



The Defecator

The Stuyvesant High School Heresy

"The
Movement
of The
Student
Body"

Volume XXX No. 69

The Day After April Fools Day, 2001

Dedicated to David Dobson, The Maker of Snood

Freshmen Bamboozle Administrators With E-Day Festivities

By THE RACING LIBERAL
REYFMAN

The administration was horrified by the wide scale participation of many freshman in what was nicknamed "E-Day" on Friday, March 23.

"Yeah, we dropped a couple pills before first period and then we were raving all through Dr. Runcie's double period bio class," said Freshman, Isaac Bottlewhites concerning the popularly dubbed "Freshman Ecstasy Day." He then proceeded to stroke his sweater and say, "Wow...this shirt is really soft. Feel it, isn't it softer than any shirt you've ever felt?"

Described by many freshmen as a response to Senior



Photoshop

Principal Stanley Teitel *popping up* from behind the giant bottle of Viagra that he confiscated from freshmen on E-Day.

Students Found Engaging in Strange Activities on Nearby Pier

By PAUL THE BY-LINE HOG

Five students were discovered on Pier Twenty-Five by Stuyvesant on Monday, March 26 not smoking marijuana. The five offenders, whose names have not been released were having a picnic. Said one, "we just wanted to get some fresh air. The pier is really pretty so we figured that it would be a good place to have lunch." As of yet, no punishment has been named.

On the afternoon of the 26th, two police officers were driving by when they noticed the group of students on the pier. One of the officers, Lieutenant Carl Wendt said, "we wanted to see what the kids were doing, and if it was something sufficiently wholesome, we would have joined in. When we noticed them not smoking dope, we decided to haul them in."

"This is unprecedented," explained Principal Stanley Teitel. "We've never caught kids on the pier not smoking

up. We just don't know what to do." Senior Herbert Gelt, a regular pier-goer expressed his disgust, "It's disgraceful. What kind of sick kids would sit on that secluded pier in front of the beautiful view and not smoke a bowl or two [of marijuana]."

The administration is trying to draft a plan of action that would prevent further such occurrences. Said Teitel, "we were thinking of putting up a 'no not-smoking' sign, but we couldn't figure out what that would look like. A 'no smoking' sign has a circle with a red line through it. But if you just put another red line through that, it still looks like 'no smoking'." In order to tackle the problem a special committee of regular attendees of the pier was created. One of the selected students, Anita Jaye clarified, "the committee will meet weekly at the pier and work to make sure that nobody is ever caught there without at least a nick[le bag] on them again."

By EVAN LO SLOW

Sophomore Tim Wilkinson, a director for Soph-Frosh SING!, attacked a pit bull last Wednesday during rehearsal. The sophomores and freshmen were rehearsing the scene in which the pit bull sings when Wilkinson accused him of singing off pitch. Shnookums, the pit bull, responded by threatening to retire to his trailer, when Wilkinson leaped for his throat.

The rest of the Soph-Frosh directors were visibly shaken by the incident. Chorus director Ivana Butts said this was a tragedy, but that Shnookums was injured doing what he loved. "I've known him since the first grade, and he's always talked about fulfilling his dream of being in an off-broadway show about war veterans from Vietnam who must stop a group of singing pit bulls on the moon from kidnapping the governor of Arizona. Soph-Frosh SING! is helping him fulfill that dream."

After the attack, Shnookums was rushed to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital where doctors operated on him for seven hours. Dr. Adam Tutpin, the surgeon who operated on him, said that he is making excellent progress in the ICU. "We had to amputate his left foot and

Drunk Day, Freshman Ecstasy Day turned tragic when Freshman Class President, Sophia Mokotoff realized that she had been sold four bunk pills for thirty dollars each. "Mike [Litwak] and I each took one and we didn't feel anything. We downed the other two, but then, when my headache disappeared, I realized that the pills were probably aspirins."

Sources have confirmed that the two freshman caucus members were, in fact, sold aspirin. This was not the only case of deception that occurred on Elective Day. One freshman, Franz Kepkin, was caught distributing pills that were actually Viagra. Said Kepkin, "Mr. Teitel caught me

and took the pills, even after I told him they were just Viagra. He also asked me what the recommended dosage was." This case reflected the general attitude of the administration towards E-Day. Deans and assistant principals school wide confiscated the pills of any freshman participating in the festivities. Assistant Principal of Student Services, Eugene Blaufarb explained, "we felt that the best way to tackle the problem was to confiscate the contraband, sell it off to third world countries and use the profits for the 'Student Welfare Fund.'" AP of Organization, Steven Satin, was spotted wearing a mink coat and skin-tight pink leather pants.

Soph-Frosh SING! Director Mauls Pit Bull



Shnookums was very sow-wee for what he did.

right ear. Then we realized that we had some leftover anesthetic, so we gave him a nose job and a tummy tuck. When Shnookums woke up, he complained of a headache and some leg pain, but also noticed that he looked ten years younger and had much higher self-esteem. He should be able to go home in about a week."

Witnesses say Shnookums was starring as one of the singing pit bulls on the moon, was attached to a leash that was tied to one of the plat-

forms built by Soph-Frosh's tech crew. When under Shnookums' provocation, Tim attacked the dog, he was unable to escape because he was tied down. An attempt was made to ask Soph-Frosh's Tech Director why the dog was attached so tightly, but it was discovered that Soph-Frosh has no Tech Director.

Shnookums was unable to be interviewed because he was being operated upon once again, this time undergoing breast augmentation surgery.

Elective Day is Valuable, Or It Might Not Be

So we heard about this thing called Elective Day. Apparently we didn't get let out at twelve thirty on Friday just to go get high at the pier and give shotties to our dog...whoops. That sure was fun though...Instead, we were supposed to stick around and check out different electives. Oh, wait, we're graduating. I guess we were supposed to go smoke after all. Anyway, you underclassmen should have been there. We just wanted you to know that while you were listening to Mr. Abramsky describe AP Government, we were eating lots of chicken and biscuits at Popeyes....mmmm, those things are damn good.

Mmm... we clearly weren't around that afternoon, but we heard it didn't go so well and not too many underclassmen showed up. We believe this to be true. We thought we saw some sophomores playing hand games in the park, but it may have been elementary school kids. It was really all kinda a blur.

On another note, teachers have complained that E-Day takes up too much of their time, when they could be preparing detailed lesson plans, or chatting with their colleagues by the discount priced soda machines they have in the teacher's cafeteria. That's not fair, by the way. Why should we have to pay a freaking dollar when damn teachers get to save 25 cents. So, yeah. The Defacator strongly feels that E-Day should be eliminated because of the inconvenience to teachers. Oh wait, no. Pier, pot. Never mind, we take it back.

Kids have been saying that it would be helpful to talk to other students about classes. Interesting Idea. We completely support this. Except we should still get out early...that part's cool. Yeah, kids should have talked to us, we could have used the company.

E-Day forever. Amen.

Strange, But True

One of the following stories is not true... But which one?

1. Fleas Discovered in SU Lounge

Earlier last week a family of fleas moved into the SU lounge inhabiting the blue canvas couch. While the couch has become a vermin hotspot, the three other couches in the lounge have become successively more popular among humans. Several seniors have tried to launch a counter-offensive against the blood sucking vermin by inviting underclassmen to chill in the lounge (specifically the blue couch area) in hopes that the fleas will evacuate to better real estate (the library).

2. Soph-Frosh SING! Breaks Cafeteria Door

The door to the Teacher's Cafeteria was broken by Soph-Frosh SING! during an after-school rehearsal two weeks ago. Sources say the door was busted open when Soph-Frosh members tried to move the piano out of the cafeteria to the elevator. During a emergency meeting on Friday two directors of Soph-Frosh were "voted off the island." So much for Survivor. When members of other SING!s heard about the incident, they laughed hysterically, until they realized it was true.

3. The Student Union Does Something

That's right... No joke... They did something.

4. Seniors Celebrate Shakespeare Drama Day

There was much reveling on the Ides of March, when the seniors celebrated the first annual Shakespeare Drama Day. Students recited their favorite quotes from Shakespeare while sharing colorful libations. The Student Lounge was transformed into the Globe Theater as members of the senior class reenacted age-old scenes from such great plays as Hamlet and MacBeth all while dancing to modern rap artists like DMX. A great time was had by all.

Bling Bling

*wrong? Yeah... wrong
A:#3 is sadly right... or*

The Defecator

The Stuyvesant High School Heresy



"The Movement
Of the Student
Body"

HAS BEEN'S
Mike "Wonton Soup" Kwon
Ana The Madame

OLDS
Eugene "I like big butts and
cannot lie" Oh Oh Oh
John "Lee"

TRENDS AND STUFF
Dave the Speedo Model
Christina Breaks My Shin

THE LING AND LIZZIE SHOW

Ling and Lizzie

SPORTS AND STUFF

Robin Krotchka

Damn Lee

SOFT PORN

Paul "Logic Boy" Reyfman

Evan LeSeau

FART

Asinine Shapiro

SNOOD SNORTERS

Emily Manneater

LAY ME OUT

Dimitri "It's Called Puberty"

Keselman

Kim Chee Julie

WORDS AND GRAMMATIZING

Robyn Shut Up You're Mean

EMBEZZLEMENT TEAM

James Liu Lia Liay

Jingy Lingy

Steve "The Establishment"

Blau, the second

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARVES

Carlo "Heigh-Ho" Yuvienco

SKINNY LITTLE GUY WHO SITS IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM, YELLING AT US FOR HAVING SIDE CONVERSATIONS, WHILE CONTEMPLATING FEATURES IDEAS

Douglas Goetsch

the diary of a mad cow

The beginning of the end has come around. College responses are coming in, SING! is rapidly approaching, prom dates are a topic of conversation, and before we know it graduation will be just around the corner. And I find myself, appropriately, becoming increasingly nostalgic as I struggle to accept the fact that my glorious career at Stuyvesant must, like all truly good things, come to an end.

It is difficult to think about closure without going back to where it all started. And alas, I ponder the friendships that I made my first days here at Stuy, and how proudly I have maintained each and every one. Ah, I remember how overwhelmed I was at freshman orientation by the unfamiliar faces in my homeroom - how silly that seems now that I know them all so well!

When I look through our yearbook, it will be so nice to

be able to match a personality with each and every face, and I am so thankful for the terrific sense of community that the Stuyvesant has nurtured, despite it's somewhat large size. Never will I forget those afternoons cheering in the crowded stands at sports games and pep rallies, those evenings spent dancing the night away with the rest of the school in the first floor lobby on special occasions, or all of those wonderful musical performances I have attended in the past four years. What good memories! But of course, what I will remember most about Stuyvesant will be how much I have learned in my classes. It has been so refreshing going to a school where the emphasis is placed on knowledge rather than grades. I can only hope that in college I am encouraged to compete not with others but with myself in the way that I have learned to here. And I am of course thankful for the resistance to any kind of cheating that has been instilled in me by my peers and teachers.

I can only hope, but can not expect, that my college experience will be equally exciting, both academically and socially!

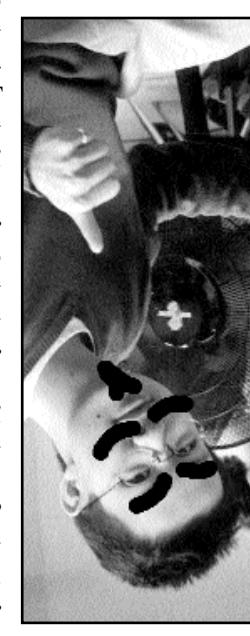
-Elizabeth Rosalind Tannen

Ask Ling About Yo' Momma

Send questions to askmomma@hotmail.com

HELP Ling! I feel like I'm having extraordinary troubles in my endeavors as...well, no specifics. My staff and ME have so many agendas that we'd like to accomplish. I DON'T think its really that we haven't tried because we have. We feel we have the KNOW HOW to really excel. But TO DO MY JOB is really hard because I have a tendency to step outside and play my drums with the potheads. What can I do? Presidening is really hard! I think I'm messing up the school.

-MK



listened to, like uhh, you KNOW people are just staring at me when I speak, and they uhh...think to themselves, "HOW can you speak like that, with such a dry mouth." TO me, that is quite appalling. But nonetheless, it DOes annoy me, and it prevents me from doing MY JOB, which is an uhhh...important one. Help, uhhh, yeah.

-ST

HELP Ling! After going to college I just don't have the sex appeal that I used to. People don't worship the ground I walk on and won't kiss my butt anymore. Every night I dream of the days that I was the all powerful president. But it always turns into a nightmare, when I think of my successor. Oh man...

-DG

Gentlemen,
It's Hopeless.

HELP Ling! There comes a time in a man's career; and uhh...the time has uhh come where I feel that the school is lacking something. Uhh...I don't see a ME in uhh us, do you know what I mean. DON'T you ever get the uhh feeling like you're not being



The Spectator

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*"The pulse
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Volume XCI No. 13

April 2, 2001

To The Stuyvesant Community

City Students React to School Shootings

By SUSIE POPPIK

During the week of Sunday March 4, 2001, the same week in which 15 year old Charles Andrew Williams of Santana High School in California murdered two of his classmates with a .22-caliber pistol, sophomore David Pagano brought a gun into the halls of Stuyvesant High School.

The gun had a dark handle, a wide trigger, a five-inch cylindrical pump and a serrated shaft. It was also green, orange and purple, and made of plastic and foam.

Pagano says he brought his Nerf gun in to use for a history demonstration about the Russian Revolution. According to both Pagano and Principal Stanley Teitel, a security guard stopped Pagano and his friends in the hallway as they were playing with the gun that day. The guard went away and came back with Teitel, who confiscated it. Later that day, Pagano met Teitel in his office to discuss what had happened.

"He told me that they're cracking down on anything that looks like a weapon," says Pagano. "He didn't even want to see the dart loaded in. When I said that it didn't exactly look like a real gun, he said that it didn't matter, it was still considered a weapon and I wasn't supposed to have it in school."

Teitel then, according to Pagano, gave the Nerf gun back with a warning that if he saw it again, he would impose a five-day suspension.

"After the security guard saw the boy, the regular police officer for our school was called," says Teitel. "She wanted to see the gun. If a gun looks realistic, given what happened at Columbine and now Santana [High School], our present policy is required to be zero tolerance."

The recent school shooting at Santana High in a San Diego suburb has prompted school officials across the city to be especially apprehensive of signs of school violence. A gun threat in Cardozo High School resulted in locked

By LAURA KRUG

Hundreds of students stayed home and building security was expanded after a message which threatened violence for March 27 was discovered on a desk in room 335.

Assistant Principal of Organization Steve Satin said that the message had first been reported the previous Thursday by a staff member. "The principal immediately called the superintendent's office and the police department," Satin said. "They came in, they looked at it on Friday. However, the desks are movable; there's no way to tell who sits there. It's also used by SING! after school."

Principal Stanley Teitel would not comment on the content of the message. But according to junior John Fu, who saw the writing before it was erased by police, "There was a list of racial groups. It wasn't just 'Asians,' it was 'chinks'; they were slurs. In the middle of the desk, in black, it said 'March 27,' and then it mentioned a shooting and Columbine. Underneath all that there were comments written to the [writer of the threat], asking who it was, etc. I didn't know why people didn't report it right away, instead of just writing notes."

Teitel would not say whether any progress had been made in identifying the writer of the threat.

According to both Satin



A lone cop on the bridge. The threat kept many students home on March 27.

Emily Firetig/The Spectator

and Teitel, the superintendent "strongly suggested" that Teitel go on the public announcement system and convey the presence of the threat to the student body. "I faxed the message [he planned to read] to the superintendent's office to make sure that it was the right kind of tone: serious, but not panicky," Teitel said. He added that the announcement was vague about the content of the message and the planned precautions because he wanted to avoid panic.

The announcement,

continued on page 9

Chancellor Responds to Student's Petition

By ROBIN KACHKA

The New York State Board of Regents responded to junior Lida Shao's petition against the scheduling of tests on the Chinese New Year by promising that such a conflict will not arise for the next three years.

On February 22, Carl T. Hayden, Chancellor of the

Board of Regents, responded to the petition, which was written by Shao. Hayden's letter addressed the fact that another scheduling conflict with the lunar New Year will not occur until 2004, and that the State Board of Regents is presently investigating how to address the conflict that year. "I appreciate the tone and spirit of both the letter and the petition," he wrote.

Shao's was not the only complaint that reached Hayden's mailbox. Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, who represents the 62nd district on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, also sent Hayden a letter. "I am especially saddened for the many students who found it difficult to participate in family traditions that have been celebrated in Asian cultures for thousands of years," he wrote to Hayden. Hayden carbon-copied his response to Shao's petition to Silver as well.

"I think that for its original purpose [my petition] was successful," Shao said, regarding Hayden's response. "It's good that they realized there was a problem and actually responded and didn't ignore it."

Senior Drunk Day

By BETTY LUAN

Second-term seniors took part in the annual tradition of "Senior Drunk Day" on March 15, according to Student Union President Matt Kelly, by bringing alcoholic beverages to school.

"The day before is Pie Day, March 14, so everyone brought in pies," said Kelly. "[The seniors] thought that since March 15 is the Ides of March, it would be funny to be Shakespeare Drama Day – which was really Senior Drunk Day."

Principal Stanley Teitel, Assistant Principal of

Organization Steven Satin, and Dean William Clemons checked on the Student Union Suite toward the end of the school day, according to senior Andrew Green. Green added, "You could smell the alcohol when you came into the SU. They mixed the liquor with stuff and brought it to class and made it look like something normal. It could just pass for water." According to senior Lillian Crowe, between one-third and one-half of the senior class participated in the day's drinking.

"When I asked them to show me their program cards that they're free, or get mov-

ing, the place cleared pretty quickly," said Teitel. He contradicted Crowe's observation by saying that "I believe that the majority of our senior students does not have anything to do with this stuff."

According to Satin, no special precautions were taken by the administration. "Clearly, it wasn't as widespread as they think it was," said Satin, "I didn't find out until the day of [March 15]." He added, "I closed the SU at the end of 8th period because Mr. Mazzetti was not here. Adult supervision was in there earlier so I let it go. The

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continued on page 9

Editorials and Opinions

Editing E-Day

Elective Day made its annual appearance in Stuyvesant on Friday, March 23. Each instructional period was reduced to 20-minutes to accommodate the event, which ran from one to three o'clock in the afternoon. Broken up into four half-hour sessions, it gave the students only enough time to visit a limited number (four) of classes. While the affair had the admirable intent of providing more information about electives, faults in its implementation mitigated any possible benefits.

Many students and faculty do not like E-Day, for a number of reasons. The modular system limits students. With an almost college-like selection of courses, it seems reasonable that most students would have a significant interest in more than four, the maximum sessions one could fit in. Some students felt it necessary to ignore the bells that marked the beginnings and ends of sessions to seek out as many teachers as they could. Moreover, the 20-minute periods that E-Day brings are virtually useless in the classroom. However, a bigger issue is that E-Day requires that a teacher explain what his or her class is about, and it portrays the teacher more as a salesperson than an educator. English teacher Katherine Fletcher said, "As a teacher it does not feel appropriate to be in a position of selling a course." There seems to be a simple solution.

English teacher Judith Hawk suggests, "it really should be student-to-student. It would be wonderful to have students talking to other students, honestly, about the pros and cons of the class." This is the first step to improving E-Day. Seniors (who would not be looking into new electives) and ARISTA members would be perfect candidates to talk about classes they have taken in the past. This offers students a peer's viewpoint, which may be more helpful than the perspective of the person who is teaching the class. The teachers should still be involved, for there are questions that only the teachers can answer. With a few students representing each course, the restrictive sessions could be eliminated. Students would visit courses as they please, and there would always be someone available to answer their questions. Students wouldn't feel obliged to stay for a full half-hour in any one class. Instead, they could just leave and visit another classroom.

A final renovation would eliminate the need for 20-minute periods: why not hold E-Day on an E-Day? With a short Monday schedule, students would be able to spend time after school looking into their courses without affecting the normal school day. With these few changes, Elective Day would be more advantageous to all of Stuyvesant's students.

3's a Crowd of Freshmen

By DANNY NASSRE

Loud banging noises and lengthy strings of colorful invectives during homeroom concisely characterized my plight. My nemesis had returned, its appearance on a program card more dreaded than the name of any horrid former teacher, causing more grief than any unselected but assigned elective—that glaring digit "3" appeared before me, as if it were some minuscule, demonic imp dancing around a campfire, dirty blond voodoo doll in hand.

This was the third consecutive term that the Program Office gave this fiend free reign over my schedule, and the results would be easily predictable. The lunch period, however much of a misnomer that may be for something that begins at 10:20, is an irritation routinely bestowed on hundereds of Stuyvesant gastrointestinal systems every semester, few of which seem very enthused. "Every day by seventh period my stomach would growl like a starved alley Chihuahua," said junior Daniel Suh, one of the many afflicted. Another, junior Toshiro Sugihara, commented sarcastically on the meager options offered by the period: "I love not being able to go into restaurants because they're closed."

Anyone with hopes of patronizing Mao Mao is luckless in this, the earliest of lunch periods, as the one Chinese restaurant in the area which serves mostly identifiable meat doesn't open until 11:00 AM each day. Those with a taste for inauthentic Mexican cuisine will find Burritoville's doors closed as well, and may resort to limboing under the half opened storefront gate of Fresco Tortillas, only to be turned around half the time by a shrill cry from the darkness

behind the counter—"Noooooo Opeennnnn!" Even the lowly McDonald's grasps the concept that deftly eludes our administrators, offering selections exclusively from their breakfast menu until 11:00 AM.

Though eliminating third period lunch may seem a wise action, Stuyvesant's large population renders it an impossible one. Even assuming that the majority of students go out for lunch, the number of students in the cafeteria each period will surpass its maximum occupancy if "3" is wiped off the list. Inevitably, only one remedy remains—the period should be reserved for a specific group of students, whose special digestive habits make them ideally suited to eating lunch at half past ten. Since no group of sufficient size of that type exists, however, one will find the freshman class an adequate substitute. Those in their first year at Stuyvesant are generally more timid and insecure than the rest; a good, hearty lunch first thing in the morning should serve to strengthen their resolve to further their social and academic interests as well as their stomachs.

For those who doubt the validity of the above argument, simply consider that fact that Stuyvesant is in dire need of a rite of passage. With such a hostile stance taken by the administration towards pranks that are a common novelty in other schools, a more subtle means of initiation must be employed. While it lacks the entertaining spectacle of students hung upside-down by their waistbands in regular intervals across the Tribeca bridge, scheduling early digestion for Stuyvesant's young blood will certainly help a great deal in bolstering the often despondent ranks of upperclassmen desperately in search of ways to assert their seniority.

CORRECTIONS

- In the article "Stuy Holds Advocacy Day" in the March 19 issue, Norman Seigal's name was misspelled, as was Jane Chernomorskaya's.
- In the same article Adam Smith was named as the President of the Young Republicans Club. There is, in fact, no official Stuyvesant Young Republicans Club. There is a Stuyvesant Teenage Republicans Club of which Matthew Baer is president.

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



"The pulse of the student body"

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Opinions and Letters

Classroom Visits Are Welcomed

To the Editor:

In the last issue of *The Spectator* (March 19, 2001) Matt Baer condemns the visit of representatives of the Experiment in International Living to language classes. While I share his opinion that no business should be allowed to target student audiences within the building for their products, I need to clarify some issues that seem to have escaped him.

Most importantly, the Experiment is not a business but a non-profit organization promoting the exchange of people and ideas among different countries. Mr. Baer must also have noticed that it is not only the Experiment, but also AFS and Youth for Understanding who have been visiting Stuyvesant and promoting their programs. All three organizations are reputable and have been around for over 50 years, and none of them is a commercial promoter of student travel; in fact, they are regularly called upon to organize gov-

ernment-sponsored programs such as the Congress-Bundestag exchange. Over the years, many Stuyvesant students have participated in these programs and have come back with incredible experiences. Naming "a few of our friends who've gone on trips in the past" may in fact be the best reference any organization can offer.

Stuyvesant High School itself does not, and cannot, sponsor the types of programs available through the exchange organizations. Giving information about a representative sampling of summer programs is, in my opinion, a service to the Stuyvesant community and a genuine extension of the classroom experience. Even Mr. Baer, who does "not doubt the value of what these companies are promoting," cannot possibly confuse an educational exchange with Clearasil.

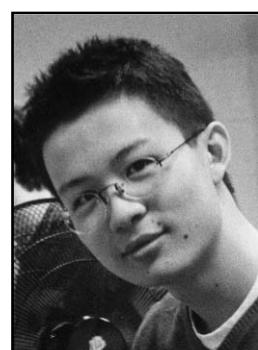
Dr. Rolf M. Schwägermann
Assistant Principal of the
Foreign Language Department

Ask Ling About Anything

Send questions to askling@hotmail.com

*Dear Ling,
How do I ask someone
to the senior prom?
-various individuals*

First, throw "7 Ways to Ask a Date for the Prom" from the Prom Guide into the trash. If you use the "Hip-Hop Head" or the "Intellectual, Buppie" approach, be prepared for strange looks and no date. Honestly, do you expect a line like, "Check it, know whud-m-sayin', you're like the phattest senior in our class, know-whud-um-say-ing" to work?



While some people go overboard with the prom, you have to remember that it's the kind of thing that grandparents reminisce about when they sit around drinking tea. You should go with a date or with a friend, but you should definitely go. If you're a senior, it's even more special because it's a night to spend with your friends. Everyone gets dressed up and looks nice, and you'll regret it if you don't go. Girls have fun picking out a beautiful dress and guys argue over the best limo. Besides, at last year's senior prom someone went naked... Do you really want to miss something like that?

*Dear Ling,
Who's your daddy?
Will G.*

*Dear Will,
Senior SING! Bling Bling!!*

*Hey Ling:
Why do people make*

Math and Science Should Stay at Stuy

To the Editor:

After the U.S. received poor results on the Third International Math and Science Study a few years ago, there was a discussion about the low level of math and science in the U.S. Professor Dudley R. Herschbach of Harvard University (Noble Prize in Chemistry) stated an opinion similar to that of Matt Wasserman. He claimed that teaching students more than the four basic mathematical operations is not necessary for most occupations. It is cheaper for American industries to import mathematicians from other countries. Mr. Herschbach represents the New Calculus Project, which wants to lower the level of mathematics taught in the U.S.

Knowing the value of Pi to 4 decimal places might not be valuable in the year 2001. However, learning technology is extremely difficult without an understanding of math and science. Perhaps Wasserman thinks that using technology and understanding technology are the same. People can operate user-friendly technology without finishing high school. All you need is to be able to read a manual.

Marcin Mejran
Class of 2003

Empty Threats

By JEFF DELAUTER

All high school students appreciate a witty, well-timed practical joke. But the threat of violence recently discovered scrawled on a classroom desk was childish and unacceptable. Accounts of the threat vary from a warning of a Stuyvesant repeat of the Columbine school shooting to racial threats aimed at a certain ethnic group. Although the administration did not disclose the threat, some Stuy students have obviously been shaken.

Across the country rumors and threats of violence have been spread in internet chat rooms, classrooms, and hallways.

Administrators have responded by punishing what are seemingly idle threats with suspension and expulsion.

Currently there is a "zero tolerance" policy against anything considered a threat. It is difficult to see whether our schools are taking the incidents seriously enough, or whether they are taking them

too seriously, thereby reinforcing the notion among immature attention-craved students that this is the way to get it.

Judging from the 462 absences on March 27, many Stuy students seem to have taken the threat seriously. It would be a great misfortune for Stuyvesant to fall victim to paranoia. I hope that one juvenile attempt at hi-jinx will not incite a security crackdown of metal detectors and

random locker searches. It is the duty of the administration to be diligent, but with more discretion than alarm.

It is the responsibility of any student who knows the identity of the perpetrator to inform the

administration. If this was indeed an earnest vow of harmful intentions, this student needs psychological help. If it was merely a prank, the culprit deserves to be punished for creating extra anxiety in our school. This penalty will dissuade other copycats.

Senior Drama Day





Emily Fircog / The Spectator

Jeremy Schwartz, President of the Stuy Robotics Team.

Robotics Team Places Second at Competition

By THOMAS KUNJAPPU

The Stuyvesant Robotics Team, originally seeded as 27th out of 35 teams, came in second at the 2001 F.I.R.S.T. regional competition, on Saturday, March 17 at Columbia University. The next stop for the team is Orlando, where it will compete in the F.I.R.S.T. nationals.

The competition focused on forming camaraderie between people interested in engineering and aimed to motivate aspiring engineers with an interest in robotics to show their skill. The event brought people together for three days in a row. On Thursday the 15th, the teams gathered for some practice rounds on the arena. Friday started with qualification rounds and led to a party that night which featured a live band. Senior and team president Jeremy Schwartz said, "For a bunch of nerds, it was one hell of a party." On Saturday, the qualification rounds were completed and the finals began.

Members of the Stuy team were very visible on the competition floor in their silver jump suits, which had "694" printed on them, representing their competing robot, Robot 694. Stuy cheerleaders, faculty advisor James Ng, and a few team mentors who are Stuy alumni were also present.

For the last part of the competition, the team's alliance, made up of 4 teams, chose Stuy to do something they had never done before:

use their robot to balance two goals, or plastic cylinders, on the bridge, which is an apparatus like a see-saw. This took place in a carpeted arena in which the robots moved

around as dictated by their drivers. Schwartz successfully completed the task, which a crowd of approximately 3000 watched.

This brought Stuyvesant and its alliance into a tie-breaker to decide first place.

"For a bunch of nerds, it was one hell of a party."
—Robotics Team President Jeremy Schwartz

As sophomore and team treasurer Brendan Moore said, "Though the opposing team did manage to barely win on their last attempt, it was a blast and a great day for Stuyvesant."

The Stuy team is sending 14 members to the F.I.R.S.T. Nationals, which will be held in Orlando from April 5 to April 7, to compete against 327 other teams. Soon after that competition, the team plans to raise funds for next year's competition. They plan to do this by letting anyone from the public drive Robot 694 in the Stuyvesant Theater for a small fee. In addition, the team has invited the team from McKee High School in Staten Island to visit Stuyvesant with their robot Wilma for some friendly competition.

"People on sports teams get to go to big competitions but engineers don't get to do it so much," said Schwartz. "That is why for people like us it was a big deal. It was our time to shine."

By SAMANTHA SILVERBERG

Using the laws of geometry and maybe a splash of physics, one can deduce that the shortest path from Chambers Street to the TriBeCa Bridge is along the inside of the staircase. However, each morning, drowsy students choose the less strenuous, but often more time consuming option of taking the elevator, located at the North-East corner of Chambers and West Streets, for reasons ranging from laziness to logic.

Parents with strollers and children from nearby PS/IS 89 can all be seen using the hydraulic elevators at both ends of the TriBeCa Bridge. However, some of the lifts' most frequent and reliable riders are Stuyvesant students.

Junior Marina Voloshina takes the elevator "Because I'm lazy. Maybe it's because we spend all our energy on schoolwork, so we'll grab any opportunity for laziness that we can find."

Freshman Justine Murphy has a different perspective, "I think people at Stuy have grown accustomed to using the escalators and maybe it makes them a little lazier."

Others blame the stairs



Students with clearly working legs use the elevators.

Dan Boyar / The Spectator

for their frequent use of the elevator. "In the morning, when I have coffee in my hand, it's pretty hard to take the stairs," says junior Dana Haffner.

Senior Marietta McEvilly considers it to be an ill-conceived architectural design. "The stairs are unusually shallow, which makes for a lot of steps, and the curvature of the staircase might have something to do with it."

The TriBeCa Bridge elevators are intended to provide

handicap access to the bridge. However, for some Stuyvesant students, the 38 steps leading up to the bridge's 214 foot span may be too much to handle.

"That flight of stairs is the worst. Early in the morning, it's just horrible," says McEvilly.

Biology teacher Steven Farbstein has no elaborate theory pertaining to the elevator. He simply says, "It's easy."

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'E' for Extraneous

By LINDSEY GURIN

Elective day proceeded last week without the struggle for existence it endured the year before. However, students and teachers still disagree about its format and effectiveness.

E-Day allows students to visit information sessions about the classes they are considering. Often, students can also meet and speak with the teachers of these courses. But some teachers say that the process makes them "sell" their classes to students, an action they feel is demeaning. Still other students say the day's time schedule is constraining, and prevents them from observing as many classes as they wish.

"E-Day has evolved into where the teacher is put into the position of having to sell their course, and I think that's demeaning," says English teacher Judith Hawk. "I spent an afternoon being a salesman."

Elective Day, more commonly known as E-Day, is a relatively recent phe-

nomenon. First developed by former Stuyvesant principal Jinx Cozzi Perullo as a way for students to find out about the electives being offered to them, it almost disappeared after the administration canceled the date last year.

The administration claimed there were too many shortened days, and many staff members felt that [E-Day] wasn't productive," says Coordinator of Student Affairs Frank Mazzetti. "[Former Student Union President] David Gringer spoke with Mr. Teitel and argued strenuously to keep E-Day. Students petitioned for it. They wanted it, so it was reinstalled."

However, the complaints raised by the administration have not disappeared.

"We have twenty-minute periods," says Farbstein, "so there goes Friday."

Both students and faculty say they experienced a cumbersome schedule.

"Since there were only four modules, there wasn't enough time to go to all the electives I wanted to find out

about," says junior Smita Ghosh. "The modules didn't have to be twenty minutes long, they could have been ten minutes or so."

"We've been getting pairs and triples [of students]," says math teacher Paul Fitzgerald. "If they all came together, we might have thirty people. The guy [in module one] finishes talking about his class, so [students] wander over here, and then we feel compelled to address their concerns when there's only one or two people."

Despite such problems both teachers and students have found the day to be a success, in certain respects.

Physics teacher Robert Price says, "If a student has a question, I can respond to that question specifically. E-Day allows me to be one-on-one with students."

"I didn't think it was a good idea last year," says junior Alex Berke. "But this year I went and I changed my mind. I ended up not taking a certain class, and I've been really happy with my classes this year."

Golf Club Becomes a Team

By LINDSEY GURIN

Stuyvesant's Golf Club has gained recognition as an official Public School Athletic League (PSAL) team after a hard-fought battle for that status, according to Martha Singer, Assistant Principal of Physical Education.

"I'm thrilled that [PSAL] finally approved it," said Singer. "PSAL did not approve many teams across the city, but they approved our golf team."

Senior Will Prabhu, who is team captain, began working to create a golf club three years ago, but the club solidified last year when Prabhu teamed up with his current co-captain, senior Oliver Horovitz. Both captains' par-

ents volunteered to help by spreading information, finding a coach, and driving club members to practices and matches. Coach Brad Badgley called coaches from schools with official golf teams and arranged scrimmage or exhibition matches.

Finally, after months of petitioning, the Stuyvesant Golf Club was given official PSAL team status in mid-March.

"It's really a difference," Badgley said of the new team status. "Besides recognition, we also get money for transportation, and our schedule is done for us."

Because PSAL teams operate under more stringent rules than do school clubs, there have also been some

drawbacks to obtaining team status.

"Teams are held more responsible for paperwork, such as medical forms and permission slips," said Badgley.

In addition, because students are allowed to play on only one team per season, team status for the golf team restricts some students from playing other sports. As members of a golf club, students were able to both play on a team and play golf.

Matches begin at the end of April, and will occur in the Bronx on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Practices will occur on Mondays at Chelsea Piers. The Golf Team is coed and has approximately 25 members.

SPACE CASE by Andrew Newman



Senior Drunk Day

continued from page 3

students were very cooperative and there were no arguments. They packed their stuff and left." As far as students actually drinking, Satin said "I didn't see anything...[and] didn't catch anybody...we are not out to punish everyone for the actions of a few."

According to Kelly, "You can just say Shakespeare Drama Day in the halls, and everyone would understand." He did voice a concern, however: "One of the biggest problems in our school is that the administration is both unwilling to admit it and unwilling to do anything about it."

Mathematics Department Chair Danny Jaye suggested making the staff more aware of what goes on, and also noted the difficulty in identifying the participants. "It's very hard to prevent some-

thing like that [with anything] other than very intrusive searches," said Jaye, "which will really subject people who are entirely innocent to perhaps humiliating searches."

"You could just say 'Shakespeare Drama Day' in the halls, and everyone would understand."

-SU President Matt Kelly

According to Teitel, if any student had been caught with alcohol, his or her parents and all prospective colleges would have been notified.

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New SSR Writers Feel Well Prepared

By ALICE WONG

During third period Annie Thoms arrives at one of the little offices that she shares in the guidance room with Spanish teacher Dr. Patrick Niglio. She is here to start reading five page biographies and to plan the interviews she will have with each of the juniors she is in charge of. She is an secondary school report writer, responsible for showing colleges a complete portrait of the applicant, beyond the transcript.

A recent addition to Stuyvesant as a teacher, as well as to the job of SSR writer, Thoms is one of the four new writers that juniors can will meet with to discuss their college futures.

Of the six current writers, only two have held the responsibility for more than one year. SSR writers are required to teach only three classes as opposed to the usual five. However a high "dropout" rate results because of a workload of approximately 125 reports per writer, leaving juniors with new though often enthusiastic and prepared biographers, selected by the administration for skills related to the work.

Thoms, a Stuyvesant graduate and former student of Niglio, says she was asked to be an SSR writer by Blaufarb because she writes a great deal

and writes well. Maurer says he was asked by Dr. Steven Shapiro, head of the English department to take the position. Epstein explains that the job was suggested to him by Jennifer Suri, head of the Social Studies Department.

All of the new SSR writers are new to the school. Robert Sandler, who previously taught at Bronx Science High School, has taught at Stuyvesant for

"It seemed like a nice tradeoff to talk to kids one on one for two periods and then teaching three classes."

**—English Teacher
Charles Maurer**

two years now. Thoms, who was a student teacher last year, is now a full time teacher for sophomore and senior English classes. Epstein arrived at the school this year, and Maurer has been teaching at Stuyvesant for two years as well.

Just because they are new to the school, the writers do not feel unqualified as SSR writers. Sandler says the job

only involves being a good writer and the ability to communicate with the students. Thoms explains that the procedure is not unlike the writing of college recommendations, which most teachers have gone through.

To further prepare themselves, the selected writers are encouraged to read different styles of SSRs from previous years in order to understand what should go into a report. The veteran writers also offer advice to the novice writers.

Maurer says, "Dr. Niglio told me about how he conducted the interviews... and was also helpful about how to schedule the appointments." Niglio, who has been an SSR writer for three years, has also conducted interviews with the writers, putting them in the students' place. He also advised them of pitfalls that Stuyvesant students fall into, such as the fact that, "everything should be black and white."

Niglio and English teacher Dr. Pamela Sheldon remain as the veteran writers. Former SSR writers include English teacher Amy Katz, who has taken a semester's leave and English teacher Eric Grossman, who had decided to devote more time on the Great Books course he has started.

There are different reasons as to why these teachers

decided to become SSR writers. "It seemed like a nice trade-off to talk to kids one on one for two periods and then teaching three classes," says Maurer. "As an English teacher, you have to do a lot of grading. It's nice to have a little break from that."

Sandler applied for the job because he wanted to get to know the students, explaining that "the kids are amazing." Epstein had still another reason of being an SSR writer.

"I really enjoy being with these students. I wanted to stay in the school. Seniority takes precedence [here]. You never know who the Board of Ed. is going to send. In other words, they only have to find three classes for me. If they have to find five, the chances of staying here are less."

All the SSR writers agree that the entire process is a lot of work, but that they don't mind for now. "It's great to write for a person that you've taught," says Maurer. "I think it's been a positive experience." Some of the writers are going to see how things work out for a year. After the year-long commitment, a writer can then opt for another few years.

Niglio says, "The best part of it is that you have a tremendous communication with the students. It really gives you a great feeling that, 'well, you know what, I wrote out a

knockout essay for this kid, and if he didn't get in, it's because the college admissions officers are out of their mind, because I really sold this kid as a superstar.'

Stuy History Teacher to Explore Asia for Free—Again

By AMIT FRIEDLANDER

History teacher Brad Badgley will venture to Korea this summer to participate in a three-week cultural exchange with other guests from the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand.

Badgley's upcoming trip to Korea, like his recent one to Japan, is free and sponsored by the Fullbright Memorial Fund. Badgley said that on his Japan trip he had "never been treated so well as a teacher." He stayed at a five-star hotel, visited schools and met with top officials to exchange ideas about education.

Badgley said all teachers should take advantage of opportunities like these.

SPECTATOR ONLINE

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The deadline for Arista Applications has been extended to Thursday March 17.

SLT meeting - 3:15 p.m. in room 615A

Stuyvesant Mimbas (Girls' Varsity Soccer) vs. Maspeth (Boys' Varsity Soccer) Thursday, March 15 4:00 P.M. at Midwood High School (1250 Avenue K, Brooklyn)

"Musical Showcase" - 7:30 p.m. in room 615A

Applications for the 2001-2002 school year are due on Friday, March 16.

Mar 7 March 14th, 2001

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Four Shows for SING!

By Yousaf Khalid

Mar 7

Love is not Enough: Dedicated Drama Teacher Calls it Quits

By Abbie Zamcheck

After five years and 16 productions in the

SPECTATOR
ONLINE

When Stuyvesant's largest and most anticipated theater production, SING! 2000, sold out last year, many people did not see the show or they fell victim to culture's aversive nature. This year cast and crew members of

Scrawled Threat of Violence Has Scared Stuyvesant

continued from page 3

which came at approximately 2:45 PM on Monday, stressed that precautions would be taken and that there would be "zero tolerance" for violence. Satin later added that the school would not tolerate actual, threatened, or jesting violence.

He also elaborated on a few of the precautions the school took on March 27. "We had one [police officer] here at about 8:15 AM; by 9:00 AM there were four roaming the building. They were here most of the day and we had another four or five come at about 2:20 PM for the first dismissal. In the afternoon, we had a captain, a sergeant, and two patrol officers. School safety had some extra officers around as well."

Teitel would give no further comment about the precautions taken by the school, but did say that if there was an immediate threat of violence, drastic measures, such as the installment of X-ray machines, could be taken "overnight, if I had to."

According to Teitel, 462 students were marked absent - twice as many as usual, according to Carol Carrano,

Attendance Aide. (The average number of daily absences is less than 200). He also said that there is no way of telling how many were absent due to the threat. Among the 85 percent of students that did attend school, some expressed concern. "At first I didn't take [the threat] seriously, but then I realized that there was no reason it couldn't happen at our school," said junior Smita Ghosh. "I had a feeling it was a joke, but I was still nervous about coming to school."

Despite this concern, some students did not seriously fear for their safety. Junior Aleksey Mironenko said that he felt staying home would serve no purpose. "I didn't feel like spending the day hiding," said Mironenko. "There's nothing I can do until I'm confronted with [a violent situation], so until then, why worry about it?"

The day passed without violence, and an unsigned, typewritten appeal circulated in classrooms and posted on walls. In response to the precautions, it accused the Stuyvesant administration of creating a "police state."

Teitel said he had needed to walk a fine line between

ensuring the safety of the school community and infringing on the students' right to privacy. He also said that many concerned parents had suggested more drastic safety precautions, like checking students' property. However, Teitel said, "I'm not ready to start checking bookbags and checking lockers until someone can present to me beyond a reasonable doubt that there is a clear and present danger that I need to address. I'm not convinced of that and the police are not either."

As far as the seriousness of the threat and what it means for the future of the school, Satin said that there must be a sense of trust among all members of the Stuyvesant community, or the school will employ much more rigorous precautions. "You never know what'll happen, unless you install metal detectors and turn this place into a prison," Satin said. "But then it will lose so much. Eventually it may have to happen, but we're not at that stage yet. No one ever wants to make light of anything, to say that it couldn't happen here, because those are the people it happens to."

City Students React to School Shootings

continued from page 3

classroom doors, and police officers in the school. And a recent threat of violence on a desk in Stuyvesant prompted Teitel to ask for police assistance.

"I have talked to Mr. Blaufarb and the other guidance people, and I've told them to listen more carefully, and pay attention to what students say," says Teitel. "I've told them to never write off any 'strange things' they might hear."

Teitel says that within NYC Board of Education policy, he could have suspended Pagano, "no questions asked." He explains that he did not, for situational reasons, "I didn't take any sort of action because I think that our kids are not in a vicious mood. I'm not looking to hurt anyone."

A gun threat occurred last week at Cardozo High School in Bayside, Queens. The front page of *The Bayside-Times Ledger* states that a female sophomore at Cardozo was suspended by Principal Rick Hallman after she verbally threatened to bring a gun to school and shoot a few of her classmates who she had on a "hit list." Although some students claim that the threats were said in jest, the article reports that Hallman maintains that because the words were said, he took action based on the school chancellor's code of discipline.

Principal Rick Hallman declined to comment for this article.

Cardozo sophomore Rebecca Moy says, "My teach-

ers are deans and they talked to us about it. A lot of rumors were going around that day, and people were saying that she did actually have a gun, and teachers were locking their doors. I didn't walk out and leave school, but a lot of other people did."

"I think it's really sad what happened at those other schools, and thank God nobody was hurt here," says Moy. "Still, from what I know, I think this whole situation was blown out of proportion. Her words were probably taken out of context."

"My gut feeling is that it is not a predictable event," said Teitel on the recent school violence. "It's just that something might happen in a young person's life, maybe divorce or death, and that's it for them... I don't sleep well at night because of what happened at [Columbine and Santana]."

Teitel explains that the policy is widespread through New York City schools, and he is obligated to act accordingly. "The school system must react as a whole. In theory, if I had any reason to suspect a student of say, slipping something suspicious into their bag, I could justly go through and search the bag."

"Teenage violence is absolutely horrible and tragic," says sophomore Serena Scholz. "But a Draconian school system with all the rules or metal detectors in the world could never do the good for a troubled teenager that simple kindness from teachers or fellow students would."

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Arts & Entertainment

Big Sib/ Little Sib Dance Successful

By INNA GUZENFELD

While many freshmen may share a lunch or a free period with their upperclassmen friends, they usually have separate classes, tests, and labs. Fortunately, the first-ever Big Sib/Little Sib dance took place on Wednesday, March 19, providing an ideally informal yet pumped-up atmosphere for freshmen to mingle with their Big Sibs. Less than a half-hour into the dance, which kicked off at 6 PM and continued until 10 PM, the place was packed with students swaying to pop and hip-hop blasting out of speakers. The highlight of the evening included a two-hour karaoke session, in which mostly freshman participants sang off-tune, to radio hits.

"The dance was a big success," said newly appointed Big Sib Chair Tommy Lax. "The coat check went smoothly, the music was cool...everyone had a good time."

Freshman Myrrhine Feller said, "I'm totally enjoying it...after a while I just got into it, and I got to dance with hot seniors!"

The only damper on the evening was the weather. "We were absolutely drenched by the time we got in," said freshman Denesy Mancenido of the intense rainstorm that started at around 4:00, and did not let up all through the evening. Furthermore, the delivery of refreshments was affected by "a miscalculation in organization," according to former Big Sib Chair Maya Smorodinsky.

Nevertheless, freshman president Michael Litwak, and Big Sib Chair Lena Katsnelson, both of whom helped plan and organize the event, were pleased with the results. "It's really good...the effort really helped to unify freshmen and their Big Sibs" said Mike. Lena agreed, "it's absolutely awesome, everyone is having fun, dancing and singing. It's great!"

"In all probability, there will be one next year", says Lax, "and next year there will be refreshments."

The Power of Potter

By CHRISTOPHER LAPINIG

There are plenty of things that you're likely to find in the hands of a Stuyvesant student: a pre-calculus textbook, an SAT review book, or perhaps a Shakespeare play or two. But of all things, would you expect to see someone hurrying off to their next AP class carrying a book written at a fourth grade reading level? With the tremendous popularity of the Harry Potter books, such a sight isn't as uncommon as you might think. The series of books has had a tremendous appeal with people of all ages, from kids in elementary school to Stuy students and even middle-aged businessmen.

"I would feel sorry for my parents if I was a little kid at this time. I would want everything."

—Senior Rick Siriratsivawong

For those of you who have been living under a rock, the series is written by British author J.K. Rowling. It focuses on the story of Harry Potter, a boy who discovers on his twelfth birthday that he is actually of wizard descent. However, with his parents slain by a vicious sorcerer, he is left with his cruel aunt and uncle, both of whom are ordinary people, otherwise known by wizards as "Muggles." Harry is taken to a boarding school for wizardry and soon finds himself battling evil warlords, giant spiders, moving trees, and huge sea monsters.

While it may sound childish, some think the simplicity of the series is what makes it accessible to such a wide range of people. Sophomore Chia Yi Hou comments, "I think because it's targeted towards elementary kids, it's more attractive to us older kids. We don't have to worry about deeper meanings and analyzing it for English class because we enjoy reading it." Furthermore, the book's far-fetched, fantasy world often serves as a means of escaping the stress and fast pace of reality.

The "Potter Phenomenon" has truly reached a boiling point, with companies churning out merchandise at an unbelievable rate. Everything from toys to figurines to even candy affiliated with the book have been released, many of them mod-

eled on actual fantasy items from the story line. For instance, you can find stores selling Bernie's Every Flavor Beans, based on the jelly beans in the story that taste like anything from your traditional bubble gum to more unlikely flavors like sardines. In fact, stores such as the Warner Bros. Studio Store are nearly filled to brim with affiliated merchandise, yet consumers can't seem to get enough. Senior Rick Siriratsivawong remarks, "There is way too much merchandise exploiting Harry Potter. I would feel sorry for my parents if I was a little kid at this time. I would want everything."

Rowling recently released two more paperback books to keep readers busy until the fifth book, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, hits shelves next year. Neither of the two are stories; rather, they both discuss various, mythical aspects of Harry's world. The first book, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," contains information about creatures such as the grindylow, goblin like creatures that live underwater. On the other hand, "Quidditch Throughout the Ages" delves into the sport of

**Pre-calculus textbooks,
SAT review books,
Shakespeare, and
Harry Potter**

Quidditch, in which wizards hop on brooms and dodge speeding balls as they search for what is known as the Golden Snitch.

As if that's not enough to satisfy Potter fans, Warner Bros. is preparing the much hyped release of the movie based on the first book, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Big names including Steven Spielberg and Haley Joel Osment were rumored to be involved in the project, although it is now known that the director will be Chris Columbus and the movie will star British actor Daniel Radcliffe. The sequel to the movie, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," is already being worked on; expect to see it released next year.

So hold on to your broomsticks, because Potter merchandise is going to continue flying off the shelves, with more on the way.

A Taste of Tao in NYC

By TIERNEY AHROLD

There are two kinds of vegetarian cuisine in this world: one that imitates meat-based dishes and the other that aspires to be its own art. Zen Palate, a trio of Manhattan restaurants, combines the two styles to create a unique and unforgettable menu. Its distinctive and delicious dishes are among the most satisfying vegan and vegetarian meals to be found in New York.

Zen Palate offers a very wide range of styles in its dishes. Its Asian orientation does not keep it from adopting different cultures in its kitchens; the mushroom kabob appetizer has an Indian flair while the Mexican style moo shoo is heaven south of the border. All tastes, from the discriminating to the simple (as well as vegetarian to omnivore) are satisfied here.

Zen Palate offers a very large menu containing more than fifty entrees. Each one is carefully prepared, sumptuously seasoned, and superbly presented, leaving one with a feeling of contentment very fitting for its name. Enlightening your taste buds won't cost a fortune either, as the meals are very reasonably priced (appetizers cost from \$2-6 and entrees cost from \$5-15 with the vast majority priced at \$7).

Besides the amazing food,

the biggest attraction of Zen Palate is the wonderful ambience created within this sanctuary. The balance of Yin and Yang—wood against metal, paintings against mirrors, the hustle of voices against the soothing meditation music—brings out the Taoist tendencies of this establishment. The decor is different at each of the three locations in the city, but the feeling of relaxation and harmony is the same at each. While the service is very responsive, it is so unobtrusive that it creates the impression of dining in a Zen master's garden.

For lunch with friends, a romantic dinner, or even just a take-out snack, Zen Palate offers the best meal for your money in town. As Junior Anita Verma says, "You'll keep coming back... and back and back!"

There are three Zen Palate locations in Manhattan: 2170 Broadway (76th Street), 663 9th Ave (46th Street), and 34 E. Union Square (16th Street, right off Union Square), which is easily accessible from Stuy. There is also one on Long Island at 477 Old Country Rd, Westbury. Takeout is available at all three locations to anywhere in Manhattan and limited delivery is available to the other boroughs. Prices are as listed above at all three locations.

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Arts & Entertainment

Gursky at the MoMA

By KINGSON MAN

For months, a massive MoMA ad campaign splashed a bold red 'Gursky' onto the sides of buses, subways, and numerous billboards. What is behind all of the hype? The new Museum of Modern Art exhibition, Andreas Gursky, displays a retrospective of the artist's photographs since 1980 in the prime showcase area of the third floor. Apparently, no effort has been spared in making this exhibit live up to critics' expectations.

The magnitude of the publicity surrounding this new exhibit has been such that there is a small Gursky buzz among the Stuyvesant community. "It's great that Andreas Gursky is becoming more well known," says senior Franky Gutierrez, "in my photography class, and even other places around Stuy, it's good to know that this kind of art is getting more fans and acknowledgment." Those that want to take a look for themselves can buy a student admission with a student ID for \$6.50.

One of the most visually striking images in the collection is "Paris, Montparnasse." The subject is a huge apartment building, but that becomes apparent only after intense study of the image. All you see in the beginning is a jumble of parallels and perpendiculars, random plots filled in with different faded pastel colors. Once you allow yourself to become lost in the troublesome order, paranoia sets in as individual people

resolve into visibility.

Further evidence of this is found in another one of Gursky's photos known for its overwhelming complexity- "99 cent." The photo is the inside of a warehouse-type supermarket. After a while, individual products form unnerving flecks of bursting color. Ironically, the individually-wrapped, colorful packaged goods, not the humans, become the collective subject of this work.

A massive MoMA ad campaign splashed a bold red 'Gursky' onto the sides of buses, subways, and numerous billboards.

On the other far end of Gursky's thematic spectrum lie his stark, immense nature scenes. These placid scenes depict, among others, the 1992 Albertville Olympics, and Niagara Falls. Compared to the other unthinkably complex industrial institutions, they are relatively uninspired and lack the genius of his other work. However, to all people interested in expanding their mind with some similarly expanded images and in redeeming the large scale advertising on MoMA's part, Andreas Gursky provides awe-inspiring work.

Ensembles Have Chance to Shine

By LAURA MCFARLAND

On March 17, the less advanced Stuyvesant music ensembles held their annual concert in the Murray Kahn Theater. It featured the Intermediate Orchestra, the Period 6 Concert Band, the Period 1 Concert Band and the Stage Band.

The evening began with the Intermediate Orchestra. Although made up of less experienced string players, the orchestra displayed a surprisingly mature sound quality. The featured violinists Sam Dishy, Tenesha Patrick and Jonathan Schwartz did an excellent job with Douglas Townsend's three-part violin concerto, "Concerto in the Old Style." However, the big crowd-pleaser was the final piece, Leroy Anderson's "Plink, Plank, Plunk." This piece pays special attention to a section that

is usually overshadowed by the violins, cellos and violas. The bass section got one of its few chances to be featured and it made the most of it by producing a great sound.

After a brief intermission, the next group to perform was the Period 6 Concert Band, conducted by Dr. Raymond Wheeler. "A Percy Grainger Suite," led by guest conductor Amanda Herbster, a graduate student at NYU, provided a merry Irish atmosphere that was more than appropriate for March 17, St. Patrick's Day. Another highlight was Douglas Akey's "Canarios Fantasia." This quirky piece was a collaboration of varying degrees of intensity, ranging from soft and delicate flutes and clarinets to thunderous percussion solos.

Directly following the excellent performance by Period 6 was the Period 1 Concert Band, also conduct-

ed by Dr. Wheeler. This band contained more musically experienced players and it showed in the pieces they played. The best was "Selections from The Music Man." It began with the lively drum solos of "Seventy-Six Trombones" and branched out into other favorites from the beloved musical.

The finale to the evening was the Stage Band. Although the Stage Band lost some of its best players from last year because of graduation or scheduling conflicts, the newcomers blended well with the seasoned players to create a fine ensemble of mainly saxophones, trumpets and trombones. While the players did occasionally lack in charisma and style, they played some old favorites, such as Ellington and Miller, which pleasantly ended the evening of Stuyvesant's talented music department.

Vermeer and Delft Get Their Due

By MAX MECKLENBURG

The "Vermeer & the Delft School" show at the Metropolitan (which runs through May 27) is an impressive attempt to give a new perspective to the famous 17th century Dutch artist. It places him not as a solitary genius working in a secluded town, but as a member of a fairly vibrant artistic and cosmopolitan community in the small city of Delft. The greatest attraction of the show, of course, is that a full 13 (or 14, one is disputed) of the artist's paintings are displayed, surely one of the greatest concentrations of them ever. There are fewer than 40 Vermeer paintings left in the world, and all display his distinctive style. The Metropolitan show puts him in context with his contemporaries and the results are interesting.

Delft was home to a close-knit artistic community. Indeed, in many of Vermeer's later paintings (those of his friends) can be seen hanging on the back wall of the rooms he paints. Many of the artists were very modern for their time, painting scenes of everyday life, occasionally with questionable morality and lacking in the religious themes of most art at the time. There was also a focus on presenting each painted character as an individual with their own facial expressions. Vermeer reflected both of these, but combined and exceeded them in significant ways that separate him from his colleagues. His early paintings are rich with barely con-

tained sensuality, desire and warmth. A great example is "The Procuress" (1656), which shows some young rogues engaging in various vices with a rosy-cheeked girl. It is quite a confrontational work, with the depicted characters all aware of the viewer but unconcerned as to their moral opinion; one of them, believed to be a self portrait of Vermeer, grins directly at the viewer as he holds his harp in a rather phallic manner. A man's hand rests on the breast of the girl, who has a mixture of pleasure, embarrassment and inebriation on her face. This and a few other like paintings were controversial and Vermeer began to make his references subtler.

He seemingly fell more in step with other local artists toward the 1660's. His paintings began to follow a formulaic pattern: a woman standing to the right of a table with a window on the left wall providing light; a wall in the back with a map or painting (often by one of Vermeer's friends) on it and a checkered floor that allows for an odd sort of perspective. "Woman With a Balance" follows this whole formula in its depiction of a woman weighing her gold.

Her expression conveys perfectly a balance between desire and restraint. She looks lovingly and bemusedly at her gold and on the surface, it appears to be a morality picture about the dangers of vanity. There is, however, a clear but unstated and subtle undercurrent of desire and eroticism in the painting, which can be seen right away,

but not really conveyed in words, which perhaps allowed Vermeer's work to slip under the nose of the morality police in the Netherlands of the time.

The other works in the exhibit are varied but fall into two categories: items placing Delft in context and paintings placing Vermeer in context. The items include maps, portraits, silverwork and tapestries, which all show the level of culture and cosmopolitanism of Delft. This was not the isolated city it had been made out to be; it was in close contact with centers of society in Amsterdam and The Hague. The paintings are of local nobility but also of Bourgeois families, a step away from the status quo. The paintings of Vermeer's contemporaries also show a true "Delft school" of early Dutch realism, with scenes from the lives of those who lived in the town and all manner of other things, but always focused on the everyday. We see that Vermeer was a brilliant artist, but one whose inspiration did not spark out of nowhere: it came from the city he lived in. Nonetheless, he stands out in both style and substance above his peers.

The show can be a bit much, especially if one's goal is simply to look at Vermeers, out of eight rooms in the gallery, only three of them contain more than two of the artist's paintings and some have none. The other rooms are important, however, if one is to get the entire picture of what the exhibition is about.

STUY SENIORS

SCHOLARSHIP

The Stuyvesant Parents Association announces our annual Scholarship Essay Contest. There are five scholarships of \$1000 each and one of \$500. All seniors are eligible and encouraged to apply. Write a 250-word essay, format it on MS Word (PC platform), and e-mail it by the deadline, 11PM, May 1, 2001 to dismeado@aol.com

Essay Question: Tell us, in 250 words or less, about a memorable experience you've had during your time at Stuyvesant. This event can be class-related or not (family, friends, etc.), serious or humorous (or both). Be yourself, write from the heart.

All essays will be kept confidential, read only by the PA Scholarship Committee (who will not know the names of the authors). If we elect to make public/publish any of them, we will always ask the author's permission first.

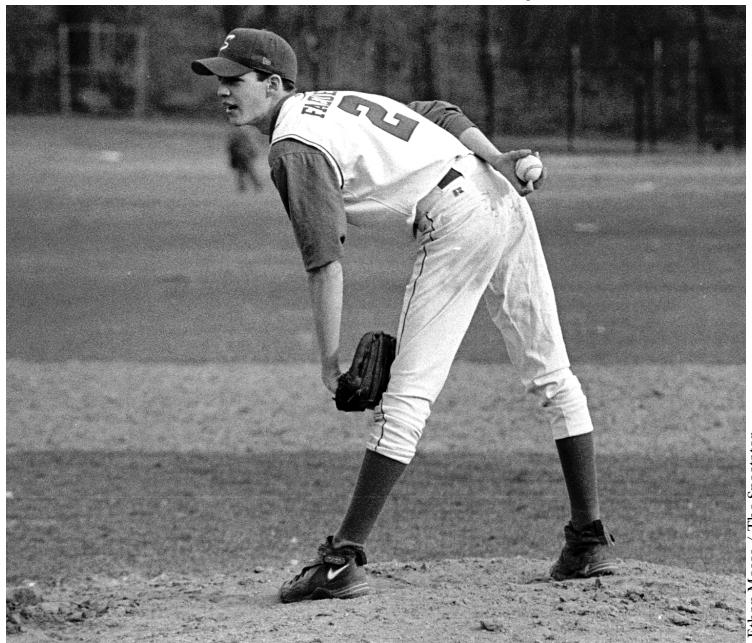
All winners will be announced at the Stuyvesant H.S. Awards Night in June 2001 (the winners' presence is not required).

Any questions call Denis Meadows, Chair, PA Scholarship Committee (718) 768-0494 or email dismeado@aol.com. When you go to college, every dollar counts. Please give us the opportunity to contribute to your success.

Thank you and good luck!

Sports

Hitmen Continue Preseason Run With Win Over Lafayette



Sam Faider, the Hitmen's new pitcher

By ARTHUR TEBBEL

The cold rain was just beginning to fall in the bottom of the second inning. Michael Baxter stared out at Lafayette pitcher Lony Henriquez. Henriquez delivered a fastball that Baxter slapped into the outfield for an RBI single, putting the Hitmen up 1-0. They would never trail.

The Hitmen beat Lafayette 6-2 on March 24, winning their fifth consecutive game in the "pre-season," or the "period before the first division contest." Their early season run includes an 18-3 trouncing of Forest Hills, and victories over New Utrecht, Dewitt Clinton, and Berkley Carroll.

The Stuyvesant defense was important in the win. The infield was nearly flawless, with the exception of a couple bad throws in the same inning. The outfield was also superb, with David Cernikovsky making many catches on the run in center field.

Stuy's offense looked well put together in this game. Samuel Faider had two RBIs in the second inning, just two at-bats after Michael Baxter's. The most impressive offensive series of the game was in the fifth inning when Jesse Tucker hit an RBI triple, and stole home on the next pitch. Lafayette's only runs came during a wild inning on the

part of Hitman pitching.

Although the Hitman faced tough pitching from Lafayette, with Lony Henriquez throwing the ball with good velocity and having excellent command of his pitches, the Lafayette battery broke down in their catcher. Lafayette's backstop looked lost behind the plate, fumbling many pitches and failing to make accurate throws. Stuy's base runners stole many bases without any attempts to throw them out. Twice in the game a Stuy runner stole third base, a rare occurrence in baseball. Lafayette also made some ill-advised base running decisions that cost them at least one run.

The weather also had an effect on the game. With winds gusting over 15 mph, the ball was being blown around the field without warning. Several players complained that the heavy cloud cover hindered their depth perception on fly balls. The cold steady downpour had several Lafayette players going as far as wearing an additional jersey above their original uniform.

With the Hitmen 5-0 in the pre-season, The Hitmen faithful already have high expectations for the coming season. They're even saying that this team may be better than the team that went to the city quarterfinals last year.

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Men of Steele Leave Bulldogs Whimpering

By MOEUN SON

The gym was silent with anticipation as Victor Yun stepped up for the first serve of the match. He slammed an untouchable ball across the court. As Yun served up seven straight winners, confusion became obvious on the part of the School of the Future Bulldogs.

This was the story for most of the two matches against School of The Future. Despite some miscommunications during the second match, the Men of Steele won 15-7 and 15-13. The Bulldogs simply had no answer to the size and power of the Men of Steele.

"This game was a great experience for us," said

"The most important thing the team has to learn to do is talk more on the court. It's a scary thing when the team doesn't communicate."

—Coach Steele.

sophomore starter Brian Kang. "The team works really well together, all we need now is more practice and more talking."

Stuy's effective offense was the product of the strong

setting of Victor Yun combined with smooth execution by the front-line hitters. David Kim, Daniel Yeoun, Nelson Park, and Fan Yang spiked hard enough for the Bulldogs to feel the sting on their forearms, if they were lucky enough to be able to dig for the ball.

The second match was close only because of lack of focus from the Men of Steele. There were many careless errors, such as several illegal carries from the back row by David Kim, and the hitters spiking way out of bounds. Some miscommunications also allowed many normally routine balls to hit the floor.

"The most important thing the team has to learn to do is to talk more on the court," said Coach Steele. "It's a scary thing when the team doesn't communicate because volleyball requires each team member to know what's going on."

"The team started flatlining in the second half," said Steele. "We just can't just play at the level of the other team. We have to be better than them."

The Men of Steele almost met the coach's expectation of three or less missed serves, an early lead, and three middle sets. They missed five serves, otherwise reaching their goals. The talent is there, now they need to apply it with consistency and communication.

Pep Squad

continued from page 14

someone to take care of their needs, and I can only stretch myself so thin."

The single advisor element seems to factor into many of the decisions for the team. Nieves said the team can only take six new members for this coming year, to replacing six seniors that are leaving: "We had 28 members this year, and that was too many schedules to coordinate. I was okay with just 22, but the girls really pleaded to add new members. If there was another person helping out, then we could add more people, and maybe split up into Varsity and JV squads." She added that there was a lot of interest for the coming year, but since only six slots are open, she felt many people would be missing out.

Nieves also has to attend any events the cheerleaders go to, including the ten football games every year. The problem is, Nieves can't find anyone to sit in for her, so whenever she can't attend games, she gets anyone from Mr. Blaufarb to parents of football players to extend themselves and take her place, just so the girls can go. This is the main reason that the squad is not able to cheer for other teams.

Senior boys' soccer captain Mike Kwiatkowski said, "Sure I want cheerleaders. It'd be hot!" Senior girls' soccer player Margaret Ross added, "It'd be cool to have cheerleaders, but I'd rather have fans. Even so, they should come to our playoff games for extra support." Well, now you know where to get them.



Spring Sports Preview

continued from page 14

year, when they only picked up the pace as playoff time came around. Last year there were no organized practices, but the team had already set a date for the first practice of the season, and have promised there will be many more to follow.

The core of last year's team, consisting of the #1 and #2 singles players Roy Braid and Vladimir Koutun remain. With practices, the leadership of veteran seniors Jason Lockhart and Will Gordon, and a standout freshman Magdy El Mihdaui, this team has a good shot as ever to extinguish Cardozo's unbelievable winning streak.

Girls' Outdoor Track Preview

By AMALIA DELLAPOLEIRA

The girls of the Stuy outdoor track team are on a mission. They want to beat the indoor track team, which placed third overall in the winter season, behind AP Randolph and Washington Irving.

"Washington Irving beats us by only 3 points in the indoor season," said co-captain Betty Yung, "And we didn't even have any field events. Hopefully, this spring, we can get enough points from field events (such as shot-put and long jump) to beat Washington Irving and place higher than indoor did."

The outdoor team has some strong new additions to the roster that will help them meet this goal. Co-captain Emily

Schonfeld was extremely pleased with the high turnout at this year's tryouts, which were delayed for over a week because of snow storms. "We had to cut people from the team, which hasn't been done for four years," she said. "Seventy-five people showed up to try out." The team could only keep 50 athletes. Among these are 35 experienced veterans who are expected to perform at least as well as they did last year.

Another relay team that's in the works is the 4x100 team. "This relay is hard to do because its very fast and you have to do blind passes the whole way around", says Schonfeld. "We haven't had a 4x 100 team in a while."

This is a season for new events, as the long-jumping, shot-putting rookies will undoubtedly show. The captains are also working on teaching some of the new runners to hurdle, since all of the hurdlers on the team are seniors.

Will the team reach their goal of outperforming their Indoor track counterparts? They'll find out this season as they try to chase down the second place spot.

Boys' Handball Preview

By ANTHONY HAN

The Boys' Handball team has a new top player, senior Jason Lau. Lau was ineligible to play on the team last year, and hasn't played organized handball since sophomore year. As opposed to schoolyard handball, the ball is smaller and lot harder, which is much tougher on the hands.

"We've only just started this month, so I'm not exactly sure what he can do, but he was very,



Senior Jason Lao plays handball

very good sophomore year," said Coach Sharkey.

Adding the scoring power of Jason Lau to the presence of the three best players from last year, Patrick Chiu, Chris Ho, and Douglas Cheng, things are looking up for the Boys' Handball team.

The Stuy Girls' Softball team is prepared to defend their Manhattan Borough Championship title. After making it to the quarterfinals last year, the team is set on repeating their accomplishments, and possibly advancing further. They have gone undefeated in the regular season for two straight years and their expectations for this year are high.

Senior Kerri Anderson, who played all-borough last year, said, "This year should be interesting because nobody expects a Manhattan team to do anything."

Coach Luczak is particularly optimistic about this season

because of productive practices at Pier 40, an outdoor field. Prior to this year the general lack of facilities has been a problem for the Peaches. However, more outdoor practices promise to help their performance this season.

This year's captains are Ginger Norling, Danielle Hedderon and Jamie Cositore. All three played on the all-borough team last year, and Cositore also played all-city.

However, time is running short for the Peaches. After this year, they will lose most of their starting infield, as well as their only all-borough and all-city players. Thinking short term though, with Pier 40 at their disposal & many returning starters, things are looking up for the peaches. "I just want to improve on our performance in the playoffs last year."

Randolph H.S. and NYC Lab School. Although these teams have not presented too much of a challenge in the past, facing the teams from other boroughs



Nischit Hegde practices for the upcoming tennis season

in the playoffs, such as Brooklyn Tech, should prove to be the real test for them.

Girls' Tennis Preview

By ROY BRAID

After losing last year in the P.S.A.L. quarterfinals to Brooklyn Tech, the return of the top three singles players from last year bodes well for the success of the Girls' Tennis team. They returnees include sophomore Joanna Roth and juniors Kat Stanchik and Nischit Hedge. Among those also back from last year are senior captains Isha Sheth and Melanie Kingsley.

The season, which started promptly on March 1, has the team practicing three times a week during the month of March and then playing interschool matches at least twice a week in April and May. The competition in the Manhattan division includes teams such as Environmental Studies H.S., AP

Girls' Handball Preview

By ERIN JOU

The Furies are ready to bounce back from a tough second round playoff loss to Kennedy High School, during which Kennedy took the deciding final doubles match 21-10. Although they lost in the playoffs, the Furies ranked first in the city individually in singles and doubles and are hoping to defend that. "The season looks promising," said Lisa Chen. "We have some great and strong incoming players, including our Freshman Wonder Winnie Poon. There is a cycle of three years in which there are very talented players. This is one of those years for us. Hopefully, it isn't for the other schools."

REALITY CHECK FOR MIMBAS

continued from page 14

ductive had she been playing.

"We have the same amount of talent as last year's team, but we're still lacking cohesiveness," said co-captain Robin Kachka. "We'll only get better."

Coach Fisher warned the team after the game, "don't get cocky." Unfortunately, the girls might not have taken it to heart. For the first time in four years, the Mimbas lost to a team other than Tottenville, falling to Staten Island Tech 4-0 on March 20.

"We were too laid back,

just not hungry enough," said co-captain Rachel Pecker.

"That loss definitely showed us our weaknesses," said Chloe Weber. "It was a slap in the face, but I think we can bounce back."

The Mimbas added to their skid on March 23 by losing to Wagner 4-2, whom they have beaten 9-0 in the past. The Mimbas, just like the Midwood game, had many opportunities that they failed to capitalize on.

"I'd rather lose now than in May, when it counts," said Fisher. "At least these are non-league games. Everything that could possibly go wrong

has gone wrong in the past couple of games, so better now than later."

"We were too laid back, just not hungry enough"
-Junior Rachel Pecker

On March 24, playing for the second day in a row, the Mimbas beat Madison 2-1, pulling out of their two game slump. The first goal came on

a beautiful long ball from Robin Kachka, and a second assist from Anna Teytelman before Margaret Ross banged it into the corner of the net. After a mental lapse by goalie Nina Koukharenko, who let an easy save roll right past her, Robin Kachka scored the game winning goal on an assist from Kara Benson, breaking Kachka's two game scoring "drought."

"We're not back on track yet," said Kachka. "Plus, we should've beaten Madison 6-1. But it feels good to win...I was starting to miss it."

Being that there are new freshmen on the field with

seniors who have been playing together for years, some time for adjustment has to be allowed. Looking at this loss might plant a sense of desperation inside the Mimbas, knowing how early they might have to face Tottenville if they don't get a second or third seed in the PSAL Playoffs. Perhaps it was a wake up call, jolting the Mimba's back to their senses. It was lucky that they had that "jolt" during an exhibition game, so that when it comes time to face these teams again, the Mimba's have an answer to their unexpected firepower, and hopefully a bit of luck on their side.

S P O R T S**SPRING PREVIEW****Boy's
Outdoor
Track**

By PETER YOON

Boy's track has been one of Stuyvesant's most dominant teams for the past three years, winning seven straight borough championships in the indoor and outdoor seasons. The members have set a standard for other schools as the team to beat in Manhattan, yet few people in the Stuyvesant community seem to know or care about these accomplishments. The team only got a tiny article in the paper and not even a congratulation during the morning announcements. Although this lack of appreciation is unfortunate, the team doesn't seem to mind. "Though we won boroughs during indoors we still don't get as much recognition as we should," said Alejandro Torres. "But that's aight because we're taking cities by storm." The team has set high expectations and is confident that they're goals will be reached.

After a strong indoor season, the boy's track team is extremely optimistic about the coming outdoor season. Captain Darren Goldner, who was hindered by a knee injury for most of the indoor season, said that the team would continue to improve and hopefully continue their current winning streak. "We haven't lost boroughs since my sophomore year," he said. "Hopefully we'll have some competition this year." Although Darren will miss approximately six weeks because of the fractured knee, he is looking forward to the season starting and has made it a goal for the team to qualify for the Penn Relays, a prestigious competition held in late April.

With most of the key runners returning for the outdoor season, things are looking good for Stuyvesant. Expect another strong season for Tushar Gurjal, who has been the backbone this year for the cross-country team as well as indoor track. Clifford Emmanuel, who has been sensational at times for the team, is also expected to improve and put up another solid season. A quadriceps

injury prevented Cliff from competing in the city championships, but he is fully recovered now and looking strong. "I have to train more in the high jump and improve in the 400 meter run if we're gonna make the Penn Relays," he said. A lot is expected out of these two from Coach Mark Mendes as well as the rest of the team, but this constant pressure doesn't seem to bother them. Breakout seasons from new members such as David Shaw and solid middle distance relay teams should also be expected.

The boys of Stuyvesant track have never complained about the lack of recognition given to them by the Stuyvesant community. Even after winning the Boroughs this season and not being publicly congratulated, the team didn't seem to mind. Some may call this a lack of team spirit, but anyone who has attended the meets would never say this. The team is focused and ready for the challenge that awaits them. "The school's sleeping on us but it's OK," said Ivan Ting. "We'll just have to kick everyone's butts again." This mentality has made the team All that's missing is a little support.

**Boy's Tennis
Preview**

By JACOB SMITH

"Maybe 15 is an unlucky number for them," said junior Steven Gelb, referring to Cardozo High School's 14-year hold of the PSAL City Tennis Championship. Cardozo is the only nationally ranked team in the city. As Stuy's tennis team looks forward to their first match of the season against rival Hunter High School, they admit they cannot help looking forward to playing Cardozo.

Last year, the Boys Tennis Team went 8-2, losing twice to Hunter. They beat Hunter in the playoffs however, advancing to the city championship, before losing 5-0 to Cardozo.

This year's squad has already committed themselves to working harder and more consistently than last

continued on page 13

**MIMBAS SLUMPING
2-2 IN PRESEASON GAMES**

By JOSH ROSS

Mimba goalie Paige Fern hopped up and down, did a couple of jumping jacks, and skipped side to side, attempting to keep warm...she wasn't needed. The rest of the Mimbas were on the other half of the soccer field. Wing Anna Teytelman delivered a picture perfect centering pass to Margaret Ross, who rolled it past the Midwood Goalie. Paige now had a real reason to jump.

This was the story for most of the game. The Mimbas, while only beating Midwood 2-0, controlled the pace of the game as well as possession of the ball. Robin Kachka, who also assisted on the Margaret Ross goal, scored her own in the third quarter. You could count the number of shots Midwood took on one hand.

"The passing was terrific," said Coach Fisher. "Our only problem was when they went 'long-ball,' and Rachel



Margaret Ross dribbles against SI Tech on March 20.

Steven Saviano / The Spectator

Pecker] was left alone."

Pecker was one of the primary reasons the Mimbas were able to shutout Midwood. Fern had countless clearings from dangerous situations near the Mimba goal. This kept Paige Fern, who was backing up starting goalie Nina Koukharenko, from hav-

ing to make too many saves.

Missing from the fold during the game was forward Kara Benson, a huge offensive contributor, who was out due to sickness. There were a lot of missed opportunities that might have been more pro

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**Plenty of Cheerleaders
Not Enough Cheering**

By BEN COUCH

Most athletes on Stuy's teams (except football) wonder why there are no cheerleaders at their games. Apparently, there is a myriad of reasons for this. They range from lack of funding to lack of interest, and everything in between.

At the center of this issue is the fact that the PSAL, as shown on its website, does not consider cheerleading a sport. This has many repercussions. For one, it leaves the Pep Squad off the school budget, forcing them to find their money elsewhere. Cheerleading Advisor Cindi Nieves says the Alumni Association (SHSAA) pays for competition entry fees, transport to competitions, and buses to the football games. Nieves also says she receives a five-hundred dollar stipend from the Alumni Associations cheerleading advisor. In addition to that, according to senior captain Lena Katsnelson, the girls themselves have to pay upwards of four-hundred dollars to cover the cost of uniforms and



Potential Cheerleaders vying for the six empty spots.

Darya Fiks/The Spectator

cheerleading camp.

The lack of a viable practice facility is also a problem. The squad, which is left off the team page of Stuy's website, falls under the jurisdiction of Mrs. Singer and the Phys. Ed. Department, according to Katsnelson. According to Nieves, however, "Once we ask for stuff as a team, we're not eligible. Like if we need a gym, we can never get one, because we're not a team [by school policy]." That's why the girls practice in places like the SU or the hallways.

The final, and also debili-

tating effect, is that there is no coach for the team. This leads Nieves, who is the head of Stuyvesant's Alumni Association, to attempt to "spread herself thin" in an effort to have a functional and successful squad. Her position with the SHSAA is a full-time job, which prevents her from focusing her attentions on the squad. She said, "If this became a PSAL sport, and [the school] hired a coach, I'd happily step down as advisor to take a secondary role. Basically, they need

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Separated at Birth?

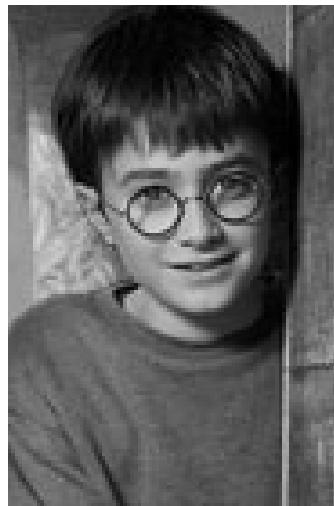
Walter Gern



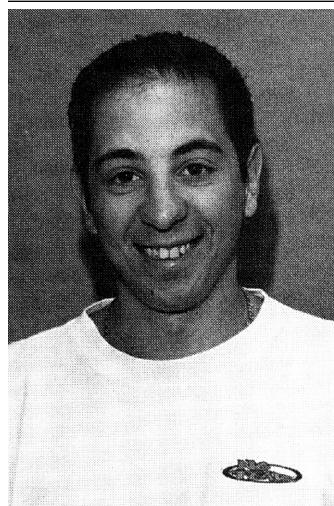
Lieutenant Dan



Nelda Latham



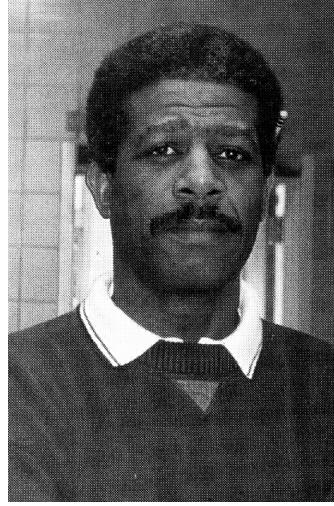
Harry Potter



Peter Bologna



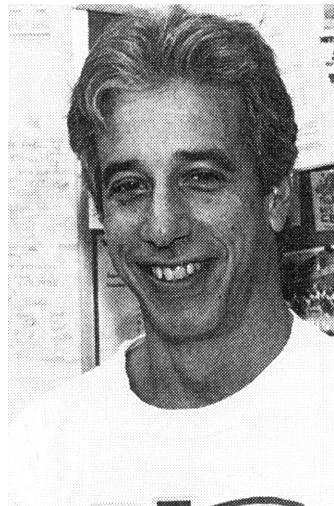
Pee-wee Herman



Osei Kwame



Richard Pryor



Phil Fisher

Ebonics for the Common Man

By DING-A-LING KONG

What the dilly yo? Check it, what is the latest beat off these mean streets? Word is "The Administration" is offering we the people a phat new course next year. What is this you say? New course? No joke, starting next term students select the brand spanking new Ebonics For YOU class. Ever feel that your ghetto-speak was not up to par with your homeboys? Feel awkward when saying words like "phat", "aight", "mad", "jiggyness", et cetera? Have no fear cause after dis class you will have no trouble jiving with dagrooooooove.

Ebonics a.k.a. American African Vernacular English (AAVE) is considered by mad linguists as simply an alternate dialect of American English developed in da south. Wack critics be criticizing da "slopiness" or "lazyness" of those who be speaking this here language. They be trippin' yo! English in all da glory, is a crazy hybrid of mad other languages especially dem romance languages. Why do anyone be having the right to disregard ebonics because they be claiming it has mad slang or colloquialisms.

Da whole ebonics in school argument begin when a school in Oakland, Cali proposed that ebonics be taught as a supplement to normal English cause the teachers couldn't understand what their students be saying. The plan was to teach dem crazy kids to compare "proper" English to what they be used to speaking. There be mad critics who opposed this change. Their ideals can be summed up in dis quote from Jesse Jackson from the San Francisco Examiner; "In

Oakland some madness has erupted over making slang talk a second language." He then added, "You don't have to go to school to learn to talk garbage."

Word.

However, by taking foreign languages like Spanish or French we in turn gain a better understanding of our primary language, English. Would not learning to compare something as foreign as AAVE in turn improve our understanding of this strange tongue we call English?

Another point, why is this vernacular being called ebonics or AAVE? True, da origins may be deeply rooted in the south and our African American brothers but ebonics is a language da peepz. When you be walking on da street can you be denying you be hearing phrases like "waz-up" or "how it be hanging". Man, everyone be speaking it whites, blacks, asians, latinos-da melange of our city yo. If you think you don't speak it at all, you best to check yourself cause you be trippin' g. Ebonics is simply another evolution of the English language, where da function be preceding da form.

Right now you might be asking yourself, "How can I speak with more ebonical proficiency?" Some people be thinking you can just omit some words and insert other words randomly, but that ain't true yo. For starters you can begin by omitting forms of "do" and "to be" from your sentences. Observe: "What you say bout my momma?" Continue is this fashion by using the same verb tense for everything: I be, he be, she be, they be, we be, and so on. Replace the "s" sound at the end of a word with a "z", like

"I got mad skillz." "Yo" can be inserted virtually anywhere in any sentence, but is frequently found at the beginning or end of a sentence. "Yo, you heard the news, yo?" These are just some of the basics you will be learning once you enroll in Ebonics for YOU.

When I found out the news of this new course, I was like mad shocked and what not. I decided to solicit some other opinions from the rest of Stuyvesant:

"Umm... leave me alone." - various individuals.

"Blasphemous!" - Hiro Nishimori.

"Oh snap, that's da bombs yo!" - guy who wants to be called "Big Dog".

"Who cares I just want to play Magic all day long." - crazed Magic junkie.

"Judge Kong presiding." - Nicholas Spyer aka Big Boy.

"Should I keep this on the DL?" - S. L.

"But how does this affect my grade point average?" - various individuals.

Unfortunately, the majority just started blankly ahead, trying very hard to avert their eyes from yours truly.

On the real though, it's about time. This here ebonics is more than simply a dialect of the streets. We be speaking a new evolution of the English language. Word up does that Shakespeare guy sound anything like the "proper English" we speak today? "Oh, where art thou, Romeo?" Homey don't play that yo. The ebonically proficient Juliet says, "Where's my man?" Just as we stand now on the corpse of archaic English, we're gonna stomp modern English. Are you be diggin' me?

This is a big plan.

Pirates Captains Take Home Gold For US At Synch. Swimming World Cup

By ROBIN MATCHA KATCHA

The four captains of the Pirates, Stuy's boys' swimming team have become the first ever male squad to win the FINA Synchronized Swimming World Cup. The underdog USA team, made up of Gabe Legendy, Kelvin Chan, Bryan Spadaro, and John Rybicki, blew away the competition with their routine, complete with the popular Ariana, Delacarlia, and Subalina moves. A crowd favorite, the Stuy Four, nicknamed the magnificent quadruple, signed autographs for pre-teen girls while they screamed "We love you even

more than the Backstreet Boys!!!"

And just like everyone's got a favorite Backstreet Boy, everyone's got a favorite pirate. Each member of the Stuy four has his quirks. Sexy Rybicki, with a certain likeness to Ricky Martin, is known for hip-shaking Latin moves. Once, in the middle of his routine, he broke out with the song "Sex Machine." Legendy, known to be a little unbalanced at times, once won a competition by forfeit after knocking out his competitors with his patented "sleeper" move. Spadaro, known as "Spud," heard his calling to synchronized swimming one morning after being found in a pile of vomit wearing noth-

ing but a Santa suit. Chan likes to keep his image on the DL, and no one knows too much about him, but sometimes he breaks out his hip-hop moves between routines.

Unfortunately, the cruel truth is that men are not allowed to compete in the synchronized swimming events at the Olympics (as of yet), but the Pirates are working hard to change that. In proper Stuyvesant High School fashion, they have petitioned the head of the National Synchronized Swimming Association, the Olympic Committee of 2004, Rudy Giuliani, George Pataki, and the President of the United States, George W. Bush.

Defecator

Ode to Asian Gurlz

By Cha Cha and Ling Kong the Witch is Dead

Oh, stereotyped Asian gurl,
How cruel is thy fate in this world,
Forced to wear tight pants and black clothes,
Highlight your hair and paint your toes,
Gucci labels on your asses,
Do you hope to get more passes?
Prada bags on your shoulders
What a bunch of sad posers.
Same hair style, same set of clothes,
Don't blame me if i start to doze.
Is it really necessary?
So much makeup is just scary.
But thank god for tweezers,
Those thick eyebrows aren't pleasers
Who are you trying to impress?
You hardly have any breasts.
Someone said you looked like planks
Please don't mistake that for a thanks.
Hate it when you try to act cute,
Why don't you just be the real you?
Alone you are quiet and shy
Together your screams reach the sky.
It doesn't take the money,
To get the real hunnies.
Just because a guy has a car,
Doesn't mean he is going far.
All your sentences end with z's
You're human, not a hive of bееz.
You're not too smart,
You won't even admit to your own farts
You can't even fight right.
All you do is grab at them highlights
You just got this underdeveloped body
And those knees that are knobby
Wearin' the same pants, (doing the same act),
Ya'll look the same from the back
White guys think you're all the rage
We know that it's all staged.

Typical Asian Guys

By Central Park, Pizz Yun, and Oh So Young

You think we're jus gonna sit here
And listen to your rants,
Trying to look all hardcore in black leather
And your Ralph Lauren pants.
All you Asian guys wear hats
'Cuz you're too lazy to wash your hair.
And don't talk about us being underdeveloped
Because you all are "down there."
Your ass can't hold a job
So you never have any dough
But you go and act all cocky
Even though you're just mad ghetto.
You're always outside smoking you Reds,
Drowning in you own spit,
As if the bigger the pool of saliva
Makes you the SHIT!
You talk about your suped up Civics
And racing down the freeway,
But all you can afford to ride
Is the MTA.
You wear those little wife-beaters
And you think you're so damn fly.
Try putting some muscles on your body
Just get your scrawny ass to the Y.
When we look your way
It feeds your bloated head.
When we're actually making fun
And laughing at you instead.
You catch beef with everyone
That's not in your crew.
But when it comes down to it,
You don't even know what to do.
So next time you wanna criticize,
Remember all that you lack,
You little boys ain't nothing
To us, you're just all wack!

Get Kicked Out of Stuy?

Come to the Bronx High School of Science
We'll take you - no questions asked.
Our school is in a great neighborhood
with extremely low rent.

Join the ranks of Bronx Science Students who
went on to do bigger and better things like Marv
Albert, none of the Beastie Boys and the
guys who work at the Hole in the Wall.

Bronx Science - "First is the worst, second is the
best, Tech is the one with the hairy chest."

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celebrated poetry.