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Peglegs Close Out Historic Season

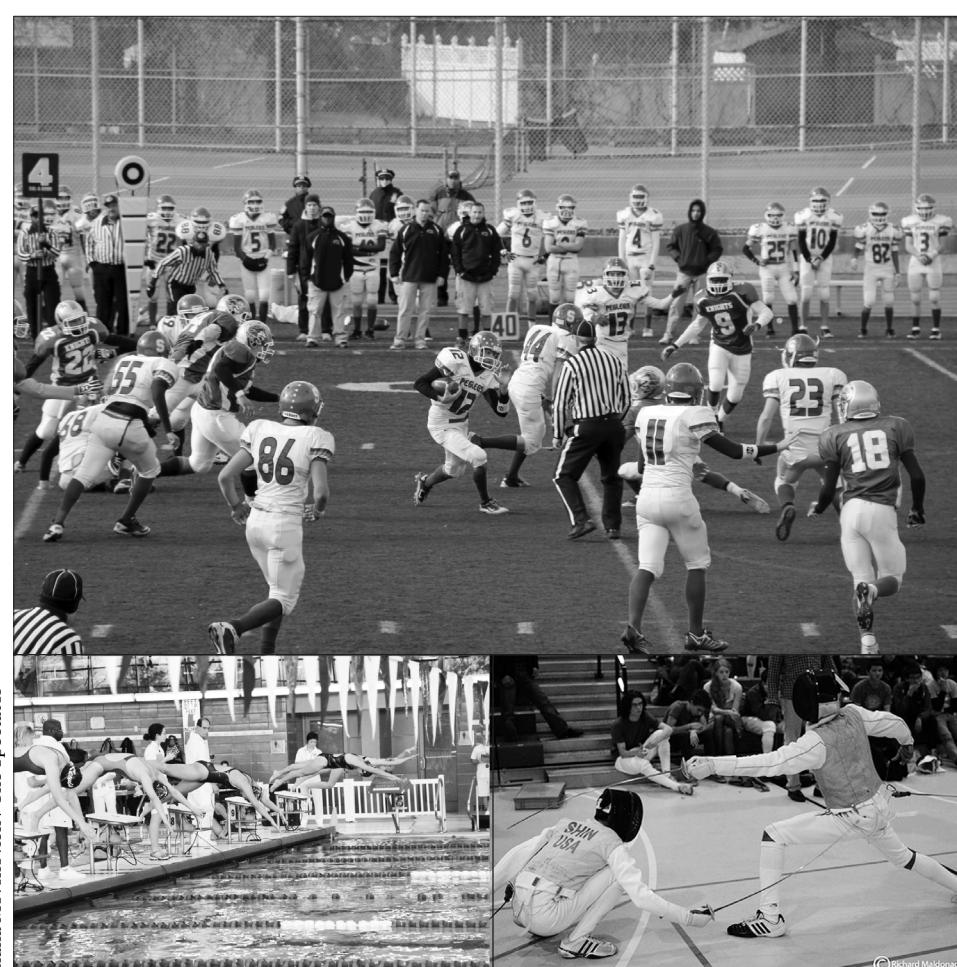
Lane Breaks Away in Second Half to Clinch Championship

By JORDAN WALLACH

At the beginning of the Peglegs' 2012 season, senior quarterback and co-captain Alen Makhmudov's "championship or bust" mantra caught more than a few people off guard—the team hadn't made the playoffs in 17 years and had been mocked by Stuyvesant students for decades. Yet, the Peglegs battled through a historic regular season in which five of their six wins were comeback efforts, and won an exhilarating semifinal game to make it to the Cup Division Championship against the Franklin K. Lane Campus Knights.

Stuyvesant wasn't short of confidence heading into the championship game after handing Lane their only loss of the year in a 21-8 victory on Saturday, September 29, in which a second half offensive surge capped by a Makhmu-

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Elana Movshovich / The Spectator

Justin Stauss / The Spectator

Courtesy of PSAL

Three Stuyvesant teams played in championship games to end their fall seasons. While the Peglegs fell short, the Penguins successfully defended their girls' swimming title and the Untouchables returned to dominance over boys' fencing.

Stuyvesant Football: A Brief History

By GABRIEL SUNSHINE

Although the Stuyvesant Football Peglegs' championship hopes were recently dashed in a disappointing loss to the Franklin K. Lane Knights, on a whole, their season was largely successful, especially when looked at in the context of the past 17 years, which saw the team fail to register a single playoff appearance. In fact, this year's team is arguably the greatest Peglegs team of all time, which is saying something, considering how many years the team has been in existence.

Despite having sporadic if not marginal success throughout their history, the Peglegs have always had an interesting story to tell. In 1959, current Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank played for the team. And the team's only city championship victory came about a decade later, in 1968 during a teacher's strike.

Former coach Matt Hahn remembers a game from 1986, known

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The State Of The SU

By EDWARD LI
and GABRIEL ROSEN

This year, the Student Union (SU), led by SU President Adam Lieber and Vice President Tahia Islam, has introduced a number of reforms and initiatives in an effort to increase its involvement in Stuyvesant students' lives and change the tone of the SU, which in previous years has been a major disappointment to the school community. The following summarizes their efforts.

Office Hours

Lieber has introduced office hours for all members of his administration, in an effort to ensure a commitment to the school body. Members of Lieber's staff rotate every day of the week. They are required to stay until 5:00 pm. Every two weeks, Cabinet and Budget meetings are held, where all staff members are required to be present.

Online Presence

The SU has revamped its website in an effort to make it more user-friendly. "The new "Student Groups Directory" provides detailed information on all clubs and publications currently active within Stuyvesant. "Before, the directory of clubs was not accessible to students, and they would often not know about the extracurricular opportunities that Stuyvesant has to offer," Lieber

said. The directory also provides information on the mission of each club, as well as detailing each club's sign-up procedure. The SU has created a YouTube channel in order to increase awareness for Stuyvesant events as well as provide advertisement space for clubs. Even though the Student Union initially put resources towards the construction of this channel, according to Lieber it is now not a priority of the administration. But the administration has attempted to keep their calendar up to date, posting major events run by the SU, other student organizations, and clubs online.

Honor Code

In the wake of Stuyvesant's cheating scandal, Lieber has proposed the creation of an honor code, a declaration signed by students at the end of every exam confirming that their behavior was in accordance with the school's academic honesty policy. He also advocated for establishing an honor code panel staffed by teachers, students, and members of the administration who could listen to cases of academic dishonesty and deliberate upon them. If the students involved feel that the ruling is flawed, they could appeal to the principal to ensure that the ruling was fair. This proposal is currently a work-in-progress, but according to Lieber, it would ensure that students

have the ability to proficiently defend themselves when accused of cheating, and will ensure that any and all rulings are fair. Additionally, Lieber said it would be an opportunity for students to be "in positions of figuring out what is cheating, what's not cheating, and to what degree did the student cheat." However, Lieber's plan has met opposition from the DOE, which does not support students' involvement in deliberations on academic dishonesty. Though the panel is unlikely to be approved, Lieber intends to continue to press for its creation.

College Services

By the end of the year, the Student Union is hoping to expand its online alumni-student college advice program, which would give juniors the opportunity to pose questions to alumni and receive personalized answers regarding colleges. According to Islam, the SU has enlisted the help of alumni from 75 colleges, although they hope to recruit more. Responses are posted to the web page, or if the answer is of a more personal nature, sent directly to the student. Students have generally approved of this initiative. The Student Union hopes to hold an annual event at the end of the school year to have alumni come in to the

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Alumnus Aidan Daly Named Rhodes Scholar

By ANTHONY CHAN
and ANDREW WALLACE
with additional reporting by
Edric Huang

When British businessman and philanthropist Cecil Rhodes passed away in 1902, he detailed in his last will and testament the world's oldest international study program – the Rhodes Scholarship. Created to develop leaders who would go on to "fight the world's fight," the scholarship is considered among the most prestigious in the world. Stuyvesant alumnus Aidan C. de B. Daly ('09) was among the 32 Americans recognized on Monday, November 19, as part of the Rhodes Scholars-elect class of 2013.

Daly is currently a senior at Harvard University concentrating in computer science with a secondary concentration in molecular and cellular biology.

"I was actually surprisingly calm - after the interview [for the scholarship], I felt I had given it my best shot and whatever came of it I would roll with the punches," Daly said in an e-mail interview. "Obviously, this was one punch I was very happy to roll with."

According to its website, "Rhodes Scholars are chosen not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements, but for their character, commitment to others and to the common good, and for their potential for leadership in whatever do-

mains their careers may lead." Under the full support of the Rhodes Trust, the 83 students selected internationally each year are sent to study in their respective disciplines at Oxford University for two to three years.

Daly believes his time at Stuyvesant helped to refine his interests in interdisciplinary sciences, specifically through his interactions with the mathematics and biology departments. He credits "the computer science department, as they were the ones who encouraged me to pursue my interest in the discipline beyond the required level and even beyond the [Advanced Placement] level" as well as his experiences in his mathematics classes, which "gave me a solid foundation in math and the faith in my ability to use it," he said.

Computer Science Coordinator Mike Zamansky, who taught Daly in his Intro to Computer Science class, readily noticed his talents. Though Daly "did not fit the computer science stereotype, he made an impact right away and I knew he could do very well in this field," Zamansky said.

Daly's encounters were similarly encouraging with the biology department, which "was wonderful and furthered my interest and experience in the field I knew I was interested in from the beginning," Daly said. Biology teacher Anne Man-

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Arts & Entertainment

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The Icy Truth Bites

A review of the recent film by Stuyvesant Alumnus Jeff Orlowski ('02).



Article on page 6.

Features

Guys Who Really Love Ponies

Learn more about Stuyvesant boys and their love for ponies and friendship.

News

Newsbeat

By LINDSAY BU

Reed Kennedy has been named Executive Director of the Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association.

Playwright Stacey Engels read excerpts of her writing on Monday, November 19 during tenth period and conducted a writing workshop for interested students after tenth period.

Several Citibank employees visited Social Studies teacher George Kennedy's Wall Street class to discuss financial markets.

Social Studies teacher Eric Wisotsky arranged a visit for his American Government Class students from NY State Democratic Committeeman and Stuyvesant Alumnus Ted Teng (2000), who discussed local and national electoral politics with the students.

Social Studies teacher Catherine McRoy arranged a visit from Certified Financial Adviser Erika Safran to her Advanced Placement Macroeconomics classes, to receive tips on administering money in college.

The Stuyvesant Model United Nations Club won the overall Outstanding Delegation title, 19 individual delegates won awards, including 7 Outstanding Delegate distinctions, at the Horace Mann Conference, the largest Model UN tournament in the Northeast.

Fifty new members of The Stuyvesant Speech and Debate Team competed for the first time in the "Commitment to Service" tournament at Regis High School, where more than a dozen students advanced to the final rounds. Twenty five more students competed at the Hendrick Hudson H.S. competition.

Alumnus Aidan Daly Named Rhodes Scholar

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well, who taught Daly in her freshman honors biology class, commends his knowledge and contributions to the department, particularly his aptitude in "being able to see connections between biology and other disciplines, one of the true signs of intelligence," she said.

Daly's use of computer science as a biology tool started with his independent studies in an internship he gained at the American Museum of National History. This project, which he refined in Research Coordinator Dr. Jonathan Gastel's Intel Research class, focused on "using data on highly variable regions of Cycad genomes called 'microsatellites' to infer recent migration rates between endangered populations of these Cycads in Guam," Daly said. "This would allow us to point out populations that were great sources of migrants to other populations, and thus likely sources of genetic diversity that should be prioritized for conservation efforts." He later went on to receive recognition for his work as an Intel semifinalist.

Daly's interests, particularly his love for interdisciplinary science, then deepened as he went on to Harvard University. He noted in an interview with the Harvard Gazette that his time at the college gave him the opportunity to take part in large-scale research projects in clean energy.

With biology and computer science standing side-by-side in possible choices for his concentration at Harvard, Daly said, "I

could easily have seen myself majoring in either discipline at Harvard, but I ultimately opted for a CS primary and biology secondary because I felt that solidifying my computational foundation first would open a lot of doors. The background I had in both computer science and biology allowed me to dive right into courses of interest at Harvard, bypassing or coasting through some of the more tedious introductory classes."

Daly hopes to use his background to pursue his interests in "new interfaces of natural science and biology, particularly as a part of Oxford's 2020 Science Initiative partnership with Microsoft," he said. "I will likely continue my involvement with clean energy, which has been the focus of my research at Harvard, but am also interested in exploring new avenues like medicine."

In reflecting on his experiences in Stuyvesant and now with the Rhodes Scholarship, Daly advises others to "not worry about selling yourself, but rather to build yourself into the kind of person that naturally does so," Daly said. "Be organic – pursue things you are interested in even if they are not the mainstream things you read about on the Rhodes application or wherever. My main athletic pursuit is Kendo, a Japanese martial art, so you certainly don't need to be a quarterback of your college football team to get this accolade or any other. What people will see is the passion you have for what you do, and that's something you can't and shouldn't have to fake."

The State Of The SU

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school and talk to the juniors about the college experience in person.

"Tahia and I had come in to the SU with no experience, and this allows us to be pragmatic with our methods [for reform]."
—Adam Lieber,
SU President

Raising Funds

This year, the SU has worked to supplement their existing budget, from the Stuyvesant Parent Association, Alumni Association. So far this year, the SU has held multiple fundraisers, sold merchandise and apparel, as well as gained the sponsorship of Kweller Prep Tutoring and Educational Services, a Test Prep company based in Forest Hills, Queens. So far, Kweller Test Prep has paid the SU \$5000 for advertising on the website, as well as a booth at the Club/Pub fair. According to SU Chief Financial Officer Jack Cahn, who

was responsible for securing Kweller's sponsorship, the additional money will go towards next year's budget.

In addition to raising government funds, the SU has made a substantial effort to collect monetary and other donations for victims of Hurricane Sandy. Following the storm, members of the SU and ARISTA solicited donations from members of the Stuyvesant community. As a result of the campaign close to \$3000 has been raised and a variety of clothes, supplies, and non-perishable food has been donated to the relief effort.

While many of their initiatives are still works in progress, Lieber and Islam feel that their reforms are necessary to change the attitude of the members of the SU, as well as that of the school as a whole. Lieber and Islam have worked to have a strong relationship with Stuyvesant's administration, particularly Interim Acting Principal Jie Zhang. Zhang has repeatedly expressed that she supports the Student Union in its initiatives. Islam said that the SU's goal this year is to create a system of reliability where students can voice their opinions. President Lieber has high hopes for these reforms, stating that his presidency, with Vice President Islam, represents a clean slate from which the SU can be improved. "I want to change the attitude of Student Union and make it more active with helping students." Lieber said.

Ventilation Units Malfunction



On Friday, November 9, ventilation units in two classrooms ignited.

By DAVID MASCIO

Ventilation units in rooms 303 and 335 spewed smoke on Thursday, November 8. The fires, first discovered by social studies teachers Dr. Lisa Greenwald and Matthew Polazzo, were later determined by members of the custodial staff to have been caused by transformer malfunctions in those units.

"I was grading when I heard somerattling," Polazzo said. "Soon the air smelled like there was some sort of fire, and eventually the room was filled with smoke."

Following reporting of the two incidents, both rooms 303 and 335 remained off-limits from seventh period to the end of the day. Assistant Principal of Pupil Personnel Services Eleanor Archie and other administrators

"Classroom environment is an important condition of good learning as much as good teaching or good books are."
—Dr. Lisa Greenwald, social studies teacher

helped to temporarily relocate classes that normally take place in the room. Classes resumed in the two rooms the next day.

From Sunday, July 1, 130 new ventilation units had been installed to improve the air conditioning and heating systems in the school. The installation was part of a larger upgrade to the school-wide air circulation system, which included the replacement of the two "chillers" that cool the entire school.

For faculty, the ignition of the new units was both unexpected and upsetting. "When I first smelled the fire, I went to look at the old vent in the room. I was surprised to learn that the new vent was the one with the problem," Polazzo said.

"What is now upsetting is there is no heat up and down that row of classrooms. I am cold – particularly after teaching three classes in a row. Students who sit all day also complain of cold. Classroom environment is an important condition of good learning as much as good teaching or good books are," Greenwald said. "Stuyvesant paid for the repair/replacement of these units. They should be in good working order only 2 months after installation."

Students have shown a similar degree of concern. "They should be more careful installing things and do safety checks. With the library being renovated, it is important that the school can prevent these kinds of events, and avoid the hassle of evacuations," freshman Fatin Ishraq said.

Harbor School Students Relocated to Stuyvesant

By SAM MORRIS
and STANCA IACOB

Students at the Urban Assembly New York City Harbor High School were relocated to Stuyvesant on Wednesday, November 7, and Thursday, November 8, due to their continued lack of power resulting from Hurricane Sandy. During the school day, students and staff occupied the theater, and used the student lunchroom during their lunch hour. The students returned to the Harbor School on Friday, November 9, once their power was restored.

Situated on Governor's Island in New York Harbor, the Harbor School is vulnerable to storms, and particularly to the resulting storm surge.

However, a survey of the campus, conducted by school officials after the hurricane, found little physical damage to the school.

"Fortunately for Harbor School, trees went out of their way to fall away from our building and the water stopped just inches from our doors," Harbor School Interim Acting Principal Edward Biederman said, according to Gotham School News. Preemptive steps were taken prior to the storm in order to protect the school's fleet of training boats.

The Harbor School did suffer some minimal damage from Sandy. Storage closets were reportedly flooded and the construction site for the school's new technology center was strewn with debris left by the storm surge.

Throughout the city, more than 20,000 students from 43 schools damaged in the storm were

forced to attend other schools.

Many details about the relocations, such as which schools would provide shuttle buses to their new locations, were not announced until the Tuesday after the storm, and even then, only posted to the Department of Education (DOE) website in a dense spreadsheet.

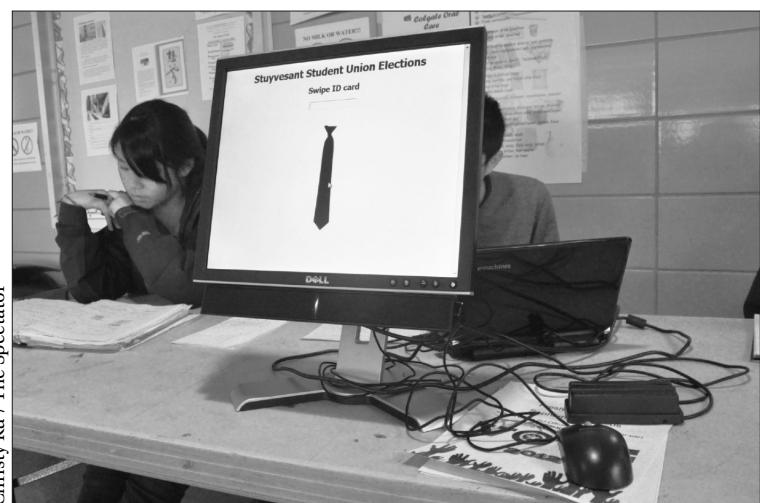
"I'm a little nervous. I don't know what we're going to be doing. I hope they have something for us to do," Tsiang Belgrove, a junior at the New York Harbor School, told New York Neighborhood News on her first day at Stuyvesant. Harbor School students had an attendance rate of nearly 75 percent during the two days, very high among relocated schools.

Stuyvesant's facilities were unharmed, in spite of the building's close proximity to the Hudson River. Other schools, however, were not as fortunate. More than 73,000 students in 102 schools (some of which were without power, were being used as shelters or were seriously damaged) did not return to school the Tuesday after Veterans Day. Students will be required to return to their original school when it reopens, the city said. The city is going to invest \$500 million in repairing schools and hospitals destroyed by Super Storm Sandy.

Of the 37 remaining closed schools, 17 are slated to reopen by November 19, 2012, 14 will reopen by November 30, 2012, and five will reopen by January 2, 2012.

To make up for school days that were missed during the hurricane, the DOE has decided to get rid of the last three days of Mid-Winter break.

Electronic Voting Implemented by Board of Elections



Christy Ku / The Spectator
Students used this new electronic voting system called StuyVote in order to elect the freshman and sophomore caucuses and to vote for the senior faculty graduation speaker.

By REBECCA CHANG
and SCOTT MA

During student election season every semester, students submit their decisions in the form of a paper ballot—a system used invariably by the Student Union's (SU) Board of Elections (BOE) since 2001.

In hopes of improving election efficiency and increasing voter turnout this year, however, the BOE has replaced its former system with an electronic program called StuyVote. The new system was implemented for the first time in the freshman and sophomore primary elections, as well as in the first round of voting for the senior faculty graduation speaker on Friday, November 9. It was used again during the runoff elections on Friday, November 16.

Senior Kevin Wang, the creator of StuyVote, thought of electronic voting in late June 2012 as a way to "improve the efficiency of the school through technology," he said. "One of

"Students just need to swipe, so it takes less than 10 seconds. In the end they can just do it on their way out or even on their way to class."
—Casey Ching, senior and BOE co-head

the things I thought up of was that paper ballots are annoying and time-consuming."

In order to vote using StuyVote, students must first swipe their ID cards in a scanner. Using a screen attached to the scanner, the students then select the candidates for whom they wish to vote. "Students just need to swipe, so it takes less than 10 seconds. In the end they can just do it on their way out or even on their way to class," senior and BOE co-head Casey Ching said.

In the paper ballot system, complications arose in keeping track of the students who voted and in counting the total number of votes for each candidate. To ensure that no student voted twice, each voter was obligated to show his or her ID card so that the ID number could be recorded on a spreadsheet linked between the voting booths on the second and fifth floors. With StuyVote, each student's OSIS number and vote were both automatically recorded via the Internet. "We can see the results instantaneously instead of having paper ballots that we have to count," senior and BOE co-head Yixuan Song said. "Often we have to stay until 6:00 to count the paper ballots. [StuyVote] is very efficient."

The only major difficulty that Wang encountered in making StuyVote was the privacy of students. "The way this system worked was that I needed a mapping of every student's OSIS number to [his or her] grade," Wang said. However, the OSIS number of a student is private information that cannot be openly shared. To resolve this issue, Assistant Principal of Technology Edward Wong encoded each student's OSIS number using MD5, a cryptographic hash function.

"The privacy is maintained so the administration doesn't have to worry about that data being compromised in any

has to worry about it anymore."

Because the program is hosted on Heroku, a platform that runs on the Cloud—much like Dropbox or Google Drive—Stuyvote can withstand incidents such as crashes and bugs. "They have really good uptime. You view the results through the website, and it uses an authentication system," Wang said. "It should be pretty secure."

The results of this year's freshman and sophomore runoff elections show a noticeable increase of voter turnout when compared to the results of the previous year. In the freshman election, the number of voters doubled, with 200 voters in this year's election as opposed to 100 voters in 2011. In the sophomore caucus, the number of voters increased approximately 38 percent, from 152 votes in 2011 to 210 in 2012.

However, the role of electronic voting in increasing voter turnout may be attributed to other factors. Starting last spring, for instance, the BOE allowed candidates to campaign online. Sophomore Daniel Zabari believes that retaining a paper ballot system could increase voter turnout even more. "Paper voting is more efficient, especially if they're distributed within classes, such as the history class, because you'd get a larger percentage of voters," Zabari said.

Electronic voting is still favored among other students for its speed and convenience. "It's obviously faster, and there's less errorinitbecausewhenyouhave people count the paper ones, there might be an error or they might be a little bit prejudiced," sophomore Alyson Liang said.

Free Lunch Offered in Sandy Aftermath



Alicia Chen / The Spectator
All students attending New York City schools received free lunches throughout the month of November as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

By EDWARD LI
and ANDREW WALLACE

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) offered free school lunch to all public school students throughout the month of November, in an effort to lend a helping hand to affected communities. The federal government is funding free lunches in addition to free school breakfasts, which it will continue to cover.

The hurricane has left many areas and schools devastated. Schools that remained largely unaffected have been asked to share their facilities with

the students and faculty of damaged schools. The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, located on Governor's Island, used Stuyvesant's lecture hall for two days while their facilities were being restored.

According to school dietitian Maureen Nevins, the main reasoning behind the DOE's decision to provide free lunch for public schools around the city is the complicated nature of the school-sharing that Hurricane Sandy has induced. It would simply be too complicated, according to Nevins, to monitor students' payment of school lunches when students are eating in unfamiliar cafeterias.

The machines used in school cafeterias for registering student identification cards are programmed only to register the IDs of students at the high school at which they are located. Because so many students have been forced to eat lunch at schools that do not have their IDs on record, the easiest logis-

Though Stuyvesant is no longer hosting another school, the institution of free lunch for the month has greatly increased the number of students who eat in the cafeteria. According to Nevins, 400 more students have come to the cafeteria to eat daily than did before the free lunch policy was instituted.

"There's been at least two more people at our table every day," sophomore Mike Ipovich said when asked if he had been seeing new faces since the free lunch announcement was made.

Students, though grateful for the free meals, understand that the free lunch policy was originally created for affected schools. "It's a good idea," Ipovich said of the DOE's decision. "But not as much for our school. If it were in another neighborhood like Far Rockaway or Staten Island it would have been [more] helpful than it is to us," he said.

The lunchroom staff has effectively handled the increase in students who visit the lunchroom. "It's good for myself and it's good for the staff," Nevins said. "Ideally we would love to feed all the kids in Stuy. Hurricane Sandy has allowed us to feed more kids and the lunch staff is glad to know that we are helping to take some of the pressure off families who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy."

"It's a good idea, but not as much for our school. If it were in another neighborhood like Far Rockaway or Staten Island it would have been [more] helpful than it is to us."
—Mike Ipovich, sophomore

tical solution for the DOE was to grant all students free lunch.

"Ideally we would love to feed all the kids in Stuy. Hurricane Sandy has allowed us to feed more kids and the lunch staff is glad to know that we are helping to take some of the pressure off families who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy."

—Maureen Nevins, school dietitian

Stuyllowen Photo Essay



by The Photo Department

Features

The Changing Role Of The Faculty Advisor

**By HANNAH BRODHEIM
and ALVIN WEI**

In the beginning of the school year, when the Student Union (SU) posts up the New Club/Pub Application Form, students can be seen rushing through hallways and fervently asking teachers and staff to play a significant role in their newly created clubs: the faculty advisor. Starting a new club in New York City public high schools demands many requisites: student interest in the club, consistency with the school's educational goals, and approval by the student government and the principal. Among the most important contributors to starting and operating a club in Stuyvesant are the club president, vice president, and the faculty advisor.

Following the Department of Education (DOE) Chancellor's Regulations, the SU mandates each Stuyvesant-recognized club to have a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors must be licensed Department of Education pedagogues. This includes teachers, guidance counselors, school social workers, school supervisors, assistant principals, and principals. Thus, if students are interested in creating a new club, they must find a faculty advisor who is willing to be part of the club and to supervise the students.

Faculty advisors play vital roles in clubs, and their main

function is to supervise the students. "They're the go-to person who oversees meetings and trips," junior and Club/Pub Director Risham Dhillon said. As supervisors, faculty advisors are required to be watchful, making sure students are safe. Technology teacher and faculty advisor of Stuyvesant Robotics Rafael Colón said, "I'm the facilitator. I make sure things run smoothly."

Besides overseeing students during club affairs, faculty advisors have to manage the funds of their clubs, particularly when a club is requesting a budget of 500 dollars or more. The SU gives money in the form of a grant or a loan for clubs requesting funding through budget applications. Clubs have to fill out the proper forms to be considered, and budget meetings will be held to evaluate the applications. In addition, some clubs, especially ones that enter competitions, are able to garner funds from sponsorships and the Parents' Association. The Stuyvesant Robotics Team, for example, has found ways to avoid problems arising from limited SU funding. "We contact outside companies for sponsorships," said senior and Stuyvesant Robotics member Doris Tsang.

Faculty advisors see themselves as playing a larger role for clubs than just supervising and managing funds. Many serve as mentors and learners them-

selves. "We educate and guide the students," said Coordinator of Technology and faculty advisor of Stuyvesant Robotics James Lonardo. "At the same time, we learn from the students." As faculty advisor of the Greek club and the Global Citizens Corp, Social Studies teacher Brenda Garcia believes that faculty advisors are contributive members to the club. She gave insight for the members of the Global Citizens Corp about its participation in the annual health fair. Garcia said, "I was able to contribute to their discussion, I mean they had great ideas, but my contribution in that case helped them come up with other ideas."

In addition to their responsibilities, faculty advisors invest many hours managing the clubs, usually staying in the building until 5:00 p.m., the time clubs and publications are required to leave the school. Some faculty advisors, however, spend several extra hours with their clubs to accommodate the students' needs. "When a competition draws near, the faculty advisor and the students stay in the school until ten or eleven at night," said Tsang. Despite the many hours faculty advisors spend on clubs, they do not receive payment for supervision of the club. According to the SU Rules and Regulations for Clubs and Publications, clubs and publications will not receive

financial aid for the payment of faculty advisors.

A controversial issue concerning faculty advisors is whether they should be present inside the classrooms where their clubs hold meetings. The school administration has recently pressed for clubs to have a faculty advisor in the classroom in order to maintain safety for the students. As a result, some faculty advisors have increased their dedication to the clubs. "In the past it was basically as long as I am in the building [and] you know if I'm in the building it's fine," said Garcia. "But this year I am trying to make an effort to show up to meetings. Not only because of issues of safety, but also as a way to reinforce the importance that the club has for the school."

In spite of the increased efforts to have faculty advisors in the classrooms when clubs meet, faculty advisors are only required to remain present in the school building. The DOE Chancellor's Regulations states, "All student club and organization functions or activities must have a faculty advisor or principal's designee present." The document states that faculty advisors have to be present when a club or publication meets inside the school, and does not mention specifically that faculty advisors have to actively supervise club meetings.

However, not everyone agrees

with having faculty advisors in the classroom. Junior James Chen said, "I don't think they should be in the classrooms because sometimes faculty advisors limit what we can say and do. We feel pressured to be mindful and not say anything too extreme or offensive." In addition to this concern, many students feel limited in their ability to hold meetings and start clubs if an adult is required to stay with them at all times. The need to work around a faculty advisor's schedule can hinder a club's functionality and appeal, and the supply of available faculty advisors is very limited.

Despite this frustrating rule, student clubs thrive under the guidance of Stuyvesant's committed faculty advisors. "By educating students, faculty advisors believe that they are providing students an opportunity that they normally do not do during the school day," Lonardo said, "We afford them the ability to do the activity." No matter how many responsibilities they have to fulfill, faculty advisors bring joy and passion to the clubs they oversee. Interaction with the students, strengthening of bonds within the club, and simply seeing dedication all compensate for the various stresses faculty advisors face. Lonardo said, "It is a lot of fun, frustrating, demanding, time consuming, but it is rewarding."

Stuyvesant Votes: Students Participate In Mock Election

By ALIYA TUZHILIN

Each presidential election year, the media buzzes with discussion of ways to increase voter turnout in the imperative battleground states. However, the organization Voting Opportunities for Teenagers in Every State (VOTES) is interested in a different demographic to combat low turnout: high school students. Every four years, Stuyvesant students participate in a mock presidential election by VOTES, which is organized within the school by social studies teacher Linda Weissman. VOTES polls one public school and one independent school from each state, asking students which candidate they would elect that year, with the hope of inspiring them to vote when they come of age.

On Monday, November 5, Ms. Weissman and her U.S. Government class distributed the ballot and a background reference sheet about each candidate to each social studies class, polling approximately 2900 students in total. They constructed a method to ensure that no ballot would be counted twice by color-coding them by grade and created an elaborate system of coversheets to organize them by teacher and class.

Weissman's first-period class was put in charge of counting the votes, which showed that Barack Obama won the overall mock election with 76.7 percent of the vote, followed by Jill Stein of the

Green Party with 9.1 percent, then Mitt Romney with 7.9, Garry Johnson of the Libertarian Party with 5.4, and Virgil Goode of the Constitution Party with one percent of the vote.

Though Stuyvesant elected the candidate who won the actual presidency, as a community it swung far to the left of the rest of the nation, which elected Obama by 50.1 percent popular vote, gave Romney 48.4 percent of the popular vote, and gave less than one percent to each third party candidate. The results are reasonable, though, for a famously democratic city. The data from VOTES show that high school elections across the nation bore much more resemblance to the actual vote.

"It's always nice if students and the school vote for the winning candidate," Weissman said. "[The election] is not just something they hear on the news or their parents participate in, but something they can take part in too. We wanted to get students excited about the election and get them to vote when they are eligible."

Each year, Weissman and her classes predict what percentage of the vote they think each candidate will receive, based on the school's voting patterns in previous years. "Every four years there's a similar result. Students in New York City generally echo the state's politics, often voting more heavily in favor of the winning candidate," Weissman said.

In addition to giving students the chance to express their choice for president and inspiring them to vote, the mock election makes them aware "that there are two major parties, but third party candidates, as well," Weissman said. For background on these candidates, a sheet with short biographies on their birthplace, education, career, vice presidential running mate, and website was handed out along with the ballot.

"My teacher made us look up all the parties and information about them so we could make an informed vote. I learned about the candidate's political views and economic policies, which I wasn't informed about before," senior Mauricio Moreyra said.

"Ms. Weissman did an awesome job organizing this," said senior Jessica Toib, one of the ballot counters in Weissman's first period U.S. government class. "I got a chance to see what it feels like to vote, and even though the school went one way, my vote counted."

Through the results of the election, students also learned about their classmates' political opinions. "I took the fact that Stuyvesant is very liberal. Even Jill Stein beat Romney," said senior Michael Frenkel, who calculated the statistics for the election. "This was the first large scale voting that I've ever done. It was fun. I wish I could vote in real life but, of course, I'm too young."

This year, Stuyvesant's vote

OBAMA	ROMNEY	JOHNSON	STEIN	GOODE
2050	254	154	246	28
75%	9.3%	5.7%	9.0%	1.0%
Seniors				
72.9%	7.4%	7.5%	11.5%	0.7%
Juniors				
76.9%	8.8%	4.2%	8.2%	0.9%
Sophomores				
74.7%	10.8%	6.7%	6.7%	1.1%
Freshmen				
75.6%	10.21%	3.9%	9.0%	1.3%

Stuyvesant students participated in a nationwide mock election project, called VOTES, which examines which presidential candidate students would elect.

was not factored in VOTES's nationwide results, as Hurricane Sandy hit on Monday, October 29, the day the vote was supposed to take place, closing school for a week. Weissman and her US Government classes did not waste time when students returned to school, holding the election that very day. However, VOTES had already announced the nationwide results the day before. Obama won the popular vote with 50.2 percent; Romney came in second with 41.2 percent; Johnson in third with 4.1; Stein fourth with 2.4; and Goode last with .9 percent.

"Because we are high school students and aren't able to vote,

a lot of teachers don't expect us to want to know about the elections, but I think a lot of high school students are really excited to vote," Moreyra said. Similarly, Weissman believes that through exposure to the election process, students develop an interest in government that "[carry] on to their lives when they are able to vote," she said.

Participating in this poll gives those Stuyvesant's students who are politically active the opportunity to express their vote and those who are less inclined to politics the exposure that may excite their interest in the nation's government.

1048

386

1852

31.89

Students who qualify for free lunch

Students who qualify for reduced lunch

Students who qualify for full-priced lunch

Percent of students who get free lunch

Thanks to: Robert He and Assistant Principal of Technology Services Edward Wong

Features

Guys Who Really Love Ponies



By ROBERT HE
and MAISHA KAMAL

Trot, Trot, Trot! A majestic stallion gallops through the countryside, evoking the sound of thunder with every step. The hooved beast halts in its tracks, and the camera pans upwards. It's not a muscular stallion, but a fierce pink pony! This bubbly horse is just one of many in the animated show "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic."

When envisioning the typical audience of a show titled "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic," with all its rainbows and effervescent ponies, 17-to-35-year-old males hardly make the cut. Yet, shockingly, that is what the fan base has expanded to, and at Stuyvesant High School, the club explores the uniqueness and originality of a show that has been able to attract viewers of all ages.

"My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic" was created by Lauren Faust. She wanted to challenge the "girly" nature of the "My Little Pony" brand, and the show is the latest in the franchise's line of television tie-ins. Faust sought to create a show that had more in-depth characters and was educational and informative. "Every episode except for the pilot and finale would be described as a show that teaches a lesson about friendship," Vice President of the Brony Club sophomore Justin Kim said.

The Brony Club, officially named the Friendship is Magic Brigade, is a new addition to Stuyvesant's already lengthy list of clubs and meets in Room 305 on Thursdays. Though the club was meant to be created last year, it was not until this year that it formed. "There was a craze last year where everyone

just wanted to make groups, and [a] guy made a group for ponies," said junior Bianca Ng, the club's president, as well as its only female member.

Fans of the program who are proud to embrace the rainbow have gained a moniker: bronies. "A bronny is any male who enjoys the fandom [...] of 'My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic,'" club member and senior Aidan Causil-Baggott said.

"It originated as a portmanteau of 'bro' and 'pony.' But it's just evolved into a word that means any fan of this reincarnation of this show," Kim said. Though the term "bronny" encompasses any fan of "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic," the term "pegasister," a portmanteau of "pegasus" and "sister," is also used to describe female fans of the show.

The club provides a place for any fan of the show to come and discuss his or her love for the magical four-legged creatures. The bulk of each meeting usually centers around one aspect of the show, whether it be "Lord Smooze," or an episode's friendship report, a mini-lesson on friendship that comes at the end of every episode. "Whatever comes up [each] week is what we'll do. It's almost like 'Playdate,' except we don't vote on things," Kim said. "Really what [we're] about is just having fun and getting together with people who we share something with."

Recent meetings have involved reflection and discussion of the series as a whole, since the newest season is yet to air. "The season premiere is coming up, so we'll definitely be talking about [it] and our excitement and predictions," Kim said. For now, they are in the midst of planning events and other interesting ways to liven up the club.

Bronies enjoy "My Little Pony" for many reasons, including its funny but serious story, colorful animation, helpful lessons about friendship, and the rapport the fans have with the creators of the show. "This generation has some really well-developed characters who aren't just all about sugar and everything sweet. It's more than that," Ng said. "It's also not all 'girly' or a show just for girls. I believe you can relate to the situations in the show regardless of gender because the ponies' problems reflect real conflict and consequences in the plot while still remaining fun and, above all, cute."

In addition to this, the show has a zealous fan base, with fans often creating their own material to supplement the canonical aspects of the show. "The show is good and the stuff it says [is] cool, but the fandom itself is also what makes it. There's a lot of really talented bronies who will write fanfiction, make music and make art; it's really good and impressive," Causil-

Baggott said. As a result of the huge and dedicated fandom, "My Little Pony" merchandise has been created, including t-shirts, calendars, trading cards, posters, and toys.

For the die-hard enthusiasts of the show, a convention called BronyCon is held in the greater New York City area annually. At BronyCon, bronies can meet the creators of the show and interact with other bronies. "Bronycon was an enjoyable experience that exposed me to the usually-unseen talented side of the fandom, as well as to actually meet the people behind the show in real life. More importantly, it was a great way to meet new people and to share experiences," said bronny and junior Bryan Tan, who attended BronyCon on Saturday, June 30, and Sunday, July 1.

Members of the club are sometimes ridiculed and have their masculinity questioned for enjoying the show, which is mostly aimed at Barbie-loving, prepubescent girls. "Sure, people make fun of us. Mainly just the guys, because we're socially expected to adhere to a certain standard of 'manliness,'" Kim said. "I take the club seriously, but it's fun to do as well. It's not all just running the club; enjoying it is important, too." The Brony Club welcomes all people who like "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic." All other shows are just too mainstream.

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Features

Roving Reporter: What is the Point of Grades?

By STANLEY CHAN

Between difficult subject material and the slow passage of the day, it is easy for Stuyvesant students to feel disillusioned and demotivated. However, for most students, the goal of a higher grade is enough to convince them to hit the books. When dealt a bad hand, students remind themselves that they are better than numbers; when grades rise, so does their pride. The picture seems contradictory, for the second situation indicates that the students care very, very much about their grades. While students do tend to value the numbers on the report card very highly, their reasons for doing so differ.

"Grades are important, but only because colleges value them for admission," freshman Alex Hirsh said. "Furthermore, grades are somewhat arbitrary because teachers grade differently." To address this issue, "test scores should be emphasized as in real life, only the product matters," he said. "In this regard, the math department is exemplary, with seventy to eighty percent of the grade based on tests."

Sophomore Woo Kyung

Lee takes a moderate stance. "GPA is a prerequisite for good colleges, so grades are very important," Lee said. "Personally, they are a measure of my progress and show how hard I need to work in certain subject areas." She considers number grades as an acceptable measure of development. In regards to college admissions, "extracurricular activities are also weighted," she said. In the process, she notes that colleges do look beyond grades for a holistic perspective.

Not all students take grades as personally. For example, sophomore Jacob Urda said that grades are "totally irrelevant." However, he does recognize their prominence in the college admissions process. "They show your relative power position in Stuyvesant." In an ultra-competitive environment, "grades have more impact," he said. "They allow people to demonstrate that they are 'better' than those with lower GPAs, setting a benchmark."

Like others, sophomore Daniel Charnis felt that grades were imperative to the college admissions process. "Unfortunately, I misjudged the value [of grades] in my freshman

year, thinking that a ninety-

said. "I was shocked when I saw the admission statistics on Student Tools – needless to say, I am trying a lot harder sophomore year."

Junior Boyuan Zhang said that grades are, in fact, "pragmatic measurements of learning." Normally, they serve to distinguish the best from the rest. "In Stuyvesant, grades become essential to differentiate 3,300 top-notch performers [...] Academically speaking, grades are the only factor that measure all the students." Zhang continued, "In response to arbitrary grading, students have a relative scale within each class."

While the importance of grades is almost universally recognized, there are some well-publicized cases of people defying convention by dropping out of school and still being able to achieve. Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates, for instance, are well-known to have dropped out of Harvard, yet have both reached superlative success. However, "They are exceptions and not the norm," Zhang said. Stuyvesant's ninety-nine percent graduation rate and the educational focus on science, technology, and mathematics corroborate: most students

agree that education is key to success. "The vast majority of drop outs have less opportunity for social mobility," said Zhang.

Senior and Extemporaneous Debate Captain Neeta D'Souza has yet another opinion. "GPA is not as important as opposed to extracurricular activities, which show your purpose in life," she said. "Also, GPA cannot parallel real life situations, where intra-personal skills dominate over ability to fill in multiple-choice bubbles," said D'Souza. "Personally, my transcript shows my areas of interest."

The general consensus holds that grades have significant ramifications on life. For Stuyvesant students, many feel that every point matters. A 100 on an exam is not merely two points higher than ninety-eight, but perfection, and perhaps more importantly, higher than the rest of the students' scores. Those several points are what differentiate between students at Stuyvesant. Adults trivialize these points and juxtapose them with the grand scheme of things, but for many Stuyvesant students, they represent everything.

**"In Stuyvesant,
grades become
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differentiate
3,300 top-notch
performers [...]
Academically
speaking,
grades are
the only
factor that
measure all
the students."
—Boyuan Zhang,
junior**

one [in Stuyvesant] would be enough for Princeton," Charnis

What's In a Name?



Public

- "Public colleges are funded by local and state governments and usually offer lower tuition rates than private colleges, especially for students who are residents of the state where a college is located." – Collegeboard
- Average total cost per year: \$22,000
- There is an important difference between out-of-state vs. in-state students. It is significantly cheaper if you live in the state that the college is in. In general, all costs highly depend on each individual institution.
- Alum opportunities are scarcer than at private colleges. These are connections with former students that provide potential job offers after college.
- Generally larger student population therefore often larger class size and more lecture hall style classes: "Attending a public university may require trade-offs in the quality of the undergraduate experience, such as larger class sizes. Public institutions in the top 50 have a percentage of classes with under 20 students ranging from 30 percent to 60 percent." - Collegebound network
- "If they're the type of student that is a go-getter, that looks for opportunities, who would get great grades and push themselves intellectually – those same students will do well after college as well." - Pedrick
- "Students on both private and public college campuses said a school's unique qualities are more important to consider than its private or public status." – USA Today College
- Typically, state schools have larger sports followings and more school spirit – football and basketball tend to be very popular on campus. Fraternities are of a similar vein.
- When the going gets tough financially for the state, school spending is cut.
- Attending a state college, I feel like the quality of architecture of Stony Brook is much lower than that of private schools that I've visited on college trips. The school is not as pretty as I wish it would be. In general, from the private schools I've visited, I feel like private schools' facilities are more modern, homey, and student-friendly." – Jeffrey Tseng ('12)

By ARINA BYKADOROVA

For our seniors, the college admissions process has at last materialized from a dim impending doom into an undeniable reality. For the rest of us, much of it all remains a mystery. Still, the magic word that begins with "H" and ends with "arvard" is one of the few we are aware of. But the process of picking out a college goes further than watching "The Social Network." While the prestige of a first-rate private school in the Northeast may sound attractive, getting accepted isn't always a walk in the park. There are thousands upon thousands of colleges, and it's not easy to find the right fit. Moreover, the right fit might not be what we expect.

The following is a chart comparing how the world at large seems to feel about the two. The public category is mostly about state universities and the private about prestigious private ones.

Private

- "Private colleges rely mainly on tuition, fees and private sources of funding. Private donations can sometimes provide generous financial aid packages for students." – Collegeboard
- Average total cost per year: \$43,000
- All costs highly depend on each individual institution.
- "Students who are going to qualify for a lot of financial aid might find that a private school is able to offer them more financial aid as opposed to a state school because they have more in what is called endowment," – Director of College Counseling Casey Pedrick
- Better networking opportunities with alums, better connections and chances to get a job through them.
- Generally smaller student population therefore often smaller class size: "Whereas private institutions in the top 50 have a percentage of classes with under 20 students ranging from 47 percent to 80 percent." - Collegebound network
- "In general, a higher percentage of students graduate in four years from private colleges than from public universities. If educational resources are cut at public universities, the average length of time to graduation is likely to increase." – about.com/collegeadmissions
- "While attending a private school is reputed to translate into less red tape and more personal attention than you'll find at the public counterparts, it's important to look carefully at each individual college and to separate rumor from reality." – College Confidential, "Ask the Dean"
- Of course, it is unfair to deem that all private schools lack school spirit, but most are less passionate about athletics.
- "Public universities provide the typical, expected college experience. Private colleges are more tailored, providing a special treatment public ones can't. Public universities are more suited to those who are going to college to find a job. I am applying to both because I can fit comfortably under both umbrellas. I want to expand my mind, but job prospect is as much a motivation as enlightenment." – senior Howard Cheung

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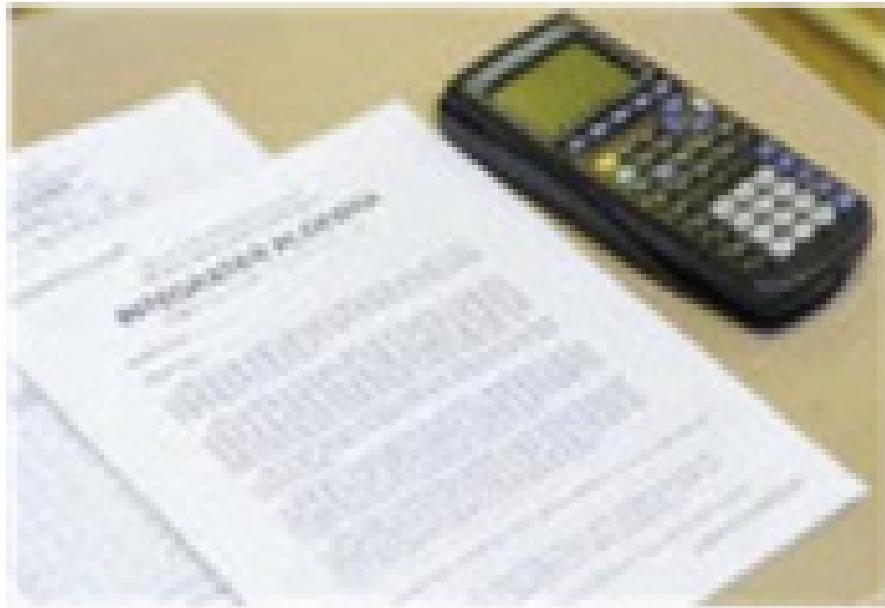
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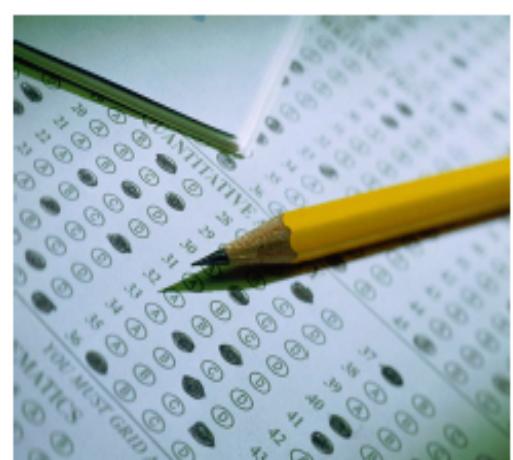
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Editorials

STAFF EDITORIAL

Degrading Grading

Here at Stuyvesant, we're all about numbers. Each of the 3,000-odd students who walks our halls carries a jumble of them in his or her head – IDs, OSIS codes, homerooms, the last test score returned, and, of course, a GPA down to the hundredth decimal. And while the average GPA here lingers at around a 90 (89.75, to be exact), all 90s are not created equal. Different teachers expect different things from their students. One teacher may value a terrible test taker but a diligent and involved worker, while another may appreciate the person whose homework and tests are neither loathesome nor outstanding. A 90 in a class can belong to any of those people, or an infinite number of other kinds of students, largely depending on how a teacher chooses to grade his or her pupils.

The flexibility teachers enjoy in their grading works both for and against students. On one hand, it can put an emphasis on a student's learning of material and efforts in class as opposed to just the numbers received from test, quizzes, homework, projects and essays. For some teachers, class participation and student improvement are crucial for high grades, while others grade solely based on test scores or even just the final exam. While it is justifiable (and in the student's eyes, encouraged) to grade outside of the numbers, the fact that students of similar aptitude often receive drastically different grades depending on their teachers indicates that the system has some serious flaws.

And while some of us benefit from this system, it also leaves a lot of room for unfair evaluation. On the Stuyvesant website, all of the departments have rubrics that break down how to compile a student's grade. These rubrics are usually handed out by teachers at the beginning of a semester, and are put to use if a teacher makes a glaring mistake when calculating a student's grade. "If there are any questions about a student's grade we always check to see if the teacher followed the departmental grading policy," Assistant Principal of Mathematics Maryann Ferrara said. Unfortunately, these rubrics can be very vague and open the door for unnecessary subjectivity.

Almost every department dedicates a certain percentage of a student's grade to class participation. However, there are no guidelines on how to grade a student's participation, and for some teachers this becomes a way to account for grade variance. While this can be good news for some students because it rewards effort and speaking up in class, it also leads to arbitrarily assigned grades, with this vaguely defined grade component a means of justifying them. This is especially prominent in humanities courses, which tend to be largely discussion-based.

Another problem that arises, especially in departments like math and science where a huge deal of emphasis is placed solely on test grades, is the discrepancies in the difficulty of different teachers. It isn't a secret to anyone that some teachers are easier than others in specific subject areas. Students will often try and

rearrange their schedules to fill up their day with teachers they believe will be kind to their average. What creates these differences between teachers? Some teach rigorously, and thus give harder tests. However, their students are often better prepared for them. On the other end of the spectrum are the teachers who are more relaxed and give easy tests. There are also countless in-betweens, including the teacher who, unfortunately for students, does not teach the material that he or she tests and thus gives low grades.

These discrepancies have an array of consequences, in both the short and the long term. In the short term, students with the easier teachers get the best grades, regardless of how well they may be acquainted with the material. In such a case, a grade can barely be an indicator of aptitude. Those same students, along with the students who don't learn and get bad grades, will be ill prepared for more advanced courses later on in their academic lives. However, their counterparts, who have suffered the offenses of low grades from tough teachers, might have the advantage of being more familiar with the material. Because of this, how much students know when they come out of Stuyvesant largely depends on which teachers they have had; the point is clear: grades are not an accurate indicator of knowledge.

The fact is, every teacher is unique, and there is no way to ensure that every student gets the same experience from a class without forcing teachers to fundamentally change their teaching styles. However, there are ways to minimize the grade variance that results from this lack of uniformity. While departmental rubrics outlining how grades should be calculated undoubtedly exist, they are very rarely consulted and there seems to be little follow up to see if any one teacher's grades differ drastically from the rest of the pack. We are advocating for a more pronounced open dialogue between teachers and their department heads regarding grading styles. The fact that some teachers have class averages in the high 90s others have averages in the low 80s and 70s needs to be addressed. Whether at monthly department meetings or one-on-one conferences between the teachers and their department heads, teachers need to be asked to explain the grades that they give. This would also ensure that department heads are aware of problems that may be occurring with certain teachers, and no teacher's grading technique can simply slip through the cracks.

How else can we combat the varied grading styles that are so easily found at Stuyvesant? The idea of a Bell Curve distribution has been tossed around – in a class of 33, there may be one spot for a 99, five for a 92, and then 10 spots for 85s. Such a system provides a sliding scale, such that if the class average for a test is severely out of whack, all the grades can be adjusted appropriately. This would, in theory, provide a good indicator of how students are doing in comparison to their classmates, but there are foreseeable flaws

in a system like this. While some students enjoy having this kind of benchmark, it may bog down and discourage others if they aren't doing particularly well. Though this would prevent students from being harmed by a particularly hard teacher, it still wouldn't prevent arbitrary grading within the class itself. In addition, creating extra emphasis on grade comparison only adds to the unhealthy Stuyvesant attitude of grade mongering and academic undercutting.

Another alternative would be to equalize particularly disparate grades by adjusting to a standardized class average – something like an 88. This is obviously advantageous to those who do poorly and whose grades will improve, but will prove unsavory to those whose grades may be shifted down. However, since these measures are that intend to ensure uniformity among various classes, and not within one class itself, this may not be such a poor idea. No longer will students with ostensibly unfair teachers be forced to suffer, and this also avoids pitting students against their peers. However, like the bell curve system, this also doesn't prevent arbitrary grading within a class itself. Regardless, a student may still not acquire as much knowledge from a class they might with a different teacher.

Without reforming grading policies, online reporting could be utilized to ease ill feelings about grades. Through the use of online programs such as JupiterGrades, which is used at Bronx Science, or Engrade, which is already being utilized by some at Stuyvesant, teachers can ensure transparency. Teachers would input scores that students receive on homework, tests, and participation, and the program will do the rest. This will allow department heads to easily keep track of the grades that the teachers in their department give, and will facilitate even more communication within the department. Once again, teachers are more accountable for the grades they give because they have to justify them in an open record. The benefit for students is there too; they are able to see their grade at every point throughout the semester, and thus they will be less surprised about their grade at the end of the semester, curbing unnecessary anxiety.

There is no "magic bullet" that would single-handedly wipe out the problems that arise with the subjectivity of the grading system. However, a combination of some sort of curve that would standardize grades across the board and an online system that would allow students to understand exactly where their grades are coming from may help to wipe out some of the confusion and frustration. We all know Stuyvesant students can find ways to game the system to their advantage. But instead of finding ways to tiptoe around this problem, we should meet it head on and strive, hand in hand with teachers and department heads, to remedy this opaqueness. Maybe then we can embrace that teachers have different instruction styles with the knowledge that our grades won't suffer because of them.

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

"The Pulse
of the
Student
Body"

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FOR THE RECORD

- The Spectator apologizes for inaccurate reporting in "DOE Monitors PSAT Testing" in Issue 4. The article stated that representatives from the Department of Education monitored the PSAT at Stuyvesant; the representatives were from the College Board.
- The photo accompanying the "Nickel-and-Dine: The Doughnut Plant" article was not of the Doughnut Plant, but of The Burger Joint at Le Parker Meridian instead.
- In the "Despite Record, Mimbas Pleased With Season" article, it was incorrectly stated that the Mimbas' record was 9-2. It was in fact 9-2-1.

Opinions

Calculations and Prayers



Maggie Wu / The Spectator

By RISHAM DHILLON

Flooded shorelines, destroyed homes, blackouts, and hunger. Torn dreams, upside-down worlds, shattered hopes, and snatched-away lives.

Hurricane Sandy hit hard, leaving the east coast paralyzed. As the days pass on, I keep on thinking of all the damage it caused across New York and its surrounding states. I'm convinced that now, as the east coast tries to recover from this heart-wrenching feat of mother nature and global warming, it's about time that we, as a city, start thinking of some precautionary measures we should take to prevent further loss of life and property in storms like these.

Even though I live in Bellerose, which isn't near the seashore or part of any evacuation zone (not even zone C), Sandy still could have killed me. Or rather, a 60-foot tree that fell around two yards away from my house – one of the two trees that my family has been fighting with the city to cut down – could have. I am lucky to be alive.

My family and I have always known that the tall trees surrounding our home are dangerous, that they are hazards not only to us,

but also to the rest of the houses on our block. A few years ago, when we first bought our house, my parents tried to get them uprooted and plant smaller, younger ones. The city, however, refused our request because it is an offense to cut down the city's sidewalk trees, unless they are dead or sick. In fact, uprooting a city tree without permission may result in as much as a \$15,000 fine and one year in jail.

Last summer, when Hurricane Irene hit, one of the branches on the two trees fell into our front yard. Fortunately, though there wasn't much damage done, the damage it could have caused scared us into asking the city to cut down the trees again. They refused our request again. And now, as I survey the damage left by Hurricane Sandy – one tree down inches away from our bedroom wall, while the other stands precariously – I'm convinced that the city is wrong: some trees have to go.

The problem is not all trees; the problem is dangerously tall ones that are very close to residential areas. Of course, the Parks Department does not think this way – it treats plants as if they are very

sacred. Don't get me wrong, I'm not advocating for the abuse of the environment and the destruction of all trees; in fact, I support the city's MillionTreesNYC initiative, which aims to plant a million new trees over the span of a decade. Part of the ecosystem, trees provide shade to humans and shelter to animals. They should be, to an extent, treated as sacred parts of our communities. But enormous ones near houses are risks, and the question ultimately boils down to what is more sacred: the life of a tree or of a human?

Hurricane Sandy, a "post-tropical" storm whose winds exceeded 80 miles per hour, uprooted many huge trees that fell on houses and people, killing anyone in her way. Anthony Laino, a resident of Flushing, was killed by the very same tree outside his home that he had been fighting with the city to cut down for years. About 30 other Americans were killed by falling branches and in other tree-related incidents, and the Parks Department has received a record of 20,000 tree-related service requests in Sandy's aftermath.

The city maintains that this was a special case, that this was a storm of high wind speeds that New York City will unlikely see again soon. Excuse me for not believing them, considering that we've had two hurricanes in the course of a year. Our climate is changing, and it's very likely that as NYC sees more storms in the near future, more downed trees will take away lives.

Another argument against cutting down large trees is that if the city starts allowing people to cut down potentially dangerous trees, ones that don't really pose a hazard will also fall prey to the axe. How is it possible to enforce what can be cut down and what can't? This is a legitimate question, but the city is taking an all-or-nothing position, even though it is outrageously

wrong. It's the city's job to enforce its laws. The city can, for example, develop a system in which it can inspect living trees, assessing factors such as height, proximity to residents, ability to withstand high winds, general stability, and the likelihood of its killing in the next "Frankenstorm" that nature has in store for us. This data can be used to make a decision of whether or not to cut certain trees down.

In other words, don't tell me without taking a real look at the tree in my front yard that you won't cut it down; don't tell me it's healthy without having a clear, logical definition of the word; don't tell me it won't kill until and unless you evaluate it with more than just a quick eye's look. Because, New York, I've looked at it and at the nearby tree that fell two feet away from my house. And I'm pretty sure that in the next Frankenstorm, it will fall.

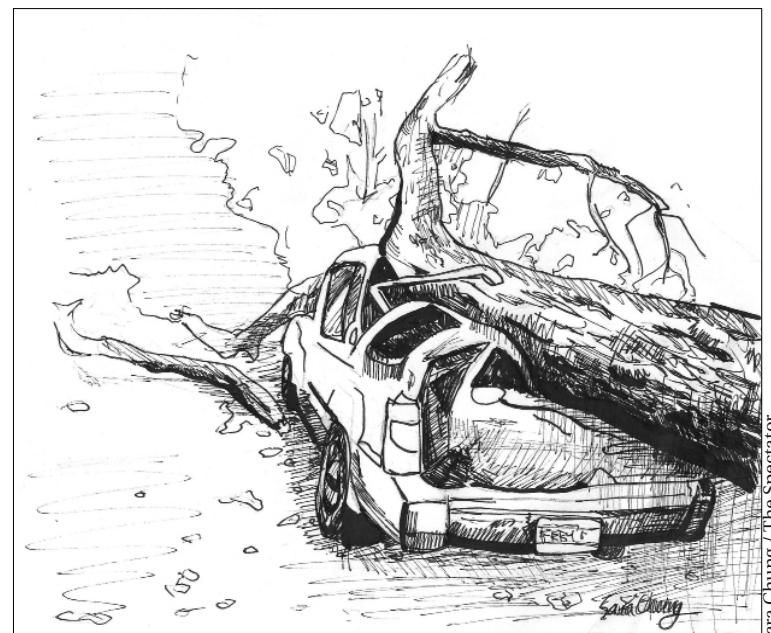
Of course, the real goal is to put a check on pollution and on global warming because this is what is happening. The city government

should start discussing and passing legislation that cuts down on our negative effects on the environment. In fact, the city should continue planting trees – but it needs to start planting more efficiently: plant varieties that don't grow to be very tall, avoid areas with too many power lines, and install a better system of maintaining trees.

In the end, as Hurricane Sandy raged outside the safety of my home, I felt as if the only things I had on my side were fabricated calculations and prayers. But even these couldn't help the truth: we all knew that if the other tree collapsed, it would fall right in the middle of our house.

As a resident, I have the right to assess what poses a risk to me and my community and the right to try to prevent it. I have the right to call up the city and demand that it change its policies to logical ones.

New York City, I have the right to more than just calculations and prayers.



Sara Chung / The Spectator

Bloomberg to City Employees, Drop Dead

By DAVID CAHN

Recently, Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc on New York City. Schools closed for an entire week – unheard of in New York City history. The New York Stock Exchange closed for two consecutive days – for the first time in over 100 years. The death toll as of Thursday, November 1, was 44 lives, and many more injured. Millions of New Yorkers were without power for much of the week, with a video of the explosion of a power generator in lower Manhattan going viral within minutes. Between 80-100 homes were destroyed by the storm, with many more flooded for days. Meanwhile, the New York City subway system was paralyzed on Monday, October 29, and Tuesday, October 30, and access remains limited weeks

later. Lower Manhattan (Zone A) after being evacuated Monday, had no Subway access for close to a week. The Federal Government offices were closed for two days. Amtrak too was closed and trains canceled. It was "a devastating storm, maybe the worst that we have ever experienced," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

On Monday, October 29, Bloomberg announced "The storm is here and will be here [...] well into tomorrow [...] Now you should concentrate on keeping yourselves and your family safe to the extent possible." The Office of Emergency Management urged "Stay indoors, stay away from windows and avoid unnecessary travel, either on foot or by vehicle. If you must go out, make sure all windows are closed and locked and all water faucets are turned off."

Everyone was instructed to be safe and take necessary precautions – except New York City employees. In an email sent by Chancellor Denis Walcott to administrative staff on Tuesday, October 30, he wrote:

"In accordance with city policy, city government is open and all employees who work in central and field offices are expected to try to overcome transportation difficulties caused by the storm and report to work. This includes teachers assigned, Supervisors, Educational Administrators, managers and all other staff working in central and field offices."

This was a very informal email sent during an unprecedented period of chaos for our city. It's so outrageous, that seeing it after the fact can't even come close to explaining the audacity and hypocrisy of Mayor Bloomberg and the senior staff of the Department of Education (DOE). Let me put it in perspective. While millions of New Yorkers sat in dark apartments, some without water, or heard a power plant exploding nearby, and watched fires destroy close to 100 homes, a select group of them were expected to go to work.

Were these first responders, fire fighters, or cops? No, they were members of the New York City DOE's administrative staff.

How could they get to work?

Their options were quite simple. Ride a bike through a hurricane (yes, there were 75 mile per hour winds and pouring rain), walk to work (because three hours in the pouring rain is

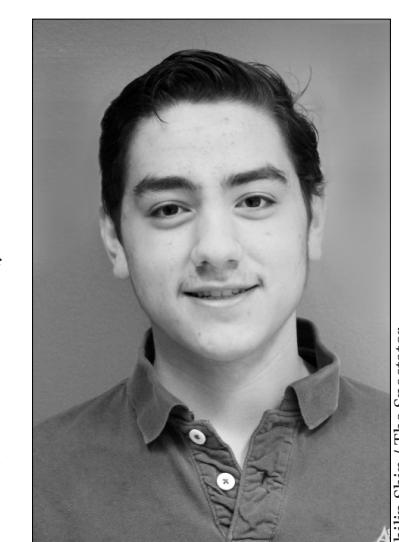
a safe bet), or hitchhike. Any idiot needed only to look out of his window to realize how ridiculous a task this was – not to mention how unsafe any of the available options were.

Just as Mayor Bloomberg, Governor Cuomo, and the Office of Emergency Management were advising people to stay off the streets, avoid transportation, and be cautious, they were sending their own employees to work. Talk about double standards.

What was the penalty for choosing to put oneself in harm's way by walking to work during a hurricane?

Employees were told that their absence would be counted as personal leave days. Read: You'd better show up to work, and if you don't, we'll mark you absent. An entire city is shut down because of a storm that the Mayor himself describes as one of the worst in the city's history, and employees are penalized for not putting themselves in danger. This is an outrage.

Only making the situation worse, all New York City employees, including Stuyvesant teachers, were required to attend work on Friday – despite limited access to trains, especially down near Stuyvesant. Although no longer a safety hazard, this policy was both impractical, because many teachers simply did not have the means to get to work, and wasteful, because teachers were unproductive, forced to leave their families in order sit around doing very little of consequence. (I guess you can't teach classes if there are no students...). Computer Sci-



Philip Shin / The Spectator

ence Coordinator Mike Zaminsky, blogged "to make teachers - coming from all over the area - trudge in for no purpose just to play politics is distasteful but unfortunately typical."

To redress both of these injustices, Mayor Bloomberg must take three steps.

First, he ought to issue a formal apology to all City employees who were unnecessarily forced either go to work, or use their personal leave days. Second, he ought to compensate those who did attend work by paying them overtime. Finally, he should return the personal leave days to those who chose to stay at home.

Mayor Bloomberg has had a very tough month, and mistakes are a part of the process. The real test, however, is whether he can recognize his mistakes, take responsibility for them, and address them.



Margot Yale / The Spectator

Opinions

Point: Don't Stop The Stop-And-Fisks

Philip Shin / The Spectator



By SEVERYN KOZAK

Four-and-a-half million stops in the past decade, meager success, and claims of "racial profiling" committed by "biased, trigger-happy amateurs." Throughout recent years, the NYPD has suffered growing resentment over its usement of stop-and-frisks, and now stands on unsure footing; the organization's policy of the forced searches has been criticized for racism and prejudice, and abusive, improper techniques. However, these claims remain questionable, given the current standing of crime rates and prevalence of lawlessness within New York City, and the operation's relative success.

A public servant encountering a shady pedestrian in a dangerous neighborhood, risking his life and well-being, and understanding the inherent danger, does not deserve to suffer accusations of discrimination or racial bias. Consider, for instance, a New York Times homicide map detailing all murders within the city over the course of the past eight years: of the 4,100 perpetrators, an overwhelming portion (90 percent) belonged to minority groups, 66 percent were between 18 and 34 years of age, and the Bronx boasted the highest count of murders per population. Should one be labeled a racist if he or she happens upon a neighborhood known for crime and a predominant minority population and displays alarm? Are pangs of justified worry a social crime? As common sense holds: absolutely not.

Why, then, are police officers, the men and women instituting law and order on a daily basis, held to blame for exercising policies designed to promote public safety, in light of geographic and ethnic violent-crime rates? Suspicious passersby are stopped and inspected on account of a tense situation, statistics, or general trends, not because of skin color or descent. Claims of racism are thus unfounded.

Equally often does the question of legality arise; stop-and-frisks are violations of privacy, yes, but constitutional, and sanctioned by the Supreme Court. *Terry v. Ohio* (1968) affirms an officer's rights to conduct a stop and search, and dictates that frisks are a justifiable form of searches and seizures; the police must be granted benefit of the doubt, considering their need to act under duress, and their subjection to relatively tense scenarios.

Finally, the institution of stop-and-frisks has been successful. In 2003, for instance, over 600 firearms were confiscated in these searches. In 2007, nearly 800. Additionally, increased cases of stop-and-frisks have coincided with a dramatically decreased crime-rate within the city; of all American cities, New York now ranks 136th in overall crime, and has experienced yearly declines of nearly 10 percent in cases of

murder and armed assault. Moreover, the early months of 2012 showcased a crime count of 24,000; following a decrease in stop-and-frisks, those rates rose to nearly 28,000. More stop-and-frisks, more weapon recoveries, less crime.

As such, the city's use of stop-and-frisk must be adhered to; the searches are a legitimate method of combating crime, and should be utilized under appropriate circumstances. Moreover, we must understand that law enforcement encompasses tense situations, spur-of-the-moment decisions, and judgment calls. If an officer decides upon a set course of action in a heated moment, abides by standard protocol, and acts within legal limits, he or she hardly deserves blame and unfounded accusations.

As such, stop-and-frisks are mostly sound and effective. However, given some flaws, they may require slight revision. Though stop-and-frisks have been successful, decreasing crime-rates and aiding in the enforcement

**Suspicious
passersby are
stopped on account
of statistics and
areal trends,
not skin color
or descent.**

of law and order, their viability remains questionable. Crime must be stopped at its origins, and not in a mature stage; stop-and-frisks, regrettably, only counter the latter. For instance, in combating gun-violence, officers will sift through random passersby until a firearm turns up by way of forced searches, rather than effectively targeting the import of weapons and thereby neutralizing the problem at its roots.

That being said, however, I believe concessions must be made; frisks have garnered notable success, and are endorsed by an organization that has displayed evident aptitude in curtailing crime and violence. Officers should not be blamed for racism, or discrimination, or unjust targeting; they are simply accomplishing the tasks they are assigned, tasks that have curbed lawlessness and promote a safer New York. If stop-and-frisks require revisions, it's because of technical faults, not racial bias. And, ultimately, I prefer having New York City relieved of another 800 illegal firearms.

Counterpoint: The 87 Percent

By BENJAMIN ATTAL

Do you find it a bit troubling that 87 percent of people targeted by New York City's stop-and-frisk policy are minorities? The mayor, the chief of police, and other supporters have lauded the policy for getting the job done and decreasing the city's crime rate, but stop-and-frisk does not merit any of the praise that it gets. There are many factors that have made crime rates go down in the past decade, including harsher gun laws, and an improving economy in New York City, but stop-and-frisk is not among them.

What stop-and-frisk entails, as the name would suggest, is the ability of police officers to stop suspicious-looking individuals at will in order to search them for illegal drugs, firearms, or other contraband items. The reasoning behind this policy, or "strategy," used by police officers is fundamentally sound; it makes sense that more criminals, drug carriers, etc. would be caught more often if more people were frisked. One questionable part of this policy is that it allows police officers to decide what qualifies a person as "suspicious." This opens the possibility that an officer might target an individual, who is not necessarily guilty of any crime, based on his or her race.

As I said earlier, 87 percent of the people that police officers decide to frisk—i.e., deem "suspicious"—are Hispanic or African American. This number correlates nicely with the percentage of the city's arrestees who are minorities: 80 percent. That speaks to what kind of judgment police officers are making when they decide which people look suspicious.

To be fair, the suspicions of many police officers do have statistical support. New York's latest crime statistics show that between 75 and 80 percent of convicted murderers are African American and Hispanic. However, these statistics strike me as exaggerated, not accounting for the fact that 45 percent of New York City's population is white.

I think the statistics can lead to one of two conclusions, depending on how you interpret them. One conclusion you can make is that minorities generally commit more crimes than whites. I have a problem with that explanation. It supports a prejudiced belief that African Americans and Hispanics are more "troublemaking" than European Americans. A more sensible perspective might be that more police resources are allocated toward the surveillance of Black and Hispanic communities. Judging by the crime statistics, it wouldn't be farfetched to guess that a great amount of police resources are assigned to areas largely populated by minorities. The truth is that statistics can be misleading; in this case, they really just expose the underlying biases of the police department.

The statistics encourage watchful police officers to frisk minorities more than white citizens. Various testimonies suggest that these frisking sessions are sometimes little more than blatant harassment and provocation. Part of it may be that officers take their pent up anger out on those they frisk. In a scene from Spike Lee's movie "Do the Right Thing," police officers restrain a black man, and in doing so, strangle him to death. This movie takes place in the late '80s, but stories of



Nicholas Fung / The Spectator

police brutality against minorities are hardly rare today. As a result, neighborhoods with high minority populations are losing faith in the police department.

The notion that the people who are supposed to protect a community instead suspect and sometimes harass its members is really quite disturbing. This sort of racial targeting encouraged by stop-and-frisk induces a vicious cycle in which communities of people become doubtful of police methods, and therefore less cooperative. Police will therefore take more precautions in these neighborhoods, maybe by adding more patrol cars, or encouraging further frisks, which again increases the unease of the local population—and the wheel goes round and round.

Another reason police officers target certain communities and perform these searches is their need to fulfill arrest quotas. Officers are congratulated if their precinct has a large amount of arrests, but resources may be cut from the same district if the number of arrests falls. In effect, officers use these frisks as a way to potentially get more arrests—it's a numbers game.

Stop-and-frisk is an inefficient policy, and one that is susceptible to the biases of all patrolling police officers. The results of the policy's implementation reflect this, as well as the sometimes pure disregard for individuals' personal rights, as in a recent case in which two police officers stopped, provoked, and arrested a Hispanic teenager on the basis that he was wearing a hoodie and therefore looked suspicious. This young man was walking down his street when two police officers accused him of throwing them suspicious glances. They then provoked him, and without any physical response from the youth, they dragged him down the block to their cruiser and arrested him. All of this was recorded on his phone.

Don't get me wrong. New York City needs an effective way to prevent crime on a large scale—but not one that engenders distrust between communities and police officers. So should the 87 percent speak up? Should they raise their voices defiantly against the administration that has caused them harm, discomfort, and distrust? Some do speak out, but only a very small percentage. Frisking has become a part of everyday life for minorities in New York City.



Michelle Guo / The Spectator

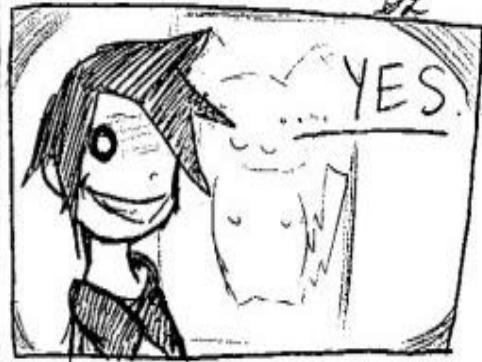
Cartoons

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Humor

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No Love For Summer Lovin'



Eugene, played by freshman Philip Chun, was overwhelmed by Cha-Cha, sophomore Danielle Isakov's, dirty dancing.

By ROBERT MELAMED

The Stuyvesant Theater Community pulled off yet another "successful" show with their fall musical, inspired by the 1978 Travolta classic, "Grease!" The show was performed on November 8, 9, and 10, in the Murray Khan Theater. The production sold a record breaking number of tickets, totaling at 27 sold for all three shows. Though the musical showcased much promise, with heartbreaking ballads and revolutionary dance numbers, all was not gold, as the show slipped down a slippery slope.

The Directing:

First time STC directors Theo Klein and Julia Magliozzo developed their own unique style of directing, which involved minimal rehearsal, plenty of crying, and excessive lubrication.

"We tried to see if a lot of negatives could make a positive," said sophomore and Grease! director Theo Klein. "The only thing that could make the show even more amazing would be not having a show at all."

Directors' Grade: 7 out of 10
Reviewer's Comments: Try getting M. Night Shyamalan next time. These no-name directors are just not cutting it.

The Talent:

Many audience members are still debating whether or not there was any acting at all. The actors seemed as if they had lived in the lives of their characters since birth. The chemistry between the actors was palpable. In addition, the actors were no strangers to intimacy. In fact, many of them missed their cues because they were getting tangled up backstage with their co-stars.

"I came just to be serenaded by Mr. Park's singing," junior Megan Wilson said. "But when I left there was someone else on my mind, a man dressed in fine leather named Danny. Let's just say I would grease his lightning."

Talent's Grade: 8 out of 10

Reviewer's Comments: The only thing that could have made the show better was if there were some Magic Mike action and Channing Tatum made a guest appearance. I'm a sucker for great abs.

The Execution:

It felt like I was back in Rydell High School again. The band was the best part of the show, recording merely 10 noticeable mistakes. This was fewer than any cast member had, even the ones who did not have lines. Despite some mishaps, the themes of Grease were definitely present in the show, most importantly when Sandy becomes more "loose" to attract Danny's attention.

"I think Grease sends a positive message. By dressing up in leather and acting promiscuous, you can finally make a man love you," said junior Clay Walsh. "The show was a true testament to the psychology of mankind."

Execution Grade: 7 out of 10

Reviewer's Comments: Grease! is about an innocent girl named Sandy who becomes trashy to attract the love of a young man named Danny, and if you ask me, Sandy could not have been any trashier if she had tried. Bravo!

Overall:

It's just another STC production. Once again, only the props department was able to pull through on this one. But I must give the actors in Grease! some credit-- they kind of remembered their lines, unlike in last year's musical Seussical. However, if the STC ever wants to compete with other major arts schools, they will need to cast Channing Tatum. Seriously, please consider him.

Overall Grade: 5 out of 10

Reviewer's Comments: Try watching it-- you may find your very own Danny or Sandy. Or you may leave wondering why you ever came.

Obama Celebrates Reelection With Trip To Colorado



The President spent time touring various landmarks and sampling the delicate plants the state had to offer.

By JEREMY KARSON and EAMON WOODS

In the wake of his decisive reelection victory over challenger Mitt Romney, President Obama has decided to celebrate his victory with a visit to the staunchly blue state of Colorado.

"I'm higher than the unemployment rate, and I don't give a damn," Obama said, between mouthfuls of Fritos and ramen noodles. "This is the most fun I've had since I bailed out the auto industry."

Obama was believed to be staying at Denver's renowned Holiday Inn Express for the first three nights of his stay. However, he, First Lady Michelle Obama, and their two daughters Sasha and Malia were asked to leave when management discovered that they were hoarding

all of the food at the breakfast buffet.

To make matters worse, the President's vacation was cut short when federal police arrested him for possession of an immense amount of marijuana; though the substance has been legalized in Colorado, it is still illegal under federal law. The President promptly pardoned himself and resumed the party. "There are a lot of people in this country who don't like me," Obama said. "They can smack me around, but they can't stop me from getting smacked—I'm Bongrak Oganja mother[expletive deleted]!"

Some Stuyvesant students were appalled upon hearing about Obama's trip.

"The national deficit has, like, octupled since Obama's been in office," freshman Antonia Stefanescu

said. "Why is he spending so much of our budget on glaucoma medication?"

"This proves, once and for all, that he is a socialist," openly Republican junior Austin Ostro said.

However, Romney had nothing but kind words for the President. "I am happy for him, going up there, letting his mind go a little bit," he said. "Personally, I would never do that: I far too highly value the constancy of my mindset. My thoughts, values, beliefs, positions on taxes, abortion, and health care are uncompromisable," Romney said.

Ever since Election Day, the state of Colorado has become the most popular vacation spot for Americans. It has also become the most popular vacation spot for Canadians, Mexicans, Alaskans, and those from most countries around the world.

"Colorado is the new Amsterdam," Assistant Principal English Eric Grossman said, his two suitcases (one for clothes, the other Doritos) in hand. "I'm thinking of sponsoring a class trip out there for a month or so."

Though the president earned his vacation, sooner or later he needs to address the major issues that continue to plague our nation. "What our country needs right now is a government that thinks out of the box," Obama said. "That is why my first order of business is to enact a \$700 billion bailout of the marijuana industry. My advisors have calculated that this amount of the exquisite flora could keep the entire U.S. government at an altered mental state until the year 2420."

Hogwarts Forced to Seek Shelter Among Muggles

By AMY LAU

Weeks after Hurricane Sandy's devastating effect on the East Coast, many have been left to deal with the aftermath. President Barack Obama, various celebrities, volunteers, and even Stuyvesant High School have decided to lend a helping hand. In an attempt to help fellow victims of the public school system and Hurricane Sandy, Stuyvesant opened its doors to what they believed to be the New York Harbor School.

A few days after the Harbor School came to Stuyvesant there was an unusual increase in the number of complaints regarding screams from the bathroom, scary hooded figures, and explosions. The alert Stuyvesant student body deduced that the Harbor School was something else entirely. "After years of observation, I can confidently say, I know a wizard when I see one. So, when the Harbor kids walked through the sacred Stuyvesant gates, my radar was blazin' up," said junior Emily Hamilton. "I compiled a list of their magical mischief: wooden wands were hidden under trees, potion bottles were disguised as beer bottles, and worst of all my money keeps magically disappearing."

Many students have reported equally traumatizing experiences, launching a debate among school officials. Stuyvesant originally intended to shelter the magical students for thirty days, however, due to the worrisome log of complaints, Hogwarts' time in Stuyvesant has been cut short. Instead of the initial thirty-day period Hogwarts will remain under Stuyvesant's care for two weeks.

The soon-to-be displaced Hogwarts students expressed their anger with the Stuyvesant student body. "Bloody hell, these wonky punters are green-eyed monsters. You airy-fairy ankle-biters wish you were as gobsmacked as us," said Hogwarts student Lee Jordan. "There's a chap back home that despises you lot, and bob's your uncle, the nutter might have a point about you John Thomas'. We haven't done any of the rubbish you knob heads think we have."

Even though Hogwarts admitted to disguising their magical students as ordinary teenagers, there are some teachers that remain unconvinced. "There is no such thing as 'magic'. It is all part of the mystery that is the universe," said Math teacher Edward Losta. "It is all because of Master Math."

Serious Election Coverage

By BENJAMIN ATTAL

A surprising number of students showed up to vote at the sophomore and freshman caucus election last Friday, November 9. A total of 300 students voted in the sophomore general election as opposed to last year's two votes, one of which was nullified upon the discovery that it was cast by a senior as a joke. Voter interest in these immensely important elections has evidently peaked, and if voter turnout increases at this rate, an estimated 30,000 people are predicted to vote in the head-to-head election this year, nearly 10 times the actual population of Stuyvesant.

A popular agenda for many of the sophomore candidates includes the implementation of martial law to govern freshmen, the incorporation of the Japanese bushido code and ritual self-punishment to reinvigorate course-material, and the creation of the Soph-Frosh semi-formal. Many questions have been raised, especially concerning the Semi-Formal. "I call shenanigans!" junior Tim Fung said. "The Soph-Frosh semi-formal is a myth. A myth, I say!" However, somewhat credible sources say it does indeed exist. In fact, after I had mushrooms for dinner last night, a unicorn wearing a fedora told me that he was on his way to the semi-formal.

George Kitsios and Keiran Carpen are the two presidential candidates who have emerged victorious from the sophomore primaries. These leaders and their vice-presidential candidates, George Triantafillou and Isaac Gluck, respectively, shared glasses of Chardonnay '67 in Carpen's private manor last Sunday night and chortled at the pathetically futile attempts of their competitors to best

them in the general election.

Kitsios expresses a strong conviction that he will make a better sophomore president than his opponent. "Why? Why does one do anything? Why do the bees pollinate the most colorful flowers?" Kitsios said. "Well... Honestly, I figure 'sophomore president' will look good on my college application." Kitsios also mentioned that a victory would result in a great increase in his ability to attract female canines and a certain gardening instrument.

In order to dispel rumors regarding his extramarital affair last year, Carpen has recently been making an effort to display his leadership abilities. "I try my best to kiss every baby I see in the street," Carpen said. "I have received many compliments on my leadership. However, I have also received many more restraining orders." If the final election results in a tie, contestants will smack down WWE style, similar to the U.S. electoral process.

In an exciting update, a starved Bengali Tiger was unleashed during a meeting of many of the freshmen presidential candidates, devouring all of the tiny morsels like nobody's business. With no candidates left, it seems that the tiger will be awarded the title of freshman president. The tiger was reluctant to speak with reporters regarding his victory, but I did manage to lose my left arm below the shoulder and sustain severe blood loss.

The wrestling names of the candidates and their campaign statements can be found on the Student Union's official website. And now, with good cheer, and five fewer pints of blood, I will leave you with the motto of all Stuyvesant elections: "Good luck, and may the best swindler, cheat, or liar win."

Humor

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

Mauricio Moreira/The Spectator



Dear Ms. Leading,
I have always shared my best friend's locker with her. However, we got into a fight recently, and she kicked me out. I don't think I can buy another locker this late in the year, but I have about ten textbooks and an overcoat that I need to store somewhere during the day. What can I do?

Signed,
Over Loaded

Dear Over Loaded,
Take advantage of your knowledge of your friend's locker location to play an awesome prank on her. Be sure to make it as noticeable to passersby as possible, such as lighting a giant pile of weed inside the locker. Also make sure that your name is clearly signed somewhere inside the locker, so that your friend knows that it was you who set the prank. If there is more than one person with your name, be sure to include something to even further identify you as

well—like a photo of your ID card—just to make your point. This should make your friend feel threatened enough to give up her locker entirely.

Good luck,
Ms. Leading

Dear Ms. Leading,
On Stuyllooween, I dressed up as a giant puppy, complete with plush paws and tail. That day, the ladies were all over me, petting me, and giving me candy. However, since Stuyllooween has passed, I have yet again disappeared into the background. I miss the attention that I received on that magical holiday. How can I get it back?

Signed,
Lone Ly

Dear Lone,
If you got people to pay attention to you with the costume, then keep wearing it. It seems to be a good look on you anyway. However, since you already did it once, you need to come up with more gimmicks to keep your "ladies" interested. Bring in dog food and eat it for lunch. Offer to fetch people's things with your mouth. Lie down in the middle of the hallway to beg for tummy rubs. I guarantee that people will love you.

Sincerely,
Ms. Leading

Dear Ms. Leading,
The Harbor School has taken up Lecture Halls A and B, where I normally change for gym. I cannot possibly be expected to go all the way up to the locker rooms to change and make it back in time, but I don't want to be late for gym either, since it is the only class I have a 100 average in. How can I do well in gym, now?

Signed,
Out O'Breath

Dear Out,
Don't be afraid to show off the exhibitionist in you! Just go on changing in the Lecture Halls, or even outside of them. We have all been taught since middle school to not care about other people's nakedness in the locker rooms. Why not further that philosophy by changing in public?

Good luck,
Ms. Leading

Dear Ms. Leading,
My boyfriend recently broke up with me and I'm very stricken over this. He will not answer my phone calls or email. I cannot focus on my studies at all. What can I do?

Good luck,
Heartbroken

Dear Heartbroken,
Since you cannot focus on your schoolwork at all, why don't you devote all your attention to

your ex-boyfriend? Save up your money and buy illegal drugs to plant into his bags. Sneak into his house at night and snip off some of his hair. When you have it, rob a bank and leave his hair at the scene. Put up WANTED posters with his picture on it and then call the police to lead them to your ex-boyfriend's place. When he is arrested and put into jail, visit him everyday. Next thing you know, he'll be asking for your hand in marriage!

Love,
Ms. Leading

Dear Ms. Leading,
I was using my sibling's iPod without permission and I lost it. How can I tell her?

Sincerely,
iAm scared

Dear iPod thief,
Don't tell her. Instead, take all her other electronic devices and hide them. When she looks for them, tell her you haven't seen them at all. Every day, place one electronic device underneath her pillow or somewhere she looks everyday, and then take it away again. Convince her that she is imagining things. Then tell her that she has never had a cellphone or an iPod in her life. She will be too worried about her mental condition to be concerned with her iPod.

Good luck,
Ms. Leading

Arts and Entertainment

Television

Dr. Emily 'Awkward Pitts' Owens

By EMILY LEE
and MANDY WONG

Fresh out of medical school, Emily 'Pitts' Owens (Mamie Gummer) promises herself that she'll

guidance of the acclaimed cardiologist Dr. Gina Bandari (Necar Zadegan), who already hates her, as an attending physician, and the charming Dr. Micah Barnes (Michael Rady), the chief resident. On her first day, Emily is kindly reminded by fellow intern Tyra Dupre (Kelly McCreary) that the hospital residency is just like high school – an idea that horrifies Emily who wishes to leave the dark days behind. (Don't we all?)

Like many of the other shows on The CW, "Emily Owens, M.D." is a feel-good romantic comedy. It reads more like a chick flick than a medical drama; many of the medical terms seem to be thrown into the dialogue for the sake of it. However, this good-humored take on the stressful life of a residency is exactly what separates this show from other cult-classics like "Grey's Anatomy." The light-heartedness of the drama echoes the titular character's personality – shy and awkward, but extremely memorable.

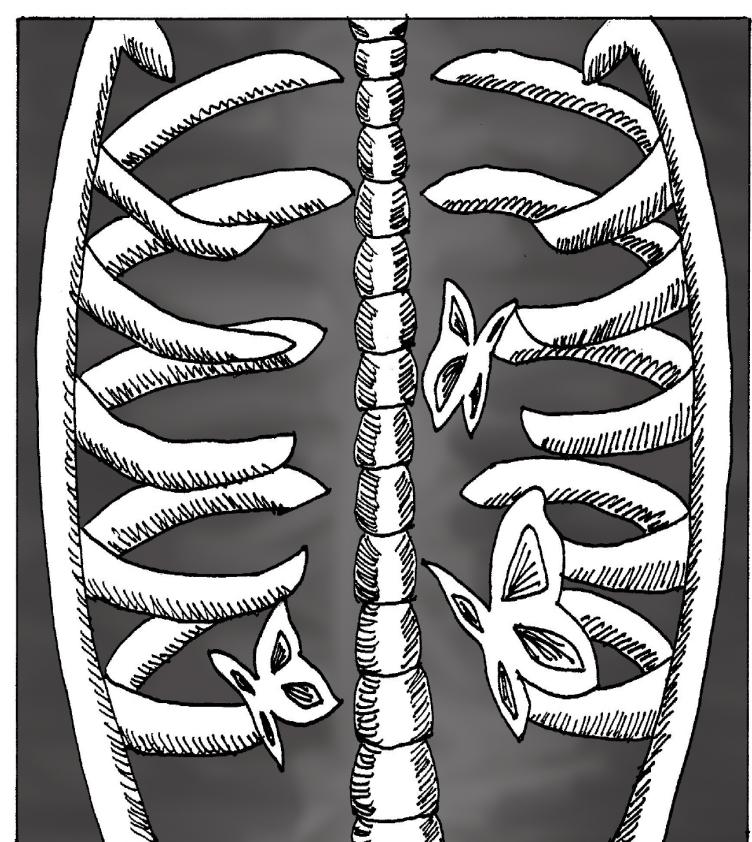
At times, "Emily Owens" is rather predictable because it tends to lean toward feel-good endings for the title character. In many tense situations, Emily emerges victorious either with or without the assistance of others. The show is well-versed and written, and although it takes place in a hospital, the scenarios are relatable to viewers. The way the storyline unfolds itself and the execution of the production certainly echoes the stylistically

ubiquitous teenage melodrama of executive producer – Jennie Snyder's "90210" days.

The essence of the show is really bought out by the amazing (and incredibly good looking) ensemble. Mamie Gummer, Meryl

In the end, it teaches us that doctors are just like their patients – only human.

Streep's daughter, is the splitting image of her mother. She embodies the motivated drive of Emily Owens very well and does a great job blending it with a gauche naivety. However, the grand-prize of acting goes to Aja Naomi King for her portrayal of the nefarious Cassandra Kopelson. Despite all her malicious attacks and evil intents, King gives Cassandra depth, making her a character one cannot completely hate. The



line between likeable and unlikeable characters in the show is very fine and is ever-changing, making it a show that keeps the audience on their toes.

This TV show also features Scrubs-esque voice-overs done by Emily, which are luckily kept in moderation as to not distract from the plot. Each episode is fairly didactic, aided by the anecdotes that Emily tells, lending the

show its elements of comedy and serving as the source of much laughter.

Although it is quite often cheesy and you may find yourself cringing in your seat because of Emily's awkwardness, "Emily Owens, M.D." is a personable, light-hearted show. In the end, it teaches us that doctors are just like their patients – only human.

Sophie Pan/The Spectator

Arts and Entertainment

TV

Same Show, Different Tune

By JOYCE KOLTISKO

Admit it: the acting is going downhill, the actors aren't nearly as attractive as they used to be, and the plot is getting ridiculous. But despite these faults, so many of us continue to watch the same television shows season after season. Perhaps we are—or at least, I am—returning to these shows we loved months or even years ago not because of the drama, but rather because the one thing they can still get right is the music. Popular television shows such as "Gossip Girl," "Pretty Little Liars," and "Skins UK" may be suffering from a deteriorating plot or cast, but they never fail to offer fresh and unique music from genres not often heard on the radio or featured on music sites. If anything, I can count on falling in love with a new song after every episode.

GOSSIP GIRL

As the characters of "Gossip Girl" grow up and their relationships become further entangled, it is difficult to even comprehend that such a complicated social network could ever exist. The various scandals are strained and redundant and it seems almost impossible that everyone cares about "Manhattan's elite." Perhaps the show's one redeeming quality is its ability to find new songs from artists who are already established but often forgotten.

"Gossip Girl" successfully features songs that reveal another vocal side of artists we may already know and love. Feist, for example, is best known for her 2007 song "1234" with its upbeat tune and sweet

melody. Now, five years later, "Gossip Girl" introduces us to some of her some of her latest works, such as "Graveyard." We hear a deeper and more serious tone to Feist's voice; the guitar

We hear a deeper and more serious tone to Feist's voice; the guitar harmonies complement her own raspy tone perfectly.

harmonies in the song complement her own raspy tone perfectly. The delicateness of the vocals is reminiscent of her earlier songs, but in "Graveyard" it contributes to a sense of loneliness and hope of finding life in a graveyard.

Charlotte Gainsbourg is

best known for her whisper-like singing with dreamlike qualities. "Gossip Girl," however, features one of her more upbeat songs, "Paradisco," which would have easily been overlooked among her other slow-moving ones. Though the words are almost indistinguishable, the fast pace and mysterious tune filled with echoes and harmonies make the song more suitable for dancing than sleeping.

Other songs to check out:

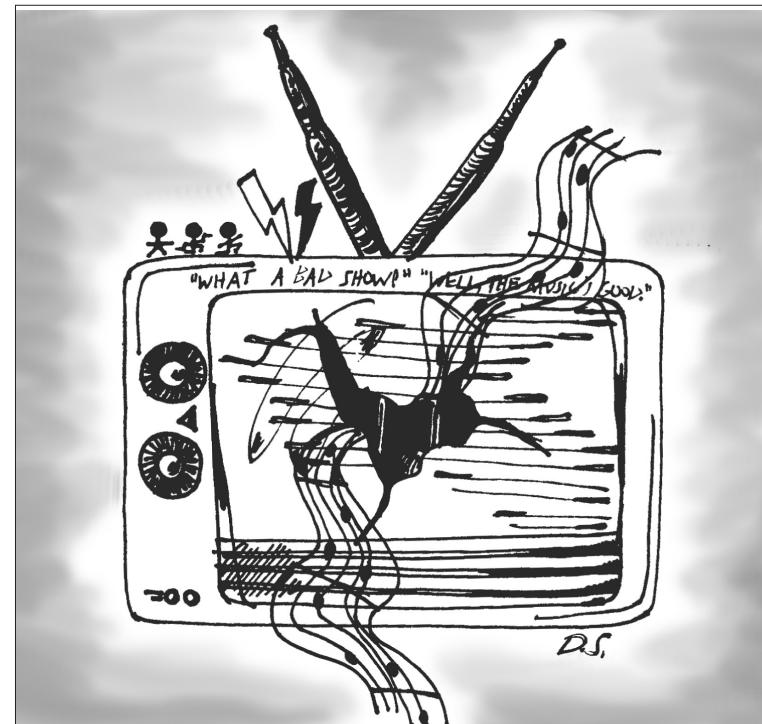
"Heartlines" by Florence & the Machine
"We are So Alive Tonight" by Wild Future

PRETTY LITTLE LIARS

"Pretty Little Liars" benefits from the fact that it is a mystery that hooks its viewers' attentions with new clues on the murder of Allison. However, after three seasons, I'm starting to lose track of all of the clues and find it hard to care who "A" really is. Luckily, the alternative/pop music from lesser-known artists rarely disappoints.

Unlike many of the pop tunes featured in "Pretty Little Liars," "The Riot's Gone" by Santigold is more alternative in sound in that it brings to mind tribal music with its prominent percussion section and instrumentals. Santigold's fluid voice builds up to her laments of "trying to lose the world inside, but it's got no place to go." The song culminates in a release from her echoing cries and its soothing effect leaves us with nothing less than catharsis.

Other songs to check out:



Dia Sotropoulou / The Spectator

beautiful instrumentals and harmonies.

Perhaps the most moving song ever featured on "Skins

UK" is "Don't Be Afraid, You're Already Dead" by Akron/Family. Despite the minimalistic lyrics (only four lines) and simple instrumentals, the song communicates a sense of loneliness through its haunting tune. The slow pace, harmonies, deep and vibrating vocals, and troubling lyrics combine to create a song that not only demands our attention and understanding but is also beautiful to listen to time and again.

Other songs to check out:

"Wild World" by Cat Stevens
"It's All Over" by The Broken Family Band
"Daylight" by Matt & Kim

SKINS UK

With a new generation every two seasons, it is often hard to move on because of our love for the original cast. By season five and six, not only are we left feeling detached from the characters, but their problems have also become little more than repeats of those from previous seasons. These misfits are so extreme and different that, realistically, they would never want to be around each other. However, each episode features new alternative or indie songs from lesser-known artists with

Music

Back With a BIGBANG

By AMY ZHEN

Yellow fanlights erupt, creating a sea of stars in the sudden dark. But when the curtain falls, shrieks shatter the heavy silence. At the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, fans braved the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy for the concert showcasing Korean megastar group BIGBANG on Thursday, November 8 and Friday, November 9. The group weathered a tumultuous period of scandals, from leaked intimate photos to marijuana allegations, to emerge better than ever. With infectious enthusiasm and sincere gratitude towards their fans, they wove together a potpourri of group works and members' solos. The Alive Galaxy World Tour 2012, which spans 25 cities and 16 countries, has just completed its American leg. After selling out venues in every stop, from Japan to Peru, BIGBANG are far from ready to lie low.

Full of their iconic bravado, BIGBANG opened in individual cryogenic tanks to "Intro (Alive)" on the "Alive" EP, before bursting into "Tonight" in an

explosion of energy that never faded. Despite the language barrier, they made a valiant effort to connect with fans. G-Dragon's reinvented "Crayon," for instance, included a new English rap. Accompanied by a live band and a remarkable set of break-dancers on a stage directed by acclaimed Laurieann Gibson, BIGBANG created a mind-blowing spectacle. Throughout the show, BIGBANG performed club hits, like "HowGee," performed on flashy Segways and motorbikes, and intimate ballads, like "Café" and their trademark, "Haru Haru." This concert best showcased the members' talents, from Seungri and Taeyang's cheeky dancing to Daesung's surreal vocals, even though rapper T.O.P aside from his duets with leader G-Dragon, lacked a solo. But the individual focus came at the expense of a united front, which was desperately needed. With little interaction on stage, the five gave the disconcerting impression of operating solo, even during group songs. However, BIGBANG's passion, which shone through their notes and moves, made this concert truly

exceptional.

After a whirlwind comeback following their terrifying two-year hiatus, this show proved that they were ready to take on the world again. Arriving on stage to the haunting lyrics, "I'm still alive," the boys followed with a set list of newer, more popular pieces, snubbing their hip-hop roots. This clear emphasis on the road ahead represented everything this concert meant: signs of life for a group that nearly flat-lined years ago. Furthermore, this was the largest step BIGBANG had taken towards achieving international recognition, a journey they began after winning "Best Worldwide Act" at the 2011 MTV Europe Music Awards.

This resurgence cannot be attributed purely to the "Gangnam Style" revitalization of Korean pop (K-pop), and those who try to do so are not aware of BIGBANG pre-Psy powerhouse reputation. Arguably the most revolutionary, they're renowned for their chameleon nature and eagerness to take risks. Their ever-evolving style, which can only be vaguely described as a



Christine Lee / The Spectator

mixture of K-pop and Western, shaken, stirred, and exaggerated outlandishly, doesn't reflect trends, but reinvents them. "Gangnam Style" popularized K-pop in surprising ways, but mostly for its ever-present horse dance. But BIGBANG's sold-out tour is a testimony to the future of K-pop in the West. Their music represents the collision of Western and Eastern music on larger proportions than ever expected.

BIGBANG's concert will not cause an overnight K-pop craze

Arts and Entertainment

Theater

Leather Jackets Polished and Amps Turned Up, STC's "Grease" A Success

**By OTHILLA WLODARCZYK
and CAROLINE BREDTHAUER**

"Grease," this fall's Stuyvesant Theater Community (STC) musical, opened with a chorus of primly dressed students singing their high school alma mater. After a few angelic verses, a rowdy group of teens in leather jackets and pink outfits bursts onto the stage, dancing chaotically and singing their own clamorous rock n' roll version of it. Right off the bat, the musical's loud and rebellious tone was set.

The show, directed by sophomore Theo Klein and senior Julia Magliozzo, was a sophisticated and well-thought-out high school production. Though the first performance contained awkwardly long transitions and problems with microphones and lighting, the crew managed to pull itself together for the Friday performance. Generally, smooth transitions have proven to be elusive in STC musicals, but the Friday and Saturday shows went without a single coordination hitch; the band's interludes were timed impeccably with the lighting crew's scene changes.

The protagonist is Danny Zuko, a member of a grease-haired and leather-clad clique called the T-Birds; the new girl at Danny's school is Sandy Dumbrowski, his summer fling. Danny has to make a choice between the goody two-shoes girl he likes or his reputation with his ne'er-do-well T-Birds. Sandy, on the other hand, faces pressure from the Pink Ladies (the T-Birds' female counter-

parts) to let go of her prudish ways.

Freshman Kristen Chang

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as Sandy and senior Thomas Zadrozny as Danny made a convincing and sweet couple. The microphone slip-ups didn't faze any of their per-

formances; when Zadrozny's microphone failed during his duet of "Summer Nights" with Chang, he stayed in character and projected his voice for the whole crowd to hear. Together, Zadrozny and Chang recreated the original song almost perfectly in tune. Chang's voice was very expressive and clear throughout the performance, and despite Zadrozny's vocal shortcomings he managed to pull off the role with the comedic relief that was present in his voice and '50s body language.

One of the main faults of the show, though, was its overly fast pace, as it ran through a few important plot details and did not give Sandy's and Zuko's love story enough stage time. As their story is the defining part of "Grease," it should have been featured more. The Pink Ladies, with their lively performances, provided some of the best solos in the show. Among these were Rizzo's (sophomore Jasmine Thomas) solo "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee" and Marty's (senior) Elizabeth Gredetsky) "Freddy, my Love." For her role as Frenchie, a "beauty school dropout" uncertain about her future, Senior Lucy Woychuk-Mlinac acted with an air of anxiety, but took care not to take her character's neuroticism to exaggerated proportions.

Alongside the Pink Ladies were the equally spirited T-Birds. Zadrozny wasn't the only crowd-pleaser; sophomore Mitchell Teper as Kenickie brought energy to his solo number "Greased Lightning," his rock n' roll ode to his newly purchased hot rod. Playing

Doody, freshman Milo Bernfield-Milman's solo was a much gentler song than Teper's, and, accordingly, he sang it tenderly. His singing, however, was so

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Cha (sophomore
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Isakov's moves
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band, led by
senior James
Kogan and
freshman
Sabrina Leo.**

soft at times that it came off as weak. Where singers fell short,

however, background singers did not. Seniors Evie Rosenberg, Kaveri Sengupta, and Morgan DeFiore put together a chorus that gave the show the volume it needed without sacrificing its harmonious sound.

The show's smooth coordination was most evident in the dance between Danny and Cha-Cha (sophomore Daniella Isakov). Isakov's moves were elaborate and daring and were accompanied by the driving and crunchy sound of the band, led by senior James Kogan and freshman Sabrina Leo. A well-choreographed hand-jive led by dance director and junior Anna-Leigh Ong in the background added to the thrill of the scene, which, in its combination of all of these elements, pushed the boundaries for how electrifying a high school musical can be.

The art crew, directed by Phoebe Young, Helen Lin, and Josephine Jenks, created beautiful backdrops for the scenes at Rydell High and the Burger Palace, a local hangout spot. The tech crew provided small flourishes, such as a working door for Kenickie's "Greased Lighting," that, though minor, added to the professionalism of the production.

Where in the past, the talent of those involved in STC shows was drowned out by technical blunders in the coordination of all the show's elements, this time around the talent of the cast and crew was evident in the ultimate cohesiveness of the show. We can only hope the STC performs up to the standards it has set with "Grease" in upcoming shows.

When Peter Pan Learned To Fly

**By BEN VANDEN HEUVAL
and TAHIA ISLAM**

The story of Peter Pan and his adventures in Neverland has always been close to the hearts of many generations of both children and adults, linked through the common desire for eternal youth and the age-old dream of flying. Peter Pan represents something fundamental and spirited: the brave boy, forever young and innocent, flying through a fantastical world. His adventures are known to much of the world, but no one did justice to explain his origins until Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson authored Pan's prequel, "Peter and the Starcatchers," in 2004.

The tale was made for Broadway. Vivid, colorful, and fanciful, but witty and well-conceived, the roots of Peter Pan, his world, and his cohorts are brought to life in the play "Peter and the Starcatcher"—note: singular this time—which opened in April 2012 at Broadway's Brooks Atkinson Theater. This production is an ingenious, crafty, and amusing spectacle, soaring impressively across the stage with entertaining and youthful theatrics.

Rick Elice's script is the backbone of the charismatic first act, introducing a more humorous adaptation of Barry and Pear-

son's original story. Celia Keenan-Bolger is the strong-willed, confident Molly, the daughter of a sailor, who befriends the shy, nameless orphan who will become Peter Pan. Molly and her father share a strange duty: to gather and protect the powerful and dangerous "starstuff," a magical dust that falls inexplicably across the earth and must be kept out of evil hands. As the "Starcatchers" sail across the rough seas protecting the starstuff by order of the Queen of England ("God Save Her"), simple props, deep-blue lighting, and wave-splashing sound effects paint the illusion of an ocean around the audience.

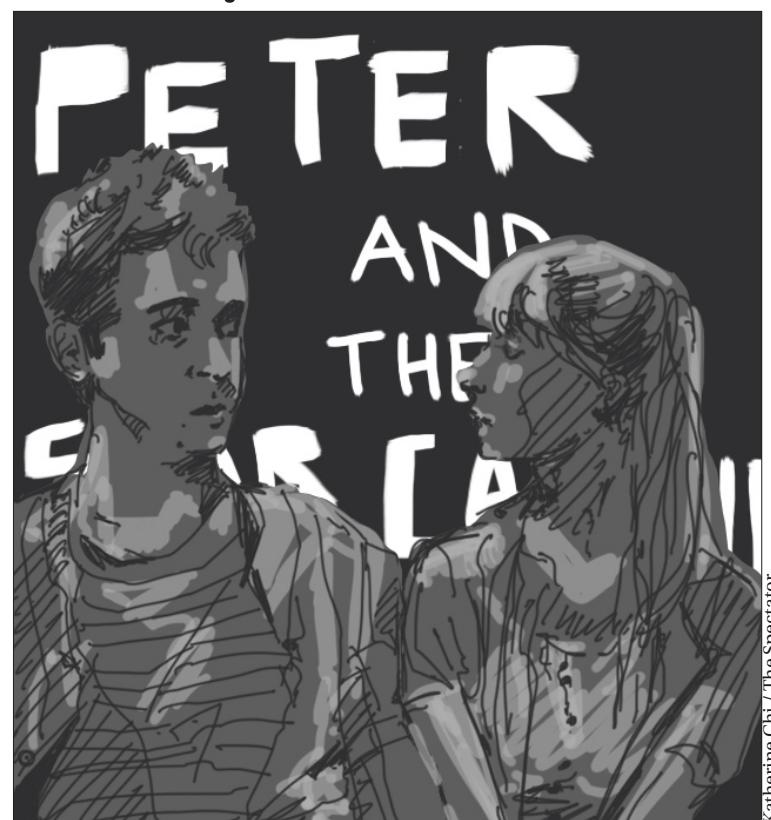
This setting couldn't be more appropriate for the entrance of the play's most amusing lead, Matthew Saldivar as Black-Stache, the diabolical but remarkably daft and not-so-fearsome pirate who becomes Pan's nemesis. The witty dialogue of the aptly named Black-Stache, as well as the heartfelt exchanges between Molly and the orphan, comprise the first half of the show. These opening scenes don't have the liveliness or visual appeal of what's to come, but include some of Elice's most creative writing. The wry humor is perfectly timed, and the gradual introduction of the characters, mixed with subtle cues to the

Peter Pan story we all know and love, lure the audience into the bordering-on-ridiculous story that unfolds in the second half.

The curtains at the beginning of Act II open to reveal the majority of the male cast in eccentric mermaid costumes and shell bras. The ironic musical scene that follows is a glimpse of the artistry in the show's clever and vivid final scenes. Elice adheres to the original story of Peter Pan well, but makes many amendments to give the play an interesting twist. His methods of adapting an animation to the stage is innovative, such as the use of flashlights to depict Tinkerbell. The scene changes are always interesting, thanks to the wide variety of shifting backdrops. They utilize simple tools, such as a single rope, to depict everything from rocking boats to jail cells.

Furthermore, the story of Black-Stache's painful and gripping transformation into Captain Hook is tastefully set to stage when his hand is shut in a chest. At this moment, Saldivar wins over the audience, staying silent on stage in pain for a long couple of minutes—only showing his distress through absurd facial expressions.

However, though the show is flashy and creative, it lacks heartrending scenes. During



moments such as Peter and Molly's kisses, the excessive backdrops and littering of characters on the stage detract from the overall experience. The play moves quickly through emotional sections, leaving viewers confused about whether it is a journey through Peter's maturity, a sweet love story between

Katherine Chi / The Spectator

Peter and Molly, or a hint that light exists despite the darkness that comes with abandonment and adversity.

Though the message of the story is a bit staticky, the production is fun and exciting—a bedtime story done right on stage.

Arts and Entertainment

Film

Forgotten Film Reel: Going Back in Time for a Nursery Rhyme

By EDA TSE

The '90s sure were the days, weren't they? If you ask any '90s kid, every TV show or movie title he or she rattles off

"This balance of Gordon's skepticism and Little Bo Peep's confidence in her fellow Rhymies brings out the duo's dynamics, which are a pleasure to watch."

is likely to be accompanied by wistful sighs and exaggerated nostalgia. If one movie can live

up to the '90s hype, it's "Mother Goose Rock 'n' Rhyme" (1990). Also called "Shelly Duval's Rock 'n' Rhymeland," this film is full of musical legends like Cyndi Lauper, Bobby Brown, Little Richard, and Art Garfunkel.

The film centers on Gordon Goose (Dan Gilroy), Mother Goose's son, who has just returned to Rhymeland from a year at Aesop's Academy. He's a self-proclaimed "normal" who wishes his family didn't live in Rhymeland, a place populated by Rhymies—characters created by Mother Goose (Jean Stapleton). Gordon quickly joins Little Bo Peep (Shelley Duval) on her quest to find her missing sheep and his missing mother before all the Rhymies disappear. Along their journey, they meet a wide range of characters: Itsy the Fly (Ben Vereen), Mary (Cyndi Lauper) and her lamb, Lou (Woody Harrelson), Peter Piper (Harry Anderson), and even Little Miss Muffet (Pia Zadora). Though all of these minor nursery rhyme stars are onscreen for mere minutes, they each bring their character to life in a kooky fashion—Itsy the Fly, for example, is a fantastic dancer with a crush on Little Miss Muffet.

In a movie stuffed to the gills with exaggerated acting and over-the-top costumes, Gilroy's acting is superbly ironic; Gordon is a caricature of normalcy. His cynicism and frank

dialogue sets him apart from typical protagonists of children's movies—even though he, exaggeratedly enough, enjoys mouthing "weird" behind Mother Goose's back. And for

"The lack of music is overshadowed by all the color: polka-dotted, striped, and even webbed costumes, as well as a background of blurred blue and white, with colorful houses popping out."

older viewers, it's refreshing. Gordon's louder demeanor



Mauricio Moreya/The Spectator
pairs well with the adorable, quirky, soft-spoken

Little Bo Peep, and this balance of his skepticism and her confidence in her fellow Rhymies brings out the duo's dynamics, which are a pleasure to watch.

For a rock-and-roll movie, "Mother Goose Rock 'n' Rhyme" contains only five songs, a pity considering how many singers are in it. A standout was "Party With the King," performed by Old King Cole (Little Richard) in a zany checkerboard room. But the lack of music is overshadowed by all the color: polka-dotted, striped, and even webbed costumes, as well as a background of blurred blue and white, with colorful houses popping out. The cartoonish color scheme and outland-

ish live-action renew these old nursery tales, though many have been twisted a bit—Mary's little lamb, Lou, is actually a six-foot-tall sheep with an ever-present cigar.

"Mother Goose Rock 'n' Rhyme" is a perfect comedy for those who want to reminisce about "the good ol' days." It can entertain some viewers and terrify others in the way only children's movies can. (In a particularly strange scene, the movie cuts to a slightly terrifying rock band and feather-tickler "torture" scene.) Put on some Hammer pants, get a pack of Jiffy Pop, and slip in the "Mother Goose" VHS for a weird (and hilarious) trip back to the '90s.

I've Got a Bad Feeling About This

By JEFF LUU

In October, the Walt Disney Company ventured into dangerous territory, announcing its acquisition of Lucasfilm, the powerhouse behind the Star Wars franchise and its intention to continue the beloved film series.

Some might think that this comes as good news to Star Wars enthusiasts. However, most fans are wary of the announced continuation. First, here's a bit of history: back in the 1970s, George Lucas's film and television production company, Lucasfilm Limited, was still relatively new, having been founded by Lucas in 1971. The first film in the Star Wars series, now titled "Star Wars: Episode IV: A New Hope," was released on May 25, 1977. It was a smash, grossing over \$700 million worldwide and nominated for ten Academy Awards. It's safe to say that nearly everyone has seen at least one of the eventual six Star Wars films, and if not, they certainly recognize the name.

The Walt Disney Company was founded in 1923 by Walt and Roy Disney. Over the course of nearly 80 years, it has become famous as a pioneer in animation with films like "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and "The Lion King." Disney acquired Pixar Animation Studios, formerly part of Lucasfilm, in 2006 and pur-

chased Marvel Entertainment in 2009. Continuing this trend, Disney announced on October 30, 2012 that it had acquired

Only time will tell whether the upcoming trilogy will be a new hope for the saga or the start of its journey towards the dark side.

Star Wars franchise with a new trilogy of films with a potential 2015 release date.

Some of my earliest memories are of Lucas and Disney films like "Return of the Jedi" and "The Lion King." When I heard the news, however, I was far more skeptical than excited. Years ago, when I saw what was once the last film in the series (chronologically third) "Revenge of the Sith," I believed that it truly was the final chapter in the story. After all, it had tied the events of the original films and the three prequels together with little room for expansion. However, Disney's decision to not base the new films on existing material further limits the possibilities. Creating entirely new stories means that Disney could contradict the original films' continuity and could even ruin the series as a whole if they step too far. In addition, the company will be under a large amount of pressure from fans left unsatisfied by the three prequels. Either way, the Star Wars legacy is in jeopardy.

To be fair, however, I wasn't very happy when Disney purchased Marvel in 2009, either. The news spawned images of hybrid Marvel-Disney characters that I found to be truly ridiculous concepts. But Disney has mostly stayed out of Marvel's affairs, keeping its characters, series, and franchises mostly untouched. For example, though "The Aveng-



Andrew Fischer / The Spectator

ers," released earlier this year, was clearly intended for a wide

Either way, some will be left wanting, leaving the legacy in jeopardy.

age range, it still came off as more serious than many other Disney films and, above all else,

Lucasfilm for \$4.05 billion. Furthermore, the company announced its plans to revive the

Arts and Entertainment

Film

The Icy Truth Bites



Michele Lin/The Spectator

CHASING ICE

By EMMALINA GLINSKIS and DAVID KURKOVSKIY

One of the biggest glaciers in Iceland stands majestically, its peaks and canyons reflecting the sunlight in a blindingly beautiful way. It has survived generations and generations of human life, so enormous and old it's rumored to have split off into the very iceberg that sunk the Titanic. A rumble suddenly

underwritten by the New York Times. He went on to study at Stanford University, where he pursued photography and film-making.

For the last five years, Orlowski has worked with National Geographic photographer James Balog on a documentary about Balog's quest to convince the country of climate change with unequivocal evidence: time-lapse photography of melting glaciers in the Arctic.

The documentary's message itself is not shocking. We've grown up in a period during which it's clear that global climate change is a real threat to our world's future. To the educated viewer, the film serves not only as proof of global warming, but also as a frightening testament to its severity. Balog convinces with facts and lucid landscapes that these changes are not trivial, not seasonal, but endemic of a climate crisis.

However, there are still politicians and people all over the country today who are debating its validity, calling it a hoax or an inconsequential problem easily fixed by future generations. They don't believe the facts. Well, if there's any film to convince the skeptics, "Chasing Ice" will most certainly do the job.

But what makes the film truly stand out as not just another "Inconvenient Truth" is Orlowski's clever weaving of narrative into an otherwise factually stimulating film. The film focuses on Balog's photography, the journey he took to capture the images, and the challenges he faced as a photographer, environmental activist, and middle-aged father. The emotional appeal comes not only from the fantastic shots of the endangered and barren arctic terrain, but also from the portrayal of the pain and hard work Balog goes through to realize his project.

escapes into the arctic air. The ice splits in the corner of an eye. The glacier, taller than the Empire State Building and large enough to hold the entirety of lower Manhattan, breaks off and collapses in a loud crash, sinking quickly into the black arctic waters as ancient air escapes its thousand year-old structure.

"Chasing Ice" is a new Sundance award-winning documentary directed and produced by Stuyvesant alumnus Jeff Orlowski ('02). During his time at Stuyvesant, Jeff Orlowski was the editor-in-chief of The Spectator. With his staff, he produced the 9/11 issue of The Spectator, which was mass-published and

es in Iceland, Greenland, and Canada. They are dramatically depicted as freezing and red-cheeked as they climb mountains and push through jagged rocks to fasten the cameras in a safe location.

Right at the beginning of this journey, the significance of visual climate-change evidence becomes firmly clear; for the first time, in a terrifying process of nature called "calving," the collapse of an entire mass of glacier shooting into the ocean is caught on film.

Though Balog faces many hardships throughout the film, his determination is amplified by the inspiration he receives from his wife and two daughters, who live far from his workplace but support him on his yearly expeditions and adventures. His team members, assistant Adam LeWinter, videographer Orlowski, and Icelandic scientist Svarav Jonatansson, all huddle under tiny bright red tents to talk about the low points and struggles, like when the first round of cameras all died within weeks and were finally replaced many months later. Orlowski later recounted his first struggles during his first trip to Iceland in a New York Times interview. "I was totally unprepared. I didn't have the right shell pants. I was freezing the entire time and in my head," Orlowski said.

Balog, who is recovering from knee surgery, endangers his health by scaling melting glacial canyons and hiking a terrain of jagged ice. His doctors advise him to stop his expeditions, but that only pushes him further to get the shots he

said that after showing the film to a high school in Salt Lake City, Utah, the majority of students said their views towards climate change switched completely.

That kind of power to get audiences more aware of environmental risks is truly phenomenal and should be utilized to have a larger impact on global awareness and climate change. However, it seems that the biggest failure of the film was not procuring a wide-enough release to convey the seriousness of its message. Playing in a few independent theaters in Manhattan for a week and then moving from city to city, the film lacks the resources to garner a wide enough audience to meet its scope.

Hopefully, Orlowski's team will be more strategic in spreading the film to bigger audiences. Some of his efforts, like inviting Stuyvesant students and environmental classes to view the film, are definitely a step in the right direction. The melting of ice may not mean much to the current generation, but its effects will be felt worldwide in generations to come.

Toward the end of the film, Balog looks out with serious eyes toward the white abyss of ice and then stares back into the camera thoughtfully, holding a memory card from one of his cameras. "This is the memory of the landscape. That landscape is gone. It may never be seen again in the history of civilization," he says, clutching the memory stick. "It's stored, right here."

needs. His teammates even joke that Balog keeps getting knee surgery not to fix the knee, but to have the opportunity to

Divided We Fall

By EMRE TETIK

There's a problem with current American politics. Anyone who has lived in the country in recent years knows what it is. One needs only to turn on a TV to FOX News or MSNBC to see what it is. The problem is, of course, the hostile and highly partisan nature of our politics, and it's this issue that director Kelly Nyks takes on in "Split: A Divided America."

The film's premise is a cross-country trip Nyks takes in an attempt to get to the heart of what divides us. The data are, at times, shocking. The film is filled with clips of people of different political stripes engaging in verbal fistfights, shouting words so outrageous and hateful at each other that it's uncertain whether we should be laughing or crying.

The film boasts an impressive cast. Featuring some of the biggest names in the American political scene, it includes Noam Chomsky, Amy Goodman, Nicholas Kristof, Tucker Carlson, Al Franken, and Chuck Hagel, among others. The choice of interviewees provides not only a wealth of information, but also a range of views across the political spectrum that aided the film's impartiality in exploring America's political makeup.

One segment of the film is devoted to the history of division, arguing that the political divisions in this country weren't always so severe. This section suffers from what seems to be a convenient downplaying of the dirty political discourse and mud-slinging in our nation's early years (when Thomas Jefferson ran in 1800, one newspaper claimed that, under his administration, "Murder, robbery, rape, adultery, and incest will be taught openly and practiced"). The history is also presented with uncanny visuals that distracted from, rather than illuminated, the issue.

However, the segment contains one of the film's most powerful moments. In discussing the way debates have become consumed by rhetoric and candidates' competing for likeability instead of an ideological exchange, the film features a clip from the 1960 presidential debate between Kennedy and Nixon. During a shot of Nixon as he stares thoughtfully into space, on air, and ponders a question he has just been asked, a voiceover says, "Say whatever you want about Nixon, but he was the last candidate to have ever thought about a question in a debate."

The clear structure and smooth pacing of "Split" make it understandable to the average viewer. It's highly informative but doesn't get too bogged down by details to the point of confusing or boring the viewer. It's unlikely that politicians in Washington and divisive political commentators will see this film and be more willing to reach across the aisle, but at least "Split" lucidly and fairly gives the issue the attention it deserves.

Balog convinces us with facts and lucid landscapes that these changes are not trivial, not seasonal, but endemic of a climate crisis.

The emotional appeal comes not only from the fantastic shots of the endangered and barren arctic terrain, but also from the vividness of the pain and hard work Balog goes through to tempt his unheard of project.

Arts and Entertainment

Event

The TED Experience: Mohawks, Bananagrams, and Google Glass

By MANDY WONG

The Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED) Conference, best known for its TED Talks video series, hosted its annual TEDYouth Conference on Saturday, November 17, in Manhattan's Times Center. It was live streamed online for free in conjunction with the TEDxYouth program, so viewers all over the world could enjoy the show. The only things they couldn't enjoy, though, were the many freebies given out at the end of the day, such as Rick Smolan's photography book "America 24/7," Bananagrams, and, most importantly, amazing food.

The award-winning organization selected 400 high school students who applied to attend the conference, which featured speakers like Young Guru and Bobak Ferdowsi (better known to many as "the NASA Mohawk guy"). In addition, each adult worker had a "shadow"—an enthusiastic attendee who wished to volunteer. After submitting

the volunteer form and sending in an incredibly cheesy video of myself explaining why I'd like to co-host the stage, I was given the honor of co-hosting the event alongside TED content producer Kelly Stoetzel and TED contributor Rives.

Despite targeting a younger audience, TED spared no expenses in making the conference as legitimate as possible. They invited 22 charming speakers, many of whom have already spoken at TED conferences and have achieved high acclaim in their respective fields. Their talks were geared towards the young crowd with topics such as internet etiquette, self-confidence, power verbs, and the future of artificial intelligence. Compared to their lectures at the much more formal TED conferences, these speakers chose a more relaxed approach and often cracked cheesy science jokes to hype up the crowd.

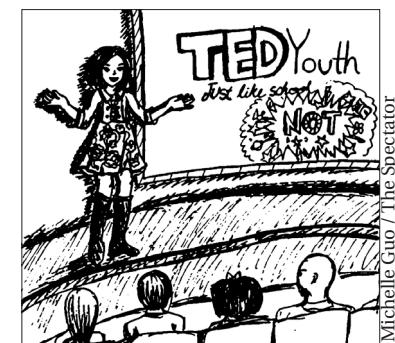
As a co-host, I was given an all-access pass, and was able to meet with speakers ahead of

time. Though I wish I had taken more advantage of this, I still had some incredibly thought-provoking conversations with them. The two speakers who made the deepest impression on me were haptics-designer Katherine Kuchenbecker (whom I also introduced) and vedic mathematician Gaurav Tekriwal. Haptics is the science of transferring physical sensations through materials. Kuchenbecker spoke to me briefly about her field and also showed me her prototypes during the break—a truly mind-blowing experience. When she tapped the surface of a certain material with her pointer, I was able to feel the exact same thing by holding onto a separate metal rod. I was also able to see all the behind-the-scenes workings, and the effort the staff put into making sure things ran smoothly. There were staff members posted throughout the venue to guide the attendees to the exhibition booths during the one-hour break. (The icing on the cake was that I got a hug from

Bobak Ferdowsi!)

As part of TED's devotion to ideas worth sharing, students who had submitted interesting applications were invited to take the stage and showcase their talents. One girl specialized in Russian tongue twisters, another in speed stacking. Audience members were invited to introduce speakers in the second half of the talk, giving us hosts a nice break.

The day's overall atmosphere was interactive and inviting. Speakers mingled with audience members, both before the show started as well as during breaks. Many had demos in the down-stairs lobby where they showcased their newest creations, ranging from cardboard car-building to sensory haptics. Students who were brave enough to participate in "soft start," an event that took place during the break where participants gave a 30 second presentation about anything and everything, also received prizes, ranging from limited edition Jays earbuds to



Toy Story 3 DVDs. The hosts, Kelly and Rives, were funny and motivational, and easily approachable.

The TEDYouth Conference was packed with fun activities and amazing opportunities. (Who wouldn't want to try on a pair of prototype Google Glasses, or even meet the genius behind it?) Without "dumbing down" the content, TED catered to the younger generation's interest in technology, engineering, and design. Missed the opportunity to attend? Don't fret—there'll be another next year!

Playwright Visits Stuyvesant: An Insight into Various Forms of Expression

By NICOLE SANCHEZ
and EDA TSE

Two voices ricochet back and forth across the room, one a childish soprano, the other a rich alto. The audience is hushed, actively listening to the uninterrupted flow of the two contrasting women having an intense girl-to-girl chat. It is the reading of Stacey Engels' play in progress. On November 22nd, Engels paid a visit to Stuyvesant to share a reading and lead a workshop. Engels is a writer, workshop leader, speaker, con-

sultant, and teacher. She considers herself first and foremost a playwright, though she writes her fair share of non-fiction, fiction, and screenplays. Engels is founder and Artistic Director of Evolution Arts and Integration. She has also been a part of PEN American Center, Warrior Writers, Alternative To Incarceration, Readers & Writers, and Prison Writing Programs.

Shannon Daniels, junior and member of Stuyvesant's writing club Caliper, met Engels over the summer through the PEN Teen Writing Institute in SoHo. She in-

vited her to come to Stuyvesant and speak with Caliper members. Engels was happy to come to the Stuyvesant community to teach students about her profession and the writing world.

Engel's play was deeply inspired by Slovenian painter Jozef Tisnikar, who was obsessed with death due to his job at a morgue. This in turn, after a visit to Slovenia, led Engel to her current play – about Willa (read by Dr. Moore) and her Aunt Jaz (read by Engels), who banter back and forth about Willa's romantic life, as well as her pursuits as an art-

ist.

After the reading, Engels opened the floor to discussion. During this time, she shared her own beliefs about playwriting. "The drama [in a play] is the unpredictability of people interacting," Engels said. "It makes it a lot more interesting and different every time." Each audience member can interpret the play in their own way—there is no character or narrator influencing the observer. Caliper-oriented workshop afterschool centered around an artist's role in society and the stereotype of the tor-

tured artist through discussions of 19th-Century Russian acting styles and Eastern European painting.

Perhaps the line with the most weight, encompassing the essence of the play, is given by Aunt Jaz: "Figure out what you are holding onto and what you're letting go of, and commit fully." A huge motif in Engels' play, this is applicable not only to Willa's relationships, but also to our lives as writers and students. This is, perhaps, a motto for all.

Video Game

Spartans Never Die

By JAMES BESSOIR

"Do you think the Master Chief succeeded because he was, at his core, broken?"

Diehard fans of the "Halo" series could argue for hours over philosophical questions like this one posed in "Halo 4's" opening cut-scene. Unlike many other first-person-shooter video games, this popular Xbox series is known for its extensive backstory and unique, fleshed-out universe. The games tell a lot through missions and cinematic cut-scenes, but historically, much of the "Halo" back-story, especially concerning the enigmatic ancient aliens called the Forerunners, has been detailed in the series' several canonical novels. For better or for worse, "Halo 4" has changed this.

A lot can happen in five years, both in the "Halo" Universe and in the real world. After the release of the spin-off "Halo Reach" in 2010, Bungie, the talented independent studio that developed the "Halo" games up to that point, announced that they wouldn't be making any more entries in the series. Since Microsoft owns the "Halo" intellectual property, Bungie passed the baton to 343 Industries, a subsidiary of Microsoft, which was created for the sole purpose of continuing "Halo." Many loy-

al Bungie fans were concerned that 343 Industries might not be able to do justice to the "Halo" name. But, three weeks after "Halo 4's" release, these fears have been thankfully dissolved. "Halo 4" is a winner.

The game's deep, emotional storyline picks up four years after the end of "Halo 3," when Master Chief, a hulking, seven-foot-tall, "Spartan II" super-soldier who is the series' main character, is woken from cryogenic slumber to ward off intruders on his ship. He discovers that he's in orbit of a massive Forerunner "shield world," or artificial planet, and is under siege by the Covenant, a zealous alien coalition that is battling all humankind. Chief's awakening triggers the planet to open, engaging a massive gravity well, which pulls him and the Covenant fleet into its interior.

It is soon revealed that this world, called Requiem, is the home of a strange and hostile group of robots built by the Forerunner known as Prometheans. These robots, along with the familiar soldiers of the Covenant, are the game's antagonists. The story of the Prometheans, and the Forerunner that created them, is the major focus of the story. Unfortunately for some, the writing makes the assumption that players are familiar with some of the more

obscure elements of the canon. Fans of the series will have no problem following the story, but newcomers to "Halo" might want to do a little background research before picking up the controller.

The story contains more personal subplots as well. Cortana, Master Chief's faithful A.I. companion, in service a year longer than she was originally supposed to last, enters a stage called "rampancy." Her personality splits up and she effectively thinks herself to death. In past "Halo" games, Cortana had always been a calm, collected, and, above all, reliable, companion. This couldn't be further from the truth in "Halo 4." She experiences emotional outbursts, personality glitches, and makes poor decisions, often endangering the Chief, whose struggle to take care of his dying friend/robot is the main emotional crux of the game.

The story mode in "Halo 4" is as fun as it is emotionally effective. The introduction of Promethean enemies forces players to adopt a totally different style of combat than for the Covenant. Prometheans also come with an intriguing new set of weapons, ranging from the boltshot pistol to the mighty incineration cannon. "Halo" has always been praised for its jux-

taposition of traditional human weaponry with the bizarre, alien weapons of the Covenant, and the introduction of Promethean weapons adds a welcome third category to the game's arsenal.

The graphics in "Halo 4" are superb. Improved lighting, object textures, and particle effects push the limits of the Xbox 360's hardware, and deliver gorgeous, realistic environments and menacing enemies. The varied environments of Requiem, from snowy mountains to spotless, high-tech, Forerunner buildings, give each level a distinctive look.

It's rare to see sound design praised as one of the best features of a video game, but nowhere is this truer than for "Halo 4." Everything sounds perfect, from the slight flex of the Master Chief's armor as it moves to the resounding crack of a sniper rifle as the bullet goes supersonic. The rousing orchestral soundtrack, composed by Neil Davidge, is also spectacular.

Not surprisingly, "Halo 4" comes with a plethora of exciting multi-player modes, allowing players to test their skills against others all over the world. The multi-player functionality is divided into two sections: War Games, a competitive mode with old favorites such as "Deathmatch" and Capture



the Flag, as well as some new ones; and Spartan Ops, a new cooperative mode. Each week until Monday, January 7, a video episode and five short co-op levels will be released, telling the story of a squad of Spartans on Requiem. The Spartan ops missions are a bit repetitive and the story, so far, is uninspired. But free, weekly content is still a welcome addition.

More than capable of carrying the "Halo" series into the foreseeable future, 343 Industries has proven itself a worthy successor to Bungie. Gamers everywhere can rest assured that the Master Chief is back and better than ever. As any Halo fan will know, "Spartans never die. They're just missing in action."

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laconic	melee	adumbrate	gimlet	droll	ostentatious
misanthrope	obstreporous	ambulate	hibernal	ecclesiastical	profligate
obfuscation	olfactory	apposite	labile	empirical	proscribe
ossify	opprobrium	banderole	maculated	ephemeral	sagacious
probity	panegyric	cant	oleaginous	epilogue	scrupulous
adipose	parsimony	comorant	phenology	equanimity	sophomoric
argot	pedant	rapulent	plenipotentiary	equivocal	specious
chary	peremptory	eleemosynary	stygian	equivocate	spurious
chimera	perfidious	execrable	tyro	esoteric	tacit
churlish	perspicacious	extirpate	viscera	exculpate	unscrupulous
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effulgence	polemical	manumit	galvanism	gregarious	auguries
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encomium	prevaricate	pabulum	holism	iconoclast	callow
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epithet	putative	prolix	arboreal	ingenuous	caustic
excoriate	quisitic	proselyte	Byzantine	ingratiate	comestible
exigent	redoubt	pusillanimous	cacophonous	inscrutable	demur
fecund	remuneration	recondite	celerity	itinerant	demure
fulsome	sedulous	repine	clandestine	jocose	desultory
harbinger	sententious	risible	cogent	juxtapose	dilettante
hedonist	sophistry	sebaceous	cogitate	lampoon	disingenuous
hirsute	sybarite	sentient	cornice	loquacious	dissipation
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Sports

Boys' Swimming

A Tradition of Excellence

By JOEL BLEACHER

The sound of a noisy crowd and deafening thundersticks was a common theme last season at Stuyvesant basketball games. With a winning team that featured size and exciting guard play, the Runnin' Rebels' games were always a thrill for the team's large, supportive fan base.

After going 8-6 in 2011, the Runnin' Rebels improved to win their division

"This season will be much harder because we lost many amazing swimmers, but we still have the talent and work ethic to win it all."
—Brian Chen, senior and co-captain

last year by going 12-4 in the regular season. In the playoffs however, they lost in the first round of the borough championships to Hunter College High School and then were knocked out of the city playoffs in the second round to tenth-seeded Dewitt Clinton. Both losses were by margins of less than 10 points, with

the Rebels losing a very winnable game to Dewitt Clinton in overtime by three points after holding the lead for much of the game. Careless mistakes such as missed free-throws, turnovers, and missed layups plagued the team. "Closing out games is definitely an area for improvement," junior and co-captain Matthew Dalton said. "Lay-ups, free throws, and breaking the press, are the three most important things we need to work on."

In addition to the playoff losses, three of the four regular season losses that the Rebels picked up were also by less than ten points. "I thought we should have been 14-2 last year," coach Philip Fisher said.

Despite the team's weakness in close games last season, Fisher isn't concerned. "We had a good team," Fisher said. "We should have finished better, but I'm not worried about last season."

One problem this team will have to attend to is the fact that eight seniors graduated from this past year. Only one senior, Thomas Cui, is a returning starter from last season. Fisher is considering giving several juniors significant playing time, but has yet to decide on a rotation.

Another problem that the Rebels will have to address is their lack of height. Last season's team had three key players 6'4" or taller, in contrast with a team this season whose tallest player, senior Muki Barkan, is only 6'3". Throughout the pre-season, the team has had trouble scoring in the paint and has relied on the 3-pointer, keeping the ball around the perimeter. Similarly, they've had trouble crashing the boards to secure rebounds. "We'll have to concentrate on boxing out a lot more than we had to last year," Fisher said. "Now we'll have to work a lot harder in rebounding and on defense."

Despite the difficulties that the team needs to overcome this year, the Runnin' Rebels have new talent, and still expect to have a successful season. "I'm extremely confident that our new players will strongly contribute," senior and co-captain Ian Outhwaite said. "In our past few scrimmages they have demonstrated that they are able to come off the bench and immediately step up."

Wrestling

Long Workouts and New Strategy

By TIMOTHY DIEP

For the Spartans, there will be a new man shouting in the corner of the mat this season. After finishing .500 or above in five straight years, coach Richard Murray retired last season, handing the reins to coach Michael Cigala.

Known as easy-going, Murray focused on teaching Japanese-style wrestling. Under his program, Stuyvesant wrestlers utilized techniques such as counters that would use the opponent's own body weight against him. The coach would often hold instructional practices, where the wrestlers would learn how to apply these defensive tactics. However, his coaching style sometimes lacked the aggression that the sport called for. "He was very heavy on technique and was definitely an amazing coach," junior George Liu said. "But he would sometimes take too much time talking and explaining and definitely didn't push us as hard as our new coach."

New coach Cigala brings a new sense of aggression to the team. After leading the Boys and Girls High School wrestling team to an 0-7 record, including five forfeits, last year, he comes to Stuyvesant with a completely different fighting mentality. "This year's coach is a lot more American style, which is a bit more about forcing someone to lose through strength and speed," Liu said.

His wrestlers enjoy the headfirst aggression, and the way they emulate his swagger is noticeable. "This year's coach is a straight-up thug on the mats, and we just plain hurt the guy we're wrestling," senior and co-captain Paul Ma said.

Cigala's focus on using pure strength to overpower the opponent has also led to tough conditioning practices. His wrestlers often stay more than three hours after school to work on both their conditioning and technique. Even though the team requires a larger commitment than in previous seasons, his wrestlers appreciate the hard work. "[Cigala's] practices are tougher but I feel like all the guys walk out of it feeling like men," Liu said. They know that though the sport asks for a lot of dedication, surviving the mat is a tough task and hard work is necessary.

"Even though we're only wrestling for six minutes in a match, those six minutes feel like hell and the conditioning prepares us for it," junior Yaseen Islam

said.

Returning from a 5-2 season last year in which their only losses came against Martin L. King Jr. High School and in a tough match against Baruch College Campus High School, the Spartans look to be in good shape. Though the Spartans graduated ten wrestlers last year, including co-captains Joseph Cheung and Natalie Kuang, the core of the team remains intact, along with an influx of new potential. This year, co-captains Paul Ma and Matthew Moy look forward

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—Yaseen Islam, junior

to competing. When asked about the team's biggest match, Ma confidently said, "I think it's going to be the City Championships. Me and Matthew Moy are both aiming for first place."

Boys' Basketball

Rebels Look to Defend Division Title



Emma McIntosh / The Spectator

Senior and co-captain Ian Outhwaite scores in the Runnin' Rebels' 44-30 scrimmage win over Aviation High School on Monday, November 19.

By DARYL CHIN

The sound of a noisy crowd and deafening thundersticks was a common theme last season at Stuyvesant basketball games. With a winning team

that featured size and exciting guard play, the Runnin' Rebels' games were always a thrill for the team's large, supportive fan base.

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One problem this team will have to address is the fact that eight seniors graduated last June. Only senior Thomas Cui is a returning starter from last season. Fisher is considering giving several juniors significant playing time, but has yet to decide on a rotation.

Another problem that the Rebels will face is their lack of height. Last season's team had

three key players 6'4" or taller, in contrast with the team this season whose tallest player, senior Muki Barkan, is only 6'3". Throughout the pre-season, the team had trouble scoring in the paint and has relied on the 3-pointer, keeping the ball around the perimeter. They also had trouble crashing the boards to secure rebounds. "We'll have to concentrate on boxing out a lot more than we had to last year," Fisher said. "Now we'll have to work a lot harder in rebounding and on defense."

Despite the difficulties that the team needs to overcome this year, the Runnin' Rebels have new talent, and expect to have a successful season. "I'm extremely confident that our new players will strongly contribute," senior and co-captain Ian Outhwaite said. "In our past few scrimmages they have demonstrated that they are able to come off the bench and immediately step up."

Pegleg Football: A Brief History

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infamously as the "Mud Bowl." Due to the playing conditions caused by pouring rain, the game saw Stuyvesant defeat DeWitt Clinton in triple-overtime on a 30-yard field goal. "It was the first time we beat Clinton in about 100 years," Hahn joked.

The Peglegs currently hold practices and home games at Pier 40. Prior to Stuyvesant's move to Battery Park City in 1992, these were held at a field located on the East River Drive, where the team had to deal with all "the homeless people that lived there," former coach Dave Velkas (1983-2005) said. Impressively, the team was moderately successful even with their shoddy facilities, and

even reached the city championships in 1996.

"Come game day like this, is where you really saw the camaraderie."
—Bing Wang ('11)

A significant shift for the team came in 2006, when

the PSAL divisions were rearranged, moving Stuyvesant from the middle division to the lower division. This pitted them against arguably lesser, but fairer competition. While the 2005 Peglegs won only one game, following the change in divisions, the numbers in the win column for the team increased steadily with each season.

In 2009, "[then-coach Brian] Sacks, the head coach our sophomore year and junior year, left Stuy for a school in Long Island," said Aaron Ghittelman ('09). "So after that, [current-coach Mark] Strasser took over." Strasser brought with him a new game plan and it seems to have worked, excluding his first season; the team has posted a winning

record in each year he has coached since then.

While the Peglegs have not always won the most games or been the fiercest competitors, one thing that they have been able to do consistently is enjoy the sport. This can be attributed to the sense of conviviality that members of the program feel with each other. "We spent a lot of time hurting each other in practice, messing around with each other, but at the end of the day, come game day like this, is where you really saw the camaraderie," former player Bing Wang ('11) said.

Wang recalls a game at the end of his senior season, in which the other team played dirty in the first half. "Come the second half, we came out and played some smash-

Boys' Football

Stuyvesant Closes Out Historic Season

continued from page 1

by a Makhmudov touchdown pass was the margin of victory. However, in the rematch where the stakes were much higher, it was Lane that came out with a barrage of scoring in the second half, winning them the championship by a 42-20 score.

The game was among the most significant in the history of Stuyvesant athletics, and about 100 Peglegs supporters, including current students, alumni, parents, and faculty, braved the mid-30 degree temperature at Springfield Gardens High School on Sunday, November 25, to cheer on their team.

While the Peglegs were able to put together three touchdown drives and showed spurts of dominance with their passing attack, the key to Lane's victory was their ability to consistently run the ball through the Peglegs defense and dominate the time of possession.

"On offense, we wanted to run a little more up tempo, but because they were able to control the ball, they kept our offense off the field," Head Coach Mark Strasser said.

Though Lane had a mainly one-dimensional offense that ran the ball on nearly every play from scrimmage, save for a few screen attempts in the first half, they dominated the ground game and exploited Stuyvesant's lack of speed on defense. Lane's running backs were able to break tackles and bounce out toward the sidelines, where the Stuyvesant linebackers often couldn't catch up. The same issue plagued the Peglegs in the semifinal matchup against Alfred E. Smith, when they gave up 188 rushing yards—but were able pull out a victory in that game because they tackled much better, especially in clutch situations.

"Our game plan was to keep everything squeezed in. But there comes a point when they just get to the outside, they break a tackle, and then that's it," senior linebacker and co-captain Jack Haggerty said.

The two teams were kept close in the first half as Stuyvesant was only down 14-7 at halftime. The Peglegs and their supporters were optimistic that

the team could go on a scoring drive after receiving the opening kickoff of the second half. However, Lane executed a surprise onside kick that bounced over the heads of the first line of the Peglegs kick coverage team and was recovered by a Knight.

"The game got a little out of reach after they got the onside kick," Strasser said. "That was the turning point."

From that point, Lane's back-up running back Daniel Duah stole the show. Though he had only 219 total rushing

zone for his fourth touchdown of the quarter, making the score 42-20, the eventual final.

The Peglegs offense did get going in between Duah's scores, but it wasn't enough. On their first possession of the second half, they capitalized on Lane facemask and offsides penalties with big pick-ups through the air. Makhmudov connected with senior wide out and co-captain Nathaniel Biggs for a 17-yard screen play, and on the next snap, he went right back to Biggs. While being pressured, Makhmudov stepped up and threw an 18-yard precision pass to the back corner of the end zone, where Biggs made an over-the-shoulder catch for his second touchdown of the day. That cut the score to 22-13, and later, they added another score on an 8-yard run by sophomore Cooper Weaver.

Makhmudov, who finished the game with 19 completions in 34 attempts with 215 yards passing, two touchdowns, and an interception, was faced with pressure from the Lane defense throughout the game. "This is something that we prepared for because we knew that they were blitzing when we played earlier in the season," he said. "Even though they were blitzing, I still had some time if I moved around. Some of the passes that we had where I had to roll out and the quick throws were the reasons why we had some success."

That success was common for the Peglegs offense throughout their season, and three players were recognized as the regular season league leaders in various offensive statistical categories at halftime of the game. Makhmudov led the Cup Division with 82 completions, 1190 passing yards, and 13 touchdown passes. Biggs led the division with 8 receiving touchdowns. And in one of the most overlooked roles in high school football, where effective place kickers are hard to come by yet can change a team's offensive strategy, senior Gabriel Hurwitz led the division with 3 field goals and a 42.86% field goal percentage, not to mention the 18 extra points he converted.

While every team has to deal

with losing key seniors year after year, the Peglegs will have to move on without the core that led them to an undefeated, 9-0 junior varsity season in 2010 and then to this remarkable playoff run on varsity.

"Our main goal this season was to prove something to not only Stuyvesant, but the whole city," Biggs said. "We're usually not thought of as a sports school, only an academic one. But with this season we proved that we actually have a chance and could put up a fight."

Peglegs Advance to Championship in a Thriller

By GAVIN SCHALL

The Stuyvesant Peglegs made their first playoff appearance in 17 years and they weren't about to let it go to waste. In a rematch of the Peglegs thrilling 30-28 regular season win over Alfred E. Smith, Stuyvesant pulled out yet another close victory over the Warriors, thanks to a 2-point conversion stop in the game's final minute.

Due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy, instead of being a home game for Stuyvesant at Pier 40, the game was played at Memorial Field in Flushing. Despite the lack of a home-field advantage, the Peglegs got off to a quick start by putting together an eight-play drive that ended with a touchdown pass by senior quarterback and co-captain Alen Makhmudov to sophomore Cooper Weaver.

Early in the second quarter, the Warriors were able to take their first lead of the game on a 40-yard touchdown pass by dual threat junior quarterback Malik Ford, whose running ability gave the Peglegs defense trouble the entire game. On Stuyvesant's ensuing drive, after avoiding a near disaster when Makhmudov recovered his own fumble at the one-yard line, Weaver punched the ball in to give Stuyvesant a commanding 15-8 lead. The Peglegs held onto this lead going into halftime after they picked off Ford's desperation attempt right before the half ended.

The second half started with an impressive Peglegs

mouth football because we said, 'This is our last game together, so let's make something of this half. This is, for the most part, the last time most of us are going to play football,'" said Wang. "We really took it to them the second half. It was a bonding experience."

This year's championship loss is just another chapter in the illustrious history of the Stuyvesant Peglegs. The team, which is loaded with junior and underclass talent, shows much promise, and with the right coaching and a little bit of luck, could easily return to the same form that saw the '68 team win the City Championship.

"Our game plan was to keep everything squeezed in. But there comes a point when they just get to the outside, they break a tackle, and then that's it."
—Jack Haggerty, senior linebacker and co-captain

yards in the regular season, he had 12 carries for 193 yards and three touchdowns—on runs of 43, 57, and 31 yards all in the third quarter—in the game that mattered most. And to ice the game, with 51 seconds left in the third, he recovered a fumble from a botched handoff from Makhmudov to Haggerty and ran it 37 yards into the end

drive that stalled in the opponents' territory and ended with a failed fourth down attempt. The Warriors quickly took advantage of the Peglegs mistake by breaking off a 50-yard run and then scoring on a Ford scramble.

After the teams traded defensive stops, Makhmudov led Stuyvesant on a six-play drive culminating in a touchdown pass to Weaver, whose third touchdown of the day gave the Peglegs a 20-14 lead. The Peglegs only needed to make an extra point for a commanding eight-point lead, but a high snap on the conversion attempt forced senior kicker Gabe Hurwitz to throw the ball away rather than kick. However, a roughing the passer penalty gave Stuyvesant a reprieve, and Hurwitz nailed the second attempt.

The Warriors got the ball back with two minutes to score the game-tying touchdown. After a 40-yard kickoff return, they quickly moved the ball down the field against an exhausted Pegleg defense and finished the drive with a six-yard touchdown run by Ford with 50 seconds remaining. Needing the two-point conversion to tie the game, the Warriors gave Ford an option to pass or run on the attempt, but the play was blown up in the backfield by senior linebacker and co-captain Nathaniel Biggs to clinch a 22-20 victory for Stuyvesant.

"When Biggs made that tackle I just knew that our guys really wanted that championship," Makhmudov said. "Everyone just summoned up all the strength they had left and made that play work for our defense."

Both players and coaches appreciated the immensity of the win, considering the Peglegs' lack of success in recent years. "I think we are beyond the foundation of the football program," Head Coach Mark Strasser said. "We are taking the next step."

For a team that was a mere 5-4 last season, making it to the championship game was a remarkable achievement. "I think we are setting a new precedent for Stuyvesant football," Biggs said.

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14:00 – 15:00	Writing(Grammar)
15:00 – 16:00	Essay
16:00 – 16:30	Vocabulary Review / Test
16:30 – 18:00	Review Study / Test

Single Subject Class(Weekday)

TIME	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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18:30 – 18:40		Break Time		Break Time	
18:40 – 20:10		Essay+Writing (Grammar, Comprehension)	Vocabulary at Home	Essay+Writing (Grammar, Comprehension)	

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Sports

Cross Country

A Disappointing End

By SAMUEL FUCHS

After a disappointing second-place finish behind the Bronx Science Wolverines in the Public School Athletics League (PSAL) City Championships last year, the Stuyvesant Greyclubs were projected to win this year's championship. However, the Greyclubs came up short at this year's City Championships on Saturday, November 10, and took second place for the second year in a row, this time to the Curtis Warriors.

It was a bittersweet 5000-meter race for Stuyvesant. Senior Jack Stevenson placed first with a time of 16:13.39, and the next Stuyvesant runner, sophomore Eric Chen, placed sixth with a time of 16:55.58. Though the individual times of all the Stuyvesant runners were impressive, their team score still put them behind the Warriors.

"We are the only school to have a complete team under seventeen minutes in this century," coach Mark Mendes said.

Despite the individual achievement, the Greyclubs were dissatisfied with their performance. "It was a huge frustration and disappointment, especially

teammates and I were all very upset after failing to meet our goals."

"I honestly did not think that we performed to our full potential," Chen said. "If we truly ran our best times, we could have won [the City Championships]." Chen is one of the seventeen

"I think if we truly ran our best times we could have won cities."
—Eric Chen, sophomore.

"It is a huge frustration and disappointment, especially since it has now happened two years in a row."
—Jeremy Karson, junior.

since it has now happened two years in a row," said junior Jeremy Karson, who finished with in 23rd with a time of 17:43.17. "My

Girls' Bowling

Pinheads Fall Short to New Dorp Again

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junior Stephanie Truong with 119 and 138 pins, senior Carrie Hu with 129 and 135, and McCarthy with scores of 140 and a high game of 188.

Although this loss against New Dorp eliminated the Pinheads from the playoffs, they did not consider their performance disappointing. The fact that the C match was needed showed that the Pinheads were able to match New Dorp's talent, and "the loss by only 70 pins showed that this match could have gone either way," McCarthy said.

"My goal every year is to make the playoffs. Since all my girls bowled above their averages in the playoffs, we met our goal and exceeded expectations," coach Peter Bologna said.

Now that the season is over, the Pinheads are expected to work on their game during the offseason and spend their time learning how to hook, become more consistent, and pick up their spares. As for the future, McCarthy said, "[juniors] Stephanie Truong, Cindy Chan and Lisa Li are the ones to look out for."

How To Be A Real New Yorker

By MICHAEL SHELDON

"Giants or Jets?" It's the age-old question for New York City football fans that defines friends and foes, forms unlikely alliances, and weakens otherwise strong bonds. It's oh-so-rare that you get a "none of the above" response.

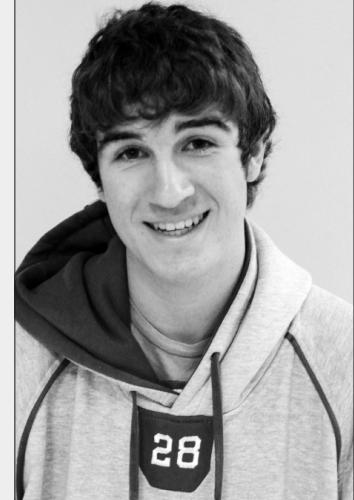
Being a Buffalo Bills fan in the city has been a bit of an isolating experience. Following the Bills through an NFL season full of games that are usually not televised and quite often lost has been a long and lonely road. Yet it seems to me that this is the obvious team for any real New Yorker to root for. Here's why you should be a Bills fan:

1) The Buffalo Bills are the only true New York football team. The Giants and Jets both play in New Jersey. And while the Bills are certainly not directly connected to the city (it's about a seven-hour drive to Buffalo), at least they don't betray their home state as directly as the Giants and Jets do by outsourcing their games to what any true New Yorker knows is the worst state ever.

2) The Bills are the ultimate underdogs. The Bills haven't won a playoff game since 1995. They consistently post losing records and, shadowed by the skill of the Patriots and the media hype surrounding the Jets, they are unlikely to move upwards in their division for at least the next few years. The Bills give you ultimate moral vindication when you support them: there's nothing fair-weather about you. It may be a little frustrating to sit through all of those losses, but that ties into my third point.

3) The Bills give you lots to complain about. With their infuriatingly turnover-prone offense and a dismal defense complete with phenomenally lackluster free-agent busts Mario Williams and Shawne Merriman, the Bills' roster reads like a list of conversation topics. And we all know that we, as sports fans, love to complain about our favorite teams.

4) You get to root against Tim Tebow. For all you Jets fans who were upset about the Tebow pickup, the Bills provide a perfect conversion opportunity.



Carolyn Kang / The Spectator

5) The Bills are exciting to watch. Head Coach Chan Gailey's baffling play-calling and Buffalo's love of fumbling tend to put their games into breathtaking, last-minute situations. The action falls only a little short of making up for the Bills' tendency to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

So there you have it. The Bills are more fun to root for, and they give you devoted-fan bragging rights by default, so start rooting for the Bills now, before it becomes cool.

Girls' Volleyball

Vixens Fail to Dethrone Cardozo

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team," Kozlova said. "We gave them a few runs, and we gave up a lot of points by stepping over the lines on a serve, but we had our energy up the whole time."

The Vixens will face the third-seeded Cardozo Lady Judges in the quarterfinals. "We need to work on playing more like a team," Baltazar said. "We've lost to Cardozo twice, but they were close games and we know what we need to do to beat them."

Vixens' Season Ends in Quarterfinals

BY MATTHEW MOY

The sixth-seeded Vixens traveled to the far edges of Queens to face the third-seeded Lady Judges in the PSAL Girls' Volleyball Division A Quarterfinals on Thursday, November 15. The two-time defending champion Lady Judges had a small crowd of about 20 students, but their energy level was high.

A service error and out by the Lady Judges gave the Vixens a quick 2-0 lead. The Lady Judges came back with a vengeance, led by ferocious kills from freshman Alexis Hamilton. "In order to block her, since she hits from all different sides, we switched our outside and middle for some of the rotations to get the taller people in front of her. We made a lot of changes for this game because we had nothing to lose anyway, so it might give us a chance to compete," senior and captain Natalie Kozlova said.

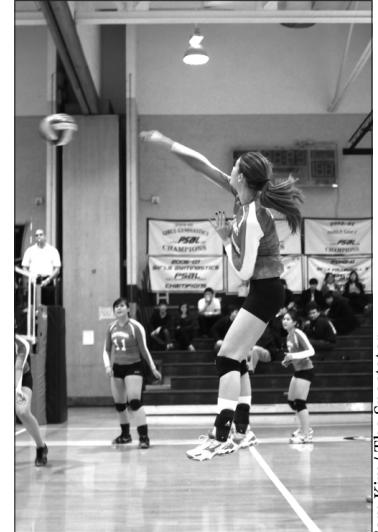
The Vixens responded with a few kills of their own from Kozlova and senior Anna Wang. The two teams were briefly tied at 3-3, but the Lady Judges slowly pulled away with their relentless spike attempts. The Lady Judges showed impressive

shot-selection, being able to score at the net and around the court. At one point, the Cardozo coach noticed that the Vixens were positioned too closely to the net, and he shouted "back row." The Lady Judges followed through for a 22-13 lead. Eventually, they won the set 25-15.

The Vixens took some chances and adopted a different strategy in an attempt to upset the third seed. "It was to serve to specific people, to make them move in ways they're not used to moving, set up Natalie [Kozlova] to hit from everywhere she needs to hit from, back row and front row, and to move our best blockers in front of their best hitters," coach Joshua Yang said. "We did that in part, but Cardozo just matched everything we did. [They won] by attrition. Every rotation they had something they could do."

The Vixens blocked several spikes early in the second set, to jump out to a 7-4 lead. Several errors and kills led the teams to a tie at 8-8. The Lady Judges went ahead 9-8 on an ace, and never looked back from that point. On the ensuing play, there was a long rally but the Lady Judges came out with the point off of a beautiful dig. Yang called a time-out and spoke sternly to his team, telling them to "finish the play." The Vixens scored their last point of the season when the Lady Judges hit the ball into the net, but they still were behind 13-22. The second and final set went to the Lady Judges 25-13, after the Vixens hit the ball into the net.

This season, the Vixens extended their regular season undefeated streak to 14 straight years, going 9-0 in Yang's first year coaching at Stuyvesant. They fell in the playoffs only one round earlier than last season. Attendance at their home playoff game was higher than ever. The duo of seniors Kozlova



Senior and captain Natalie Kozlova spikes in the Vixens' 25-15, 25-13 loss to Benjamin N. Cardozo that eliminated them from the playoffs.

and Wang finished in the top 25 in the PSAL in kills and assists, respectively. "Our whole season has been very rocky because we had a new coach. He changed people's positions, and not everyone was happy with the change. There were ups and downs, like when Diane [Forrest] quit and Anna [Wang] had to change from outside hitter to setter. I give so many props to her for doing that because that's what really brought us to the next level," Kozlova said.

The Vixens will be losing the height and leadership of Kozlova, Wang, and senior Marta Poplawski next season. "Next year the expectations are going to be a lot lower. This is Mr. Fisher's program finishing with these girls. I'm starting brand new, and whenever things start brand new it's difficult," Yang said. "We have a good core of people to work with, with good character. Programs are built on character, not on talent. I think we're going to have a good season next year, but everyone has to practice, play, and get better before it happens."

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

STUY WINS TWO FALL CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Girls' Swimming

Penguins Win Fifth Consecutive Title

By AARON COPPA

After the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy, the girls' swimming playoffs were shortened into two separate meets to decide the champions. The first meet, called Opens, in which Stuyvesant finished first, was a competition to find the four strongest schools through time trials. The championship meet was a four-way competition between Hunter College, Stuyvesant, Francis Lewis, and Brooklyn Technical. The playoff was run in two separate heats: Stuyvesant versus Hunter and Francis Lewis versus Brooklyn Tech. The times were recorded and compared against those of other schools.

In first matchup, the Penguins had 81 points compared to Hunter's 13, a complete blow out. The times of the previous swim for Stuyvesant were then compared to the times of Francis Lewis, with the Penguins winning 57-37, and clinching another city championship.

On their swim to victory, the Penguins secured first in every one of the relay events, each worth more points than an individual race. Each of their top times not only beat out Hunter's best times, but also Francis Lewis's best. Considering the Penguins beat Francis Lewis by only 20 points, the results of the championship could very well have been different without the first place finishes in those events.

Relay teams, however, have been a powerhouse for the Penguins this season. At Opens, two of their three teams clinched for States, a competition beyond the scope of the PSAL. On the other hand, the third relay team didn't win at Opens, which was why first-year coach Anna Markova

made a key decision to reformulate the relay teams, leading to the victory in not just two, but all three relays.

The Penguins had already defeated both Hunter and Brooklyn Tech in previous meets. However, they had yet to compete against Francis Lewis, which was the big unknown for the Penguins. "We were a bit nervous not swimming against Lewis," senior and co-captain Olivia Balderes said. "We didn't know exactly what to expect from the Lewis swimmers." Since there was only one swim for the whole championship, even though the Penguins' times counted for two head-to-head matchups, the Penguins had to swim blind to their competition.

As reigning champions, the Penguins felt immense pressure to perform this year, but they had to overcome several obstacles. Without Stuyvesant pool, practices were less frequent, harder to organize, and often at inconvenient times. "We've had to adjust a lot of the workouts we had at Stuyvesant and focused on brute strength," senior and co-captain Phylicia Rodriguez-Chiu said.

Furthermore, Hurricane Sandy struck and took away even more precious practice time. "We had a lot to deal with this season, with the new pool, the many canceled meets, and missed practice due to the hurricane, but we came through it strong," senior and co-captain Fiona Woods said.

After a season of struggles, the Penguins were happy with a decisive victory. For the first time, coach Markova was dunked into pool in celebration, joining a tradition the Penguins share with their coach, in celebration for their title as triumphant city champions.

Girls' Volleyball

Vixens Fail to Dethrone Cardozo

Vixens Move Into Elite Eight

By KEVIN MOY

The crowd in the third floor gym fell silent as senior and captain Natalie Kozlova served match point for the Stuyvesant girls' volleyball team, the Vixens. The team, along with a huge crowd, watched the ball fall to the floor on the opposite side. Cue the applause.

With this win over the Seward Park Campus Bears on Tuesday, November 13, the Vixens advanced to the quarterfinals. The competitive first set finished with the Vixens inching out the Bears, 26-24. Neither team could break ahead, staying within five points of each other throughout the set. The team stayed competitive due to stellar plays from Kozlova and fellow seniors Anna Wang and Marta Poplawski. Wang finished the game with 17 assists, and Poplawski recorded three aces and three kills. Kozlova led the team with five aces and

eight kills, saving the team with 12 digs.

The Vixens squandered a 24-21 lead and the game was tied at 24. However, Coach Joshua Yang's confidence in the team never wavered. "The kind of word that comes to my mind is grit," Yang said. "Seward Park took the lead in the beginning, but we did a great job staying together as a team and performing under pressure. Nobody decided to be their own player." The Vixens managed to hold on to win the first set.

The second set featured a more dominant team. The Vixens jumped to a quick 13-5 lead and never looked back. Junior Abigail Baltazar recorded a pair of kills, and sophomore and libero Julia Gokberg finished with two aces and five digs. The final score was 25-13, and ended the Bears' playoff aspirations.

"I'm really proud of the

continued on page 27

Boys' Fencing

Untouchables Back on Top

By RAYYAN JOKHAI

The Stuyvesant boys' fencing team was crowned City Champions on Sunday, November 18, dethroning Hunter, who won last year's playoffs. The Untouchables maintained a perfect record of 4-0 throughout the regular season, which was cut short by five games due to Hurricane Sandy. Despite the shortened season, the team was able to tie for first place in their division and move on to the playoffs.

Heading into the post-season, the team felt quite confident. "When people asked me about how I thought we would stand in the playoffs, I always told them, 'We have to win. There's no other option,'" senior Sasson Rafailov said.

The fencing playoffs are broken up into two weapons categories: foil and épée. In round one, the Untouchables' foil team faced off against Frederick Douglas Academy, beating them 45-15, while their épée team beat Beacon--in the second round, the foil team beat Brooklyn Tech 45-33 while the épée team defeated Townsend Harris. In the third round, both teams faced and beat Hunter College High School by fewer than 10 points. This épée game was sealed when junior Josef Omar, who had lost in his second match of the game, won his final bout, pulling through for the Untouchables.

The last round of playoffs had split results. The foil team defeated Beacon 45-42, while



The Untouchables finished first in foil and second in épée to capture the overall title at Townsend Harris High School on Sunday, November 18.

Courtesy of Namechul Shin

the épée team was defeated by McKee/Staten Island Tech. However, because Stuyvesant's first- and second-place finishes, in foil and épée respectively, were higher than any other team's results, the Untouchables won the City Championship.

"As far as playoffs go, I could not be happier with our performance. Going in, we were hoping to win the championship just by placing in both weapons. We did more than I ever thought we could," Rafailov said.

Throughout the season, Omar stood out, winning all nine of his matches and collecting a total of 47 touches. In addition, senior foil fencer and co-captain Adam Schorin won

all three of his regular-season matches and went 10-2 during the playoffs, collecting 61 post-season touches. Junior foil fencer Philip Shin won all nine of his regular season matches with a total of 50 touches, as well as 10 of his 11 post season matches, collecting 61 touches in the playoffs.

Due to the team's hard work and dedication, they brought home a championship banner, in the hopes that this success will carry into next year. "Something I noticed about this season that I'd like to see in next year's team is drive. Through the inclement weather and the inconveniences, our team's drive to fence and our determination to win never wavered," Wan said.

Girls' Bowling

Pinheads Fall Short to New Dorp Again

Pinheads Decisively Beat Hillcrest in Two Matches

By LUKE MORALES

The Stuyvesant Pinheads showed incredible dominance in the first round of the playoffs over the Hillcrest Lady Hawks by winning both A and B matches and leaving no need for a third C match in their first playoff game on Wednesday, November 14.

The Pinheads had the 15th seed in the playoff bracket compared to Hillcrest's 18th seed and should have played this match at Chelsea Piers, their home lanes. However due to Hurricane Sandy, Chelsea Piers was in no condition to host a playoff game, and the team was forced to play in the Lady Hawks' home lanes at Frames Bowling Lounge.

"We've never bowled well [at Frames Bowling Lounge] over this past season," coach Peter Bologna said. "But I tried to stress to my girls that we can do anything about the lanes, all we can do is try our best."

However, even with the more arduous circumstances, the Pinheads showed their skill by decisively winning the

A match 525-320, picking up a few spares and strikes in the last frame by seniors Carrie Hu and captain Audrey McCarthy respectively.

The B match was not nearly as decisive—the Pinheads won 390-327, a narrow 63 point margin compared to 205 in match A. It was a back and forth battle throughout the entire match. The fatal blow occurred in the last frame when junior Cindy Chan picked up a spare, winning her another bowl with which she threw 8 pin shot.

"Since we're separated in A and B, we lacked team spirit because we weren't able to talk to each other," junior Stephanie Truong said. "But we've been pretty good and we did a pretty good job overall."

With their next game fast approaching against New Dorp High School—the second seed in the PSAL playoff bracket—the team had just under a week to prepare for this challenge and work on key strategies and skills that can propel them further into the postseason.

"We really need to work on picking up our spares and making sure that we don't stress out just because we threw a bad shot," McCarthy said. "We just

have to go in with confidence."

Second-Seeded New Dorp Squeaks Past Stuyvesant

By ANNIQUE WONG

After the Pinheads won their first round playoff match against Hillcrest, the players were excited, but apprehensive going into their second playoff match against New Dorp, who they lost to in the quarterfinals of the 2011 season.

The match was played on Tuesday, November 20, and "was expected to be an uphill battle," senior and captain Audrey McCarthy said. New Dorp was carried in the regular season by sophomore Ashley Martinez, who had the highest average in the city.

New Dorp took the A match, 624-514, and then Stuyvesant won the B match, 489-431, which forced a third game to be played.

New Dorp won the final C match, 673-606, edging Stuyvesant for a spot in the quarterfinals. Standout bowlers in this match were junior Priya Aggarwal with 133 and 145 pins,

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