essays. Finally, at the end of their high school career, the students would reach for

their diplomas, say something that hints at a sequel, and fade to black while the credits started rolling.

**If the entirety of human existence were one big game, it would be disastrous.**

Life shouldn't be like a video game under any circumstances. It would be a miserable, torturous existence. Our world would collapse, and our high school would be reduced to nothing more than a bunch of kids competing to beat each other's high scores. I don't think anyone could imagine Stuyvesant like that. I suggest we all put up with our daily grind and never think of living in a video game ever, ever again. It's just another example of the grass being greener. Especially if you have an HDTV. The picture quality is fantastic.

## Updating the PSAL Roster



By RICHARD NELSON-CHOW

The Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) has recently announced that its Web site, psal.org, is undergoing renovation. This comes as welcome news to players and coaches of the 2,376 teams currently affiliated with the PSAL. In the eight and a half years since its inception in late 2000, psal.org has become increasingly outdated. While it stores a profusion of statistics, news stories, and essential forms, the poor site design makes it difficult to convey necessary information to readers. In its redesign, psal.org needs to make the site easier to use for athletes and non-athletes alike and provide a place for its visitors to foster their interest in sports.

Currently, the site's design is so bad that even seasoned players have trouble navigating it. "It takes a lot of time to check my friend's stats," junior and lacrosse team member Brian Tang said. "There's multiple paths to get to the page, and sometimes it's really annoying." Non-athletes find it even more difficult to navigate. Junior Ju-

lia Landauer found the site so disorganized and scattered that she gave up her search for her friend's statistics.

Neither Tang nor Landauer needed to endure those painful minutes of wasted efforts because psal.org has a search function. However, unlike most Web sites which display the function on the navigation bar at the top of the page, a user must click twice to get to the search page. The Web site's purpose is to disseminate information, but it fails to help its users during their searches for statistics. In its redesign, psal.org must simplify its navigation and make it easier for its vast database to be searched.

**The new site would shape the loosely gathered athletes of New York City's high schools into a community.**

A more pressing issue, though, is the purpose the redesigned site will serve. While the storage of statistics is a great help to athletes and fans, the PSAL needs to rethink the mission of its Web site and consider going beyond the basic function of storing data. With thousands of players dependent on the site, psal.org has a chance to become a hub for the community of student-athletes in New York City.

A recent survey on the website hinted that the designers were considering letting users adjust the settings on their home page to personalize the news they received. This would be the first step towards creating an interactive site which athletes and fans would be able to use as a way to become more interested in sports and communicate with each other. Such a site would be one of the first government-endorsed sites of its kind, and would be a central source for high school sports. It would also consolidate the users of the handful of other smaller sports networking sites into one location.

With the new version of psal.org, athletes and fans would be able to use the site as a tool to aid their pursuit of a sport. Users would personalize a home page with selected news stories rather than the jumble that is on the current, universal home page. This would enable them to keep tabs on a specific athlete's, team's, or school's statistics. Athletes would be able to participate in discussion forums about a referee they disliked, or a good play they saw. They would also be able to add more information to their profile, which is currently limited to four categories. Through changes such as these, the site would shape the loosely gathered athletes of New York City's high schools into a community.

Although psal.org was admirable nine years ago, it has since lapsed into a messy, uncoordinated kindergarten classroom at playtime, with scores strewn all over the floor and statistics dripping from the tables. The PSAL needs to clean up the mess. Doing so will remove the problems of the original design, and update it for future athletes to come.

## iTorrent



By GAVIN HUANG

While the United States government was fighting off pirates in Somalia, Sweden was dealing with its own pirates—all 25 million of them. Based in Stockholm, The Pirate Bay prides itself in being the world's largest torrent file host, its servers storing over 1.5 million files, many of them containing copyrighted material. As a premier destination for the latest movies, music albums and pornography, the piracy site has faced several attacks from the Swedish government, including a police raid in 2006 that managed to shut down the site for a mere three days before it was started up again from another location. In the latest showdown, the site's three co-founders and a financial benefactor were found guilty for being accessories to crimes against copyright law.

The man who started the fire, though, is not from Sweden. He grew up on the Upper West Side and made his first claim to fame as a math team captain at Stuyvesant. Bram Cohen ('93) developed the BitTorrent protocol in 2001 as a quicker alternative to other file-sharing programs by turning large files into small "torrents" containing bits of data for several computers to download from each other at the same time. The software itself is not illegal, but Cohen's work helped spark the current debates about the role of copyright laws in a modern world riddled with illegal DVDs and easy peer-to-peer file sharing.

Digital copies of newly released movies and TV show episodes became readily available quickly on The Pirate Bay, sometimes before they even reached the silver screen. In spite of the constant government surveillance, the site manages to continue running, raid after raid, indictment after indictment. The catch with piracy Web sites is that the site's administrators don't upload any copyrighted material. The millions of users do.

So when the media industry proclaimed the guilty verdict on April 17 a victory, users scoffed, and the site's popularity increased dramatically. There is a general disregard for copyright laws amongst site users—the Pirate Party, dedicated to reforming copyright and patent laws, is Sweden's fourth largest political party. Our generation believes that information should be free. We are used to watching television shows for free, watching videos online for free, and reading, hearing, and watching the news for free. It takes millions of dollars, hundreds of people and several months to create one movie, but it takes only five hours to download and watch it for free.

The thing is we need copyright laws. The industry does lose money, and while we may think the money we spend on DVDs or

other movie services is headed towards big-name production companies, there are people who worked to create the films, music and shows that we steal.

But even I find it a bit difficult to imagine the concept of strict creative rights when I am used to downloading copyrighted content off The Pirate Bay. Clearly, current copyright laws don't work because no government is going to try slapping handcuffs on every single teen who downloads a Beatles album or a DVD-ripped version of "Slumdog Millionaire." Nine years into the 21st century and 11 years after the Digital Millennium Copyright Act created our current Internet laws, we still have problems.

**It takes millions of dollars, hundreds of people and several months to create one movie, but it takes only five hours to download and watch it for free.**

What we need are more flexible copyright laws, ones that go past the usual "All Rights Reserved" restriction. A non-profit organization, Creative Commons, currently works on creating alternative content license options that are also reasonable, including ones that allow viewers to freely distribute content non-commercially. It is part of what they call the "copyleft" movement, and many Web sites have given users the option of licensing work under Creative Commons licenses. Earlier this year, Al Jazeera, an Arab news network, started releasing its content under these licenses.

The Creative Commons system, though, has its flaws, most notably that the licenses aren't compatible with each other, but at least someone has made the effort to start a copyleft movement. As creators of tomorrow's cheesy movies and bad music, what happens—or doesn't happen—with copyright laws affects us. Sometime later in life, each of us will understand that it takes a huge amount of effort to create something, even if it's something like a bad sitcom, but we also know it takes less effort to steal it. Movies, music and television shows are works of art just as paintings are. But as more technology develops, the whole issue of copyright will only become more complicated.

## Tribeca Film Festival



Domenica Cameron-Scorsece, daughter of the famed director, had a coy moment with the paparazzi.



Sanaa Lathan took a break from shooting television show *Nip/Tuck* to attend the premiere of *Wonderful World*.



Sean Astin celebrated his 18th role in a film ("Big Girl" in *Stay Cool*) since playing his career-launching character in *The Lord of the Rings*, Sam the hobbit.



Kim Kardashian, clad in all black with an eye-catching necklace, posed her way down the red carpet of *Wonderful World*.



Craig Richey and guest showed support for fellow actors at the premiere of *Wonderful World*.



Actor Philip Baker Hall has had minor roles in movies such as *Bruce Almighty* and *The Amityville Horror*.

## Red Carpet Coverage



Sarah Jessica Parker, with husband Matthew Broderick, announced the couple was expecting twin girls via a surrogate mother at the red carpet of his latest film, *Wonderful World*.



Hilary Duff and entourage were some of the last to walk the red carpet of *Stay Cool* where the bubbly blonde plays a high school seductress.



Director Barry Ptolemy, with wife Felicia, a film producer, both of Ptolemy Productions, celebrate the premiere of their latest film, *Transcendent Man*.



Joshua Goldin wrote *Stay Cool*, the first film he's written since 1992.



Producer Kenneth Johnson proudly walks the red carpet of his "knowing-of-age" comedy, *Stay Cool*.



A cast member of the original Saturday Night Live, funny man Chevy Chase brought his family along with him to the premiere of *Stay Cool*.

# Tribeca Film Festival

## “Soundtrack for a Revolution”: Who Stole the Soul?



Courtesy of tribeca.com/festival

Anthony Hamilton and the Blind Boys of Alabama offered slightly more soulful renditions of civil rights songs than did the other singers featured in “Soundtrack for a Revolution.”

By ALAN SAGE

It's hard to screw up a civil rights movie.

“Soundtrack for a Revolution,” directed by Dan Sturman and Bill Guttentag, tries to offer a new perspective on the incredible footage of the civil rights movement by telling the movement’s story through song. While some of their innovations to the classic and forever heart-wrenching footage are successful—mainly the ‘unique’ interviews and the narration of the story through song—the modern, melodramatic renditions of classic civil rights songs are beyond atrocious.

film. In one of the most insightful of the film’s interviews, Rev. Ed King describes how a white man sympathetic to blacks’ plight helped them prepare for the Woolworths sit-ins by playing the role of a white policeman. King describes how everyone laughed when the man said “Sir” or “Please,” since no white policeman would offer anything near such politeness.

Civil rights footage almost always engages the audience since it’s filled with so many passionate figures and moments. Even so, Sturman and Guttentag chose particularly passionate and engaging shots and placed them well throughout the film. President Lyndon B. Johnson’s “We Shall Overcome” speech is usually bypassed for speeches by John F. Kennedy or Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in civil rights films, perhaps because of Johnson’s legacy, but placed right after footage of the Selma-Washington march, it’s particularly effective in the film.

The film starts to go downhill after Joss Stone’s “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize.” Stone was clearly trying to offer a soulful performance, but her attempted soulfulness ended up in a screechy melodramatic rendition of a song meant to be performed tenderly and mournfully. Thankfully, the directors saved “We Shall Overcome” for the ending credits, allowing the audience to exit and avoid collaboration between

a group of singers trying too hard to be soulful.

The footage of civil rights activists singing the same songs during the 60s is far more compelling. One section of the film shows a woman singing about the infamous Alabama governor George Wallace with lyrics like “he must be removed just like a can of garbage in an alley.” Another striking scene shows a sweating woman singing “Keep on Walking” with the real heartfelt passion that the contemporary singers lack in the film.

**The footage of civil rights activists singing the same songs during the 60s is far more compelling.**

Just about the only time the modern renditions are effective is during the sequences about the Freedom Summer, when Northern college students went to Mississippi to aid the civil rights cause. The footage is accompanied by Wyclef Jean’s rendition of Phil Ochs’ “Here’s to the State of Mississippi.” While Jean’s interpretation is more serious and straightforward than Ochs’ slightly sarcastic Arlo Guthrie-esque original, it nonetheless provides a nice accompaniment to footage of innocent Northerners heading into danger—and for some death—in Mississippi.

The film offers a somewhat interesting perspective on the civil rights movement, but nothing revolutionary or particularly original. “Soundtrack for a Revolution” might be more effective if it had included real revolutionary singers, rather than pop sensations like John Legend and Wyclef Jean.

## Transcendent Man: Sci-Fi Freak or Super Genius?



Courtesy of tribeca.com/festival

Millionaire inventor Ray Kurzweil shares a moment with the camera on an international trip to spread the theories of his book, *The Singularity is Near*.

By LEILI SABER

With a dramatic Morgan Freeman voiceover and 3D images of the constellations, *Transcendent Man*, perhaps the most theatrical documentary of the Tribeca Film Festival, begins. The documentary, directed and produced by Robert Ptolemy, focuses on the wildly futuristic ideas of Ray Kurzweil, inventor of the charge-coupled flatbed scanner and author of *The Singularity is Near*.

**Kurzweil asserts that technology grows at such an exponential rate that technology and humans will blend together by 2029.**

With the help of music reminiscent of the *Da Vinci Code* soundtrack, the do cu mentary focuses on Kurzweil’s personal life as well as on the abnormal ideas of his prophetic book. Essentially, Kurzweil asserts that technology grows at an exponential rate such that humans and technology will blend together by 2029. While the ideas are certainly interesting, the explanations behind the theories are far from it. Ptolemy disappoints by either using footage of Kurzweil explaining his theories to live audiences, or doing the typical “documentary shot”—a close-up of the inventor sitting in an armchair in front of a monochromatic backdrop. The information is comprehensible, but the magnitude of the ideas being projected is difficult to take in.

Anecdotes of Kurzweil’s deceased father and footage of the inventor’s sorrow help make the documentary feel less overwhelming and a bit more like a mainstream film—a welcome change after 3D images of the galaxy or quantitative information. Yet, just as Kurzweil begins to seem like a real person rather than a slightly mad scientist, he ruins the moment by announcing that he intends to bring his father back to life. Kurzweil has saved an entire storage room full of his father’s possessions to feed to a computer in order to create a person as close to his father as possible. Cue the *Twilight Zone* theme music.

Ptolemy, fully aware of the skepticism surrounding his

subject’s work, adds additional characters popping up throughout the film to try to make his theories sound more believable. These additions are mostly people of Kurzweil’s group—notable professors, other inventors, sci-fi fans—but in order to appeal to the average viewer in the audience wondering if this is all a joke, Ptolemy adds in popular celebrities as some sort of reassurance. Notable actor William Shatner completely supports Kurzweil and all of his ideas, especially the one about living forever, or extending life (interestingly enough, the ex-captain Kirk is 78 years old). Another significant appearance is that of singing sensation Stevie Wonder, who has been close friends with Kurzweil since his invention of the Kurzweil Reading Machine, which allows blind people to understand written text by having the computer read it out loud.

Kurzweil makes endless references throughout the film about how the combination of man and machine will enable humans to become gods, so it is only a matter of time before a religious confrontation appeared on the screen. Ptolemy spends less time on it that would have been expected, showing clips of Kurzweil speaking on air with a host of a religious radio station. What could have been the most interesting part of the film quickly becomes a passive religion versus science discussion. Shortly after, Kurzweil lectures at a Christian Association, but instead of the expected crosses and rotten tomatoes being thrown at him, the crowd cheered endlessly.

**Kurzeil has saved most of his deceased father’s belongings, in hopes of bringing him back to life.**

Mercifully, as the attention of numerous audience members wound down, so did the altogether dry film. Like just about every other documentary on earth, the final scenes of *Transcendent Man* were spent discussing the future—as if Kurzweil hadn’t spent an hour and a half talking about just that. “Does God exist?” Kurzweil said. “Not yet.” Cue the cast list and masses hurrying to exit the theater.

## The film starts to go downhill after Joss Stone’s “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize.”

The film’s interviews are funny and spirited. Comments like “I never understood why graveyards had to be segregated” from Rev. Samuel ‘Billy’ Kyels or “These white people are crazy” from civil rights activist Charles McDew recur throughout the

## “Kobe Doin’ Work”: A Nice Shot

By ALAN SAGE

The film is essentially a portrayal of the mind of a basketball player in action, complete with uncensored thoughts and close-up images of the ball almost hitting the camera. On the surface it could have just been footage ripped from ESPN, but would Spike Lee do something as straightforward as that?

Admittedly, if you don’t like watching basketball games, you probably won’t enjoy Spike Lee’s new film, “Kobe Doin’ Work.” But Lee’s film still goes far beyond a typical sports movie. Lee interviewed Kobe Bryant while he watched footage of himself playing in a game between the L.A. Lakers and the San Antonio Spurs. Lee seems to have aimed to give a picture of what went on in Bryant’s mind, with footage from team meetings and the court, recordings of Bryant’s every word on the court and constant postgame commentary from Bryant.

Despite the interesting idea behind the film, the end product’s quality is questionable.

After a while, Bryant runs out of interesting things to say. Perhaps more importantly, the footage is repetitive and much of the same as footage broadcast on sports networks. The ‘behind-the-scenes’ footage consists of a bunch of sweaty guys drinking Gatorade, with Bryant occasionally offering his teammates some ideas for strategy during the next half of the game.

“Couple of minutes go by, and all of a sudden your emotions settle, and you’re ready to play the game.” Quotes from Bryant only mirror whatever’s happening on the screen. Bryant discusses his basketball philosophy and his ideas about the importance of execution. He tells the audience about his relationship with Lakers Coach Phil Jackson. But Bryant reveals very little about what emotions or mindset he has during the game. He goes off on long tangents, talking about his interactions on the field with Spurs player Kurt Thomas or about how he’s become more of a director on his team than a straight scorer.

The film’s unimpressive mu-

sic selections only further show how the ‘straight footage’ approach limited Lee. Boring muzak comes on during some portions of the game, but the music seems out of place and certainly doesn’t add to the audience’s emotional experience of the film.

Lee tried to use cinematic effects to further destroy the 4th wall. But an occasional black-and-white freeze frame doesn’t cut it. Even Bryant’s perpetual mumbling just makes the audience become bored rather than follow his movements more closely. “If you’re playing against a great player, of course he’s going to make you look bad sometimes.” Bryant’s unimportant words of wisdom certainly don’t add to the film’s quality.

The audience feels unsatisfied as Kobe pulls out of a parking lot in his SUV and the film ends. Bryant talks about execution and its importance throughout the film. Lee ought to have listened to Bryant and ensured that “Kobe Doin’ Work” exhibited strong execution in addition to just an interesting and experimental idea.

# Tribeca Film Festival

## “Departures”: A Vivacious Film About Death

By ALAN SAGE

It starts off dramatically enough. Sullen music by Joe Hisaishi, who composed the hit J-Pop scores for anime classics “Spirited Away” and “My Neighbor Totoro,” accompanies a car driving through a snowstorm with dim headlights. “When I was a child, winter didn’t feel so cold,” Daigo says in a voice-over. The scene switches to an equally morose funeral ceremony, and Daigo begins to “encoffin” a woman’s corpse. As he wipes down the body with a wet cloth, he soon discovers he is “encoffining” a transvestite.

And so went the rest of the film. A beautiful film that takes a unique perspective on death, albeit with a few cheesy jokes to give it popular appeal, Yojiro Takita’s “Departures” was one of the finest films to screen at this year’s Tribeca Film Festival. The film, which won this year’s Academy Award for “Best Foreign Language Film,” centers on Daigo Kobayashi, played by Masahiro Motoki, a cellist whose Tokyo orchestra is dissolved. He and his cheerful wife Mika (Ryoko Hirosue) return to Daigo’s hometown in rural Yamagata, where Daigo responds to a job ad in “departures.” Upon arriving at the agency for an interview, Daigo is informed that “departures” was a typo—the ad was supposed to describe a job working with the departed.

Soon, Daigo gets a knack for his job as an encofferer, the undertaker’s more artistic counterpart who takes care of funeral



Courtesy of tribeca.com/festival  
The boss (Tsutomu Yamazaki) encoffsins a body, as a solemn Daigo (Masahiro Motoki) looks on.

ceremonies. He admires the way his boss (Tsutomu Yamazaki) handles corpses as he prepares them for their ‘departures.’ Indeed, the funeral ceremony sequences are stunningly shot. Hisaishi’s signature hopeful yet mournful chords accompany elegant shots of Daigo and his boss preparing people’s bodies, often with personal items. When the operator of a Yamagata bathhouse dies, Daigo wraps a towel around her neck. The onlookers’ expressions are even

more profound. While Daigo carefully slides coffin tops on, they often stop him to say goodbye one last time.

As the film progresses, Daigo’s relationship with Mika worsens. He gives her the vague description of his new career field as “ceremonies,” and it’s not until Mika finds an instructional video about encoffinement starring Daigo as a corpse that she discovers the truth. This conflict was a relief. Towards the beginning of the film, Mika

seemed a bit too collegial when Daigo suggested moving to Yamagata, and it was nice to see her other, not-so-cheery side.

The social isolation Daigo faces as a result of his profession is one of the highlights of the film. Mika shuns her husband, even running away from him when he tries to touch her with “unclean” hands. This humorous sequence seems to be Takita’s commentary on fear of death. When Mika finally attends one of her husband’s ‘per-

formances,’ she cries when she realizes the artistic beauty in his work. Even if Takita isn’t trying to make death seem beautiful, at the very least he shows the beauty in acknowledging death.

Besides his conflicts with Mika, Daigo also has to deal with inner anger towards his father, who abandoned him as a child. In one of the most moving shots of the film, the camera visits Daigo’s memory of his father giving him a stone. But since Daigo has gone so long without seeing his father, his father’s face remains a blur on the screen, a wonderful artistic decision on Takita’s part. Later on in the film, Daigo receives a letter about his father’s death. After much convincing, he decides to encoffin his father. Coming full circle, the film returns to Daigo’s memory and shows this new fresh image of his father taking the blur’s place.

“Departures” develops on a wide range of themes, from death and separation to acceptance of all people, be they transvestites or undertakers. When Daigo visits ‘the boss’ for lunch, the film borders on existential as the boss crudely eats a piece of sea urchin and describes how everything is a corpse. And at times, it’s a more typical popular film, a la discovering a corpse’s true gender. Perhaps the strongest aspect of the film is the art within the art, the poetry of wrapping up bodies that, somehow, both the audiences in the film and the audiences watching the film find beautiful.

### ADVERTISEMENT

**AFTERPROMNYC.COM**  
presents

**ALL THE HOTTEST AFTER PROM VENUES IN NYC**

**2009 AfterProms**

**WEBSTER HALL**  
NEW YORK CITY  
125 East 11th Street  
(between 3rd & 4th Avenues)

**Villa**  
735 2nd Avenue  
(between 39th & 40th Street)

**Columbus 72**  
246A Columbus Avenue  
(between 71st and 72nd Street)

**the cathedral**  
504 West 41st Street  
New York, NY 10036

**Latin Quarter**  
511 Lexington Ave.  
New York, NY 10017

**Contact Us NOW!**

**ALL THE HOTTEST**

**After Proms**

**of 2009**

**at**

**NYC'S TOP VENUES**

**Log onto AfterPromNYC.com**  
**to purchase your tickets for the**  
**Top After Prom Parties!**

You must buy tickets in advance from us in order to get in.  
**ANY AGE TO GET IN NO LINE VIP TICKETS GROUP RATES AVAILABLE**

**For more information, group rates, etc**  
**Please call us at 646-996-6977**  
**or 646-739-2560**

**E-Mail: AfterPromNYC@aol.com**  
**or log onto AfterPromNYC.com**

**Due to Underage, you must buy tickets in advance from us.**  
**You can't buy them at the door.**

*Call Daryl @ 646 739 2560 for advance tickets*

# Arts & Entertainment

## A Vegetarian's Food Festival

By SERENA BERRY

When the cafeteria serves "cultural" food, it usually comes in the form of "Asian Express" on Monday and "Jamaican Beef Turnovers" on Wednesday. While neither of these sounds very authentic, tasty, or vegetarian, the annual International Food Festival, organized by the Foreign Languages department, was able to provide delicious cultural food, along with many vegetarian options.

Outside the cafeteria on Thursday, April 23, many students waited on line to taste food from ten different cultures, including Chinese, Italian, Indian, Spanish, Japanese, German

dian table," freshman and vegetarian Joseph Frankel said. "It was not like there were vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. The food was for everyone." The German and French tables were dessert-heavy and thus very vegetarian-friendly. The German table offered cookies and cake, which were consistently good. The French table sold amazing crepes, which were surprisingly neat and easy to serve. The Madeleines—delectable soft pastries with a 'hump' on top and ridges below—were equally scrumptious. The Italian table also supplied a nice balance between vegetarian and meat dishes. Rather than serve solely meat lasagna, the Italian crew provided a meat and a vegetable lasagna, with particularly outstanding cheese. The Japanese table was also popular. Many sushi options, including a cucumber avocado roll for vegetarians, were offered alongside colorful Japanese candies and desserts. The table offered edamame, a kind of baby soybean.

Contributors to the Spanish table provided rice and beans—not a very unusual or interesting dish, but one of the few Spanish dishes vegetarians can enjoy. There was also flan for dessert.

The event was in general a success, but not without a few problems. Some tables were hard to access because of the crowd. By the time one waited for a line to subside, that table's food was already fairly cold.

Despite its problems, the Food Festival offered a fun and

and French. Once the doors opened students hurried to grab their favorite foods. The Chinese table drew a large and excited crowd. The table sported the largest selection of the 10 and even had a red rope to manage the long line. Chinese food, at three dollars per plate, was also the most expensive. The food ranged from authentic versions of popular take-out dishes to some more obscure choices, like hard-boiled eggs in soy sauce.

The table was great for meat eaters, but a disappointment to vegetarians. There were plenty of chicken and pork fried rice dishes, but vegetable fried rice was not provided. There were also a variety of dumpling choices, but no vegetable dumplings. The other cultural tables were more modest in size and price—one or two dollars per plate—but were still able to delight the students. They also had shorter lines. Perhaps most vegetarian-friendly was the Indian table. Almost all of the dishes were vegetarian. The miniature vegetable samosas were both attractive and tasty. "I did not feel limited at the In-

**Some tables were hard to access because of the crowd.**

exciting environment with a fairly large selection of vegetarian food. "I think the Food Festival was successful," Italian teacher Vito Recchia said. "There was very good food, and incredible participation." The table attendants were enthusiastic about their dishes and culture, and the eaters seemed equally excited about the food.

If you signed up for the Arts & Entertainment department at our recruitments and have not received an application, please email us at spec.ae@gmail.com. Sorry for the inconvenience!

## The Mystery of Edwin Drood



Michael Silverblatt / The Spectator

Charles Dickens' idea of a play within a play is brought to life in "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," which was performed by Stuyvesant students on Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28.

By SARA HASSAN

To create an atmosphere of a play within a play, the cast of Charles Dickens's "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" begins by mingling with the audience and explaining the night's proceedings, which include the audience voting on the identity of the murderer.

**In a show perhaps written to be a crowd-pleaser [...] Edwin Drood was a hit.**

For the rest of the play, the cast is employed by The Musical Hall Royale, which is putting on Edwin Drood. The comedic elements of the dual shows help relieve tension built up by the murder mystery. The Musical Hall Royale players break character and crack bawdy jokes.

Unfortunately, on Monday, April 27, many of the jokes weren't told loudly enough. The cafeteria's poor acoustics and the lack of microphones combined to drown out some of the fast-paced dialogue, losing much of the show's humor and storyline. Junior Marta Krason, who produced the show with Sophomore Jaimie Meyers, acknowledged the show's significant technical difficulties on the first night. The following night, the stage was moved to another part of the cafeteria, which significantly improved the sound. The lighting crew also managed to give the minimalist stage dramatic overhead lights, adding to the intensity of the show.

Technical difficulties or not, the musical numbers struck the audience with melodramatic (and sometimes humorous) force each time. As the title character, Senior Ella Gibson had a controlled voice and a lively stage presence that defined her tongue-in-cheek role as Alice Nutting, "London's leading male impersonator." Whether she was exchanging

insults with rival Neville Landless (Sophomore Felix Handte), or breaking off an engagement with childhood friend Rosa Bud (Junior Kyla Alterman), Gibson controlled the stage.

Drood's uncle John Jasper (Senior Matthew Gottesman) had full control over the audience in a different way: his schemes to take Edwin's life and his lust for Rosa made him the lowliest of villains. His lines were delivered with the frantic undertones of a madman and his songs were chillingly powerful. Surprisingly, the number that best showed off his talents was "Both Sides of the Coin," sung with Junior Justy Kosek as Mayor Sapsea (Musical Hall Royale's emcee). The song allowed Gottesman to reveal his character's frightening duality, while Kosek humorously lamented his character's need to play two roles on stage that night.

When Gottesman and Alterman took the stage together, they performed energetically. As scared as she was of Jasper's lecherous advances, Bud was determined to prove that she was an independent woman. In the first performance, Rosa was voted by the audience to be Edwin Drood's murderer. Her confession was one of the highlights of the night, detailing how she mistook Drood to be Jasper in the dark night.

**"The directors did the best they could and the show worked out really well."**  
—Marta Krason, junior and producer

Sophomore Rebecca Temkin played a cook, and caught the audience's attention by interrupting Drood and Landless's bickering and Rosa's protests several times to present courses for the meal. She reappears later as Reverend Crisparkle's assistant, Bazzard, who longs for glory as a

**As Mayor Sapsea himself proclaims ironically, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" was a show put together 'with hardly a seam showing.'**

playwright. She also breaks character for a funny and well-sung rendition of "Never The Luck." On Monday night, she performed "Out on a Limerick" with power and humor, much to the audience's delight.

Junior Clio Contegenis's portrayal of Princess Puffer, Rosa's long-lost guardian and owner of the opium den, also brought her character alive onstage. Her suggestive and vulgar lines were delivered with the convincing croak of a washed-up prostitute. On the second night, when she was revealed to be Drood's killer (also mistaking him for Jasper), she convincingly performed her last number as someone who was defeated by a life spent trying to earn "the wages of sin".

As Mayor Sapsea himself proclaims ironically, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" was a show put together "with hardly a seam showing." The audience overlooked the venue's technical difficulties because of the powerful performances. "Even though SING! happened right in the middle of our rehearsals, the directors did the best they could and the show worked out really well," Krason said. According to Krason, Jenny Han, the show's pianist, was only given a few days to rehearse. Given more time, she would have played as well as the actors sang. The set could also have been given more consideration.

Edwin Drood was a hit. It was written to be a crowd-pleaser, but Dickens passed away before he could write an ending, and the audience was invited to choose one. The show's endless humor did not detract from its melodramatic intensity.

# Arts & Entertainment

## From Doodles and Collages to the Brooklyn Museum



By DANIEL FLEISHMAN

A strange mix of imagination and realism. Images of typical teenage environments with a surrealist twist.

Pieces like this, some by Senior Anna Rubin and Junior Alison Roberts, were included in an exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art from Friday, April 3 to Sunday, April 26. Rubin's art was awarded a Gold Key and Roberts' was awarded two Gold Keys and one Silver Key in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. The exhibit included an array of styles, tech-

Roberts also has artistic plans for the future. "I would like to get a job as some sort of graphic designer or animator or character designer or illustrator," Roberts said. "I'm applying for internships at various animation companies this summer." This exhibit, Roberts' first as well, presented three of her pieces.

Roberts became interested in art many years ago when she started doodling in her notebooks. Even today, her art is characterized by the spontaneity and abstraction associated with notebook doodles. Her art featured in the exhibit is done in pencil and includes eccentric images combining humans and animals. In "Lady", Roberts displays a creature with the head of a woman and the body of a giraffe, while her drawing "Oblivious" shows a typical school setting with one abnormality—a duck-like creature situated near an "oblivious" teenager with earphones. These two works won Silver and Gold Keys, respectively. "I draw inspiration from my imagination, other artists, my daily life," Roberts said. Her works of art show a talent for connecting familiar scenes and fantasy.

Rubin's and Roberts' works are only a few of more than six thousand works entered in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards by New York City students. While determining the awardees, the panelists looked for works showing originality, artistic skill and a personal vision or voice. In the end, only 383 exceptional works

**"The words are like a list of words and run on sentences I could use to describe myself."**  
—Anna Rubin, senior and Scholastic Award winner

niques, themes and media. The walls were covered in paintings, sketches, photographs, prints, designs and even a piece of jewelry.

In Rubin's unique self-portrait, the background is left white, accentuating her painting technique. The self-portrait is shaded dramatically, capturing the contours of Rubin's face. The entire right side of the painting is covered in a penciled-in narrative.

"I like to write and I've always liked to paint and draw, and someone suggested I combine both, so this was sort of an experimentation with that," Rubin said, on her decision to use writing in her painting. "The words are like a list of words and run on sentences I could use to describe myself."

Rubin has been painting since freshman year, and plan to attend an arts college in the fall. "Either Rhode Island School of Design or the School of the Art Institute of Chicago," She said. "I can't decide." The Scholastic exhibit was Rubin's first exhibit, but she has had other achievements outside the immediate world of painting. She won a scholarship from Teen Vogue/CDFA for making a fashion mood board—a collage-like board that illustrates design concepts.

**"I draw inspiration from my imagination, other artists, my daily life."**  
—Alison Roberts, junior and Scholastic Award winner

received Silver Keys and 613 received Gold Keys, a higher honor.

These impressive works by Rubin and Roberts hung alongside works by students from specialized art high schools like Laguardia and Frank Sinatra. Stuyvesant is known as a math and science school, but we can draw too.

## Too Free for Conservatories: Huei Lin

By HYEMIN YI

**Huei Lin, Saxophonist and Pianist, Sophomore**

### The Run-Down

"I take piano lessons and saxophone lessons at Third Street Music School. I've been taking piano since I was five and saxophone since I was eight or nine. Unfortunately I don't do that much with piano besides private instruction but with saxophone I play in a bunch in jazz combos and [...] in a band with some kids from Stuyvesant. We've been playing a couple of gigs at places like the Bowery Poetry Club, the Tank and this crazy place in Brooklyn."

### You Can't Rush Art

"I really cannot begin to think about how much time it takes. [...] Because, practicing alone, I usually do an hour of piano every day. And two to three hours of saxophone and then on top of that, each lesson is an hour once a week. And on Saturdays I have chamber group rehearsals and that's an hour. Then I play in a jazz band at Third Street and that's also an hour. And band practices with [junior and musician] Audri Augenbraum's band are usually once every other week, from two to three hours. So I can't do the math in my head, but if someone wants to, then that'd be cool."



Sophomore Huei Lin, saxophonist and pianist.

### Blessed Unrest

"When you hear music that you love, or you play music that you love, you just get this emotional rush that's great. Especially when you play with other people, there's just this crazy, like, energy that's going around that can't be replaced by anything else."

### As Far as Alternatives to Music Go

"I don't think a conservatory would be the right place for me because there would just be so much music all the time that, honestly, I would get kind of sick of it."

"Music has already absorbed so much of my time now. I feel like when I get to college I want to branch out a

little. And I feel like it'd be too narrow-minded of me to just do music in college. I want to do other things, like, maybe something in French because my mom speaks French and we've gone to France a bunch of times and I take French in school and I love French food. Or maybe even something in environmental science or agriculture because ever since I was a little kid I've been really interested in the environment and growing my own food, as lame as that sounds. I thought it was pretty cool. And as I got older I learned about environmental crises like global warming, worldwide drought and everything. It'd be cool if I could do the world a kind of service and help with that."

### Don't Dwell on What Is Yet to Be

"Well, definitely for the rest of high school I'll be playing a lot more in bands and actually I'm going to get a subway permit with [juniors] Andrew Chow and Jacob Sunshine to play in the subway, and we have an audition for that in May. And then if we get that, then we'll be able to play in places like Grand Central, or Penn Station, and that'd be really cool."

"Right now, I just want to have the best time of my life because I'm never going to be fifteen again."

## Julliard Embraces Teens and Their Music



Courtesy of Danielle Oberdier  
A multitude of Stuyvesant students participated in a concert at Juilliard, which took place on Saturday, April 25.

By JASMINE WONG

The Juilliard School, traditionally known for its classical curriculum, cast its usual theme aside for a night of pop, rock and jazz on Saturday, April 25. The school held a recital, called Quintessential. The event, organized by Stuyvesant junior Danielle Oberdier, featured 14 young and talented musicians airing Juilliard's walls with fresh music.

Aside from organizing the event, Oberdier also contributed musically, composing six of the 10 performed songs. She has been exposed to music all her life and started composing and improvising songs when she was nine years old. Oberdier is currently a composition major at the Juilliard Pre-College program and hopes to one day record a demo.

The concert also featured three compositions by cellist and Dalton junior Caity Quinlan, and one by Juilliard Pre-College alum

Benjamin Barshai.

"The performances seemed so flawless and in sync. I liked how there were different styles and I liked the order in which she [Oberdier] had them because it kept the audience's attention," audience member Eliana Polimeni said. One of the night's strongest numbers, Oberdier's opening song "Blank Wall," used more than 10 instruments and created a pleasant harmony. The drum provided a constant rhythm, as did the violins, flowing along with the flute and clarinet. Oberdier's strong vocals brought the song together. Oberdier was not the only Stuyvesant student involved with the concert: junior Aviva Hakanoglu, who has been playing violin for 13 years, and freshman Michael Chang-Frieden, who plays the cello, performed as well. "I thought it [the concert] was a really good example of how Stuy kids don't just focus on academics," Chang-Frieden said.

The night's composers draw

their creativity and inspiration for their songs from actual events that have happened to them. Quinlan, composer and singer of three of the evening's songs, said, "I write from life experiences. Mostly improv, and how I feel at the moment. Most of the time I write the words first and then I set them." Quinlan sang of different stages of love in her unique jazz songs, "Lover's Lullaby," "Tired," and "In the Morning Light." "Tired" told the story of a lost love as Quinlan sang "Please don't love me / please don't come anymore / I'm so tired." She clearly enjoys writing about romantic events, as her next song "In the Morning Light," talked of first kisses, and the gentleness of the start of a relationship.

In contrast to Quinlan's soft slow and melodic jazz love songs, Oberdier's songs had a more philosophical theme as she sang about the little voice in her head that wouldn't let her be angry in "Hate the Way," or the pressure to be herself in "Solo Song." These contemplations were relatable and plausible, which made the songs all the more moving. Through her lyrics, choice of instruments and composition, Oberdier did more than make beautiful music—she told a story. "It [the concert] was absolutely amazing. Her [Oberdier's] style was so passionate. I know a lot about her life and it came through in her music perfectly," Hakanoglu said.

As song after song was met with loud applause and cheers, it was clear that this new generation of music integrated with the old was a success. "It was an amazing, eye-opening experience, and if I had the chance to do it again, I definitely would," Oberdier said.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Tiny But Tasty



Mimi's Café offers buyers a large variety of meals, all at a reasonable price and second-rate taste.

By HELEN SONG

The tall, bright plastic flowers combined with a black ceiling and sea green walls certainly draw the attention of passers-by. Offering a wide variety of beverages, snacks and meals, but a small space for consuming them, Mimi's Café Natural and Whole Food specializes in tasty tidbits. Unfortunately, the new eatery, which opened on Monday, April 13, doesn't offer any particularly memorable dishes.

Although Mimi's has the advantage of a corner location (Reade and Church Street), its limited room allows for only six stools, each overlooking Reade Street. The store is not very inviting, and isn't a great place to enjoy your meal. The green colors don't emit much warmth, and the store seems made for commuters rushing to catch a train.

"I like green," manager Michael Coban said. "It's something that people can remember."

Mimi's offers familiar cereal brands and beverages, a menu of flavorful organic teas (\$1.95-\$3.00) and baked goods like muffins (\$3.00). "It's a little dry, but okay, not overly sweet," said junior Yuan Wang, referring to Mimi's blueberry muffin. Brownies at Mimi's are priced at \$2.00 and are also somewhat dry, but extremely sweet. Bubble tea comes in an assortment of flavors for \$3.00. Beyond desserts, Mimi's

Café sports a deli bar with a wide selection of wraps, sandwiches and make-your-own salads. A full lunch combination is priced at \$6.95.

Lines at Mimi's form quickly and move sluggishly, but staff members are generally eager and helpful. "They're very nice, but might be understaffed," junior Karina Moy said.

"It's very friendly and nicely laid out," first-time customer Michael Scorca said.

As of now, Mimi's Café still lacks professionally-made menus and a core customer base. "Business is good so far, but we could have a younger crowd," Coban said. On the brighter side, Coban's enthusiasm equals that of the staff, and he's willing to reach out to the student population. "We can give [students] 10 percent off with an ID," Coban said.

Mimi's Café may not be the ideal place to get your taste buds tingling, but its smiling staff and hodgepodge of offerings make it worth a stop if it's on your way.

*Mimi's Café: Natural and Whole Food  
165 Church St  
(Corner of Church And Reade Streets)  
Monday through Friday  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.*

By EMMA POLLACK

More shocking than what happens in China Red's kitchen is what happens above China Red. In these apartments, artists maintain small studios that are plagued by drifting scents of food and oil. These hidden studios are only a few of the many hidden art studios scattered throughout Tribeca.

Tribeca Open Artist Studio Tour (TOAST), which took place from Friday, April 24 to Monday, April 27, revealed the artistic enclaves that exist throughout Tribeca. TOAST consisted of a self-guided tour through the impressive and shocking studios of over 100 artists. The festival had modest beginnings in 1996 under the name of "FranklinFest." Over the years, TOAST has gained a much larger following among artists and spectators.

The New York Academy of Art, located at 111 Franklin Street, acted as the starting point of and information center for the walk. Upstairs, one could visit current studio cubicles occupied by graduate students. Portraits and sculptures were frequent,

## School of Rock: A Free Way to Jam

By LEENA MANCHERIL

No, this is not a fan club for Jack Black's movie, "The School of Rock." But there are some noticeable similarities to the band formed in the comedy. Like the prep students in the movie, members of the School of Rock club aim to improve their musical skills. However, they seem to have adopted the fictional club's motto that "the only point of rocking is to rock," as club members play for sheer enjoyment.

Junior and founder Shahriar Hossain formed the club in September 2008 with the intent of expanding upon the Guitar Club—a musical group that became inactive after former president Billy Yang ('08) graduated. Hossain, who was also taking guitar lessons, joined the Guitar Club during his freshman year at Stuyvesant for more experience with the instrument.

As president, Billy Yang inspired me to expand his club. His lessons made such an impact that I wanted to take what I learned from him and share it with other students," Hossain said. He has been playing the guitar for four years and his strong background in music leaves him well-qualified to teach others. The club consists of ten student instructors who each have designated tasks. Less experienced teachers may opt to teach music theory while Hossain and other juniors teach improvisation. Students enter with varying levels of experience: some are still learning general music theory while others are learning how to improvise.

Lessons are always one-on-one in order to maximize progress. "One-on-one tutorials are, in my opinion, more helpful because each guitarist has his or her own style. With this uniqueness in style, comes uniqueness in flaws and bad habits that they can work around to focus on," said junior Arthur Chan, one of the club's teachers. "I'm one of the 'beginner teachers,' that

is I teach chords, scales, finger positioning, basic finger picking techniques, and after I'm sure the student has learned those and practiced those, I allow them to pick a song and I'll teach it to him or her step by step," Chan said.

When he feels that the student has grown comfortable with the basics and has learned enough general music theory, more experienced teachers like junior Chong No and Hossain start lessons in improvisation. "After our members have learned the basics for playing the guitar, I teach them how to



play the blues. It's a great transition from foundations to actually playing," Hossain said.

Improvisation helps musicians improve their speed and accuracy while playing solo. Hossain and other teachers teach novice guitarists that improvisation does not involve playing a series of random notes;

instead it uses scales as a template of guitar solos. The Blues Scale in particular is a favorite of the teachers to improve styles and skill.

Members of School of Rock practice after school in classrooms and occasionally in the hallways due to overcrowding. A lack of instruments also places limits on the number of sessions held each day. Some of

the club's teachers have to plan ahead to borrow instruments from other members. "We need funding," Chan said. "And a bigger space to practice." The club plans to buy a drum set once they have finalized a place in the school to keep it after practice. Meetings are often once a week but may vary depending on the members' schedules.

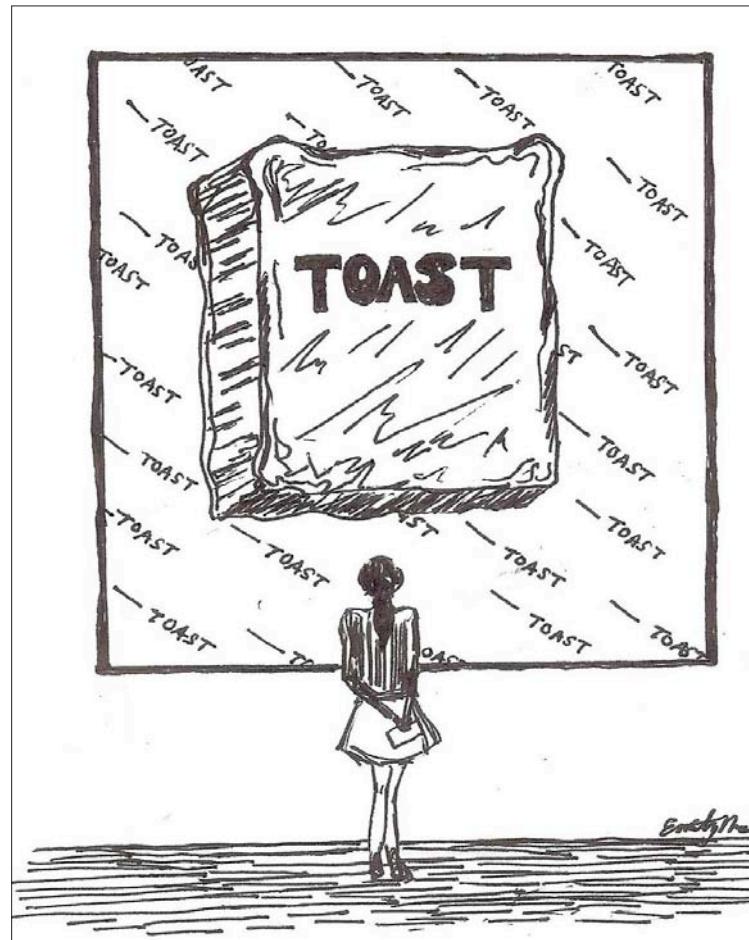
Unlike the Guitar Club, whose purpose was solely to provide lessons, School of Rock hopes to do performances as well. "We got a slot to play during the St. Jude's Festival held by Stuy's Free Hugs," said Hossain. "We're also planning to participate in a fundraiser for orphans that will be held outside of school later this June."

Unlike Dewey Finn, Jack Black's character in the film, who pushes his students to enter a Battle of the Bands concert, Hossain is hesitant to enter competitions. "We don't want to play to be judged. That just clings down on our motivation to play music. We want to keep it fun," Hossain said. Since the majority of the club's members are still new to playing their instruments, participation in competitions seems unlikely. "I liked the idea of School of Rock because it sounded like a great way to learn how to play guitar from other students without being intimidated," junior and member Jennifer Zhu said. Zhu is currently learning how to play the electric guitar, one of the club's recent investments.

The School of Rock shows potential to be a long-standing club at Stuyvesant. It offers free lessons but also allows students to take a break from their busy lives, both in and out of school, to have a jam session. Despite the lack of funding and irregularity of meetings, Hossain is happy with the club's current standing. "I thought the club was a great idea," Chan said. "It's just a good way to jam with my friends."

## A Toast for TOAST

By EMMA POLLACK



perhaps because students were taking anatomy classes.

At the Academy, spectators picked up maps with listings of more than 50 destinations between Canal and Murray Streets to North, South and West Streets and Broadway to the West and East.

In CJ Collins' small loft at 73 Leonard Street, a functioning studio that also serves as his home, the amount of art, around 50 canvases, exceeds what one might speculate would fit. Collins, one of TOAST's organizers, has participated in the event about ten times. Her simple and colorful Pollock-esque art is inspired by quantum physics. The large and bright canvases "take away the need of logic," said Collins, who also described her work as "life before life."

Collins, like many other contributing artists, visited the studios of other artists on the walking tour. "A community of like minded persons is very unusual," Collins said. Although TOAST participants are similar in profession, location and perhaps objectives, their diverse works span a wide range of approaches to art.

Two buildings over at 79 Leonard Street, which together

constitute Manhattan Stained Glass, serve as artist Tommy Giambusso's studio. After descending a few flights of stairs, one is surprised to discover a fairly large stained glass studio and store. The nearby Pantirer Studio at 81 Leonard Street—an apartment transformed into a studio with paint covered wooden floors—is home to two artists. Within the one studio, works range from stone slabs and black and white photos covered with silk to enormous bright canvases.

Many artists operate studios at 373 Broadway, a warehouse-turned-apartment building. Artist Sam Wagner's apartment studio (2C) is lined with pop-art paintings of King Kong and airplanes and 20 separate paintings of Colonel Sanders. Down the hall, spectators encountered photographs of Holocaust memorials and beautiful panoramas.

TOAST allowed spectators to choose their own tour path, which really comes down to entering randomly selected doors. "I could never imagine so much creativity existed behind such non-descript doors," said Suzanne Rosenfeld, a TOAST spectator.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**CHINA QUEST**

2009  
summer in china

info@chinaquest.org  
www.chinaquest.org



400 Chambers Street by the Hudson River  
Serving the Stuyvesant Community of Students and Teachers for 5 years. Always 10% discount. Student specials are available. We serve an assortment of vegetarian and organic foods as well as other favorites. Home made sprinkle cookie with purchase of student special.

# SAT/PSAT Prep.

Raise SAT Score by 350 Points!

"I went into C2 with a 1790 on my SAT. After 27 classes with C2, I scored 2180. My essay score also improved from a 3 to a 5. I think that all of my tutors were great! They really paid attention to my needs, and accommodated my schedule perfectly." -Francesca Y.



\* SAT/ SAT II/ ACT etc.  
\* Algebra/ Calculus/ Trigonometry  
\* Biology/ Chemistry/ Stuyvesant Physics with Mike Temoney  
\* AP Subjects/IB Courses  
\* Reading Comprehension/ Essay Writing  
\* Vocabulary/ Composition

"My daughter Lily recently took the SAT. Her scores were 800 in both math and verbal and 740 in writing. We were so glad for the results of her SATs. She would not have been able to achieve them without your help. We are very grateful for the personalized instruction and assessments." -Catherine L.

## TEACHERS

- David Kim, A.B., Harvard University
- Sophia Huang A.B., U of Chicago
- Jason Keller B.A., Cornell University
- Yakov Brukhman, B.S., NYU
- Jim Narangajavana., A.B., Harvard University
- Peter Lukacs, B.S., M.I.T
- Wendy Hsiao B.A., Cornell University
- Brigitte Radigan, B.A., U of Penn
- Esther Greer B.A., Yale University



**Education Centers**  
**1-800-777-7000**

**\$50 OFF**  
Diagnostic Test  
With Coupon  
New students Only

**Manhattan**

1461 3rd Ave. 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10028  
(Between 82nd and 83rd St)

[www.c2educate.com](http://www.c2educate.com)



**MTD COLLEGE CONSULTING GROUP**

18 yrs + experience preparing students for college

**IS YOUR CHILD LOST? NO MAJOR? NO DIRECTION?**

**START TO PLAN EARLY FOR YOUR CHILDS FUTURE!**

## OUR SERVICES

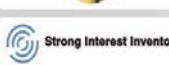
- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High School Counseling</li> <li>• College Search / Reports</li> <li>• Motivation Counseling</li> <li>• Co-Curricular } Advising</li> <li>• Extra Curricular }</li> </ul> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review College Applications</li> <li>• Review College Essays</li> <li>• Interview Preparation</li> <li>• Personality Type Testing</li> <li>• College Financial Aid</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

**THE ONLY GUARANTEED INVESTMENT TODAY IS EDUCATION!**

CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS

**631-987-3985**

ASK FOR  
**JAMES OR  
SUZY PYO**



CERTIFIED ADMINISTRATORS

## MTD COLLEGE CONSULTING GROUP

Commemorate your years at Stuyvesant with Stuyvesant High School: The First 100 Years The beautiful, full-color Centennial Book!

- History of Stuyvesant High School, with hundreds of great photos
- Wise, funny recollections and stories by alumni(æ) and teachers
- Excerpts from The Spectator, Indicator, and Caliper

Preview and order the SHS Centennial book at [www.ourstrongband.org](http://www.ourstrongband.org)!



Contact The Campaign for Stuyvesant at 212.222.9112

**HAPPY WITH YOUR SAT/ACT MATH SCORE BUT NEED TO BOOST YOUR CRITICAL READING OR WRITING SCORE?**

**RAISE A HIGH CRITICAL READING OR WRITING SCORE TO AN ULTRA-HIGH SCORE WITH FIVE LESSONS IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE TEST**

**100% SUCCESS RATE RAISING TEST SCORES**

**COLLEGE-BOARD TRAINED SAT ESSAY GRADER**

**- EXPERIENCED COLLEGE PROFESSOR -**

**FREE DIAGNOSTIC SESSION**

**CALL DR. JOEL LESHEN – NOW!  
646-957-0896**

**BETTERTESTSCORES@GMAIL.COM**

# Sports

## The Price of Sports

*continued from page 20*

in Yankee Stadium, it is nearly impossible to hit it over the wall in Pier 40. The high fence in left field is nearly 300 feet from home plate, while right and center are almost 400 feet.

And it's not just the baseball team that plays at Pier 40. So far this spring the girls' soccer team, the Mimbas, have played three games at the Pier and have won them all by a margin as large as five goals. They also practice at Pier 40 along with the girls' softball team and both the boys' and girls' lacrosse teams. In the fall, Stuyvesant uses Pier 40 mainly for the football teams. The varsity team secured its first win in the home opener at Pier 40 against Information

**Pier 40 even became a part of Public Schools Athletic League history, as senior Nolan Becker threw a perfect game with 18 strikeouts there. The Yankees, however, cannot even compare to these numbers, as they recently gave up 22 runs in one game.**

Technology High School in September. Both the Junior Varsity and Varsity football teams play games and practice there almost every day of the week.

Pier 40 definitely doesn't have the facilities, history and prestige of Yankee Stadium, but the field plays just as well and is much more versatile.

The ungodly high prices at Yankee Stadium make almost any high school field seem like a good deal, and yet the attendance for a Hitmen or Mimbas game is still not very good. Any sports fan at Stuyvesant who would pay a lot to go to a Yankee game should go to a game at Pier 40. It's free, and watching any of Stuyvesant's teams play on their home field for free is all any fan can ask for.

*continued from page 20*

third place with a 7-5 record.

Last season, the team finished the regular season with a 7-5 record. And since one of their wins against Bronx Science was a forfeit, some players say they were lucky not to finish 6-6. Last year was Stuyvesant's first winning season since 2004, when it went 10-0, as well as its first trip to the playoffs in three years. This year, Stuyvesant is already 8-3—a very promising

**"We hope to make it pretty far into the playoffs, and hopefully make Mayor's Cup."**  
**—Jason Su, senior and captain**

record.

The team lost a talented group of graduating seniors last year, but has managed to make up for it. It has even emerged with a better record than last year. According to Coach Timothy Pon and senior captains Norman Yu and Jason Su, the main reason for the team's success this year has been the addition of several very talented freshmen to the lineup. "Our crop of freshmen and our experienced seniors made up for the loss of our seniors [from last year]," Yu said.

"After my tryouts I found that I had four ranked players coming in to play on our team [...] In the past [...] four years, we have had no players with rankings coming onto the Stuyvesant team," Pon said. "I'm very happy that we have a very good team this season."

This year's freshmen have indeed been a big boost to the team. Three of the four starting doubles players, Alec Schaw, Arthur Rentzler, and Leon Pan, as well as the top singles player, Christophe Jou are all freshmen.

Many of the younger players, however, recognize that the leadership of this year's captains has been crucial in their success. "They make sure we're playing all of our matches and they're keeping us confident," Jou said. "They're doing really well."

With this crop of freshmen, and the pair of strong captains, expectations are high for this season, as well as for years to come. "We hope to make it pretty far into the playoffs, and hopefully make Mayor's Cup," Su said.

"Before the season started, I was ready to be possibly three and nine," Pon said. "If we get the third seed in the playoffs or the fourth seed in the playoffs, I will be more than happy [...] So far I'm very pleased with our team's performance."

Furthermore, having such a talented and young team means that "the tennis program at Stuyvesant looks good for at least three more years," Pon said.

**High Hopes for the 10-2 Lobsters**

Stuyvesant's girls' tennis team, the Lobsters, is riding high near the top of the division, with 10 wins and just two losses. Stuyvesant is in a tight race with first place Hunter College High School, but the team is confident of its position.

The Lobsters are perennially a very dominant team and were undefeated for the past two years. With their second place spot clinched, the Lobsters will advance to the playoffs.

kup said. "They keep us updated...and they're always very supportive."

Despite the fact that this season's success is not out of the ordinary for the Lobsters, they are confident that this is one of the strongest teams they have had recently. "I still think that the overall level of play has gotten a lot better," Soukup said. "We've been practicing, which is new for this team actually."

"This season our team is quite talented, from first singles to second doubles. We have great depth and team spirit," Wan said.

In fact, Menaker's expectation is that the team will do "nothing less than what they've done in the past," he said. This would require advancing well into the playoffs, and perhaps even winning the tournament. The team fell only one win short in 2006. In the past two years, the Lobsters have advanced two games into the playoffs before being defeated.

But Menaker's expectations go beyond the Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) tournament. "I expect to see some of our players do very well in individual tournaments to follow the team championship. Beyond that there's the Mayor's Cup...and should we qualify as a team, which is one of my expectations...I think we'll have a very good chance to do well in the Mayor's Cup – to maybe even win the Mayor's Cup," Menaker said.

Menaker, Li, and Wan all feel that the younger players have the potential to continue this year's success in years to come. "Our younger players have showed tremendous potential," Wan said. "In the future I believe they can lead the team in singles."

But for now, Menaker said, "The goal for this year is to try to win the thing. And that's very achievable."

**"If we get the third seed in the playoffs or the fourth seed in the playoffs, I will be more than happy.... So far I'm very pleased with our team's performance."**  
**—Timothy Pon, coach**

Several factors contribute to this success, particularly Coach Jeffrey Menaker. It's his first season with the team. "The coaching style has changed a lot. He's a lot more involved with the team," junior Elizabeth Soukup said. "He's a very strong influence."

Senior and captain Veranika Li added "Discipline is what this team needed and that's what he brought to the team, so I'd say it's a good fit."

The role of the captains, Li and senior Tiffany Wan, has been very prominent as well. "The captains are great," Sou-

## Next Stop: Boroughs

*continued from page 20*

ran the 3000-meters in eight minutes 49 seconds and smashed the school record of nine minutes 47 seconds by nearly a minute, even though he finished in last place. There are still several meets remaining in the season. "I'd like to win cities in the distance race and I'm hoping for a personal best for my mile," Hyman-Cohen said.

The rest of the boys' team is holding its own. The team has a strong distance medley relay and 4x800 relay teams. "A big boost has come from the sophomore class, who have improved tremendously this year," Jacobs said.

Mendes noted that several runners, including sophomore Matthew Solomon, juniors Elvis Mitropoulos, Pace Lee, and Raveen Sugantharaj, and freshman Konrad Surkont all have "immense potential" this season. "They're all running as well as I've expected this season, and they should have no trouble dominating at boroughs," Mendes said.

Another runner who could help the team is sophomore Billy Barnes. "Anything I teach Billy, he picks up instantly. He could be a threat to win the pentathlon at Boroughs," Mendes said.

However, the team must clear several hurdles. Mendes blamed a "disjointed schedule and spotty

weather" for the lack of consistent practice this season. The team has five key runners in

**"The track team has great perseverance. We run when it rains, we run when it's freezing, we run when it's boiling and we run even when we stayed up all night finishing papers."**  
**—Vanessa Ventola, junior and captain**

chorus who split their time after school. "Track diligence seems to be an issue," Mitropoulos said. But the team has enough runners

to be competitive at every event.

The girls' team can also improve in several areas. It only has five seniors on a roster of 37 athletes, and its core runners are mainly sophomores. "This year we're really focusing on developing the sophomores. We're not the strongest team in Manhattan, so we're really looking at more of a rebuilding year," senior and captain Rachel Kim said.

"The track team has great perseverance. We run when it rains, we run when it's freezing, we run when it's boiling and we run even when we stayed up all night finishing papers," junior and captain Vanessa Ventola said.

Dedicated sophomores have already shown signs of success. At the Howard Richter Meet at John F. Kennedy High School on Sunday, May 3, sophomore Naomi Kim placed third in the 1500-meter race walk with a time of eight minutes 42.47 seconds. Finishing eighth in the same race was sophomore Lisa Li in nine minutes 11.77 seconds. "The team has lots of energy, which helps in their working really hard," junior Lily Ostrer said.

The girls' track team hopes to use its youthful core and its runners' work ethic to surprise its Manhattan rivals, including Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School and the High School of Health Professions. "I'd really love to see [the team] place at the

borough championships," Ventola said.

The boys are on pace to win yet another Borough Championship and continue their strong

**"They're all running as well as I've expected this season, and they should have no trouble dominating at boroughs."**  
**—Mark Mendes, coach**

season. The girls' team is hoping to fight its way into the same echelon as the more elite running schools in the city. Whether as a constant favorite or perennial contender, both track teams are eagerly awaiting the Borough Championships.

# Sports

## The 'Backdoor' to College is Not So Simple



Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

Junior Nzingha Prescod

*continued from page 20*

Sandler has been attending college showcases and high-level tournaments with his US Soccer Federation team (USSF), which plays at the highest national level of youth soccer. He is determined to play soccer in college. "I can't imagine my life without soccer," Sandler said. "I'm used to juggling school and five days on the field each week." Sandler will be playing in showcase clinics during this summer as well.

Like Sandler, junior and captain of the Ballerz Andrés Fernández plays on the USSF team as well as for Stuyvesant. Fernández plays defense (right-back) for his USSF team, and had 2 goals and 6 assists during the 2008-2009 Stuyvesant soccer season. Fernández has been attending showcase camps with his USSF team, which, he believes, has made the recruitment process significantly simpler. "Before, soccer players had to do a lot more to catch the eye of colleges—highlight videos, camps, showcases, letters—but now, recruiting is a lot easier for players and coaches. There are three showcases a year, but, in reality, coaches are scouting at almost every game," Fernández said.

The recruitment process is different for each sport. For runners, like junior Daniel Hyman-

Cohen, the showcase-camp aspect is unnecessary. Track recruitment is done primarily by an individual's times. "Track is an objective, statistic-driven sport. A time on the track is generally an accurate representation of ability. Running a fast time is almost always sufficient to garner recruitment letters," Hyman-Cohen said.

In early January, Hyman-Cohen finished second in the two-mile run in nine minutes and 34.11 seconds at the Hispanic Games. In February, he ran the mile in four minutes and 22.08 seconds at the Eastern States Championship, earning him a seventh place finish. These strong performances at big meets have caught the eyes of several collegiate scouts.

Junior Raveen Sugantharaj, also a Stuyvesant runner, hopes to impress colleges with his 200-meter sprint time. It's currently between 22.1 seconds and 22.4 seconds. He hopes to do well at the Manhattan Borough Championship, where he will compete in the 200-meter sprint. Sugantharaj thinks that track recruitment "is fair and efficient. They [colleges] see the list of times accumulated over the course of a season, so it is possible to have a bad race," said Sugantharaj in an e-mail interview. Over the summer he is planning on training to improve his time.

Nzingha Prescod, junior and

two-time 17 and under Fencing World Champion, is also hoping to be recruited. The past two consecutive World championships that she has won have helped draw the attention of

ence fencing in front of scouts, Prescod has a problem with the July 1 starting date. "It causes unnecessary problems for everyone. I have to be careful what I talk to college coaches about because if a violation were reported, I wouldn't be eligible to participate in the NCAA—meaning no recruiting or scholarship," she said.

In addition, junior Alex Albright has intrigued college scouts for playing volleyball and softball. Albright is hoping to attend showcase camps over the summer, as coaches will be able to contact her directly by July 1.

As several Stuyvesant students are in the midst of the recruitment process, a couple of outgoing seniors have finished with their own. These students will be playing sports at the NCAA level in the fall.

Senior Zack Karson, co-captain and shortstop for the Hitmen, Stuyvesant's boys' varsity baseball team, will be playing baseball at Division III Kenyon College in the fall. Karson is batting .400 with a .586 on-base percentage this season.

Karson attended a showcase camp this past summer and was unimpressed. "You get to run,

maybe even send a video," he said.

Another senior and co-captain on the Hitmen, Nolan Becker, will be playing baseball for Yale University. "They have a great baseball tradition, and they have a good record of getting guys to the professional level," Becker said. "It's also a young team, so there'll be opportunities for me to make my mark."

Becker is a pitcher for Stuyvesant's boys' varsity baseball team, the Hitmen, with an earned run average of 0.82 so far this season. In addition, Becker pitched a perfect game against Manhattan Bridges High School on Wednesday, April 8. Becker was first noticed by colleges at a showcase camp at Stanford University last June.

While Becker had a good deal of success with the recruitment process, the prospect of being scouted had intimidated him initially. "They're looking for how you play, but also how you respond to certain situations. It can be intimidating to have someone taking notes as you play," Becker said.

While two seniors will be playing NCAA baseball, senior Nick Goldin will be playing col-



Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

recruiters. "I've been fencing in front of recruiters for several years now, I'm pretty familiar with them," Prescod said.

Despite having experi-

field, hit, and scrimmage in front of different college coaches. But the [clinics] are expensive. They are competitive and often frustrating because you have so few opportunities to show what you are capable of doing," Karson said.

The Kenyon coach first heard bout Karson from a parent of a player on the Kenyon team. Karson then put together a videotape to showcase his baseball talent and sent it to the Kenyon coach. Karson met with the coach and the coach expressed his interest in having him on the team. "The Kenyon coach has never really seen me play in person. He has only heard about me [from coaches and parents] and seen my video," Karson said. This process is not uncommon because many Division III schools do not have the time or the financing to travel the country to see high school athletes play.

Karson's advice for those athletes beginning the college recruitment process is to take initiative. "They're going to find you eventually. You have to email coaches and go to clinics,

legiate football in the fall at Bowdoin University. Goldin, who had eight passing touchdowns, five rushing touchdowns, and one receiving touchdown this past season for Stuyvesant's varsity football team, the Peglegs, had a very positive recruitment experience. It was an experience that he describes as "fun." Goldin attended a football camp at Dartmouth last June. Like Karson, Goldin sent a highlight tape from his junior season to the schools that he was interested in playing for.

Recruitment for athletics is almost never a sure path into a college. But for Karson, Becker and Goldin, sports recruitment was a significant part of their application. Goldin believes that recruitment did not guarantee his acceptance into college, but "being recruited definitely helped my application."

Having endured the recruitment process, Karson, Becker, and Goldin are looking forward to playing NCAA sports in the fall. However, for Stuyvesant's junior athletes, endless recruitment opportunities still lie ahead.



Christina Bogdan / The Spectator

Junior Alex Sandler

# THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

## Boys' and Girls' Tennis

### Boys' and Girls' Tennis in Full Swing as They Look Towards Playoffs



The Boys' Tennis Team clinched the fourth seed in the playoffs with a tight 3-2 victory over rival Bronx Science on Friday, April 24.

By CORY BEHROOZI

#### Boys' Tennis Team Looking Good With Strong Leadership and Young Talent

Stuyvesant senior Matthew Krukowski smashed a powerful forehand between the out-

stretched rackets of two players who stood helplessly on the other side of the net, watching the match slip away from them. The pair from Bronx Science was no match for the onslaught of powerful serves and lightning-fast volleys by Krukowski and junior Luc Cohen.

The 10-4 victory by the

doubles team of Krukowski and Cohen on Friday, April 24 gave Stuyvesant's boys' varsity tennis team a win of three matches to two over Bronx Science, securing Stuyvesant the number two spot in the Manhattan A3 division. Bronx Science currently sits in

*continued on page 19*

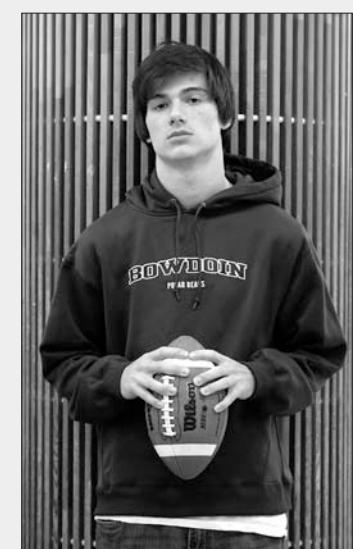
## The 'Backdoor' to College is Not So Simple

By JACK GREISMAN

Stuyvesant is known for its academics, but its athletic programs are often unrecognized. A select few of Stuyvesant's student athletes make it onto colleges' athletic 'radar.' These students enter the pool of college sports recruitments, seeking what many perceive as a 'backdoor' acceptance into college.

Sports recruitment is a long and arduous process that student athletes must balance with academics. The process usually begins during sophomore or junior year when coaches and recruiters begin to take note of standout athletes. These athletes are then invited to attend showcases. These camps are often held in the summer after a student's junior year and are a chance for college recruiters to scout and note the performances of athletes. For many students, these camps are the first opportunity to display their talent for potential coaches. From there, recruiters follow the performances of these athletes and maintain contact with them during their senior year.

The recruitment process however, is not that simple. According to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules, coaches affiliated with a college may not directly contact

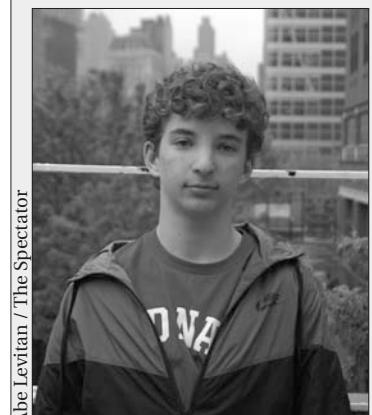


Senior Nick Goldin

potential athletes prior to July 1 of the summer before senior year. This means that student athletes must initiate the contact with a coach. "The only contact that coaches can make is to respond to your e-mails or invite you to their summer camps," said junior Alex Sandler, goalkeeper for the Ballerz, Stuyvesant's boys' varsity soccer team. Sandler, like several other Stuyvesant juniors, is in the midst of the recruitment process.

*continued on page 19*

## The Price of Sports



By CHARLIE GINGOLD

Why would I pay over 2,000 dollars for a ticket to a baseball game? Even if I just want a good seat to watch my favorite baseball team play in their new stadium, this is an insane amount of money. Well they're not just any team, they're the New York Yankees, and with their new 1.5 billion dollar stadium, their executives feel it's necessary to sell some tickets for 2,000 dollars or more. With that money, I could just as easily buy a 52 inch television to watch all 162 games in the comfort of my own home.

Now if I wanted seats behind home plate to see another one of my favorite teams, the Stuyvesant Hitmen, play at their relatively new home field, it would be entirely free. That's right, a front row seat to any sports event at Pier 40 costs nothing. Stuyvesant baseball, soccer, or football all for free.

After being completed in 1963, Pier 40, the place that many of Stuyvesant's teams now call home was mainly used

as a parking garage. In 1999, a small turf soccer field was installed on the roof. Now the entire ground floor is turf, making the area perfect for baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse or football games. The turf provides an excellent playing surface for any sport, as every ball hit, thrown, or kicked takes a perfect hop.

Sure, the food is limited to a couple of vending machines and there is no Mohegan Sun Sports Bar, but, aside from the price, watching a baseball game at Pier 40 has some advantages over the new Yankee Stadium.

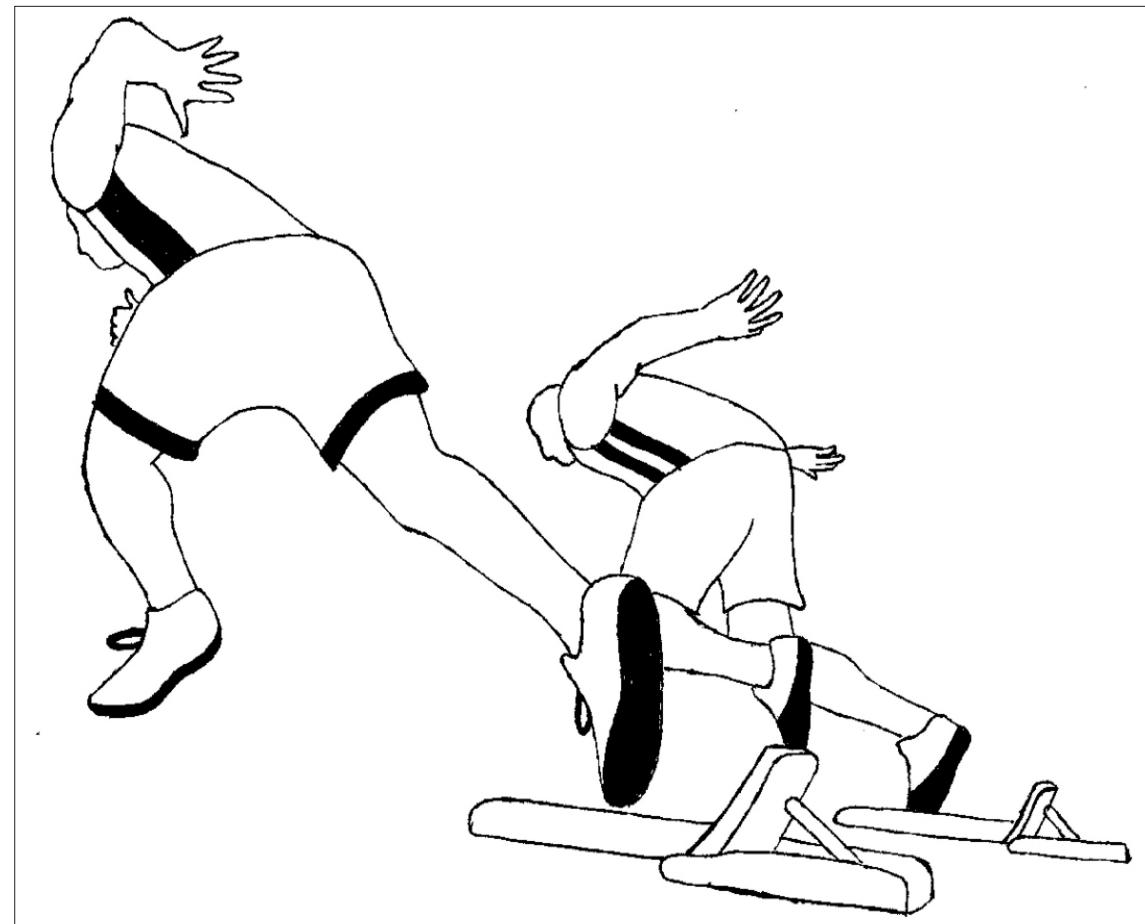
First, fans don't have to worry about being hit by any hard hit foul balls or broken bats because the bleachers are completely covered by a protective net. And, instead of watching adults who you don't know play the game, you can watch your friends and classmates represent your school.

This year, the Hitmen have something that the Yankees do not, which is good pitching at home. In their three games at Pier 40 this year, Stuyvesant has allowed only three runs. Pier 40 even became a part of Public Schools Athletic League history, as senior Nolan Becker threw a perfect game with 18 strikeouts there. The Yankees, however, cannot even compare to these numbers, as they recently gave up 22 runs in one game.

This may have to do with the wind in Yankee Stadium blowing straight to right field, allowing home runs to fly over the fence again and again, giving pitchers nightmares. But unlike

## Boys' Track

### Next Stop: Boroughs



By JACK ZURIER

Almost every year, the boy's track team runs over its competition and on to the Manhattan Borough Championships. However, the girls' team rarely does as well. But this season, with a large sophomore class and dedicated runners, a strong performance at the Borough Championships is likely.

The boys' season is off to a typical fast start. Junior and captain Daniel Hyman-Cohen contributes to his team's success by bringing recognition to an often-disregarded sport. "No one on the team is anywhere near him," senior and captain Eleazar Jacobs said of Hyman-Cohen. Hyman-Cohen has already interested many colleges and universities.

Coach Mark Mendes attri-

butes Hyman-Cohen's success to "sheer strength of will." He finished third in the 4x1600 relay at the Hornet Relays on Saturday, March 28 alongside seniors Jacobs, Cary Abma, and junior Matthew Kugler. Hyman-Cohen was also the only New York City runner to be invited to the world-renowned Penn Relays, where he

*continued on page 19*