

## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

## Fabulous Frost

by Anya Kodija Doorga



Courtesy of Anya Doorga

quest for snow. Jamie, your average city kid, notices shorter days and longer nights but is eager for the long awaited snowfall. He journeys to the imaginary arctic land known as Wintuk.

Jamie's quest is infused with music of foreign languages and exotic beats. He is accompanied by a unique cast of companions: a female Shaman, who is homeless and has an entourage of dogs; the Young Girl, a ballerina whose shadow dances around him through out the entire show; and Wimpy, a man who lives in a garbage can because he is afraid of his shadow. The performance as a whole is completely intense and satisfies the senses of our A.D.D. generation. Vibrant costumes, singing lampposts, trampo-

lines, and skate boarders take action simultaneously on an ice-blue platform. No piece of the stage is empty or still: *Wintuk* is full of action.

Dazzling acts overflow from this show: contortionists, cyclists, stilt-walkers, and ballerinas explode in movement in front of your naked eyes. It's an event for the entire family or for the perfect date. The plot is somewhat obscure, and it is probably best to read the plot on the website before actually going to the show. However, the unique performances compensate for any confusion. What other show in New York has a rainbow-haired dog lady, skateboarders, and ice monsters?

*Wintuk* is showing at the WaMu Theatre in Madison Square Garden until Jan. 4, 2009. Get your tickets while they last!



Photo Courtesy of Anya Doorga

## The Facebook Generation

by Stephanie Tardieu

It's safe to say that the college experience today has come a long way from that of our parents and even older siblings. The college experience has often been regarded as "the best four years of your life," the place where you go to expand your mind and boundaries through Academia; the place where great ideas are born and the sky is the limit as to the potential you can achieve. You may have been preached old adages from your parents encouraging *carpe diem* and enforcing that knowledge (and education) is power; but in today's quick-paced society, the reality is that college has lost much of this idealistic appeal to students. Instead, college has become synonymous to all-nighters, Adderall, spring break, and Facebook.

It's no surprise that in today's Y-generation of quick-fixes over delayed gratification, students prefer quick and easy solutions to, well, everything. Even the face of keeping in touch with friends has drastically changed in college. Way back when (oh, four years ago), students used to keep address books, email addresses and even practiced the archaic ritual of sending hand written letters to keep in touch with their social circle. Well, all that will soon be extinct with the online social-network explosion of Facebook.

With social circles evolving into social-mega-networks, college students are only a click away from all their closest friends (whether 40 or all 500 of them), their personal information, contact information, and virtually all other details they could possibly desire. Facebook seems to have revolutionized college socializing at an astonishing rate and has even become a rite of passage to freshman college students dying to join the club. According to ComScore, an internet marketing Research Company, some 62 million people around the world surf the website for an average of 20 minutes per day, making Facebook the 7<sup>th</sup> most visited website in the world (trailing powerhouses such as Yahoo, Google, and YouTube). But amidst all the hype surrounding Facebook, little has been done to question the short and long term effects of spending so much time in a virtual world of uninhibited communication filled with limitless personal information about the people in your community and more importantly, yourself.

To gain insight into exactly what the effects of Facebook were on my life, I decided to do some investigating and cut myself off completely from the network by deleting my account. This of course, I learned, was not possible (thanks Mr. Zuckerberg), so I did the next best thing; I

anytime you want. At first, like any break-up, I felt relieved and liberated from my previous relationship. For the first day, I was actually able to sit at my computer and work quite productively. I checked my emails, finished a seven page history paper, and even got a head start on reading some English Lit. The next day, however, was not so easy. As I struggled through my Bio lab report, I found myself increasingly preoccupied with needless questions: Did that cute guy from Saturday poke me back yet? Did Anna post those pictures from last weekend's party? Like any addict, I tried to stay focused, but the harder I tried, the more I felt the need to just take a one little peek. So I reactivated my account, put an end to my curiosity, took some application quizzes, then deactivated, again. This process repeated itself painfully for a week or so before I decided to just throw in the towel and reactivate my account for good.

Short of being addictive, another effect I noticed from my short break-up with Facebook is that a good number of my friends seemed distressed and confused by my absence from the site. Many of them wondered if I had 'unfriended' them from my page or if anything was wrong. I reassured them that we were still friends and that I was simply taking a break from the site, an idea that seemed to confuse them even more. This sense of confusion, I found out, is not isolated to my case alone. When I asked Yonavel Capellan, a 4<sup>th</sup> year CCNY student psychology major, who happens to not use Facebook, what the general responses are to her M.I.A. status from the website, she shared: "People always ask if I have Facebook and they tend to react weirdly and surprised when I tell them I don't use it. I think it's because so many people have one [account]. I've lost contact with some friends and sometimes people I've just met because I don't use the website."

Although my leave of absence opened my eyes to the addictive potential Facebook has, it also left me with more questions. What makes Facebook so fascinating and potentially addictive to college students? And if Facebook has been powerful enough to change how we make new friends and the way we qualify those friendships, what are the greater long-term effects of Facebook on our mental health, the college experience, and our future? The college experience being quite broad, I settled to find out if and how Facebook affects students' social lives and academic records.

On the site's "About" page, Facebook describes itself as being: "A social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them; a place to keep

of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet." According to Helen Birtwhistle, press officer for the Institute of Ideas, the average Facebook user has roughly 150 friends. Suffice it to say, college students are taking in a lot more stimuli than just the information from their textbooks. But what are the consequences of the mind being over stimulated by random information about so many persons' lives on a daily basis?

In an informal survey of various colleges across the nation and abroad, 100 students were polled on the effect of Facebook on their social lives, and in particular whether using Facebook had facilitated social interactions with their fellow peers within the college community.

62 percent admitted that Facebook has been the source of some negative drama in their social lives. Anecdotally, many students reported that the spreading of rumors often started with Facebook. Lauren Mitchell, a 4<sup>th</sup> year student from U. of Rhode Island, related that suggestive photos and wall posts led to a break up with her boyfriend of four years: "Facebook has brought unwanted drama into my life and was one of the main reasons my ex-boyfriend and I, of four years, broke up. These websites make cheating a reality and an unwanted reminder [of what you don't want to know]."

39 percent of students felt that the overwhelming use of Facebook by college students could potentially perpetuate some peer pressure. Clothilde Breillout, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at Concordia University, said "Facebook is great to keep in touch with friends. But it can definitely promote peer pressure depending on your state of mind (especially if you're feeling lonely). Facebook can make you think the grass is greener elsewhere. You start to think people are having more fun, and partying more than you. It feels like a lot of people use it to show how popular they are; who really has 700 friends right? But I think that's why so many people spend so much time on Facebook; to see who has 'the best life', 'the most fun'... I think that Facebook goes with the trend of our generation's constant need to socialize."

Among the respondents, a reported 67 percent felt that Facebook was addictive, checking the site anywhere from five to 20 times a day. One student, who wished to remain anonymous, claims to have spent 10 hours on the site in one day.

Ironically the same 67 percent felt that they probably would not be able to go through college without the website, despite some of its effects. Clothilde explained: "We live in a time where networking is so important. It [networking] is essential to success in so many careers, and Facebook really facilitates networking with people. It's always good to keep



## Beavers Digging Out of Hole Before Groundhog

by Jesus Perez

If you're a sports fan, you might say your team had a bad season if: 1) the team doesn't make the playoffs or 2) the team finished with a record under .500. If you're the City College Beavers baseball team, the term 'bad season', doesn't quite cut it. "It was a bad situation," said David Yorke, the team's coach. The 2008 season ended bitterly for the Beavers as they finished with a 3-31 record, the worst record in CUNY Division Three baseball.

For every end, there is a beginning and for these Beavers, it wasn't so bright. For the first half of the year, the team was without a coach. The coach from the previous season left and the team was surrounded with speculations of there not being a 2008 season. "Last year it all kind of went downhill from the get-go. We didn't have a coach for the beginning of the year and when we finally got a coach, we had no time to prepare for the actual season," said Pavel Cruz, co-captain and starting third baseman for this year's team.

David Yorke took over as manager just five weeks before the season began. Within this time span, he had to assemble a team, hold practice to scout who brings what to the table, and put nine guys out there who he thought could give them a chance to win. "It was a bad situation. No team concept; guys were pulled from here and there," said coach

Yorke. A tough situation indeed, and it showed in how the Beavers played throughout the season.

The Beavers finished with an overall E.R.A (earned run average) of 10.92, allowing close to 11 runs a game. The pitching was not



helped by the defensive players as the Beavers committed 99 defensive errors, which was second among the CUNY conference, just behind Lehman College. "The team never really gelled too much the whole year. We were expecting it to click at some point and it really never did," said Pavel Cruz.

On top of the struggles faced by the Bea-

vers last season was "the heart and soul of the team" leaving, according to Pavel Cruz. He was proclaimed to be "arguably, one of the best players in the nation," stated by coach Yorke. The Beavers lost Richard Gomez, last year's team captain and leading hitter, as he graduates this upcoming semester. Gomez led the team with a .505 batting average, 8 homeruns and 31 runs batted in. This type of hitting production is tough to replace. "You can never replace a guy like that. You can just fill in and try and move on," said coach Yorke. Last season, Richard Gomez won every CUNYAC player award there is - CUNYAC Weekly Honors, CUNYAC Player of the Week, CUNYAC Player of the Year, and was also named starting third baseman in Division Three All-American Team. Richard Gomez claims that "one player doesn't make the team and this year, they look a lot better".

Coming into this year, the table has been set with Coach David Yorke picking up a few early Christmas presents during the off-season. Due to the lack of skill in pitching and defense, coach Yorke recruited a couple of players to add to the mix. He brought in ten pitchers to add depth to a depleted rotation, and defensive help to key positions such as catcher, middle-infielder and outfielder.

As far as team chemistry goes, something that really wounded the team last year is a

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### Facebook Generation

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that kind of contact, even with people who may not be your greatest friends, because they can still give you a hand and open opportunities in the future."

Phillip Hodson, a fellow of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), stated "Building a Facebook profile is one way that individuals can identify themselves, making them feel important and accepted, but this can lead to disappointment once people realize how insignificant their online existence really is. Not only are online friends not necessarily real friends, they can turn out to be people you don't wish to know at all."

Carolyn Axtell, a senior researcher at the Institute of Work Psychology and Management School at Sheffield University in northern England, concurred: "There are a limited set of cues available on sites like this," Axtell explained. "You don't get the subtleties of voice tone, facial expressions or body language you usually have when interacting with others, and that can make interpreting the meaning of messages difficult. You can write something flippantly (jokingly), which others take seriously, or come across as aggressive when that's not your intention at all." She added, "I can see how relationships can be damaged as a result, and when that happens, people will want to leave (the website) to put things right."

On the same informal survey, students were also polled on the effect of Facebook with regards to academic performance. 57 percent of students admitted to Facebook being either a big distraction or a tool of procrastination when studying or doing homework. Currently, Facebook has over 6700 students who are members of over 60 groups about excessive Facebook usage lowering their GPAs. The group "Facebook is lowering my G.P.A." states: "This group is for those of us who spend time on Facebook instead of doing homework or studying. I'm sure grades would be a whole lot better if not for the invention of the addicting and information overload on the Facebook website." Another group, "Facebook has lowered my GPA," claims: "[This group is] for all of you who have found yourselves blowing off schoolwork and other responsibilities too due to the obscene amount of time you spend on Facebook." Although unaffected academically by the website, Jake Molko, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Nebraska Wesleyan, felt: "I do believe Facebook has the potential to affect academic performances because of the amount of time some users spend on the site. I do know certain people that check their Facebook every single chance they get, and spend extensive amounts of time browsing through Facebook pages, perhaps hours at a time!"

Thus, it is undisputed that Facebook is a powerful tool to promote social networking and in facilitating contact with friends. The college experience is deeply seeded in the community a student builds for him or herself and with the help of Facebook; those bonds may never be "unfriended." But the fact remains that with its ever growing popularity, Facebook does raise certain questions about its addictive potential. Furthermore, how this affects students' social lives and academic performances remain a big question mark. However, since Facebook is fairly new to the scope of college life, one cannot draw any valid conclusion as

to its effect on those parameters, yet. So, it would behoove those of us who use the website regularly (or a little more) to login with caution and moderation, since the verdict is not out on the Zuckerberg empire. Clearly Facebook is changing the way we view friendships, how we shape our communities and quite possibly our mental frame of mind, which could have great social ramifications on our future. Just make sure the next time you login, you consider how it is affecting you and yours.

-Cheers!

### Win the Phone featured in Usher's Music Video!

In celebration of Usher's One Night Stand: Ladies Only 2008 tour, The Campus in conjunction with Sony Ericsson is giving one lucky CCNY student a new Sony Ericsson W350.

The Sony Ericsson W350 has an innovative matchbook flip design, Walkman music player with easy track control, and applications for imaging and gaming. It is the phone Usher uses in his "Love in This Club" music video.

#### HOW TO ENTER:

Stop by The Campus office at NAC 1/119 and tell them you want to win Usher's phone.

Talk to an available staff member in the office and answer the following questions:

What is Usher's full name?

What is the name of his latest album?

You will receive a raffle ticket for your chance to win!

A random drawing of all eligible entries will be held on December 18, 2008 at 5 PM. Winner will be contacted by phone and/or email.

#### Extras:

No email or phone entries will be accepted. Entrants must come to The Campus office (NAC 1/119) between the normal office hours of 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

Contest will start November 18, 2008 at 9 AM and end December 18, 2008 at 5 PM.

Only open for current CCNY undergraduate and graduate students.

One entry per person. Multiple entries will be discarded. Members of the Campus are not allowed to participate.

Questions and comments can be directed to [conycampus@gmail.com](mailto:conycampus@gmail.com), subject: Phone Contest