



THE DISRESPECTATOR

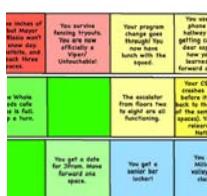
The |— 6 ft —| Stuyvesant |— 6 ft —| High |— 6 ft —| School |— 6 ft —| Newspaper

"The Pulsating Student Body"

Volume 39 No. tebooks on Imperialism

End Of The World, 2020

stuспектator.com



DISRESPECTATOR

Game of Stuy

Homesick for Stuy since schools have closed? Look no further than this Game of Stuy.

SEE PAGES 4 AND 29

DISRESPECTATOR

Thank You, Principal Contreras

A thank you note to our beloved dictator, Principal Eric Contreras.

SEE PAGE 3



DISRESPECTATOR CONTENT ON PAGES 1-4 AND 29-32

HUMORBEAT

- School continues as normal.
- Hazmat dresses and tuxedos have been introduced just in time for prom.
- The two to four escalators are way ahead of the curve on self-quarantine.
- Upbeat, chipper Stuyvesant students fill in the attendance form at 8:00 on the dot.
- The Student Union screened "Five Feet Apart" (2019) for movie night.
- Swim gym has been temporarily moved to your shower.
- The Big Sib Chairs announce that Open House will be held in the Stuy building on the stuy.world Minecraft server.

By VERONIKA KOWALSKI and HELENA WILLIAMS

With recent outbreaks of a new type of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2, also called Boomer Doomer) reported globally, you may be worried about contracting this illness. While the coronavirus can be serious, taking preventative measures like drinking hand sanitizer and aggressively hoarding masks will definitely protect you from it. If you develop symptoms such as sneezing or a dry cough, continue to attend school. Spread your germs to as many potential carriers of disease as possible to convince Mayor Bill de Blasio to shut schools down.

PROTECTING YOURSELF AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS
Wash your hands with soap and water to mini-

mize your infection risk. The best way to prevent the coronavirus is to wash your hands as often as possible. Once your hands are washed, you can cough and sneeze into them all you want! After all, they're now completely clean and won't be contaminated again.

- The World Health Organization recommends not only rubbing your hands palm to palm but also practicing your finger origami to make sure your cranes are squeaky clean. Grab the door with your finger-no-Jutsu, and then realize you probably just recontaminated your hands. Oh well.
- Wash your hands anytime you're about to breathe or when you're around human beings. Carry supplies with you at all times, including, but not limited



Daniel Berlinsky / The Spectator

to, disinfectant wipes, alcohol solution, and three boxes of latex gloves. Carry everything but—no, scratch that—carry everything with you, even the kitchen sink.

If you can't wash your hands, use a hand sanitizer that contains over 100 percent alcohol. The most effective brands will contain over 3,000 percent alcohol and may cost you obscene sums of money, but they will keep you safe.

continued on page 2

Report Card Dictionary

By VERONIKA KOWALSKI

Report cards recently came out, and I'd like to clear the air. There isn't nearly enough room in those tiny boxes to express just how brilliant us teachers think you all are. For those of you wondering what those cryptic messages really mean, here's a heads up:

Highly motivated and cooperative

This is the epitome of the comment I can give. Words cannot express how much I enjoy having you in my classroom, especially these words. I worship you as a student. The thoughts and ideas you bring up bring joy to me each day. Now, please stop stalking my office during my lunch period.

Shows a great deal of effort

As the old adage goes, try your best, but be honest with yourself: was that really your best?

Works best in one-on-one situations

Oh my GOD, my heart goes out to any other teacher who has to have you as a student. I sympathize with anyone else who needs to isolate a student dur-

ing instruction. Please control yourself and keep your mouth shut, or I will do it for you.

Is making steady progress

I've enjoyed seeing you grow as an individual over the course of the year. I'm glad you've found motivation for opening your textbook because I don't want to spend the summer with you either. That counts as an improvement, right? You're literally at rock bottom, and I'm glad you don't have enough brainpower to use a pickaxe.

Active participant

Splendid. You're doing everything you possibly can to achieve that sought-after B average in the "participation" section of your grade. It's obvious that you eagerly offer to erase the board after class purely out of your love of polar curves and the kindness of your heart. The next step is raising your hand when I ask you to explain the logic behind the binomial theorem.

Outstanding homework

Remember the time I kept your homework as an

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JProm Boat Quarantined On Hudson River

By OLIVER STEWART

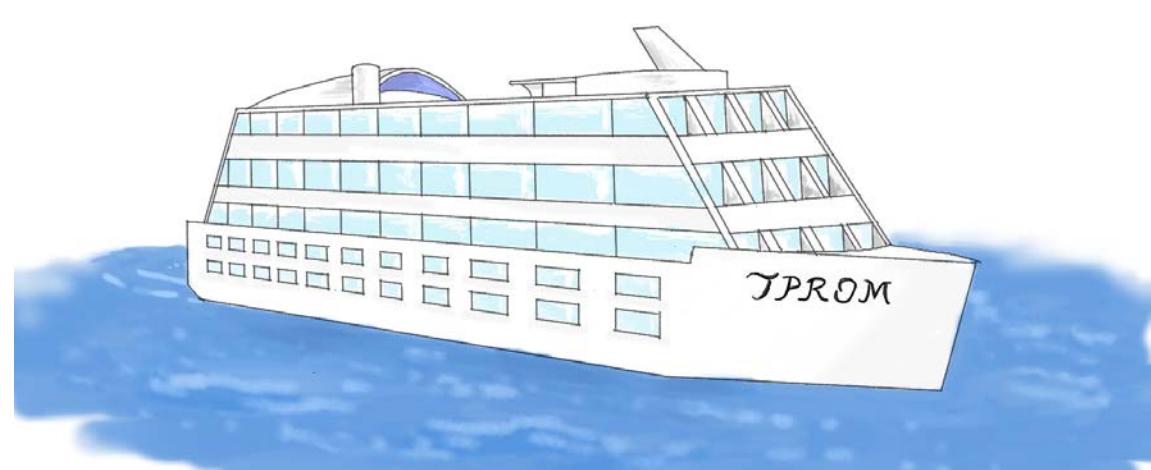
After several partying juniors tested positive for COVID-19, the JProm boat has been quarantined on the Hudson River for a minimum of two weeks, allowing attendees to self-isolate until testing kits are available. While the boat is not fitted with adequate sleeping quarters for the 213 partygoers, the Student Union has purchased sleeping bags for all juniors stuck on board and enlisted teams of students to throw leftover oranges from Stuyvesant's cafeteria onto the boat in the case of a food shortage.

Nurse Danielle, when

While the general mood onboard was optimistic, there were some signs that tensions were beginning to develop. When DJ Bill Samuel, known professionally as "Sil-E Bil-E," tried to "get this party started" for a second time, he was jumped by a mob of students who threw him over the side into the waters of the Hudson. Attempts to contact chaperones were unsuccessful, though some unconfirmed reports stated that the adults onboard the ship had barricaded themselves in the engine room and were sobbing against the door.

contacted for information about the situation on the boat, told us that "whatever happens on the JProm boat stays on the JProm boat," and that the situation was beyond her—or anyone's—control. Principal Eric Contreras echoed this sentiment, telling those concerned about the well-being of the affected students to "just hope and pray, essentially."

The Spectator is currently sending teams of reporters to shout questions at the boat from Hudson River Park with megaphones. As the situation continues to develop, we will publish any further updates.



Ka Seng Soo / The Spectator

Disrespectator

Dear Incoming Stuyvesant Class of 2024... THE SPECTATOR HAS ADVICE!

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

- Please wash your PE clothes more than once a month. You may think nobody can tell, but you think incorrectly.
- Please avoid running over our toes with your rolling backpacks. Our toes are precious to us.
- Join the Spectator. Done.
- You are here to embark on a new journey in your life. You will probably be stressed. You might get lower grades. You might get very little sleep and

feel like collapsing during class. That said, never take mental health days. Breaks are for wimps. Suck it up, bruh.

- The best way to deal with a packed escalator is to jump really hard on the metal platforms at the top and bottom of said escalator.
- Don't try to put a waffle maker in your locker. You will start a fire. Trust me.
- Be taller, ya dorks.
- The "senior bar" is just a name. Feel free to rub your freshman body all over the second-floor

atrium.

- You are totally free to use the printing stations not just for printing but also for writing your entire English paper that happens to be due next period. It won't piss anyone off. Honestly.
- Your lockers are on the upper floors, and they kinda suck. Go ahead and buy a locker from an upperclassman. Don't worry! This totally isn't illegal business.
- To navigate through a cramped stairwell, just put your head down and run straight down the

middle. If you want to feel extra cool, pull your arms back into a "Naruto run." Even cooler.

- On the rare occasion that you find an empty escalator, feel free to use it as you wish. There totally won't be anyone behind you who happens to be in a rush, anyway. Just stand in the middle, enjoy life, and maybe take a nap on the way up.
- You see a dean? Run.
- You see the trash cans scattered throughout the school? Yeah, forget about them. Pretend they don't exist. Go

ahead and wade through your filth.

- The half-floor is your designated area. No upperclassmen shall disturb you there... not because the half-floor is full of trash and obnoxious freshmen, but because we love you!
- Yes, it is possible to have a ramen maker in your locker. I've seen it before. Have fun, kids!
- Whole Foods gives you free lunch! You don't even have to ask!
- USE THE VENDING MACHINES FOR COINS!!

How To Survive the Coronavirus: Tips and Tricks From WikiHow

continued from page 1

Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth. Studies show that touching your face at all will cause you to lose your Sasuke eyes, be kicked out of your child gang, and lose your mermaid powers, which are very real things that we wikiHow readers fear. A great way to avoid touching your face unconsciously is by cutting off your hands.

If someone is coughing or sneezing, approach

them immediately to ask if they are feeling okay. Human contact is essential during this time of uncertainty. More than anything, we need each other. Hold people close if they need a shoulder to cry on.

Shake hands firmly when you congratulate people for fighting the virus. Expressing thanks at a distance may be misconstrued as a cold greeting, or worse, not heard at all through their thick bodysuits. Let your local health care provider know how much of an impact

their work has on their community. First aid responders need positive reinforcement too, folks. A little display of gratitude can go a long way.

Try not to worry too much if you're not truly at risk. As long as you plan to glue your arms to the sides of your body over the duration of your commute, your risk of infection is minimal. Look for crowded trains in the morning; you won't have to hold on to anything because you'll be kept upright by everyone standing next to you in such close proximity.

Report Card Dictionary

continued from page 1

example for my future Advanced Algebra classes? I, um, actually spilled my coffee on it. I still feel bad about that. Sorry.

Constantly cuts class

I'd refer you to r/hm-mmm, but you've already seen all the memes on there anyway. At least I know you had an exciting high school career: you've become the protagonist of a Scooby-Doo chase scene (yes, I saw you

on the way to my seventh-period lecture). Oh, and by the way, it's amazing how you magically become my most enthusiastic student during SING! season, but we won't talk about that.

Frequently misses assignments

The keyword here: "frequently." Not always. There's still hope that if you kiss up to me in enough ways, I won't badmouth you too badly to your immigrant mother. I have a list. See me after class. ;)

Why Soph-Frosh SING! Should've Taken the Win

By JUDY CHEN

Okay, we all get that seniors have their little tradition of winning (disregarding that 10-year curse), and then juniors, and blah blah blah whatever. But like, Soph-Frosh SING! 2020 MOST DEFINITELY did not receive the recognition it deserved.

First of all, how many years of Soph-Frosh SING!, or SING! in general, had as much behind-the-scenes action as Soph-Frosh 2020? We had SO much tea this year. We literally put on our own spring comedy with screenshots from the Facebook group.

Additionally, our wonderful art crew created the vision of an upside-down world, not because we didn't realize that the holes of the canvas were on the other side, but due to our OBVIOUS creative intelligence. It was truly astounding how we defied the laws of physics. Many audience members also couldn't tell what our background was supposed to be. That means that it was truly an abstract masterpiece, perfectly fit for a theme such as "Wonderland." Either that or our audience can't appreciate modern art. The fact that just turning both the canvas and poorly painted mushrooms could turn

them into brown chodes is beyond the scope of the human race's understanding of evolution. Therefore, it should truly be applauded.

Speaking of creative intelligence, the fact that a dance wasn't given to the Queen of Spades wasn't a result of bad planning or the lack of appropriate choreography, pshhhh. It was STRICTLY due to the fact that the Queen of Spades was supposed to be SPECIAL in her own way, okay? Okay. Complementing the dancers who were ALWAYS in sync, the band really delivered that elementary school nostalgia to the people. The wonderful sounds of squeaking, flat notes reminded me of when green meant good behavior, yellow meant counting down from three, and red meant standing in a small corner and then sulking for an hour about what you just did.

Lastly, Soph-Frosh SING! literally shredded Senior SING! with its very suspenseful kiss. Forget about actual kissing—why not make two (basically) middle schoolers almost kiss! That'll be a great advertisement for next year's Soph-Frosh SING! for sure! It'll also make some ~enticing~ cover art for the recording that the Student Union is about to sell for twenty dollars apiece.

Leave Me and My Inbox Alone

By LOGAN RUZZIER

It's a biting February morning and you're roaming the sidewalks of lower Manhattan. You feel increasingly miserable as you near Stuyvesant, as if you're approaching the source of a terrible odor. You are still longing to be within one of the cars whizzing down Chambers Street, destined for some distant workplace, when you feel your phone vibrate in your right jeans pocket. With no regard for your imminently frozen digits, you whip it out and come upon an unforeseen notification. Surprisingly enough, it's the first email you've gotten in the past six months that isn't a weekly schedule, student update, opportunities bulletin, or Google Classroom post.

The email is from Perkins College, and the subject line oddly reads, "We Want You, Kevin." (Author's note: I'm guessing you aren't a Kevin, but on the off chance you are, change your bland-ass name, you dork.) You curiously open it, thinking, "A college is showing interest in me already? I haven't done anything yet." But then again, Kevin, you did cop a 93 on that one chemistry test and sit in on that extracurricular meeting that one time. What university wouldn't want you? You reach the body of the message and come upon a cryptic mess of pre-college pro-

gram persuasion and tacky slogans.

You pick up your internal monologue and remark, "Well, let's just see what Perkins College has to offer" as you pry open your 14th Google Chrome tab. Your face contorts in response to the university's absolutely stellar stats. Woah! Boasting a 90% acceptance rate and a 44% graduation rate, Perkins College is the top school in Springfield, Tennessee! You groan and resume your daily pre-school-day unpleasantness, comically unaware of what has just begun.

Over the upcoming weeks, a smorgasbord* of academic advertising is thrown at you, including innumerable generic, poorly-formatted emails and many racially-inclusive college postcards. What was once an isolated, notable disappointment from one especially dull morning has now freakishly morphed into a sea of unappealing, irritating mediocrity. As a privileged, high-horse-riding Stuyvesant student, none of the colleges reaching out will ever satisfy your Ivy League tastes.

If an undergraduate admissions officer miraculously happens upon this article, please heed my advice:

- Don't pretend to know me or try to grab my attention by using my first name in an email. We all know it's fed into a pro-

gram and spat out to thousands of students, and the illusion of personal contact is absolutely insidious.

- Stop sending emails to me if I don't respond. What makes you think that I'll suddenly take an interest in your fifth email if I batted my eyelashes at the first four? I'm sick of wading through so much spam just to partake in the Spectator email thread. I'm considering demanding rent for all of the inbox real estate you people hoover up.
- Finally, try not to be so transparent in your cash-grabbery. If you weren't exclusively caping for your paycheck, the emails wouldn't have stopped the second the program admissions period had ended.

I know this article won't convince its target audience. I'm just looking for a little pity. Us SING!-loving underclassmen have had a poor run of it for a long time. Aren't jeering juniors and smirking seniors enough already? Only our gods, Emperor Eric Contreras and College Counselor Jeff Makris, know what the junior and senior admission seasons have in store for our mailboxes.

*Smorgasbord, n.: A buffet or platter of multiple different dishes and courses; a large variety

Disrespectator

Thank You, Principal Contreras

By JORDAN BARAKAT

Every day here at Stuyvesant High School, we go about our day without appreciating what we have. We don't appreciate our mostly lead-free water, the arousing scent of the school bathrooms, and the few areas in the school where you can use WiFi. But most importantly, we don't appreciate the person responsible for it all: our principal, Eric Contreras. That ends today. Here are some anonymous thank-you's from Stuy students to our great and honorable Principal Contreras.

"Contreras gave me a high five on the escalators the other day. Thank you, Principal Contreras."

"He passed by me and my friends the other day when we were all on our phones in the fifth-floor hallway, and unlike some people *cough* Simon *cough*, he did not take our phones. Thank you, Principal Contreras."

"I was practicing guitar in the senior atrium, and Contreras said I was doing really well. He then gave me a thumbs-up. I felt so invigorated by his encouragement and ended up having a huge, very unnatural, upward spike in my guitar skills that day. Thank you, Principal Contreras."



"I was taking a calculus test, and it was really hard, mostly because none of us actually studied for this thing, and halfway through the test, Contreras passed by our classroom and told us good luck. Fun fact: the class average for that test ended up being a 95. Thank you, Principal Contreras."

"We lost the finals to Brooklyn Tech this year, which really sucks. We've been preparing for this the entire year. It's the day after, and we're meeting up and kinda moping about it when Contreras comes to our meeting with a surprise. He got us these really nice and fancy windbreakers. We pointed out to him that we lost the finals, but Contreras said he was still proud of us. He told us that being one of two schools in the finals out of the hundreds of high schools in New York City was an accomplishment in itself. We then pointed out that the windbreakers had tortured, voiceless yet screaming faces of our opponents on the fabric, but he told us that wasn't important; he was incredibly proud of us. On an unrelated note, Brooklyn Tech's entire team disappeared under mysterious circumstances that day. Thank you, Principal Contreras."

Laura Xie / The Spectator

"I was asking people around me if they had seen my laptop. Then, Contreras came up to me and told me he found this laptop, and what do you know? It looks exactly like the one I lost! I'm so glad that Contreras found it, though I'm pretty sure that my old laptop didn't glow at night while chanting ancient tomes. It might have done that before, though. I have a pretty bad memory. Thank you, Principal Contreras."

"I was about to ask my crush out, right? So I'm talking to myself, practicing what I'm gonna say. Then, Contreras appeared right in front of me. He asked me what was going on, and after some prompting, I admitted that I was gonna ask my crush out. He told me that he wished me luck. After he encouraged me, I got the confidence to ask her out, and she said "yes"! I'm so happy. Also, after he encouraged me, I instantly grew like six inches, my face became perfectly sharp and symmetrical, and whenever I walk into a room, everyone is compelled to compliment me, but that's not important. Thank you, Principal Contreras."

"After school, my friends and I were hanging out in Battery Park City, and this random guy started yelling at us. We ran away from him, obviously, but he ran after us and jumped on me. I felt his nails pierce my skin, and I thought that this was the end. But then, all of a sudden, I saw Contreras appear out of nowhere and attack him. It was over quickly; he vaporized the crazy guy in an instant, and all I saw was a flash of light, dust, and Contreras's eyes and arms melting back into his head and suit. I was gonna report it to someone, but Contreras was gone, and none of my friends could recall that the crazy guy chasing us even existed in the first place. Thank you, Principal Contreras."

"I dropped this huge poster that I made for my World History project onto the subway tracks. As I cried, I felt a familiar hand on my shoulder, and Contreras was there to comfort me. After I regained my composure (seriously, though, this thing was worth 20 percent of my grade), he put something in my hand that looked like a wooden eyeball, and then he was gone. I put the eyeball in my plastic bag that had held the poster, and when I got to school, I had an exact replica of my project in the plastic bag instead of the eyeball, and my World History teacher was missing an eye. Thank you, Principal Contreras."

Hot n' Heavy in the Hudson

By ASA MUHAMMAD

Officials at Stuyvesant High School are currently under fire for possession of "ludicrous" amounts of child pornography. The school is outfitted with security cameras throughout the halls and stairways for the safety of staff and students, but as teenagers begin to explore their budding sexualities, the cameras may have caught less than appropriate actions. Sophomore Wird Idout, who has a boyfriend, said "There are cameras in all of the high traffic areas for 'getting to know' your partner. At this point, I'm starting to think it's deliberate."

According to a security officer at the school, "We catch these students all the time on our patrols. It's awkward for us, and it's awkward for them. Our monitors show us an alternating feed, so we've never noticed those 'activities' from our desks—or at least we've tried not to—but from the number of students we've caught, there could be hours of footage in our archives. I just don't see how someone can see a bleak gray stairwell and think "Wow! This is so hot!" This poses a problem for Stuyvesant because the footage is stored on the school's private server as a security measure, and in

order to purge the pornography, a full reset would be necessary.

Unfortunately, the server also contains footage of students loitering in areas other than the first, second, and half floors, the only floors where congregating is allowed. Thus, the school faces another unique dilemma: let students who congregate outside of these floors get away with their crimes or keep all of the child porn, which is technically a felony. The issue is made more complex by the fact that after the initial server wipe, there's no way to ensure that students will no longer be caught on film without consuming the sexual content. "We don't have the means to enforce our school's ban on public displays of affection without releasing the footage, and so, more often than not, students go unpunished for their explorations of anatomy," Moran explained.

The problem expands beyond just the camera. Students and faculty alike are unfortunately affected by the "passions" shared throughout the building. Custodial staff is known to often deal with what they have dubbed "misfires" in the Hudson staircase. Not only are misfires unsanitary, but they also pose a safety risk to students. "I was rushing from the music hall

to my locker. As I opened the door to the Hudson, I slipped on what looked like hand soap, but it reeked of something rancid. I sprained my wrist breaking my fall," recounted sophomore Fa Cinklutz wearing a wrist brace. Aside from physical injury, many students also experience mental scarring from their experiences. Senior Lexie Sherhall cited her experiences in Lecture Hall B through tears. "I had a class scheduled there after my lunch period," she said. "I showed up early and sat on my phone for a bit. Everything was fine until I began hearing these boyish grunts and unenthusiastic moans. I was scared. In my rush to get out of there, I saw everything. It was horrible. I even shared a class with one of them."

Despite the widespread complaints, Stuyvesant's administration has done little to alleviate the concerns of both students caught on tape and those who want an end to their classmates' lascivious rendezvous. The Student Union proposes that members of ARISTA can earn community service hours by signing up to spend their free periods in "high traffic areas" and act as deterrents to illicit activity. Though this initiative is in the works, curbing adolescent desire remains a tough nut to bust.

Subtle Jewish Dating: Talia Kahan

By CAROLINE JI

With a new Spectator era comes a new SINGLE editor-in-chief (though both are hella valid 😍)! As for my wingwoman duties (which clearly have not been very successful... we don't talk about those), it is my absolute pleasure to introduce everyone to the amazing

Tilapia Kahan

Age: 16

Height: 5 feet 7.25 inches (This .25 inch matters tremendously to Talia.)

Location: Spec room—she's the one with the ~special~ chalkboard handwriting

feet! Get someone musically talented in your life! 🎵

- Uses high-quality emojis when texting that are sure to catch your •• eyes ☺
- Runs in the middle of a busy street to take aesthetic photos, so you know she's willing to risk her life for you 😊
- Name sounds like Tilapia... 🐟 What a snack! 🍋
- Absolute 💯 mensch 💯 (Jewish boys, where you at?) 😅

✗ Cons ✗:

- Thought that 🏀 Kevin Durant 🏀 was a senior at Stuy (We blame her for any mistakes in Sports articles 🤦‍♀️, but we still love her ❤️!)
- Takes four months to give you your birthday present 🙄
- Is prone to dropping her phone in random places. 🙄 Take care of her, please. 🙏 Really.
- "Occasionally" takes 24+ hours to 📬 respond to messages 📬
- Loses her 🎩 hat 🎩 every ten days (if she is lucky)
- Forgets the password to her Netflix account 🥲 (so much for Netflix and chill) ✘

✓ Pros ✓:

- First 🏆 singles in tennis 🏻 AND in real life (hit her up y'all, this girl is a catch 💚)
- Encourages you to eat 🍉 healthy fruits 🍉 (even if they are frozen from Whole Foods)
- Taps 🎶 like there's no tomorrow, so she can basically beatbox with her

Disrespectator

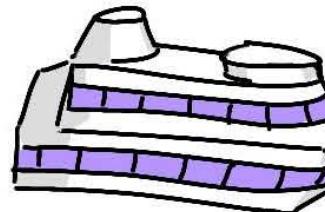
Stuy or Die

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| You get accepted into your favorite Spec department! Move forward 7 spaces. | You get a 50 on Dunkel's agriculture test. Don't sweat it too much — the average is usually around 48. | You get elected Freshman Caucus Vice President! It is a fake title, and you do not get to move forward. | | Your first day of Stuyvesant! |
| Second-semester schedules are out! Roll one die to see what your schedule looks like: If you get an odd number, you have Art Appreciation right after swim gym. Move back two spaces. If you get an even number, you have sixth-period lunch. Move forward two spaces. | | Fifty-five inches of snow, but Mayor Bill de Blasio won't call a snow day. Get frostbite, and move back three spaces. | You survive fencing tryouts. You are now officially a Viper/Untouchable! | Your program change goes through! You now have lunch with the squad. |

Freshman Year



| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Interact with a senior SING! cast member. Move back three spaces. | The Ferry's guy learns your name and order. | Conference day! Roll again. | The Whole Foods cafe area is full. Skip a turn. | |
| You get partnered with your crush for Garber's egg baby project. Move forward four spaces. | | Junior Year | | |
| The vending machine takes your dollar and refuses to give you Doritos. Skip a turn. | You discover Dr. Haber's stash of pretzels and jolly ranchers. | You lose your student ID and have to lay \$5. Move back one space. | You forget to fill out your SSR survey. Skip a turn. | |



Andrea Huang / The Spectator

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| FINISH You graduate from Stuyvesant! | The superglue you used in your cap gets all tangled into your robe, and now things are a mess. Skip your next turn. | | Your name appears three times on the senior crush list. Move forward two spaces. | You get placed into NYC History. |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|



The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper

*"The Pulse
of the
Student
Body"*



FEATURES

Quarantine Qualms

The Editorial Board reflects on the past two weeks in quarantine and our feelings about this unprecedented situation.

SEE PAGE 11

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Trendsetters and the Rise of Film Photography

Art & Entertainment writer Zifei Zhao explores why film photography is trending again and the effects of this apparent fad.

SEE PAGE 22



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April 1, 2020

stuysspec.com

Meet the 2020-2021 Big Sib Chairs!

By MADDY ANDERSEN and KAREN ZHANG

Juniors Anaïs Delfau, Elena Hlamenko, Andrea Huang, Henry Michaelson, and Aki Yamaguchi have been selected as the 2019-2020 Big Sib Chairs. They were chosen by 2019-2020 Big Sib Chairs Harper Andrews, Kristie Chu, Victoria Wong, Frank Yang, and Patrick Zheng. Both the outgoing and incoming Big Sib Chairs are looking forward to future plans for the program in the upcoming year.

The outgoing Big Sib Chairs followed a thorough process while picking their successors. "Everybody had to submit a written application, and everyone also got an interview," Michaelson said. "You needed two recommendations from two Little Sibs and one from your homeroom leader." Applicants were also required to submit a teacher recommendation and were interviewed by all five Big Sib Chairs and two faculty members.

Though they have only just begun working together, the incoming Big Sib Chairs have already established a close and friendly dynamic. "When I walked into [Assistant Principal of Pupil Personnel Services Ms. Casey] Pedrick's of-

fice for the first time, I only knew [Hlamenko], and I didn't know the other three Big Sib Chairs at all," Huang said. "I was a little worried at first because it felt like some of

want to be the odd one out, but that didn't happen. We just clicked."

Delfau is the captain of the girls' varsity volleyball team. She is also on a club volleyball team



Matt Melucci / The Spectator

From left to right: juniors Henry Michaelson, Anaïs Delfau, Aki Yamaguchi, Andrea Huang, and Elena Hlamenko

them knew each other before, and I felt a little intimidated. I didn't

outside of Stuyvesant. She also takes photos for The Spectator

and Humans of Stuy.

Delfau formed a strong and meaningful relationship with one of her Big Sibs, Amy Ren ('18), who inspired her to become a Big

she came to a game without me even telling her. I just mentioned it at one homeroom, and she was able to take whatever I said and find a way to help me and find a way to devote more value," Delfau said. "That was a really big part of why I wanted to be a Big Sib [...] I wanted to be able to help people and show them that they were important because it's so easy to get lost and overwhelmed at Stuy."

Hlamenko writes for The Spectator Opinions Department and Caliper Magazine. She is a member of the girls' varsity volleyball team and plays club volleyball outside of school. In addition, she is the Junior Caucus Chief of Staff.

Hlamenko has formed strong bonds with her Little Sibs and seen the positive impact of a strong Big Sib-Little Sib relationship firsthand. "I've really formed some really powerful relationships with my Little Sibs, and I definitely say that even as a chair and even as they become sophomores, I'm still going to keep in touch with a handful of the freshmen in my current homeroom," she said. "Having those relationships

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Read how six teachers have transitioned from traditional classroom-style learning to online learning on page 10.

Stuy Legacy Places Second at Sayaw Dance Competition

By LUCY BAO

The bright lights, the positive atmosphere, and the cheering from the audience—this is what makes months of afterschool practices worth it for members of Stuy Legacy, an urban dance team at Stuyvesant. While performing at massive dance competitions seems daunting to most, for Legacy members, it's part of everyday life.

Stuy Legacy came in second at Stony Brook University's largest dance competition, Sayaw X. This was Stony Brook's 10th annual competition, with Stuy Legacy and nine other teams competing.

Stuy Legacy was established in 2016 and has since grown to become a competitive team, consistently placing at competitions in the New York metropolitan area. This season, directors and seniors Jeff Lin and Crystal Liu, director and junior Min Sun Yu, and choreographers and seniors Zuwei Li and Andy Li, decided to create a medley set with loosely connected songs. While last season showcased a solemn set with a recurring theme of loneliness, this season was about "show[ing] a more diverse range of ourselves," Liu said. "When we limited ourselves to one story, dance became very restrictive."

To prepare for the competition, directors and choreographers worked together to piece together a story. "We all discussed the song choice[s] very collaboratively, making sure that each song acts as a puzzle to a grandiose picture of visual expression we wanted to portray,"

Zuwei Li said in an e-mail interview.

Choreographers were also encouraged to critique each other's pieces and experiment with different options for transitions. "This collaboration ultimately results in a greater final product that contains all our best ideas, and it ensures that we reach our highest creative potential," Lin said.

The stress that comes with creating a competitive set is both physically and mentally draining. This season's set required more energy than previous ones. "It was very demanding in terms of energy. It was extremely difficult to get through the almost six-minute long set while also performing and keeping a lot of details in mind," sophomore Melody Lin said.

Team morale also hindered progress this season, as both choreographers and members on the team found themselves doubting their work.

"As a choreographer, I sometimes found myself not having a lot of confidence in my work nor the motivation to push through the season when it got stressful," Jeff Lin said.

This doubt came to a head the day of the competition, when members felt discouraged after a bad set run.

"At the beginning of the day, I was so excited to perform, and I was really confident in our abilities to do really well. But when we took the time to clean, my whole mood shifted, and I was really doubtful," freshman Sukanya Ferguson said.

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Stuyvesant Holds Fifth Annual International Women's Day Run

By JADY CHEN, SARAH HUYNH, and JENNY LIU

A combined total of 650 students ran along the pier during this year's International Women's Day Run on March 11 and March 12. The event's third day, March 13, was cancelled, along with all other after school activities scheduled for that afternoon, due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The International Women's Day Run is an annual event that began five years ago in 2016. This year, it was organized by a committee of four students on the girls' track team: senior and president Liza Reizis and juniors Caroline Ji, Chloe Terestchenko, and Julianne Yotov.

"We wanted [the event] to be something that everyone bonds over, while also celebrating all the women at Stuy and just in our lives," Reizis said.

The community aspect was a big part of the International Women's Day Run, as it brought students and faculty together to support International Women's Day. "I went with a couple of new friends that I met, and it was fun getting to know them. I think that was really the highlight," sophomore Semoi Khan said.

The money raised from this year's run went to the charity Womankind, "which helps women, primarily in Asian American families, deal with gender inequality and gender-based abuse," Reizis said.

Many students were attracted to the idea of running and contributing to such an important cause. "The idea of being able to



Courtesy of Claire Zhu

support the cause (of celebrating women achievement) and there being a T-shirt for something as simple as just running a mile or two really drew me in," sophomore Sanjiv Jewram, who had planned to participate on March 13, said in an e-mail interview.

The 2020 International Women's Day Run Committee started planning the event in August 2019. "We started reaching out to people in the summer, and each person [on the committee] reached out to five different companies and asked if they'd be interested in sponsoring us [...] we also started reaching out to teachers who would be willing to give extra credit really early," Terestchenko said.

Several sponsors also had previous relations with the event and were able to continue them this year. The event was announced to students through several platforms, including Facebook, e-mail, and a web-

site put together by the committee.

This year, for the first time, the International Women's Day Run Committee visited the United Nations Delegations of Women's Club, which became one of the largest sponsors for the run. Physical education teacher and run supervisor Dr. Anna Markova reached out to the group's president, Andrea Mlynarova, who was interested in helping support the event. The committee went to the club's headquarters, where members of the club gave a presentation. Afterward, members of the committee were able to talk to members of the club, allowing committee members to talk about the upcoming run. "As feedback, many of the women said that they were impressed by our event and how well rounded our school is," Dr. Markova said.

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News

Diversity and Inclusion: Bo Young Lee Speaks at Stuyvesant

By JENNY LIU

Bo Young Lee ('93), the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for Uber, spoke to English teacher Annie Thoms's Writing to Make Change class on March 9. Lee discussed the role of writing in her line of work and her personal experiences that ultimately shaped her writing.

Writing to Make Change is an English elective that focuses on generating and crafting public writing for a larger audience beyond the classroom. The class studies public writing in a variety of genres and forms, such as memoirs and poetry. Students then identify pressing issues they wish to write about and conduct an independent study. The writing culminates into a final piece that will be released into the world through a variety of mediums, such as performance, contest submission, or publication.

Thoms, who was in the same graduating class as Lee, first reached out to her through the Stuyvesant Facebook Alumni Page, where they reconnected over the SHSAT controversies. "Some people responded to some of the postings about the SHSAT with very racist responses, and [Lee] was one of the people who was very clearly and factually pointing that out and dismantling the racism. I was really impressed with how articulate and thoughtful she was on those issues," Thoms said.

A considerable part of Lee's job involves Op-Ed and Speechwriting. An Op-Ed, or opposite the editorial page, is a written prose piece or column for a publication that expresses a writer's strong opinion on a relevant issue. Lee publishes two to three Op-Eds and delivers 20 to 40 keynote speeches per year. Because her work often entails public writing, Thoms thought that she would be an appropriate speaker for the class. "I thought she would be a terrific speaker. We were doing an Op-Ed unit, and [...] thinking of speeches as a form," Thoms said.

As Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Lee analyzes the social and systemic obstacles that prevent historically underrepresented groups, such as women and people of color, from succeeding at the same rates as more historically represented groups. From there, she builds solutions to help combat those obstacles. "If I'm

successful, I build organizations that are more equitable, inclusive, engaging, psychologically safe, and meritocratic for all people," Lee said in an e-mail interview.

Lee first immersed herself in writing through a creative writing class in high school. "It was here at Stuyvesant, with the encouragement of Mrs. [Judith] Kocela, that I learned I had a talent for writing. Once I started writing at Stuy, I never stopped," Lee said.

In her lecture, Lee discussed her approaches to the writing process, focusing on writing about diversity, racism, sexism, homophobia, and oppression. She elaborated on a particular Op-Ed she wrote a few years ago that discussed the psychological harm students endure when attending a school as non-diverse as Stuyvesant. "Lots of Op-Eds have already been written [about specialized high schools], but no one was writing about the consequences to the students and kids who attend these deeply segregated schools," Lee said. "I felt this point needed to be injected into the broader dialogue."

Lee's cultural background serves as a major motivation for her work. Born in South Korea, she came from a family of North Korean refugees. Her parents were very committed to the idea of their children receiving a full education and opportunity, which led them to move to the United States. The transition presented a series of difficulties: her family moved from being in the upper-middle class in South Korea to being small business owners in America, residing in a one-bedroom apartment with seven relatives and no health insurance.

Growing up in a politically-dissonant immigrant family has contributed to Lee's outlook on life. "One thing she spoke very directly to the students in the class was the experience of being from an immigrant family that really had to struggle, [...] knowing that her major job goals were to have a job that paid her really well so she would not be poor," Thoms said. "But at the same time [...] [she] was raised to know that it was important to speak for the people who weren't being heard."

Lee's background has influenced her to choose a career that involved social and organizational diversity. "My interest [...] came

from my own experience [...] trying to succeed in corporate spaces," she said. "Where I was put at a huge disadvantage compared to people who were less competent and capable than [me] but who were demographically more similar to the people who were in power."

As one of the highest-ranking and most visible Asian-American executives in the United States, Lee often uses her platform and writing to uplift those who are struggling as she did. "Everything I do, from my career to my writing, is informed by the fact that I've seen both sides of America's socioeconomic ladder. I'm one of the few lucky people who climbed the ladder. My writing and my work [focus] on making it easier for people like me to climb this ladder," Lee said.

The students who attended the talk responded positively to her lecture. "Lee said [...] that one works harder when interacting with people who aren't like them. She verbalized that which I both knew and didn't know I was doing, which was a huge WHOA moment for me. The lecture was [also] beneficial in helping me sort out my own thoughts concerning my stances on solving the diversity issue," senior Jacqueline Thom said in an e-mail interview. "Hearing the thoughts of someone who has [...] gone to college to learn how to solve such a prevailing issue of colorism was truly insightful."

Many students have formed a personal connection to Lee's story. "I share a surprisingly similar backstory with [Lee]. We are both Korean-American, first-generation immigrants, with parents who sacrificed so much for us," senior Chris Choi said in an e-mail interview. "She talked a lot about the problems with the lack of racial diversity in a way that someone like me, who is often skeptical of a lot of this identity politics and diversity stuff, was able to understand and actually embrace."

The talk has also opened students' minds to the importance of writing in shifting the public narrative. "I was honestly really skeptical about this whole Writing to Make Change thing because I was convinced that only a special few [...] are able to say anything worthwhile. However, I've learned that this is not true," Thom said.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and NASA

WORLDBEAT

Out of a freshman class of about 760 students, only **10 black students got into Stuyvesant**, up from seven last year, and **20 Hispanic students were offered seats**, down from 33 last year.

Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered a **lockdown within New York State**, which shut down all nonessential businesses and banned all non-solitary outside activities, starting on March 22 at 8 p.m.

The **2020 Tokyo Olympic Games** will be postponed amid the COVID-19 pandemic to no later than the summer of 2021.

Zagreb, Croatia was struck by a 5.3 magnitude **earthquake**, Croatia's biggest earthquake in the last 140 years.

New Zealand passed a law that **decriminalizes abortion**. It allows women to receive an abortion if they are up to 20 weeks pregnant or have approval from a health practitioner if they are over 20 weeks.

"The things we have to say, at the root, come from how we feel. Then those emotions come right off the page when people read your work. I think that such feelings are what finally [convince] others that change is real, possible, or needed."

Other students also expressed how Thoms's Writing to Make Change class has changed their mindset. "This class has been monumental in my understanding of the different ways opinions can be voiced, what types of opinions are even able to be voiced, and

how to voice them," Choi said.

Thoms hopes that Lee's talk inspired the students in her class and demonstrated the impact of writing outside the classroom. "The whole idea is that you can write to make change in the world, and that is something [Lee] does with her Op-Ed and her speeches all the time. She has a change she wants to see in the world, and so she uses writing to do that in a real-world kind of way. I find [Lee] personally inspiring, and I hope that the students did as well," Thoms said.

Meet the 2020-2021 Big Sib Chairs!

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formed [...] and having an idea of what a good Big Sib should be really inspired me to try to instill the same values and create the same environment for every Little Sib."

Huang is a varsity debater for Stuyvesant's policy debate team. She is also an art editor for The Spectator and was an art director for Junior SING! this past winter. Outside of Stuyvesant, she is a marketing co-chair for the New York City Asian American Student Conference.

Similar to Delfau, Huang was inspired to become both a Big Sib and chair by Jennifer Lee ('18), a former Big Sib Chair. "I met her outside of Stuy in the New York City Asian American Student Conference, and she was a mentor to me. I really looked up to her and was like, 'Wow. This is really cool. I really want to do this because she is doing it,'" Huang said. "When I was a freshman, I believed that all upperclassmen knew how to mentor, but that's not actually true. Learning from [Lee] taught me how to be a mentor, and I wanted to be a Big Sib Chair because of that."

Michaelson is passionate about law and a member of the Stuyvesant Legal Society. He is also very active outside of Stuyvesant as a teacher's

assistant at his synagogue's Hebrew school and the Director of Communications for his youth group.

Michaelson had a positive experience as a Little Sib, which drew him to become a Big Sib, and then a chair. "I had a really good relationship with one Big Sib in particular, and I kind of looked up to him as soon as I got to Stuy," he said. "Once I became a Big Sib, I really valued the relationships I had with my Little Sibs, but I also knew that I wanted to have more of an impact in the program as a whole."

Yamaguchi is the captain of the girls' varsity soccer team and plays on a club team outside of Stuyvesant. She is a member of the girls' varsity softball team, and manages the boys' varsity, boys' junior varsity, and girls' varsity basketball teams. She is the Student Union Director of Event Planning and has been a member of the event planning committee for Caucus every year at Stuyvesant. She also writes for The Spectator Sports Department and is on the layout department for the Indicator.

Though she will no longer have her own homeroom, Yamaguchi is excited to have the chance to reach out to the entire incoming class. "For me, a big sacrifice of being chair is that you don't have your own homeroom, and you can miss

the personal connection. I know that despite being a chair, I'll still be able to connect to freshmen; I'll still be able to talk to them through other activities and reach out to them," Yamaguchi said. "As an older sister, I have always been in the role of being a big sib, and so this program was something I wanted to do from the start, from when I was a Little Sib myself."

and from there select who we thought was best for the program."

Huang added, "It's definitely good to get criticism, and it's definitely good to understand the problems with different programs and different racial and gender divides, but the five of us were picked for a reason, and that's something to keep in mind [...] even if we are not the most diverse from the public's point of view, we are still independent and separate people, and personality outweighs in a lot of ways because we work very well together. That's more important when it comes to a program dedicated to creating more comfortable spaces for freshmen, which is our ultimate goal. If it means that we have three white chairs and only one boy, so be it, if it means that we are the most qualified applicants that work well together."

The outgoing Big Sib Chairs, however, want to note that they did take diversity factors into consideration when making their choices. "It's not like we ignored the race and gender breakdown entirely when choosing because at one point, we were also considering, 'Is it okay to have four girls and one guy this year?' And after we made our choice, we were like, 'Hmm, the racial breakdown is very different,'" Wong said. "It's

not like we were throwing those out the window and not thinking about them, but just in the end, we thought it was most important to pick five people who we thought were competent and who we thought would work together well. And honestly, it's good that we chose really competent people this year because the chairs are going to have a rougher time than usual with the virus outbreak."

One of the first big events for incoming chairs, the Open House for accepted students, was cancelled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As an alternate way to welcome the incoming class, the Big Sib Chairs are compiling video clips of Stuyvesant to create a virtual Open House. "We started filming footage of the entire school from the first floor to the tenth floor and covering Stuy gems—the pool, the auditorium, the spin room—just a lot of things that make Stuyvesant a special high school facility wise," Hlamenko said. "Then we also, the following day, got a lot of testimonies from students, Big Sib and non-Big Sib alike, and tried to get as much of the real Open House experience as possible in footage."

To accomodate for the current

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News

Robotics Competes at Regionals

By EZRA LEE and MOMOCA MAIRAJ with additional reporting by JAMES LEE

New York City Regionals—FTC Robotics Teams 310 Stuy Fission and 479 Stuy Fusion

Stuyvesant's FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Teams, 310 Stuy Fission and 479 Stuy Fusion, competed at the New York City Regionals at Townsend Harris on March 8. FTC Team 310 won the Inspired 3rd award and qualified for the World Championship for the second time while Team 479 made it to the semifinals.

There are three Robotics teams at Stuyvesant: FIRST Robotics Challenge (FRC) Team 694 Stuy-Pulse, FTC Team 310 Stuy Fission, and FTC Team 479 Stuy Fusion. The teams are tasked to build robots to participate in challenges designed by FIRST, the organization that hosts the competitions. After the game is announced in January, members face an intense build season for six weeks to construct their robots before their next competition.

At the beginning of each competition, each team gives a presentation, which includes an introduction and an overview of their fundraising, outreach events, and how they connect to their community, to a panel of three judges. The team then discusses the different mechanisms of their robot and how it is linked to the code. From there, the judges choose awards and approach the tables of teams that they are interested in learning more about.

This year, however, Team 310 was called up by the judges earlier than they had anticipated. "We ended up not preparing a lot of the stuff we were going to say, but it worked out eventually because we got Inspired 3rd, which was able to qualify us," sophomore and Team 310 Head of Engineering Emily Tan said.

The team also faced an issue with their robot before the competition. "We were testing before the actual competition started, and we realized that one of our wheels wasn't working properly, so we had to scramble to get that done for the competition, but we were able to do that," freshman Max Schneider said.

Team StuyPulse 694 recently competed at the Palmetto Regional at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where they went undefeated and won the entire competition. They also won the Innovation in Control Award, which is specifically for software.

StuyPulse 694 is the largest of the three teams, with around 100 members split into three different departments: Engineering, Software Engineering, and Marketing. FRC competitions typically have around 50 to 60 teams, are three days long, and are slightly different from FTC competitions. "During the start of both competitions, teams are randomly paired with other teams at the competition. Based on how well you perform you get ranked. The top ranked teams get to pick their alliance partners," Blay said. "In FRC, eight alliances of three teams each get formed, and in FTC, four alliances of three teams each [get] formed (since it is two on two, there is a rotation amongst the three teams). The alliances play in a bracket-style tournament. Each round is best two out of three matches."

The team faced a few difficulties as the competition progressed. In the first match, the team had to search for a broken connection after their robot's wire unplugged. "We always have mechanical challenges because sometimes, things in our robot will break before matches, so

throughout the competition, there were several technical difficulties with the robot. "We had a lot of connection issues with wires and the electronics, so throughout the matches, our robot wouldn't move. We had to find ways to be compatible [with] other teams. One of the objectives [is] stacking [blocks on top of each other], and our mechanism for that was inconsistent, so we ended up just bringing blocks to other teams so they could stack them instead," Tan said.

Junior and Team 310 President Megan Gupta-She attributed the problems to the fact that the team had to completely rebuild their robot three weeks prior to the competition. "After our super qualifiers [tournament before regionals], we didn't do as well in the competition as we had hoped, so we took a day on the Monday during break to discuss what we wanted to do better during the competitions," Gupta-She said. "It was kind of a rash decision. Our previous design had served us well, but it would not be able to compete at a higher level of competition, so we decided to restart."

Sophomore and Team 310 Vice President Peter Zhao added that the lack of time available for rebuilding the robot gave less time for the software team to program it. "Giving enough time to software is important [...] because there is a part of the game called the autonomous period, [when] robots only run on pre-programmed instructions," Zhao said in an e-mail interview. "Because there is no driver-control during this time, we have to spend a lot of time testing and creating different programs for our robot before competition. We ended up finishing our robot just three days before our competition, meaning that our software team only had that amount of time to finish."

Though there was less time allocated to build the robot, the team was ultimately successful during the competition. "Part of the reason we decided to make this whole change

was to create a robot that was more flashy and [had] a good shot [at] getting rewards and having a better robot. We didn't really have enough time to polish it completely, but acquiring was a lot better; scoring was a lot better," Gupta-She said.

The team celebrated their success at the New York City Regionals with the Inspired 3rd award. "It was a combination of outreach, mentoring, our robot, and having a well-rounded team. We basically had to do well in every single category to be considered for this award, and that's what we pulled out," Gupta-She said.

Meanwhile, Stuyvesant's FTC Robotics Team 479 spent their weeks prior to the competition working to improve their robot based on issues that arose in their last competition. Though the team did fairly well during the first four rounds of the New York City Regionals, they faced complications with their robot during the last match, which cost them several points. "Our robot disconnected from our controller," sophomore Jacky Chen said. "[It] basically stopped responding to the controller and stopped moving."

Senior and Team 479 co-President Michaelangelo Robertson attributed some of their mistakes to the lack of time management. "[It led] to not enough driver practice," Robertson said. "For this competition, we tried to not make the same mistake, but it still kind of happened, like trying to do too much in engineering and not leaving enough time for the coding and practicing driving, [though] this competition was better than the past."

Despite this, the team still performed well for the majority of the competition. "How we decided to organize our members at the competition was really good. We had a lot of people [...] on scouting, which is very beneficial because [...] [they are] talking to other teams at the competition [and] looking at matches to see how they are actually doing in matches in order

to one: form connections, two: maybe get picked for semifinals and finals," senior and Team 479 co-President Matthew Chan said.

Chan also emphasized how the team grew stronger from the competitions. "At competition, there's a lot of stress going around and a lot of pressure. It was a little tense because we knew that at New York City Regionals, that was our one shot to get to World Championships," he said. "Going through the pressure of competitions before and at Regionals and then not qualifying put us through a lot, but we went through it together, and we emerged, I would say, stronger than before."

Ultimately, Team 479 made it to the semifinal round of the competition and was nominated for two awards. "We did have two nominations for the Connect Award, which is basically about connecting with the community and spreading the values of FIRST," Chan said. "The other award was the Innovative Award, which is for the design and build of your robot and how innovative or creative it is."

Many members were thrilled with the team's success and felt that it was a step closer to the World Championship. "It's definitely an improvement from any of the other years. In the past, our team 479 has never qualified for World Championships," Chan said. "We've consistently been able to get to New York Regional Championships, but I think this time we were the closest we've ever been to World Championships, and I think that's really good."

Faculty advisor Joseph Blay was proud of the teams for their performance this season. "Making it to that stage in the competition is a tremendous achievement," he said in an e-mail interview. "Both teams had ups and downs during the tough competition, but in the end, 479 made semis, which means they had one of the strongest bots in our region. And 310 qualified for the World Champion-

ship, not because of robot performance, but [because of] an award that they won as a result of their contribution to the community, which in my opinion is more important than robot performance."

The World Championship was set to be on April 29 in Detroit, but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Though many are disappointed about the cancellation, the team is making the best of the situation and is preparing for the next season. "When we heard that it was cancelled this year due to the recent events regarding COVID-19, we were dismayed that we weren't able to meet the top teams from around the world and learn from their unique designs," Zhao said. "However, in light of this situation, not advancing has given us more time for reflection and focusing our resources [on] improving ourselves for the next season."

For the rest of the year, the team plans to work with the less experienced members of the team. Depending on the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak, the team has also decided to learn computer-aided design (CAD). "Especially in this time during the virus, where we can't meet up at school, we've decided to spend our time learning CAD to design our robot through software before building, allowing us to further streamline our design and engineering process for next season," Zhao said. "CAD allows us to prototype and design mechanisms such as the drivetrain of our robot."

Overall, Gupta-She is optimistic about the team's potential. "Getting to the World Championships this year took a lot of hard work, but it wasn't our goal in the very beginning, so we are super grateful to get this far in [the] competition but also we are not disappointed at all," she said. "This gives us time to settle down and refocus and keep on working to this goal of having a super sustainable team where we don't keep on losing members and keep on rebuilding."

Palmetto Regional—FRC Team 694 StuyPulse

Team StuyPulse 694 recently competed at the Palmetto Regional at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where they went undefeated and won the entire competition. They also won the Innovation in Control Award, which is specifically for software.

In addition, the team had to

Blay was thrilled at Team 694's performance at the competition. "I was beaming with pride; the kids did an incredible job in their preparation for the event and in their performance and response to adversity at the event. Their record was perfect, but so

"All of these events had to be cancelled; the safety of students, faculty, volunteers, and their families is the most important thing. But none of that makes my seniors feel much better. They've worked so hard. Many of them have been doing robotics for four years;

"It's more than robots. What we do isn't just a competition where we build these expensive robots to shoot hoops. It's an outreach experience. It's an experience where we find community and come together to do really cool things and learn from each other." — Pratham Rawat, senior and Team 694 President of Software and Engineering.

adjust their code to the competition's arena. "We had to tune our computer vision a little bit because it was missing slightly during the match due to inconsistencies with the field that they had set up and the field that we had set up at Stuy," Rawat said.

Despite these complications, the team still performed well throughout the competition. "Other than that, things went pretty smoothly. Sometimes we had to replace some wires here and there. We had some errors with our motors at some times. For the most part, those things got resolved pretty quickly," Rawat said.

was their performance," he said.

Similar to the cancellations of the World Championship for FTC, the rest of Team 694's competitions have been cancelled due to COVID-19. "As of right now, the season has been indefinitely postponed. All of our competitions we had signed up for have been cancelled, which is unfortunate because we were excited to go, and [...] we did spend money registering for them," Rawat said.

Blay also expressed his disappointment regarding the cancellation. "This is the toughest thing I've had to deal with as a mentor, educator, or coach," Blay said.

they made a great robot; they put in countless hours, and then in the blink of an eye, it's all over."

The team, however, remains optimistic and hopes that the COVID-19 situation will improve so that they can participate in off-season events. The seniors plan to pass on their knowledge to the rest of their team. "What we wanted to do, looking forward, [is] kind of pass on any skills that we as seniors have onto our later members," Rawat said.

In the future, the team hopes to improve itself while cooperating with other teams around the world. "We are very lucky. We

have a lot of resources, a lot of terrific mentors, and a great group of kids. There are lots of little things we can improve on in every aspect of our team, but I think that personally, I want to see our teams help other teams more," Blay said. "Once our new lab is operational, I want to have other teams come and visit, do workshops for them, [and] practice with them. I want us to publicize our robot CAD and do daily blogs explaining to other teams around the world what we are working on."

Despite the unfortunate end of the season, Blay is optimistic about the skills that members garnered from participating on the team. "The silver lining is that the skills they learned from making these robots that they didn't get to finish this season with are still all there. The robot is just the vehicle for learning. Though I am devastated and so are my students, that learning has already happened, and they will be able to walk away with that," Blay said.

Rawat emphasized one of FIRST's mottos that highlights the team's spirit. "It's more than robots. What we do isn't just a competition where we build these expensive robots to shoot hoops. It's an outreach experience. It's an experience where we find community and come together to do really cool things and learn from each other," Rawat said.

Meet the 2020-2021 Big Sib Chairs!

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crisis, interviews for Big Sib applicants will be held through video calls. The Big Sib Chairs, however, are still aiming to select a diverse group of Big Sibs personality-wise, even if they are unable to hold in-person interviews. "We want people to understand that we're going to be fair when choosing Big Sibs and that being a certain race or having a certain personality trait, whether that's introverted or extroverted or other things, aren't going to make or break somebody's application and that everybody should apply, and they all have a shot at making it," Michaelson said. "We are [...] sensitive, and we understand people's criticism, and we want this to be as fair of a process as possible."

Yamaguchi agreed, "It's a big value in our program that we want to make sure that our Big Sibs can reach out and apply to all freshmen, not just the people who are more loud or more willing to talk, like the extroverts."

Aside from the COVID-19 related modifications, the incoming Big Sib Chairs also hope to implement a sensitivity curriculum for all accepted Big Sibs. "We

want to try and make a sensitivity curriculum about navigating relationships, such as introverted and extroverted relationships, as well as racial and economic issues that are definitely prevalent at Stuy that I think Big Sib[s] need to be aware of when they interact with their Little Sib," Michaelson said.

Hlamenko added on, "We are definitely working with guidance and various representatives from the school community to talk about racial, sexual, economic, religious, et cetera, sensitivity and just try to reinforce a moral and responsibility about how some Big Sibs end up slackening halfway through the academic year where they don't focus their responsibility on their Little Sibs."

To combat this, the Big Sib Chairs want to introduce a feedback system to hold Big Sibs accountable throughout the entire school year. "If there were any Big Sibs who were problematic, [with whom] Little Sibs didn't feel comfortable enough [...] or [whom] Little Sibs felt like weren't the best Big Sib they could be—it would be a way for us to get feedback," Yamaguchi said. "If this Big Sib had been doing things that were wrong that we weren't aware of, it would

be a way for us to make sure they don't continue being a Big Sib."

The Big Sib Chairs wish to maintain clear communication between themselves and all of the Big Sibs this year. "If you want to get things done, you need to have a very positive relationship where both sides are heard and understood and make sure that everything is smooth sailing. On the other side, you also want to make sure that Big Sibs are staying true to what it preaches and what it practices, so you want to make sure that Big Sibs are being Big Sibs because they want to be Big Sibs," Delfau said.

The Big Sib Chairs aim to host a second dance toward the end of the school year. "It's sort of a nice thing for the seniors who are graduating to see all of their Little Sibs together. Homeroom is not [held] as often in the spring, so you don't get to see your Little Sibs as much," Yamaguchi said. "And at the same time, you are more comfortable at the end of the year. It's only October or early November when the dance happens, so at the end of the year, you are definitely more comfortable with your Little Sibs."

Outside of holding more dances, the Big Sib Chairs hope to have more events that will ap-

peal to a great variety of freshmen.

"As a Little Sib, I wanted more time to become friends with my Big Sibs. Because I was very hesitant to talk to people, I wanted more opportunities to talk to them or more opportunities for them to talk to me," Huang said. "We are looking to develop more places where introverted freshmen are comfortable and events where Little Sibs and Big Sibs can talk one-on-one or one-on-two."

The Big Sib Chairs are looking to start having specialized tour guides to talk with potential students who have interests in specific areas. "For touring, during Open Houses, I thought it would be a great idea to have some sort of specialized tour guides," Yamaguchi said. "We would have athlete tour guides as an option, or someone who is into theater, or someone who is on Spec."

The new Big Sib Chairs have also found that the homeroom picnics before the start of the school year have fostered strong relationships and hope to host them again this upcoming summer. "More picnics would definitely be fun because we don't have that many homerooms. You want your Little Sibs to have a great bond when they come in and

not be super frantic," Delfau said.

The Big Sib Chairs have realized that being able to communicate well and efficiently is their key for success this upcoming year. "If you come in with some kind of pre-established relationship or familiarity with each other, there's an inherent layer of trust that's formed," Hlamenko said. "Being able to be very honest and being able to communicate very openly with people who you're going to be working a lot with through the year and a half [is] a very big strength and something that definitely marks the beginning of a very fruitful and healthy work dynamic."

Despite the changes surrounding COVID-19 concerns, the Big Sib Chairs are looking forward to the year ahead. "We were able to formulate plans and go through ideas and talk through things in such a positive way because we all have slightly different views. Some people will take something, and we'll add on, and by the end of two minutes, we have completely enhanced whatever we have started off with, and that's such a positive dynamic," Delfau said. "I'm excited for whatever we have to tackle next because I know we as a whole can do it."

Stuyvesant Holds Fifth Annual International Women's Day Run

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"We hope that there will be an established relationship between Stuyvesant and the United Nations Delegations of Women's Club and there will be ongoing collaboration between them and our school."

The International Women's Day Run saw other changes: while T-shirts have only cost \$1 in previous years, this year the committee charged \$2, though a \$5 donation was suggested and encouraged to support Womankind. "The price of shirts went up, but it helped us make a profit, and I think a price of \$2 is fine for a shirt," Terestchenko said. This year's T-shirt was designed by Japanese street artist Shiro, who also painted the murals on the fifth floor and the walls of the spin room. "[Shiro] is now in Belgium doing an event for women, as she is a big supporter of women's rights and equality," Dr. Markova said.

Another new element of this year's run was the Mary Cain Mile. This race was offered as an option for runners interested in a timed and competitive one mile race. All racers received bibs, and winners received prizes from sponsors.

"I just wanted the opportunity to be able to compete against other people and especially people who probably had an interest in running as reflected by their desire to take part in a running competition," junior and Mary Cain Mile participant Jonathan Xu said.

The race is named after Mary Cain, the youngest American athlete to ever compete at the World Athletics Championships. She was recruited for the Nike Oregon project and trained with professional coaches at Nike. More recently, however, she has spoken out against her coach, Alberto Salazar, whose abuse caused Cain to become chronically ill and con-

template suicide. The new event aimed to draw attention to the physical and mental abuse many athletes like Cain endure, yet cannot speak out against, as doing so would put their careers at risk.

For the 600 or so students who didn't participate in the Mary Cain Mile on Wednesday, there were options of completing a one or two mile walk or run. Sponsors provided free snacks and chapstick as rewards for completing the walk/run, and there were balloons and a photo booth. Multiple teachers offered extra credit for participation, which was a popular incentive for students.

The event ran successfully for two days, but the third day, March 13 was cancelled because of COVID-19 concerns. Fortunately, the Mary Cain Mile, which had originally been planned for March 13, was moved to March 11 due to poor weather predictions for Friday. Had the run been held on Friday

however, the overall turnout and funds raised "could have definitely been better maybe if the coronavirus wasn't so prevalent," Reizis said.

Many of the students who had signed up to run on March 13 were no longer able to participate. "I was disappointed. It was understandable, yet I was looking forward to the run, and it was a downer to hear than an event with that kind of impact would be shut down," Jewram said.

Sophomore Nora Archer agreed, "It was sad because I didn't get the chance to do it, and I know they didn't get to raise as much money as they would have liked to."

The COVID-19 situation impacted the event in other ways. A number of students were concerned about the virus and decided not to participate at all this year. "I had a friend who was also going to do the run, but then his parents kept him home," Archer said. Moreover,

the prizes awarded to the winners of the Mary Cain Mile are still at school, unable to be retrieved and distributed as schools have closed.

Organizers, however, hope they will still be able to raise as much money as expected. "We have a link to a GoFundMe page that we're trying to circulate around so that people who wanted to help our cause but didn't get the chance to could still donate," Reizis said. "Maybe if school resumes, we'll be selling our shirts and food kind of in the future, or maybe we'll be able to reschedule the whole run."

Looking forward to next year, the committee is already planning ways to improve the run. "Next year, I think we are going to start implementing something to make sure students are actually doing the run, making it a reliable event for teachers to be giving credit for. We might

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News

Stuy Legacy Places Second at Sayaw Dance Competition

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To combat this doubt, directors and choreographers looked to past members also attending the competition. "We were really tired out and unable to perform to our full potential. However, we received feedback from our alumni and other dancers from the community on how to improve. After this, we only fixed a couple of things and prioritized our mentality going into the competition," Melody Lin said.

Legacy also has a tradition of coming together and sharing thoughts before going on stage.

This allows members to share their worries and to reinforce the team bond. "We discussed our feelings as a team, and the talk really brought back the hope I had at the beginning of the day," Ferguson said. "After all of the doubts, we ended up placing second because we believed in ourselves once the time came, which resulted in us doing well."

This community spirit also exists outside of competitions, as members and directors alike continuously express the competitive, yet loving atmosphere of the team. "Through Legacy, I learned to find more than just my voice. I found a family that taught me the

importance of communication and personal endeavor," Zuwei Li said.

Jeff Lin agreed, commenting on the values Legacy upholds and how these values aren't only found in the studio. "I think Legacy values growth very heavily in all aspects: as a dancer, as a student, as a team player, as a human, and more," he said. "Aside from dance, teammates help each other with schoolwork, learn respect and how to be cooperative from each other, and are heavy supporters of one another."

Legacy's support system can clearly be seen when the team welcomes new members. While directors aimed to maintain the

quality of their set, they wanted to take in as many new members as possible. "We maintain high expectations for everyone, but we are also always supportive and will spend extra time helping new members with choreography or learning if needed," Jeff Lin said.

Some of the newer members of Legacy felt very encouraged as they integrated themselves into the Legacy community. "I feel like I belong somewhere," freshman Caleb So said.

Ferguson agreed, "The process of building a set is memorable, including stress, laughs, and progress. As I go on with the team throughout

high school, I will always go back to this season's set as a way to acknowledge my growth as time goes on."

Due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, all studio practices have been canceled, while upcoming competitions have been postponed. Directors and members plan on continuing the legacy paved by previous members while aiming for the team to remain a place for dancers to grow and learn together. "Legacy isn't just a thing to feel comfortable in; it's something that's helped me grow as a person," Liu said. "If people can find that for themselves, I think we'd be living in a much better world."

Stuyvesant Holds Fifth Annual International Women's Day Run

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[have] a ticket at the half-mile mark to ensure kids are actually doing the run and have to present their ticket for credit," Terestchenko said.

The committee also plans to work on crowd control to make

the sign-in process before the run more efficient for students. "I think we want to change up how we go about doing the extra credit sign-in, which is obviously super popular," Reizis said.

They also aim to expand the Mary Cain mile, which was very

successful, as well as the number of sponsorships and teachers giving extra credit. Finally, to improve organization and get more hands on deck, the committee would like to "have a bigger committee that's more involved from the very start," Reizis said.

Despite canceling Friday's event, the run was still successful and enjoyable for participants, bringing in about \$2,000 for Womankind so far. The committee was also able to "connect members of the community, where we would go on a run or walk for

one or two miles, all while advocating for women's rights and empowerment," Dr. Markova said.

"I love seeing how the school comes together to support women and support the cause, and being on the board helped it make it all the more worth it," Terestchenko said.

Teachers Transition to Online Learning

By MADDY ANDERSEN, RUTH LEE, EVELYN MA, KATIE NG, CHLOE TERESTCHENKO, and KAREN ZHANG

While online learning officially began on March 23, teachers have spent the last two weeks preparing for the transition. We conducted e-mail interviews with six of them—physics teacher Ulugbek Akhmedov, English teacher Maura Dwyer, biology teacher Dr. Maria Nedwidek-Moore, chemistry teacher Dr. Steven O'Malley, social studies teacher Dr. Rosemary Polanco, and math teacher Brian Sterr—to hear about how they prepared for remote learning.

HOW ARE YOU ADJUSTING YOUR LESSONS AS SCHOOLS TRANSITION ONLINE?

"A lot depends on what options we are getting trained on if at all, what the students' schedules and access [are], and whether they and their teachers are well. I'm concerned about imposing set meeting times under these emergency circumstances and about trying to impose mandatory assessments that can't be completed." —Dr. Nedwidek-Moore

"I'm creating video lessons and posting them on YouTube for students to view." —Dr. O'Malley

"Quickly. Using Google chat and Zoom. Recording Online live classes. Using Google Forms for attendance and quizzes." —Akhmedov

"I plan to create worksheets that incorporate the notes that I would have presented in the lesson together with practice problems and homework problems. These will be posted on Google Classroom and handed in instead of the usual homework assignments. As usual, I will later post solutions for everything for students to check their work." —Sterr

"At this time, I am keeping it simple: I will post my Powerpoints on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The questions I would normally embed in each presentation will be posted as classwork assignments including the "Do Now," "Stop and Jot," and Wrap up Qs. Students will have two days to submit that work. Homework will function pretty much as it did before: chapter readings, supplemental readings and/or images for analysis, and Cornell Notes. Tuesday and Thursdays will be graded discussion threads." —Dr. Polanco

"My plan is: we'll read, write and discuss (the pillars of our class in school), all online. Because it seems too unstructured to have everyone respond en masse to one thread on Google Classroom, I'll likely organize students into groups and set them up on a document where they can respond to discussion questions about whatever text we're reading. That will be easier for me to monitor and keep track of and easier for students too hopefully. I'll continue our workshop week model for assignments, having students share their work in progress drafts with me (and each other). That practice is well established in our classes, and everyone is used to commenting on each other's work that way. We're certainly going to keep up our writing, and I intend to give everyone meaningful feedback. I'll be using Google Classroom for all of my classes." —Dwyer

WHAT CHANGES ARE YOU MAKING TO YOUR CURRICULUM?

"I'm keeping the main goals of the curriculum for now, but will try to focus it and be flexible as we continue to learn remotely together. Plans will undoubtedly change as we experience this new remote learning environment, and we will do the best we can. I have a lot of faith in our students. They are extremely resilient." —Dr. O'Malley

"Almost none. Covering the same material. Can't show physics demos. Will use YouTube videos." —Akhmedov

"Hardly any. Students will get notes to read, and I will check in with them, but it will be less intense, and I am not sure how, if at all, to mandate formal assessments. I warned them about this and primed them on resources and self-teach last Thursday and Friday." —Dr. Nedwidek-Moore

"I plan to teach the same curriculum. With Regents courses like Algebra 2, unless they cancel the Regents, it would be a disservice to leave out topics that may come up on the exam." —Sterr

"Sadly, we won't get to read many of the books I was planning on this semester because they're not available in the public domain. So I'm adjusting for things that are publicly available for all of my classes." —Dwyer

"I would say that I am not 'changing' the curriculum as much as streamlining it. It would be impossible for me to teach the traditional course curriculum in this new delivery system without more time to plan carefully. So my modifications will focus the class on the most pivotal events and documents with an understanding that the support framework that is natural in a classroom setting is fundamentally different online." —Dr. Polanco

HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE REST OF THE SCHOOL YEAR GOING WITH THE INTERFERENCE OF THE VIRUS?

"I went into school today, and it hit me that it may be some time before we're all together again. But we have an ethical responsibility to our community and especially our healthcare system, which is going to be overloaded. We must practice social distancing. I have good friends and family who are doctors, and they're bracing for a tremendously difficult situation. We need to think about the community as a whole rather than our individual discomfort. It's a really challenging time for the world, our country, and our city, and I'm looking forward to checking in with everyone online." —Dwyer

"Going day by day. If I live to see the future you are asking about, I will tell you about it." —Akhmedov

"While the virus is definitely going to affect how the rest of the year plays out, and I will miss the actual interaction with my students, I think we are all going to try to make the best of this situation. I would like to make sure my students are still prepared for courses they will take next year." —Sterr

"I think we will lose the year. Mathematically, we are tracking two weeks behind Italy, and they are in deep trouble right now." —Dr. Nedwidek-Moore

"I think most teachers of older students will transition well to Remote Learning. So many of us do portions of our classes online already. It is really going to test students' time management skills because many may assume Remote Learning is not 'real' school and might not take the work seriously. Hopefully, everyone will adapt quickly. I do worry about younger students and students who require the more interpersonal aspects of the classroom to thrive. It may take a bit more time to learn and master strategies that will benefit those students." —Dr. Polanco

Features

VOICES

Quarantine Qualms

Chrisabella Javier, junior

The idea of being “quarantined” still feels so surreal. Sometimes, I go on a meme page in my free time in order to entertain myself while being stuck in my apartment for days and weeks on end, and I can believe that I can be separate from the virus—that it is just as separate from me as the chaotic incidents that you see on television dramas surrounding hospitals, police departments, or something like that. But then I see it in my everyday life: the frozen yogurt place near school that no longer allows you to get your own toppings in fear of someone touching the chocolate chips, the people in my building putting on their masks and gloves to leave to go do the essential jobs that were deemed worthless just a month ago, the near-empty subway cars, my dad telling me that his work schedule is going to be erratic because his job fired 75 percent of their workers, and my friend telling me his great-aunt has the virus. I know that this is my reality.

The only time I go out anymore is to walk my dogs. I need to wear gloves when I go out with them because my mom is immunocompromised, and the virus could be the thing that finally kills her. I see my dogs just go along with the walk as if nothing has changed, except now I don’t leave them every day, and I stay in my room while they sleep in the light of my window. They don’t know what the coronavirus is. They just live in peaceful oblivion in which their main concern is that I’m pulling them away from sniffing the stray cat that lives outside my building.

I realize now that this is history. One day, in a few decades, there’s going to be a bunch of bored high school kids having to sit through their APUSH classes, and they’re going to learn about the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 that shut down the entire world. I wonder what they’re going to think. Will they be so shocked to learn about the fact that such a supposedly developed area like America could fall prey to a disease? Would they keep existing on their high horse, as we do about the many epidemics and pandemics of history, because they live in such an advanced time? Surely they could never fall victim to something like this. Could they envy us for our lack of school, not realizing the gravity of the situation?

What will we think of this?

Erin Lee, junior

After a week of total confinement with my little sister, mother, and father, who have all begun working or learning from home just as I have, we finally ventured outside our cramped apartment Saturday morning to take a stroll up Broadway. We walked freely and peacefully, our block no longer crowded with the tourists who usually roam lower Manhattan. It was initially a figurative and literal breath of fresh air. No chaotic Zoom calls, clashes with my sister over occupying rooms, or living in the same set of pajamas for three days in a row.

But as we approached Canal street, I started to notice how all the store windows were dark, plastered with white signs that wrote of their temporary closings and empty wishes that they would return shortly. The silence of the vacant streets became uncomfortable, and the only noises to be heard, bird chirps and the lull of a few cars, were more unsettling than serene. The lively and bustling New York City that I knew and loved all my life had become a ghost town, with the exception of the occasional deranged man who would scream at us and tramp in our direction, luggage in hand.

I started walking and taking the subway by myself in fifth grade, and not once did I ever feel unsafe in broad daylight while in my neighborhood, reassured by the dozens of other passersby around me. But now, passing through a lifeless city, accosted in the empty streets and train cars by those my parents would deem “crazy people,” anxiously scrolling through my newsfeed to find rising death tolls and severe warnings, I am instead in a state of constant distress.

While I was sleeping in till 11:00 am and scrolling through my Netflix browse page for shows to mindlessly watch, the world outside my tiny apartment has come crashing down, taking the city down with it. And despite this revelation from finally venturing outside after a week of isolation, I want nothing more than to stay in my quarantined space at home, as suffocating as it may be.



Kristin Cheng, junior

It feels wrong to have found this much solace and comfort in our state of confinement.

I mean, it’s like the end of the world as we know it. With the “how are you feeling?”’s and the “I just wanted to check in with you”’s, and the “is your family alright?”’s, and all. Jobs are being lost almost as quickly as lives are. The stock market is crashing. The city that never sleeps feels like it’s finally been laid to rest.

And my sheepish, guilt-ridden answer to my guidance counselor’s concerned emails has been, well, relief. Because I am unmistakably Asian-American: upturned eyes, wide nose, yellowish complexion, and all. The poster child for Chinese people, for the “Chinese virus,” as our president has so aptly decided to put it.

Because last Tuesday, as I stepped onto the 3 train on my daily trip to school, I had a pair of gloves in my hand and an unmistakable fear in my eyes. Because when the middle-aged white woman sitting next to me caught a glimpse of both, she started screaming, calling me racial slurs, mistaking my precaution for contagion and my worries for guilt. Because I had to watch as she shoved Lysol wipes at me, had to listen as she demanded that I get the hell off the train and out of her country.

Because I fear that if schools had stayed open, if the whole world hadn’t shut down, if the virus had stayed just bad enough to warrant racism yet not bad enough to keep me stowed away from the racists, my run-in with that middle-aged white woman would have escalated into something far more physical.

“Quarantine” has come to mean a lot of things for Stuy students. Shortened AP exams, better Netflix Party maneuvering prowess, greater familiarity with the ins and outs of Zoom. But above all else, for our majority Asian student population, it means safety.

Victor Siu, junior

Life has been quite different since the coronavirus struck. Millions just like me find themselves stuck at home, asking “when,” not “will,” the coronavirus hit them next. Perhaps it hasn’t been different from a typical weekend during the summer, but this weekend suddenly got stretched into five weeks. At some point in life, all of us have wished for that one weekend to be just one day or even one week longer, and it seems that we finally got our wish. Unfortunately, that same wish cost thousands of lives around the world and caused hundreds of times the amount of suffering.

I was jubilant when schools closed. After all, it meant staying home for about a week, catching up on sleep, and getting time to do things that we’ve always wanted to do. The reality was that we just ended up reverting to a version of our middle school lives in which we would go home and just indulge ourselves in whatever we wanted, whether that was video games or watching movies.

I’ve been sitting at home for a week now, alternating between playing video games, coding, studying, and sleeping. Perhaps it isn’t the best existence for a Stuyvesant student, but I feel that it is quite a relaxing one. However, I can’t throw off the feeling that I’m wasting my life at home doing these things and not doing something really productive in life. I should’ve gone out and enjoyed a few days with my friends before this virus struck. Now, I’m stuck at home and only leave my house a few times a day to take a walk or practice soccer by myself. I no longer see my grandparents every week, fearing that I’ll infect them with the coronavirus if I visit them too often.

I can’t even look at the news anymore; all the talk about the coronavirus reminds me of the pain and suffering that I’m oblivious to as I stare at my screen all day, engrossed in my own problems. But then again, I only feel my own problems. Why don’t I have enough time today to watch the rest of this Netflix series? Why can’t I beat my friend at this video game? I can’t wait for that one day during this “break” when I actually get something meaningful done. Maybe tomorrow will be that day.

Suah Chung, sophomore

Watching the worldwide death toll rising on the daily news, the coronavirus feels almost surreal. I’ve only been outside once, and it was late at night when most people aren’t outside. During the day, my neighborhood is peaceful and neat, like a row of dominoes, as it has been for my entire life. It’s hard to believe that the order in the world outside of my isolated bubble has been overturned so quickly and drastically.

Time seems to pass more slowly, and I chase my daily goals of finishing a project or studying for the entire day, never quite making it to the finish line. To say this period of quarantine amplified my procrastination is an understatement.

Ironically, I miss school because I have lost the choice of going to school. Sometimes, I have the urge to yell really loudly at home so something will change from yesterday to today. Though my head occasionally feels like it could crack open because of the monotony, I am grateful to be able to eat my breakfast, get extra sleep, have time to pursue hobbies like reading, listening to music, and writing fiction, and enjoy the overall comfort of staying at home. For the past week, I have been blissfully ignoring the anxiety people feel about the virus.

Even before schools closed, I was adamantly opposed to what I deemed “paranoia.” I would get annoyed when my mom insisted that I wear a mask during my commute to and from school. Nobody else was wearing masks. I would have agreed to wear a mask if I didn’t have glasses, but if it’s cold out and I’m wearing a mask, my glasses fog up, and I can’t see. I detest not being able to see. One day on the subway, there was a woman wearing a mask, and the seat next to her was empty, which was rare on a crowded subway. With an illogical urge to reject “paranoia,” I sat next to her. I also reasoned that out of everyone, the person wearing the mask would be least likely to be sick since they are protected. In retrospect, my stupidity is not worth the lives of my family or others around me.

After my father, who is a pharmacist, came home from work sick a few days ago, I was scared because I suddenly realized that what I thought was “paranoia” was more of a precaution against a very real disease that we currently don’t have a cure for. Luckily, my father is recovering, but the looming reminder of this global pandemic hasn’t faded away.

Features

Quarantine Qualms

Caroline Ji, junior

It has been approximately one month and 21 days since I last stepped on the track. I still remember the burning sensation that lingered in my throat as I walked off lane two, clutching my bib with a huge sigh of relief. At last, I could put my season to rest and begin my much-needed one week break before the start of outdoor track.

When the coronavirus started making international headlines, I had a relatively nonchalant disposition—there was no way the coronavirus could possibly travel 7,476 miles from Wuhan to New York City. So for a while, everything was normal: I woke up, went to school, went to practice, came home, and repeated this cycle again the very next day.

It wasn't until the middle of March that I had noticed that everything around me was gradually changing. First, it was the masks. Next, it was the subways. After that, it was the classrooms. Little by little, facets of my daily life that I had never even stopped to acknowledge were dramatically becoming unrecognizable to me. It didn't truly hit me until Governor Cuomo canceled all PSAL activities; the news just hit too close to home. From that point on, I knew that the rest of the school year would never be the same again.

I started running in the sixth grade. And over the course of the past six years of my life, what started as a fun side activity I did during my spare time quickly blossomed into a passion ingrained into my daily routine. There's something so special about hearing the cadence of my breath and the thud of my strides as I tune out the hustle and bustle of New York City that makes me feel so at peace with myself.

When the coronavirus unleashed its damage onto New York City, it took away one of the most important aspects of my life. I was scared to leave my house. I was hesitant every time I laced my sneakers. An added sense of apprehension weighed down my every stride. It was such a strange feeling; something that once brought me so much comfort and solace now feels alien to me.

The funny thing is, though the coronavirus has undoubtedly disrupted my life in unimaginable ways, it has humbled me to an unforeseeable degree. Despite being one of the most accessible sports, I am reminded that not everyone in the world has the privilege to freely go outside for a run in a safe quarantined neighborhood. Not everyone has the fame or money to acquire a coronavirus test. Not everyone can afford to stay home from work.

While the coronavirus itself does not discriminate against religion, culture, ethnicity, or gender, it has acted as a catalyst in exposing the deeply embedded socioeconomic and racial inequalities in our world. This is especially apparent in the fact that fame largely determines the accessibility one has to a coronavirus test, the despicable manner in which our commander-in-chief labeled the coronavirus the “Chinese virus” or “kung fu flu,” and the recent increase in gun ownership among Chinese Americans. So while in an ideal world, I would love to applaud Gal Gadot, Sarah Silverman, and Will Ferrell’s attempts to revive dampened spirits by singing “Imagine” on Instagram, I can’t help but cringe in disgust.

I guess it's hard to wake up to the reality of things.

Kelly Yip, sophomore

“Quarantine.” I heard this word a lot when watching the vast amount of medical drama shows on the Internet. To actually be a part of it feels weird, like the fictional pandemics and emergencies on screen have suddenly become a reality, with people dropping dead left and right, hospitals filling up, and paranoia coursing through cities and neighborhoods. It’s scary when you realize that these stories are happening outside your window.

Paranoia is also a very strange phenomenon. I remember going home on the subway on Friday, March 13; I happened to get stuck on a very crowded subway car, along with many people going uptown on the 2 or 3 line. I was standing, holding on to one of the poles that my parents warned me not to touch. As I felt myself starting to lose myself in the monotony of the underground, the man in front of me coughed. My chest tightened, and I looked away. I looked around and saw that some people around me had also turned away. Why am I turning away? Maybe he doesn’t have the virus anyway, I thought. What’s this innate panic? Why is my heart suddenly pounding? What am I thinking? I was so ashamed that I would just assume that someone had the coronavirus even though he was just coughing. This is what paranoia does to people. Well, that and the information my parents and the media are pushing onto me.

“Social distancing” is also strange when it becomes a reality. If I had read these two words before I ever heard of the term “coronavirus,” I probably would’ve laughed. It sounds kind of crazy, to be honest. Just the thought of people in an entire society purposely distancing themselves is so absurd. Taking away socializing, something so commonplace, is something that never crossed my mind.

I definitely took all those moments with my friends for granted. At home, sure, I can see my friends on Zoom, have group calls, and play video games together. But not seeing their faces in person, not enjoying the sun as we walk home together, not high-fiving each other when we solve a question after pondering for so long, is actually quite lonely. I know I shouldn’t feel lonely. After all, we have the great advancement of technology and social media to fight that. Still, there’s just something special about talking to someone in person rather than through a screen. I miss that a lot.

Maybe when the world resumes after being paused for so long, I’ll go out and hug them and show my appreciation for the many wonderful people in my life that I haven’t seen for so long. Maybe you should too.

Clara Shapiro, sophomore

Here in my hut, I have unexpectedly begun to empathize with El Chapo, who has been practicing social distancing (in a high-security jail cell) for many a year. I have not seen a friend in 3D for some time, and thus my social ability continues to deteriorate, which I fear will have lasting effects. My practical skills have also suffered—some days ago, I encountered a door that clearly said PULL, and I spent much time pushing against it. Futile!

Pressing (puN) as my door struggles are, I’ve also been thinking about other corona concerns that don’t affect me directly but still make me vicariously anxious. My parents mentioned that the virus will force a lot of people out of work and out of food, which hadn’t really occurred to me. Anyway, just some things I’ve been thinking about.

The Way the Cookie Crumbles, Mr. Scramble

By MORRIS RASKIN

It's hard to pinpoint Spanish teacher Carlos Bravo's specific claim to fame. Is it his old-fashioned teaching style? His diligent patrolling over our chaotic cafeteria? His many catchphrases ("That's the way the cookie crumbles, Mr. Scramble!")? It's difficult to understand exactly who Señor Bravo is. If you really want to know who the legendary Spanish teacher is, you need to start from the beginning.

"My childhood was wonderful," he explained.

Bravo doesn't hold back when describing his early years. Born in Bogotá, Colombia, his childhood was characterized by lots of laughter, playtime, and no electronics besides the Bravo family radio. Despite his strict parents (or possibly because of them), Bravo loved his youth fervently.

From ages seven to 10, Bravo attended a public Catholic school, Brothers of la Salle, in Toledo, Spain, which would not be the last time he moved before adulthood. At 14 years old, his life changed dramatically when he moved from his home in Colombia to New York City, where he lived with his uncle and aunt. Bravo can vividly recall the mood of New York City in the 1970s: "In the '70s, the fashion was different. People were wearing bell-bottoms, platform

shoes, different colors, [and] flamboyant shoes." To Bravo, New York City during that decade was a colorful hub of culture.

Everything was going according to plan for Bravo—right up until it wasn't.

Bravo was part of a tragic car accident at the end of his teenage years. He had planned to attend Georgetown University that fall, but the accident forced him to reconsider the life plan he had set for himself. Instead of Georgetown, he decided to attend Seton Hall University and then St. John's for his postgraduate program.

"I was not thinking about becoming a teacher at first. I wanted to be a diplomat," Bravo recalled. "I liked to talk to people [and] see other cultures." However, he found the perfect way to blend culture and education: become a high school language teacher. Many teachers' journeys to Stuyvesant were tumultuous, hopping between schools and educational programs before eventually landing there. Bravo's story was a bit different: "I applied, and I got accepted." It was as simple as that. With no teaching experience at any other high school prior to this, Bravo became Stuyvesant High School's newest Spanish teacher.

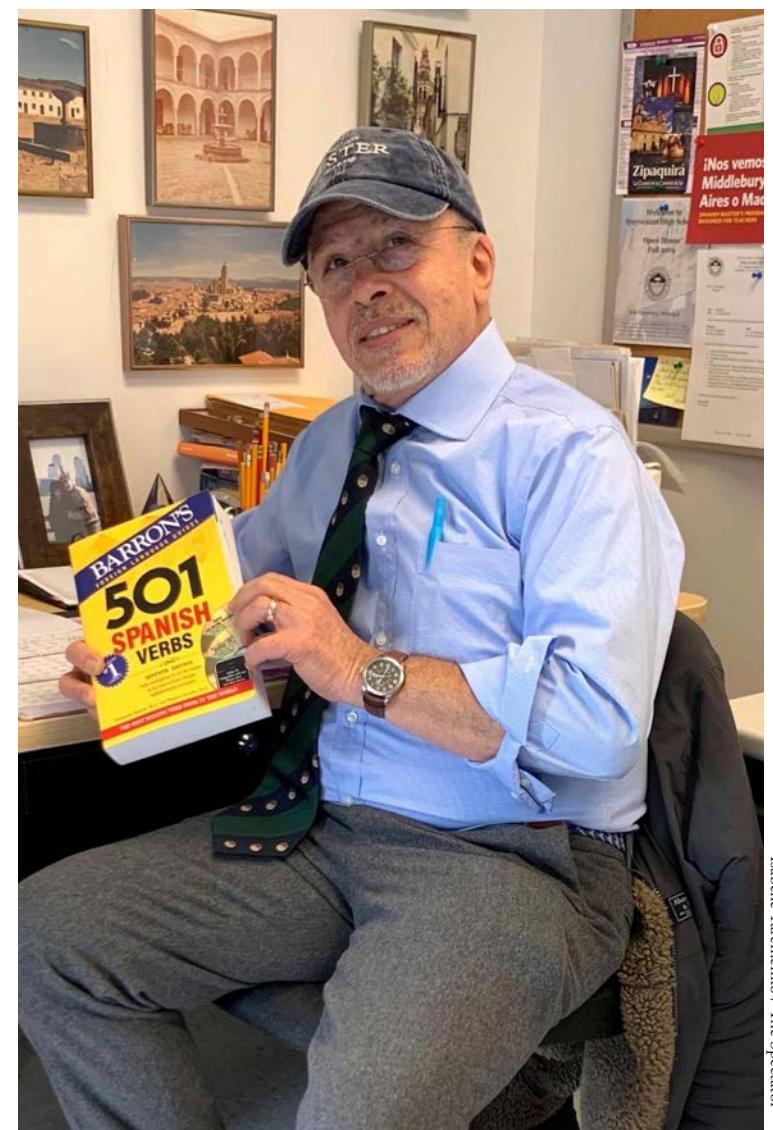
Bravo started at Stuyvesant, took a brief stint at other schools in the city, but returned a few

years later. "For me, Stuyvesant is different from other schools I've seen or been at. I really like the dedication, persistence, and drive that the students here have," he said. During his years here, Bravo has made a name for himself. His preference for old-fashioned teaching methods makes him a unique presence in the language department. His extensive worldwide experience influences the way he teaches at Stuyvesant. "You never see me sitting down, sad, or energyless," the teacher quipped with a smile.

Bravo tries to transmit his enthusiasm to his students: "I always tell my students [that] whatever they put in their coconut [is] what they are. Do the best you can, do everything with love and compassion, and fly as high as you can."

So what's next for Bravo? For him, the answer to that question can't be summed up in a single sentence of a set goal. "They say you have to live in the present; do not dwell in the past, and don't yearn for the future. But personally, I feel like the good memories in the past give you the right satisfaction for the present," he said. While this didn't provide concrete insight on what Bravo has in the pipeline, it does give valuable insight into his character: relentlessly positive and optimistic.

That's all Bravo has to say for now. ¡Hasta la pasta!



Isabelle Varemenko / The Spectator

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Editorials

Reacting to Remote Learning

In a time of crisis, for better or for worse, the first people we look to are our leaders. Over the past several years, the Stuyvesant administration has been admirable in its responses to disasters, from the terrorist attack on Halloween three years ago to the current pandemic. Before schools were cancelled citywide, Principal Eric Contreras announced a moratorium on testing to encourage sick students to stay home. In

the days since the whole city transitioned to online learning, the administration and the Student Union have done their utmost to keep the student body well-informed and still learning. Though remote learning at Stuyvesant remains in its infancy, the early signs are positive; the administration switched to E/S/N/U (Exceeds Expectations/Satisfactory/Needs Improvement/Unsatisfactory) grading for as long as school remains out, lowering academic stress for students in an unprecedented position, and implemented a rule ensuring that online lessons do not extend outside of the class's designated period. The guidance department has too reached out to students proactively, offering support even as students are confined to their respective homes. These changes, as well as the frequent and positive communication with the student body, have by and large made the best of a difficult situation; however, like any paradigm shift, they have not come without their challenges, and it would be amiss to suggest that the quality of education received has remained consistent.

Faulty internet, malfunctioning computers, and glitching websites seem like the obvious culprits in the clear decrease in quality of our education during quarantine. However, the primary issue is that digital instruction adds a wall between students and their teachers. Despite best efforts by students and teachers to frequently check e-mails and websites, it has become increasingly difficult to keep up with each class. Some teachers don't have a direct form of contact with their students, which

requires students to obsessively check a plethora of websites. While some teachers are hosting Zoom calls in an effort to simulate in-person classes and facilitate easy communication, several are not following policy by hosting remote learning sessions not in their designated class periods, forcing students to choose between attending two classes—an unfair choice that no student should have to make.

But the most notable and large-scale example of the rough transition has been in the Physics department. Though some individual teachers had their remote learning systems set up the by first week of quarantine and have been moving forward laudably, the Physics Lab Google Classroom got off to a very shaky start, with the teacher running it posting cryptic messages in a series of separate posts rather than a set of clear instructions in one place. The full junior class's worth of students in the Classroom built on the chaotic atmosphere they encountered by treating the classroom, in which students had been given (and still have) full posting and commenting permission, as a social media platform. Students started by posting and commenting copypastas of the teacher's posts, which then escalated to entirely tangential memes.

There have also been some inevitable problems lying entirely outside the control of the administration or teachers. Zoom, of course, is not even close to a substitute for classroom learning: it lags, it blurs, it cuts out, and it makes participation difficult. And it is susceptible to "Zoom-bombing," which is when trolls get into a Zoom class and hijack it. In social studies teacher Robert Sandler's U.S. History class, a troll got in on the first day and droned out racial slurs, drew obscenities on the shared screen, and made sexual moaning noises. To the teachers' credit, however, they have adapted to Zoom-bombing remarkably quickly. On the second day, the troll only got in once, and Sandler removed them immediately and, im-

pressively, didn't give him a reaction.

The Stuyvesant faculty has taken the challenge of remote learning in other ways. The administration has been maintaining a strong line of communication with Stuyvesant students and parents, quickly informing our community of any updates regarding the crisis. The Student Union's outreach, such as its Q&A with Contreras, has become another reliable stream of information, one more personalized to student questions. The guidance department has also taken initiative to provide students support and assistance during this difficult adjustment, while the administration has made a forum for students to express their concerns through Assistant Principal of Organization Dr. Gary Haber's daily attendance survey. But most of all, many teachers have been incredibly accommodating, experimenting with new technology, leaving their comfort zones by significantly adjusting their teaching styles, and actively receiving feedback to fine-tune their lessons. Stuyvesant faculty members have taken great strides to make this drastic and disconcerting shift as smooth as possible for the students, keeping them in the loop as they bring learning and support into their homes.

Students, to their credit, have also taken online learning seriously. While working from home could seem like a vacation, many students understand their teachers' expectations and have remained attentive and on top of their assignments. Though online schooling requires students to effectively manage their time—both so they can attend scheduled classes and turn in classwork and homework by their deadlines—students have stepped up to the challenge. Aside from a handful of examples, they have also been understanding while the administration and teachers find their rhythm.

Overall, the Stuyvesant community's response to this unprecedented situation has been commendable: students

The Spectator

The Stuyvesant High School Newspaper



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Student
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Do you have thoughts on anything in these pages? Anything not in these pages?
We want to hear it—write in a letter to the editor to opinions@stuyspec.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

have not taken advantage of this more relaxed method of teaching, teachers have prepared lessons, and faculty has been in frequent contact with the rest of the community. This is not to say that there are no kinks in the system, such as scheduling problems and inconsistent methods of teaching. The uncertainty of when school will resume also contributes to high levels of

anxiety among all members of the school community. As we traverse this uncharted territory and discover how teaching can be most effective via online platforms together, it is critical that we maintain a positive attitude and mentality. Only then will the diverse resources and educational opportunities here at Stuyvesant not be squandered.

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Opinions

The Thoughts of a Girl in Gym Class

By AYA ALRYYES

In elementary school, I always looked forward to Field Day, an annual tradition that marked the beginning of June. The whole grade would take buses to a park in Red Hook and spend the day engaged in friendly athletic competitions. No one really took the competition too seriously—Field Day, more than anything else, was an opportunity to have fun and spend time with friends, a way to properly commemorate the school year's end.

So when the occasion approached during my fifth year of schooling, I thought it was business as usual. I signed up for soccer and track and field—two of my favorite activities—like I always had, then donned both sportswear and excitement, again, like I always had. However, what was different was the fact that this year, I was the only girl on the list for soccer.

Initially, it didn't seem like a big deal to me. My gym teacher simply moved some names around so that there would be a few more girls scheduled to play soccer. But when we got to the pitch and started playing, I saw that only boys were playing beside me. I looked

around and saw that the other girls were just standing by the goalpost and talking.

During halftime, one of the boys motioned toward the other girls and declared in frustration, "I know girls can't stop talking, but then why did they sign up for soccer? Jump ropes are right over there, people!"

There's really no such thing as "other girls."

Wanting to fit in, I rolled my eyes and laughed in agreement, never thinking to come to their defense.

About a year after that, I attended school in Brazil for a semester. After a soccer game in gym class, one of the boys ran up to me and said, "Wow, you're as good as the boys are!" I laughed, readily accepting the compliment. I knew what the implications of what he had said were; he meant that—in athletic terms—he regarded girls as inherently inferior. But

once again, I brushed them off, choosing to ignore the implications, remaining silent and complacent.

In both instances, I had this urge to distance myself from the other girls. I knew that if the boys associated me with them, I wouldn't be taken seriously. It felt as though I had to make a critical, mutually-exclusive decision: to choose between being one of the girls (which certainly meant not being taken seriously) and being one of the boys (which, of course, meant putting down the other girls).

In elementary and middle school, I always chose the latter, but the constant feeling that I had something to prove—to them, to myself—was exhausting. Along the way, I had been so concerned with distancing myself from the other girls that I hadn't noticed I was growing apart from the ones I cared about most. They understandably distanced themselves when they saw that I was always ready to put them down the second a boy was in earshot.

As the years have gone by, I've grown not just tired of that part of me, but ashamed. During fifth grade Field Day, I shouldn't have just laughed

at that boy's remark—I should have been infuriated, because what I didn't realize then was that there's really no such thing as "other girls." When that boy was criticizing the girls for being too talkative, he was criticizing me as well. And no matter how desperate I was to separate myself from other girls, nothing was going to change. I knew I had to stop.

This realization hasn't made P.E. class into a perfect rainbows-and-unicorns environment for me. I still feel like I have something to prove, but in a different way. No longer do I concern myself with being seen as better than the "other girls"—rather, I struggle to make it clear that girls are just as athletically competent as boys are. Now, every time I strike out in softball and see the boys on my team exchange glances of contempt that read "What can you do? We have to have them on our team..." it feels like a judgment of girls at large, not just myself.

And it isn't even just the students. I've had several male gym teachers whose comments have verged on overt sexism. During a track and field unit last year, I wanted to try the highest hurdles, but as I prepared to start running, the

(male) gym teacher came up to me and asked if I was "sure I could do this." It goes without saying that he hadn't asked any of the guys that.

At the end of each P.E. class, that same teacher would announce that we were to compete and determine who the fastest kid in the class was. After the race was over and the winner determined, he would declare, "Now for the fastest girl in the class!" I think the instance speaks for itself.

It is undeniable that a problem exists; what remains is simply the act of acknowledging it, which my peers and teachers seldom ever do. It's a problem that forced me to make a decision that, while seemingly small at the moment, no girl should ever have to make—the choice between sisterhood and being respected as an athlete.

It's also a problem that speaks to a larger issue of women and girls not being taken seriously in many different environments—be it a computer science classroom, a board meeting at a private equity firm, or a field of 2020 presidential candidates, and while solving it is a monumental task, it starts now, with, say, Stuyvesant's little sixth-floor gym.

Medical Ethics: The Right to Die

By MATTHEW QIU

"Primum non nocere." First, do no harm. This line from the Hippocratic Oath dates back to the fifth century B.C.E. While many medical schools have adopted more modern versions of this classical medical creed, the Hippocratic Oath still maintains a notable presence in the consciousness of the world of medicine and, more specifically, in medical ethics. They are the guidelines upon which the practice of medicine is grounded and represent a sphere of important discussion. In fact, Stuyvesant High School has its own Medical Ethics course available for students to take as an elective.

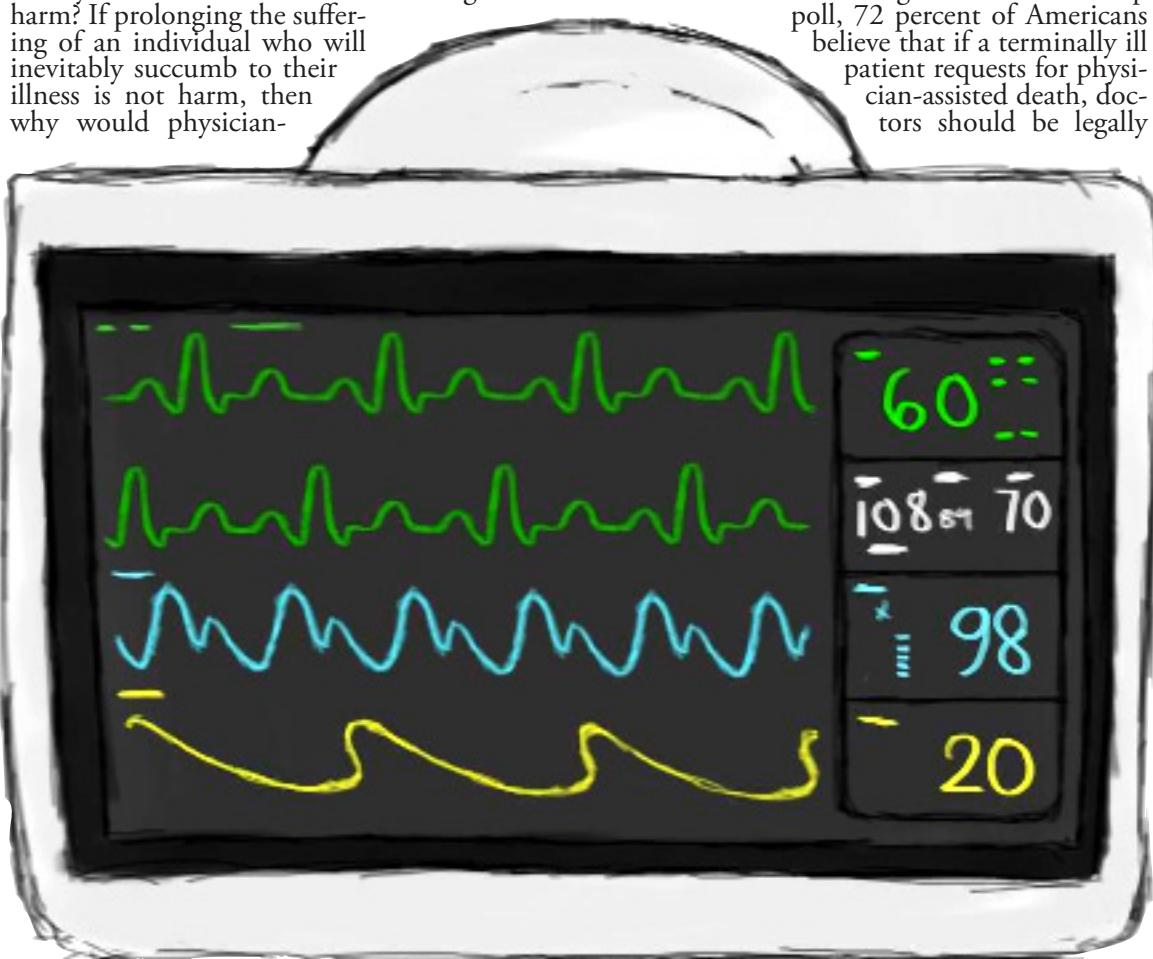
Medical ethics is an important part of the medical world, as it defines and constitutes the regulations, rules, and beliefs that doctors are expected to abide by. But the world of medicine has changed dramatically since the time of Hippocrates. With new innovation and advancement come new challenges and points of contention. One particularly prominent issue that has faded in and out of the sphere of discussion has been the policy and legal conditions surrounding physician-assisted death, or, as coined by the proponents of its legalization, "the right to die." The locus of the controversy surrounding this issue centers on terminally ill patients who experience immense suffering in their daily lives, and the question of whether physicians should be allowed to perform physician-assisted death upon a patient's request.

The goal of legalizing physician-assisted death is the fulfillment of patients' right to decide for themselves how they wish to live the remainder of their lives and what their wishes are. Not only is this a necessary right to uphold for patients, but it is also in alignment with those who ascribe their medical ethics to the Hippocratic Oath. While doctors should first seek to do

no harm, this is an extremely simplistic heuristic that falls apart quickly when one considers common scenarios for terminally ill patients. What exactly does it mean to do harm? If prolonging the suffering of an individual who will inevitably succumb to their illness is not harm, then why would physician-

institutions recognized and followed patients' advance directives. The act ensured that patients were made knowledgeable of their choices, and the legaliza-

tion of physician-assisted death is also popular among the American population at large. According to a 2018 Gallup poll, 72 percent of Americans believe that if a terminally ill patient requests for physician-assisted death, doctors should be legally



assisted death constitute harm inflicted by the medical provider?

Upholding the Hippocratic Oath does not necessitate a tradeoff with patient self-determination. In fact, one could argue that the United States is already partway there. The passage of the Patient Self-Determination Act in 1990 required healthcare facilities to provide information regarding advance directives. This ensured that patients were cognizant of all possible options in their state regarding their rights with regard to how they chose to be treated and that health care

of physician-assisted death ensured that terminally ill patients had the choice if they wanted to.

Though the majority of states in the U.S. have not legalized physician-assisted death, the practice is legal in the District of Columbia and nine states. Expanding this option to all Americans should be a priority. Terminally ill individuals should not be subject to the decisions of lawmakers and politicians with regard to whether they wish to endure further pain. This upholds individual autonomy, which is crucial for any free society that

allowed to cooperate.

While some may argue that physician-assisted death depreciates some inherent value of life itself, it's a question of the relationship between the value of life and one's personal autonomy when one is terminally ill. A phrase often heard among proponents of the right to die is that physician-assisted death allows individuals to "die with dignity." While this phrase may clash with the cultural frameworks of some societies and beliefs, the individual patient should not be forced to be held to those standards and

values. This issue is ultimately about self-determination, autonomy, and the belief that each person has the capacity to govern their own individual self as long as it does not harm others.

It should be noted, however, that there are valid concerns regarding this legalization, particularly in regards to misuse and coercion. Necessary safeguards need to be packaged with broad federal legalization of physician-assisted death. Many of the laws that have legalized the practice in states like California and Montana already have many of these measures in place. A good model for a federal legalization law would be Oregon's Death with Dignity Act. The law has succeeded in ensuring that it is used only as needed for its purpose, and it has effective measures to protect against manipulation or abuse of patients. There is a comprehensive process that checks for the requesting of a patient's mental competence, voluntariness, prognosis, and other important pieces of information to ensure that the patient is making the decision independently and with full understanding of what the choice they are making entails. Federal legislation that can successfully implement such a system will be able to advance patient rights concerning autonomy while continuing to uphold the integrity of the practice of medicine.

Though Hippocrates had virtue when he created his oath, antiquated sayings fit antiquated times. The modern world of medicine is evolving rapidly and we need to consider the serious ethical implications of new methods. Sometimes, what is considered "harm done" depends on the patient themselves. And as medicine evolves, the practice of medicine must evolve as well. The right to die is an integral part of reforming the ethics that govern the medical discipline today.

Opinions

Art, the Artist, and the Implications of Their Prejudices

By MAYA DUNAYER

"Today, we're going to be listening to one of my favorite pieces, 'Tristan und Isolde' by Richard Wagner. Wagner's music heralded the Romantic Era, and he was an extremely important figure. By the way, Wagner was an anti-Semite."

As music filled the air of Mr. David Hanna's AP European History classroom, I couldn't help but think, "That's all?" Richard Wagner was a virulent anti-Semite whose scorching work "Das Judentum in der Musik" (Judaism in Music) attacked not only Jewish composers Felix Mendelssohn and Giacomo Meyerbeer, but also the Jews in general. Some of the characters in his operas, such as Mime in the "Ring" and Klingsor in "Parsifal," appear to be representations of anti-Semitic stereotypes. Moreover, beyond this personal anti-Semitism, Wagner's music became the soundtrack for Hitler's Germany, and was played as the prisoners in the Dachau concentration camp were marched by. "All this, and his music is still being played in my history class?" I thought.

Later that day, Mr. Hanna posted a Google Classroom update to continue his explanation of Wagner's relationship to anti-Semitism. Though his entire commentary was interesting, one section in particular stuck out to me. It read, "Wagner's music was important, regardless of the ugly prejudices he expressed."

We live in a time of many "ugly prejudices," with many people harboring them. However, when artists such as Eminem or directors like Harvey Weinstein harbor such prejudices, they are broadcasted to a much wider audience due to their art. This also applies to Wagner's music and Roald Dahl's writing; though these two figures are no longer around, the anti-Semitism that they prescribed to is still prevalent. It is important for us as a

society to recognize the inherent connection between an artist and their art, as well as the larger implications of an artist harboring such prejudices. In a time of social justice mechanisms such as cancel culture, it is imperative that we realize where the line should be drawn. Art and the artist can never truly be separated, but using the art educationally is acceptable, as long as the appropriate context is given before the art is shown. However, if an artist is profiting

ments and written in an easily understandable style. There is nothing unique about Roald Dahl's work that cannot be found in other books for children, and the books serve as mere sources of entertainment. It is also important to note that Dahl's audience is young and impressionable, and should not look up to such a despicable figure. Because of these factors, Dahl's works should be avoided in order to combat his anti-Semitic views.

Yume Igarashi / The Spectator

from The Weinstein Co., as he recently resigned as director of the company, he still owns more than a 20 percent stake. Because of this share, which he cannot be forced to relinquish unless the law intervenes, Weinstein will likely make money from movies that are yet to come out, such as "The Current War" and "Paddington 2." In order to make a stand against the crimes Weinstein has committed, it is imperative to boycott these films in order

an offensive term, is cause for us to avoid listening to his music so as to take a stand against his homophobia.

It is important to recognize the profound impact that artists have on their fans. Fans idolize the artists that they love, and it is simply not right to give artists with such negative worldviews this privilege of being looked up to. The only reason why an artist with such prejudices, such as Wagner, should be allowed to have their music showcased is for an educational purpose. However, this has to be done in a very specific manner. The piece of music should only be played after a background on the artist's prejudices is presented. In the case of Mr. Hanna's class and Wagner, the issue was not that Wagner was being played, but that he was being played in an admiring context. It is important to provide the context that Mr. Hanna's Google Classroom post provided before Wagner is played in order to condemn his prejudices. Any other method of presenting the work of a damagingly prejudiced artist would be disrespectful to the group of people that the prejudices are directed toward.

Discrimination, in all its forms, is not a new phenomenon. However, with the rise of technological advances and social media, it is easy for artists to share their works and, by extension, their prejudices with the world. Though one can make the argument that art and artists are independent of one another, it cannot be denied that an artist pours their soul into creating a piece—with it, comes their flaws and discrimination. The issue worsens when the artist profits from their work, providing them with a larger platform to spread their misguided ideas. It is essential for our society to take note of this and take appropriate action if we want to be able to prevent discrimination of all kinds.



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that work must
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listened to.

A classic example of an artist with unignorable prejudices is Roald Dahl, whose books remain a staple in children's literature, despite the inexcusable fact that he was a vicious anti-Semite. He once asserted, "There is a trait in the Jewish character that does provoke animosity. I mean, there's always a reason why anti-anything crops up anywhere; even a stinker like Hitler didn't just pick on them for no reason." Though one could argue that Dahl's writing is used educationally, it is much different when compared to works such as Wagner's. Whereas Wagner's music is essential to understanding the beginning of the Romantic Era, Roald Dahl's works are directed toward children, filled with fantastical ele-

Not to
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is still
from his work. Though he was
just sentenced to 23 years in
prison for his rape and sexual
assault of dozens of women
throughout his career, he can
still earn money from the films
he helped create. Though he no
longer receives a formal salary

to avoid
Weinstein
profiting from them.

Watching the movies just for
the sake of watching is in order,
but not when such a despicable
person would profit from it.

This overt prejudice is also
evident in modern-day musicians—in fact, some artists, like
well-known rapper Eminem,
express their discrimination
through their work. In his song
"Fall," Eminem raps, "Tyler
create nothing, I see why you
called yourself a f******, b*****/
It's not just 'cause you like at
tention / It's 'cause you worship
D12's balls, you're sac-rilegious /
If you're gonna critique me,
you better at least be as good
or better." These lyrics were
very clearly directed at Tyler,
the Creator, who has been very
open about his sexuality. For
Eminem to so overtly attack
Tyler for it, as well as use such

Lyfting Safety Standards on Rideshare Platforms

By RAE SEONG JEONG

Uber reported that 3,045 sexual assaults occurred during its rides in 2018 alone.

In its first-ever study cataloging unsafe incidents in the ridesharing service, Uber (Lyft has promised to follow suit with a study of its own) disclosed jarring statistics that revealed the largely unchecked dangers in for-profit ride-hailing platforms. And considering the lawsuits and public criticism the two companies face, demonstrating their transparency is absolutely necessary. Just four months ago, 19 women joined a lawsuit against Lyft, saying they had been sexually assaulted during rides arranged by the company—bringing the total number of lawsuits to 55.

The incidents aren't limited to just sexual abuse, either. Uber reported a total of 107 car crash fatalities and a staggering 19 murders that took place during its rides between 2017 and 2018.

But the drivers aren't to blame—victims of sexual abuse or violence are both drivers and passengers. Though the majority of the reported rape victims were riders, Uber drivers reported other types of sexual assaults at roughly the same rates as passengers—ac-

cording to Uber's data, 42 percent of those reporting sexual assault were drivers, and the 19 percent of Uber drivers and 30 percent of Lyft drivers who are women often report being groped by passengers. Of the 17 murders that Uber reported, eight victims were passengers, and seven victims were drivers (the other four were third parties, like bystanders outside of the vehicles). Simply put, neither drivers nor riders are the problem. By design, for-profit rideshare companies inherently lack the investments in safety necessary to support services of their size.

Indeed, in recent years, ridesharing services have become ubiquitous. Promising to be more available, fast, and affordable, ridesharing platforms like Uber and Lyft have taken the transportation industry by storm. But their profitability is contingent on minimizing costs in employee protection—so much so that their employees aren't employees at all: they're independent contractors. Instead of working as official employees and filling out W-2 tax forms, which guarantee worker protection, safety training, and stricter labor laws (including benefits like minimum wage, health insurance, and overtime pay), as independent contrac-

tors, rideshare drivers fill out 1099 forms. Because of drivers' independent contractor status, rideshare companies also aren't responsible for payroll tax, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and state taxes. On top of that, companies can't be held liable for incidents concerning their employees. This, in turn, saves the companies massive costs—but because of a lack of these employee protections, rideshare companies aren't held accountable despite mounting pressure from numerous accounts of sexual assaults, murders, and crash fatalities.

For example, in a case in Walton County, Florida, a driver drove a passenger to his home and raped her. But Uber asserted that the driver "was at all times... an independent, third-party transportation provider" and that Uber "does not and did not employ" the driver nor "had an agency, employment, partnership, joint venture or joint enterprise relationship with him." As it stands, rideshare companies like Uber and Lyft have no legal obligation or fiscal incentive to stand accountable for their workers.

On top of that, profitability for rideshare companies is at an all-time low—Uber posted an operating loss of about \$3

billion in 2018, which followed a \$4 billion loss in 2017. And since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, stocks for both Lyft and Uber have dropped by over 30 percent; all in all, some experts doubt that the companies could even survive the pandemic. To cut costs, Dara Khosrowshahi, Uber's chief executive, has laid off hundreds of employees. As it stands, getting companies to take the added costs of reclassifying their drivers as official employees seems to be a long shot.

But it isn't impossible. For one, despite rideshare companies' fears, the cost of reclassifying their workers as employees doesn't have to mean the ends of their businesses. As a result of the utter lack of accountability for their employees, not only have countless passengers and drivers fallen victim to sexual abuse or violence, but reports of rape, murder, and a general lack of worker protection have also had tremendous negative impacts on their profits, as well. For example, the release of Uber's safety report alone cut the company's revenue by \$1.5 billion. Many experts agree that investing in worker protection would do more than help ensure the safety of drivers and riders that

use ridesharing platforms. In addition, it would improve the platforms' public perceptions, thus improving their stocks and their profits. In no world should fiscal viability and safety be mutually exclusive—for drivers, riders, and companies, it's a win-win.

Huge strides in promoting safety have already been made. Leading the way is California, which just passed a landmark bill on a 29-11 vote in the State Senate in September that forces rideshare companies like Uber and Lyft to reclassify their workers as employees. Following suit is New York City; though it failed to reclassify rideshare drivers as employees, it did pass a minimum wage for them. Pushes for worker safety across the country are continuing to gain momentum, and coalitions of labor groups are urging for legislation similar to California's in Washington State and Oregon.

The rest of the country ought to follow suit and reclassify all rideshare drivers as official W-2 employees. For far too long, companies have chosen to protect profits over people. It's time for the United States federal government to step on the brakes before we crash into the consequences.

Opinions

Want to Make Progress? Stop Being Progressive.

By ARTEM ILYANOK

The Trump presidency has been a disaster. It has transformed a once diversified Republican party focused on defending economic liberalism and social conservatism (think Marco Rubio) into a nativist party growing increasingly reliant on its rural and overwhelmingly white base—as of the 2018 midterms, Republicans control none of America's 34 purely urban congressional districts. The Trump administration has provoked a spike in political violence and polarization. Most worryingly, it has heavily eroded the democratic norms our society relies upon. Under the Trump administration, the public's trust in media and government has decreased, bipartisanship has become an anachronism, and the concept of "presidential" conduct has been shattered.

Yet Trump remains a formidable, if beatable, political adversary. There is no evidence that any of his innumerable transgressions, from frivolous tirades on Twitter to impeachable quid pro quo with foreign leaders, have weakened his standing among his base; his approval ratings have remained consistent. Trump was elected on a wave of anti-establishment populism, economic anxiety, cultural angst, and nationalism. He has governed in exactly the unabashedly partisan, defiant, and combative style his base demands.

In light of the threat that Trump and an obsequious Republican party pose, it is dismaying to see that rather than rejecting Trumpism, many Democrats have borrowed from his playbook. Indeed, there are clear parallels between the modus operandi and rhetoric that the progressive wing of the Democratic party—led by Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and the now-infamous "Squad"—uses and those of Donald Trump.

First, just as Trump wrested control of the Republican party from Paul Ryan et al. and dragged the party to the right, alienating moderates, Sanders and his progressive coterie appear to be doing the same in the opposite direction. This election, Democratic candidates have proposed a myriad of progressive policies that were not even under consideration in 2016, including decriminalizing border crossings and offering reparations to the descendants of slaves. This has happened in a party where it was only in 2018 that, for the first time, a majority of Democrats said they considered themselves to be "liberal." It is not surprising that, just as Americans found themselves shaking their heads at Trump in 2016, 37 percent of Americans are feeling "very uncomfortable" with Sanders's campaign and another 21 percent say that they have "some reservations." Indeed, nearly half of Americans say that the Democratic party has moved too far to the left.

Nonetheless, progressives insist that their policies will not only benefit Americans but unify them. "The way you bring people together is by presenting an agenda that works for the working people of this country," Sanders proclaimed during the New Hampshire Democratic debate. The progressive agenda, per Sanders, is "what the American people want."

Needless to say, he's wrong on both counts; the progressive agenda is neither popular nor desirable.

Sanders's headline proposal, Medicare for All, would cost \$34 trillion over its first decade—more than the federal government's projected total cost over the coming decade for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid combined and a nearly 60 percent increase in total expected federal spending—and would force 180 million Americans off of their insurance plans. Putting aside the fact that Medicare for All would create a healthcare system lacking market incentives and meaningful consumer options, the wisdom of aggressively pushing for it when 85 percent of Americans are "somewhat" or "very" satisfied with their current insurance is questionable at best.

Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal is an even more quixotic proposal. Costing a whopping \$93 trillion over 10 years, it is a smorgasbord of overambitious climate proposals and progressive policy goals. First, it's aimed at converting the entire U.S. energy supply to renewable energy in just a decade and establishing a "zero-emissions transportation system" at a cost of \$8.1 trillion. It fails to acknowledge that eliminating U.S. emissions wouldn't have much of an effect on the climate: if the U.S. were to go carbonless today, the difference in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels by 2100 would have no palpable effect on average global temperature. A climate

Deal, the abolition of ICE—Sanders surrogate Ocasio-Cortez has also called for the abolition of the Department of Homeland Security—and a pause in the deportation of undocumented immigrants. The progressive immigration platform touted by Sanders would also decriminalize the act of crossing the border illegally and offer taxpayer-funded health care to undocumented immigrants.

This set of policies portrays the vetting of immigrants and the enforcement of immigration law as a manifestation of nationalist cynicism, rather than an acknowledgment of the reality that not everyone seeking to cross the border is an economic migrant

It is problematic enough that progressives choose to champion a chimeric agenda. The manner in which they choose to do so is worse still.

Just as Donald Trump ran his campaign against a liberal elite undermining "American" values and a media in cahoots with said elite—"the enemy of the people"—Bernie Sanders is running against the wealthy, claiming that they have created an economy that benefits themselves at everyone else's expense. "Billionaires are committing economic murder," Vermont Governor David Zuckerman claimed at a Sanders rally. Ocasio-Cortez has asserted that "a system that allows billionaires to exist" is immoral and that "no one ever makes a billion dollars. [They] take a billion dollars."

Progressives premise their policies on a class-war "theyism": America's ills are the fault of greedy corporations and executives whose wealth came at the expense of us all. The solution? A draconian and redistributionist taxation policy, a historic expansion of the scope of government, and the barring of the wealthy from a political process controlled by "billionaires"—refusing to accept campaign donations from the ultra-rich has become a purity test among the progressive left.

This populist demagoguery is particularly pernicious because it comes at a time of economic prosperity and targets the foundation of said prosperity. 71 percent of Americans said the economy was "excellent" or "good" in 2019, an 18-year high. Contrary to Sanders's claims that this economic growth has only benefited investors and elites, 59 percent of Americans say they are better off financially today than they were a year ago. 74 percent, the greatest percentage since 1977, when polling began, are optimistic about the future, believing that they'll be on better financial footing a year from now. Unemployment is low, the stock market is thriving, and wage growth is on the rise. Indeed, even rising wage inequality, a decades-long trend, has reversed: the wages of blue-collar workers have been accelerating faster than those of their white-collar counterparts.

Nonetheless, progressives continue to advocate for policies driven less by economic evidence than by a deeply entrenched, overzealous, and ideological view of a world biased in favor of big business and the rich. Their policy prescriptions include a wealth tax that failed in Europe, would slow economic growth, and is almost certainly unconstitutional. At the root of all of these policies is a fundamentally flawed view of capitalism as a zero-sum game where one person's wealth can only be a result of another's exploitation. Even a rudimentary understanding of economics is enough to know that there isn't a fixed "pie" of national wealth (everyone can get richer at the same time) and that a market economy is premised on voluntary and mutually beneficial exchanges that lead to economic growth. Americans have such an understanding: 65 percent have a positive view of capitalism.

This misguided advocacy has had consequences: progressives have sown discord and weakened our democracy, much like President Trump. Sanders has said that "we have a corrupt political system" that's turning into an "oligarchy," and has insinuated that some of his political rivals



Andrea Huang / The Spectator

Resistance to any attempt to pass Medicare for All promises to be high: the majority of Senate Democrats (let alone Republicans) don't support it. Indeed, analysts at JPMorgan put the likelihood that Medicare for All is enacted at less than five percent.

Progressives often defend Medicare for All by citing the "success" of similar systems in Europe. However, such an argument is lazy in that it both overlooks the plethora of issues with European healthcare, forgets that Sanders's Medicare for All is far more expansive than its counterparts in other nations and assumes that the U.S. and its European counterparts are comparable, which they aren't. The U.S. has a far greater population, a federal system of government where power is decentralized, and a greater debt-to-GDP ratio; it also spends far more on its military due to its foreign policy commitments and is more heterogeneous than any European country—homogeneity tends to induce more generous welfare states. Along with the aforementioned issues, these fundamental distinctions between the U.S. and its peer nations make Medicare for All a non-viable policy option in the U.S.

policy that primarily burdens the American taxpayer rather than focusing on international cooperation with countries such as India, China, and other significant carbon dioxide emitters is both unnecessarily costly and doomed to fail. The Green New Deal also includes proposals such as a federal jobs guarantee—these jobs would come with "a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, paid vacations and retirement security"—an overhaul of transportation systems, and the upgrading of all (read: all) existing buildings in the country for energy efficiency. Ultimately, the Green New Deal is a list of overambitious and idealistic goals that aren't, in the words of Democratic Senator Dick Durbin (Ill.), "legislational." Unsurprisingly, when the Green New Deal was voted upon in the Senate, 57 Senators, including four Democrats, voted against it.

The rest of the progressive platform is equally questionable; one is hard-pressed to find a proposal that's not either impractical, irresponsible, or ignorant. Notable proposals include a \$2 trillion takeover of electrical power production that's sure to face the same cost and inefficiency issues as the Green New

or a legitimate asylum seeker. Indeed, the Honduran and Salvadoran migrants—non-Mexicans accounted for 62 percent of apprehensions at the southern border in the fiscal year 2018—making their way to the U.S. hail from countries that are poorer than Mexico. This suggests that, for many undocumented immigrants, the decision to come to the U.S. (rather than remain in their home countries or seek asylum in Mexico) is motivated more by economic opportunism than necessity; if these undocumented immigrants were simply seeking refuge or improved economic conditions, they would choose to remain in Mexico rather than seek to enter the U.S. Even ignoring the financial and moral issues inherent to a progressive immigration plan, its political downsides seem potentially fatal: only 25 percent of voters believe the federal government should get rid of ICE, 32 percent believe that free healthcare should be offered to illegal immigrants, and 27 percent support decriminalizing border crossings. An unpopular immigration proposal such as this would undoubtedly help Trump, ever eager to paint his opposition as weak on undocumented immigration, win in November.

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have been influenced by their wealthy donors. These audacious claims are based on Sanders's belief that "we have a corrupt campaign finance system" that allows "billionaires and their Super-PACs to destroy our democracy." The Citizens United decision in particular, which held that corporate funding of independent political broadcasts in elections cannot be restricted, is a progressive bete noire.

The idea that the financial backing of interest groups corrupts officeholders is specious. First, there's little evidence that interest group contributions affect the way politicians vote; a 2015 Stanford study found that "campaign contributions do not influence policy outcomes." Indeed, an interest group's power is more strongly linked to the size of membership rather than the size of its donations: interest groups with more members generally hold more electoral sway. Therefore, the primary means through which interest groups influence elections are advertisements and endorsements. Instead of spending money attempting to "convert" politicians on the opposing side of the aisle, interest groups help legislators who agree with them get elected; for example, 96.4 percent of donations from environmentalist interest groups in 2018 went to Democrats (the more environmentalist party). This pattern contradicts the progressive idea that interest groups offer financial incentives for politicians to

"sell out."

Furthermore, it is important to note that even though interest groups play a significant role in American politics, voters' interests are still paramount. Indeed, the prevalence of interest groups is a feature of our democracy rather than a defect within it. Interest groups are an essential part of democracy—there's a positive correlation between the presence of interest groups in a nation and how democratic said nation is—because they allow groups of citizens to coalesce and make sure their voices are heard in the halls of government. The diversity among (and number of) interest groups in the U.S. today means that every cause, and every American, is represented: just as there are interest groups lobbying for gun control, green energy, and an increase in funding for social safety nets, there are interest groups that lobby for gun rights, the coal industry, and cuts to social safety nets. If you still find yourself worrying about the power of money in politics, remember that elections are won on votes, not dollars: regardless of the quantity of money a candidate has in their campaign warchest, their fate is ultimately up to the voters. Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton, and Mitt Romney are just some notable examples of candidates who were prolific fundraisers, outraised their opponents, and lost. Finally, big-money donations aren't even necessary for a campaign to be financially competitive or electorally viable: this very election,

Bernie Sanders has outraised all of his primary opponents (baring Michael Bloomberg and Tom Steyer, who are both self-funding their campaigns) despite funding his campaign via grassroots donations.

Clearly, there's little to be worried about (in a practical sense) in our campaign finance system. From a moral point-of-view, there's nothing wrong with corporations, interest groups, or the wealthy spending money on elections. Just like you and I, they are stakeholders in this country's government. There is no moral difference between a union member donating to Bernie Sanders because he expects him to protect his union, and an oil executive donating to a candidate who wishes to protect the American oil industry. Both parties have legitimate interests that deserve representation in our democracy. Indeed, progressives are on the wrong side of history here: during the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission case, the government, pushing for more campaign finance restrictions, argued that the First Amendment allows for the banning of a book if it's published by a corporation. That should say it all.

Ultimately, the fact that there's no evidence that campaign donations have a disproportionate impact on political or voting outcomes makes progressive rhetoric about a "corrupt" system nothing more than fear-mongering and demagoguery.

The progressive left and Sand-

ers are left-wing populists with a Trumpian adversary to compromise and a comparable appeal to Americans looking for structural change. They thrive by promoting an us-versus-them political ideology based on blaming the opposition. It should come as no surprise that Ocasio-Cortez's Twitter account is riddled with adolescent retorts or that Bernie Sanders recently questioned "whose side" veteran and presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg is on. Indeed, the so-called "Bernie Bros," currently preoccupied proliferating vile comparisons between Buttigieg and rodents, have become infamous for their vitriol and Trump-esque character.

I am a teenager and a first-generation immigrant. As a high school senior, I am worried about how I will pay for college; many of my family members supported Bernie Sanders in 2016. My demographic suggests that I should be a progressive; I understand and sympathize with the frustration that led to the rise of Sanders and his acolytes.

However, I also recognize that there are fundamental issues with progressivism as an ideology, mainly that progressivism is inherently hostile to moderation, that progressives view tradition and any concern over its erosion as a puerile rejection of progress, and that progressivism is bellicose and Trumpian.

Pete Buttigieg articulated the foundational issue with progressivism adroitly: progressivism is "a politics that says, if

you don't go all the way to the edge, it doesn't count. A politics that says, it's my way or the highway...that beats people over the head and says they shouldn't even be on their side if [they] don't agree 100 percent of the time."

Such a politics will get Democrats nowhere. In the 2018 midterms, it was the moderate wing of the Democratic party that performed best; progressives running campaigns based off of the Sanders-inspired idea that they'd draw legions of new voters to the polls, such as Andrew Gillum in Florida, underperformed. If the Democratic party nominates Sanders, America will have two options: a belligerent right-wing populist and a belligerent left-wing populist who self-identifies as a "democratic socialist"—76 percent of Americans say they would not vote for a "socialist" political candidate. Given that most Americans are moderate or conservative, that matchup could prove to be a favorable one for Trump; for this reason, there is actually a Republican effort underway to help Sanders win the Democratic nomination.

If you want to oust Donald Trump from office, rebuild American democracy and ensure that the next four years are productive in terms of legislation and positive change, then progressivism isn't the way; a unifying, optimistic brand of politics is. If you want to make progress, stop being progressive.

Beyond Trashing the Half-Floor

By YEWON CHANG

On the first day of school, I clambered up the grand staircase, weighed down by my heavy bag and exhausted from navigating an enormous new school. There, I first saw the half-floor: a small but impressive marble expanse that sat between the first and second floors, cut through by smooth pillars. This polished wonder became my oasis amidst the confusion, stress, and rush of the school day—to this day, I eat lunch and spend my free periods on the half-floor among a sea of freshmen.

However, this marble oasis began to serve a second purpose: the students' unofficial trash dump. Discarded items ranging from torn plastic bags to crushed crackers to history worksheets lay scattered across the small floor, sometimes swept under the air conditioners or packed around the iconic pillars. Crumbs, stains, and patches of unidentifiable liquids have diminished both the shine of the half-floor and its worth as a haven for Stuyvesant underclassmen.

After a few weeks of both trash and inaction accumulating, a few students took to Facebook, posting jarring pictures of the mess and calling on students to clean up after themselves. However, the post, and an additional morning announcement the next day, which urged students to refrain from trashing the half-floor, went unheeded. Other school-wide attempts to go trash-free, be it the administration's addition of cafeteria monitors to roam the floors or the Environmental Club's Green Team's hallway trash stations, were ineffective. Even complaints that the trash was disrupting school-wide SING! rehearsals sparked

little improvement—the half-floor remained as littered as before.

Perhaps more concerning than the trash, however, was our refusal to take responsibility and instead fight over who must bear the heavy burden of not littering.

In spite of the ensuing inter-grade conflict about who was to blame and who should clean

dolence, that has prevented us from alleviating this supposedly heavy—but actually nonsensical—burden.

In the aforementioned inter-grade dispute, when underclassmen and upperclassmen alike disregarded the easy opportunity to clean up after ourselves, instead choosing to point fingers at one another, petty arguments appeared in

When we reached the end of the chain, we then resorted to targeting school custodians. Some protested that they did not see the purpose of throwing out their trash. It is the custodians' job to clean the building and—as these students claim—their responsibility to clean up after us. Such behavior is utterly disrespectful to the kind individuals who spend early and

Though small improvements in the half-floor are finally beginning to emerge after three weeks, what worries me is what this half-floor apathy reveals about Stuyvesant. We expected others to clean up after ourselves, forcing them to waste valuable time and effort in dealing with the consequences of our own selfishness. When we were called out on it, however, we tried to deflect the criticism while the half-floor remained trashed. We were reluctant to acknowledge our mistakes in mistreating school property. In essence, we ignored easy fixes and instead created an issue greater than the trash problem.

When we leave the bubble of high school and enter the real world, how will we deal with countless life-determining decisions? We cannot simply rely on others to take care of us—be it those whose jobs are to do so, or those who do it out of kindness. If we maintain that line of flawed reasoning, we will accomplish very little on our own. Thus, at the very least, we must accept that dealing with the consequences of our actions is our responsibility—not anyone else's. From there, we can move toward helping others with genuine struggles—not just the indolence we Stuyvesant students face. Only then can we occupy a world worth living in—one in which people are willing to take care of both themselves and each other.

Stuyvesant is renowned for being one of the nation's best schools, boasting a top-tier education and countless extracurricular opportunities. Yet there are non-academic lessons that we must learn on our own to contribute to a better society. That includes learning how to clean up our mess, be it literal or figurative.



Sabrina Chen / The Spectator

up, there remains the ironic fact that, on either side of the half-floor, there lies a trash bin, two types of recycling bins, and an easy-to-read info guide on what goes into which bin. It takes little energy to walk the short distance to discard one's handful of trash. Thus, it is not just inconvenience, but in-

Facebook comment sections. Moments of hostility erupted across the half floor, in which various individuals were publicly shamed. As expected, many vehemently denied their role or accused others, creating a chain of blame that accomplished nothing but foster resentment.

late hours alike laboring over cluttered classrooms and dusty corridors so that we can enjoy a clean and comfortable learning environment. To exacerbate their already difficult jobs by leaving behind garbage in nooks and crannies difficult to access undermines their hard, grueling work.

Science

SCIENCEBEAT

A genetic analysis of COVID-19's binding domains confirmed that the virus **arose naturally** and was **not engineered in a lab**.

A Norwegian patient was the first person to enroll in the **World Health Organization's SOLIDARITY**: a multi-country effort to test four drug combinations on victims of **COVID-19**.

The United Kingdom ordered **3.5 million antibody tests**. The test will identify those who have recovered from coronavirus and are at a low risk of re-infection rather than those who are actively infected.

By SONYA SASSON

When one hears "diabetes," these words may come to mind: sugar, sedentary lifestyle, and insulin. However, there is one important word missing from that list, and it is, in fact, the name of a form of dementia that affects over three million Americans annually. This progressive condition is known as Alzheimer's disease. Though Alzheimer's and diabetes were initially believed to be completely unrelated illnesses, researchers have uncovered the startling connection between the two, earning the notorious brain condition the nickname "type 3 diabetes."

Within the broad umbrella of diabetes, there are two subtypes: type 1 and type 2. Both types involve pancreatic cells, specifically beta cells, which are responsible for producing insulin. In type 1 diabetes, these beta cells are attacked by the body's own immune system, causing excess glucose (sugar) to build up in the bloodstream. On the other hand, type 2 diabetes develops when insulin becomes less responsive to glucose and less efficient at removing it from the bloodstream, causing it to build up rather than be taken into cells

for energy. In Alzheimer's disease, a similar problem of insulin resistance occurs, but rather than causing problems in the body as a whole, the effects are localized in the brain.

When researchers studied the brains of deceased victims of Alzheimer's, they observed several of the same abnormalities present in those with diabetes, including reduced levels of insulin in the brain. With diabetes, when a person's blood sugar levels rise or plummet, the body exhibits the problem through behavioral changes, such as confusion, seizures, and more. However, with Alzheimer's disease, rather than sending very obvious signs of the problem, the brain's function and structure decline gradually over time. The researchers also noted that a common finding in Alzheimer's disease is the deterioration of the brain's ability to use and metabolize glucose, which has been proven to coincide with, or even precede, a decline in cognitive ability found in Alzheimer's patients.

This brings up a new question, however: does type 2 diabetes cause Alzheimer's disease? According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), at least

half of the population with type 2 diabetes will go on to develop Alzheimer's disease; even having diabetes in the first place may increase a person's risk of developing Alzheimer's later in life by 65 percent. Nonetheless, researchers still aren't sure that type 2 diabetes can be generalized as the sole cause of Alzheimer's. By raising the risk of heart disease and stroke, dementia can often result from reduced blood flow to the brain due to blood clots. Moreover, elevated blood sugar can lead to inflammation, which may damage brain cells and trigger Alzheimer's. Despite these potential scenarios, other causes unrelated to diabetes can still lead to the development of Alzheimer's disease, such as genetic or environmental factors. Overall, however, this startling discovery of the correlation between Alzheimer's and diabetes has shone a new light on potential treatments for the mental disease. Mayo Clinic's Florida and Rochester campuses recently participated in a multi-institutional clinical study that tested whether a new insulin nasal spray could improve Alzheimer's symptoms. Nasal insulin has been tested in several Phase 2 clinical trials in patients with mild cognitive im-

pairment or early Alzheimer's. Researchers were excited to find that both short-term and long-term treatments with nasal insulin resulted in improved memory and everyday function. However, evidence suggests that nasal insulin may not be equally effective in all Alzheimer's patients, due to one gene-coding protein called Apolipoprotein E (APOE). The response to nasal insulin may vary based on not only the dose but also the form of the APOE gene the patient carries. Despite this, in a study conducted by the U.S. National Library of Medicine-National Institutes of Health, the early intranasal insulin therapy was in fact found to halt the progression of neurodegeneration found in Alzheimer's patients.

Due to the groundbreaking discovery of the correlation between diabetes and Alzheimer's disease, researchers are now able to adapt current treatments of the glucose-related disorder to the brain. In addition, this discovery offers some insight into our daily lives. The nutritional lifestyle we decide to live now as teenagers may play a crucial role in the future of our mental health—for better or worse.

The Sound of The Dead Birds

By RANIA ZAKI

Since the 1970s, the beauty of birds has rapidly faded. The mornings in Central Park that once throbbed in a dawning chorus of vireos, sparrows, warblers, doves, and wrens are now silent. The coast from Alaska to California is horrifying: the smell of thousands of decaying murres reek the ocean air. When visiting Oregon's iconic beaches, masses of birds lifelessly ripple with the waves, their bodies floating like lost boats. As humans continue to ignore warning signs about human interference, the repercuSSION of ignorance is apparent: in a mere 50 years, one-third of North American birds have disappeared, dying at a staggering average of 150,000 deaths per day.

Birds are undeniably crucial to the health of many ecosystems, and their populations determine the functionality of whole environments. Scientifically speaking, birds regulate, inform, and monitor the ecosystem. Birds have always been recognized as the biomarkers, or indicators of disease, of the environment. For instance, in the early 20th century, miners placed caged birds into mines to detect poisonous gases. The sound of the bird's call alerts the miners to evacuate before they suffer harmful effects. More than just indicators of aerial toxicity, birds also aid with weather predictions, documentation of climate change, and the monitoring of habitat health.

Birds are also crucial to their ecosystems: they control pests, pollinate plants, or disperse seeds on land and curb fish and plankton populations at sea. "They're integral to the system. It's like a very large corporation in a marketplace—they're diverse across all areas," American Bird Conservancy President Mike Parr said. "If that corporation starts to have problems, then it starts showing up everywhere."

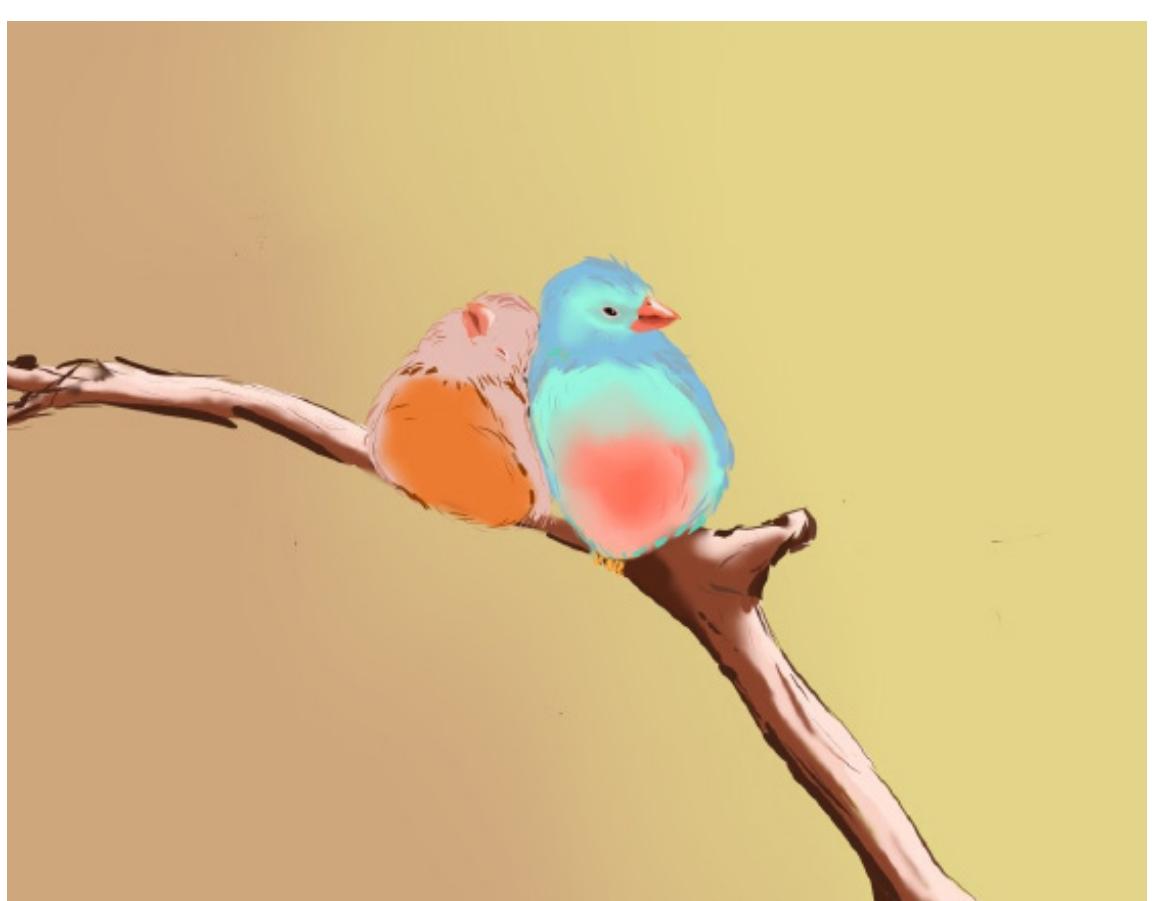
A new study in Science magazine published a change in the population of 529 bird species over a 50-year period. The research team consists of diligent organizations, devoted bird-watchers, and weather satellites that reported a decline of three billion birds. Research revealed that there has been

a significant decline of habitat generalists, or birds that can thrive in a wide range of habitats. The severity of the loss of these hardy birds represents the awful conditions all bird species are competing to survive in. "Studies like this do suggest the potential of a [system] collapse," head at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Richard Gregory said. "These [habitat generalist] birds are an indicator of ecosystem health. And that, ultimately, may be linked to the productivity and sustainability

er predators were devouring the limited pool of prey, making the murre's food source much smaller. Other researchers link the murre die-off to a colossal mass of warm ocean water—also known as the "Blob"—that spans hundreds of miles across in the Pacific Ocean. During the period that the Blob persisted off the coast of the U.S., production of phytoplankton or microscopic algae dropped, and "the largest harmful algal bloom in recorded history" stretched from California to the Gulf of Alaska

cal condition, thus necessitating that the marine birds catch and eat more to survive. "These are high-energy birds with high-energy demands. If they don't eat for three to four days, they're dead," lead author from the U.S. Geological Survey Dr. John Piatt said. Simply put, warmer water means smaller prey—and more competition from other hungry predators.

Grassland birds, such as meadowlarks and grasshopper sparrows, took the biggest population hit. Since 1970, they've lost 700



Ornithology's Seven Simple Acts initiative consists of realistic steps to make the world better for all creatures. These actions include making windows safer by adding screens instead of transparent glass, keeping cats indoors, avoiding pesticides, growing native plants, and using less plastic. Government policy will play a crucial role in bird protection. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act was originally enacted to protect the birds from overhunting and poaching at a time when the Snowy Egret was almost hunted to extinction. The law makes it illegal "by any means or in any manner" to hunt, take, capture or kill birds, nests, or eggs from listed species without a permit. Recently, the Trump administration proposed a "clarification" in the protection, one that cuts back bird protection in order to "increase" business innovation. This policy allows businesses to abuse the rights of birds if their "intent" is not to hurt them. Businesses' duty to keep birds safe is no longer their priority. A federal agent replied that while the effort to minimize harm to the birds was appreciated, protective action was considered "strictly voluntary and not required in any way." Birds continue to decline even with the intense 40 years of preservation. Now that the Trump administration discourages federal government spending and intervention in bird preservation, many species may be pushed to extinction.

When a class like birds, one that for centuries has adapted to new environments, becomes unable to cope with the rapidly changing ecosystem, this poses a serious question: will humans be able to survive the future to come? The sound of the dead birds is more than a number: it's a tragic story about starving creatures in a heating globe, the cries of a sick ocean that barely thrives, and a mourning for the future. When the Earth thrives in its precious trees and fruits once more, the sound of release will be echoed through the worn-down cities amidst the silence of humans. Remember that the fate of the birds is undoubtedly our own. After all, we breathe the same air, feel the same land, and live in the same world.

of agricultural systems."

The study in Science did not address the cause for this overwhelming decline, but other studies attempted to pinpoint possible reasons. First, unstable competition might lead to drastic population declines: a study conducted in 2015 predicted that a two-degree increase in ocean temperatures would cause the murre's competitors (such as bigger fish) to increase their food consumption by up to 70 percent. This meant oth-

in 2015. These vital photosynthetic creatures regulate the production of other populations, notably the important zooplankton. The smaller fish suffered from the lower population of zooplankton, which indirectly challenged marine birds who depended upon their prey fish. Because of the increasing competition and the temperature conditions of the Blob, there was less fish for marine birds to eat. Furthermore, these fish were smaller and in worse physi-

million birds across 31 species, equivalent to a 53 percent population loss. The reason for the decline of grassland birds remains unknown.

If the present relationship between humans and the environment continues down this path, there is no hope. There is only hope for a better future when humans stop altering the world and start changing themselves. Change is never big; it starts small with the everyday person. Cornell Lab of

SOPHIA ZAKI/The Spectator

Science

New Year, New Flu Season: Insight on the 2019-2020 Flu Vaccine's Effectiveness

By KAITLYN LEE and
KIMYA FIROOZAN

Every year brings the same signs of winter: the days get colder and the winds blow harder. But more importantly, winter always brings a friend we all know too well: flu season. Your day is interrupted by a sneeze, and then a cough. Next thing you know, you're lying in bed with a 102 degree fever, feeling fatigued and nauseous. Every year, despite our best efforts to develop and administer flu vaccinations, the virus is relentless, infecting millions of people every year. Thus, understanding the efficacy of this year's flu vaccine in fighting the seasonal flu virus could serve as a benchmark for our progress in controlling one of the most widespread illnesses to date.

The 2019-2020 flu season began in early November, marking the earliest start of the flu season since the 2009 pandemic. It began in April of 2009, when a new influenza A virus (H1N1) arose. So far, this season's flu has infected at least 32 million people, resulting in 310,000 hospitalizations and 18,000 deaths. In addition, there were 92 influenza-associated deaths of children and teens younger than 18, which has been the largest since the 2004-2005 flu season. These numbers have not been decreasing for the past few seasons, bringing into perspective the gravity of the flu and its impact on us. However, compared to those of the past few flu seasons, this season's flu vaccine has been more effective in terms of protection against the flu virus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, the vaccine has been 50 percent effective against influenza B and 37 percent effective against influenza A, which are the viruses mainly responsible for the seasonal flu. Overall, the flu vaccine was 45 percent effective: a drastic increase from a 29 percent effectiveness of the flu vaccine during the 2018-2019 flu season.

The flu vaccine is a crucial part of keeping the flu under control every year, and the U.S. uses three different production technologies (all of which have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration) to produce millions of flu vaccines: egg-based technology, cell-based technology, and recombinant technology. Egg-based technologies use candidate vaccine viruses (CVVs), which are injected into fertilized hen eggs. The eggs are incubated in order for the viruses to replicate. Then, the virus-containing fluid inside the eggs is collected. To make inactivated flu vaccines, the viruses in the fluid are killed (or inactivated, since viruses are nonliving), and the viral antigens—the parts that trigger the immune system—are removed. For nasal spray flu vaccines, however, the CVVs are kept alive, but they are weakened (attenuated). As for cell-based technology, the CVVs are obtained from influenza viruses grown in cells and injected into cultured mammalian cells to undergo replication. Afterwards, the cell-based technology process is similar to egg-based: the virus-containing fluid is collected and cleansed of viral antigens. Unlike the other two production technologies, recombinant technology does not use CVVs, but rather produces vaccines synthetically. First, scientists obtain DNA that codes for a viral antigen called hemagglutinin (HA). Then, the DNA is combined with a baculovirus, a virus that infects invertebrates, which creates a recombinant virus. This virus transports the DNA that instructs how to make HA to a host cell. Once the virus enters the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-qualified host cell line, the cells begin to rapidly produce HA. The HA is then purified and packaged as a recombinant flu vaccine.

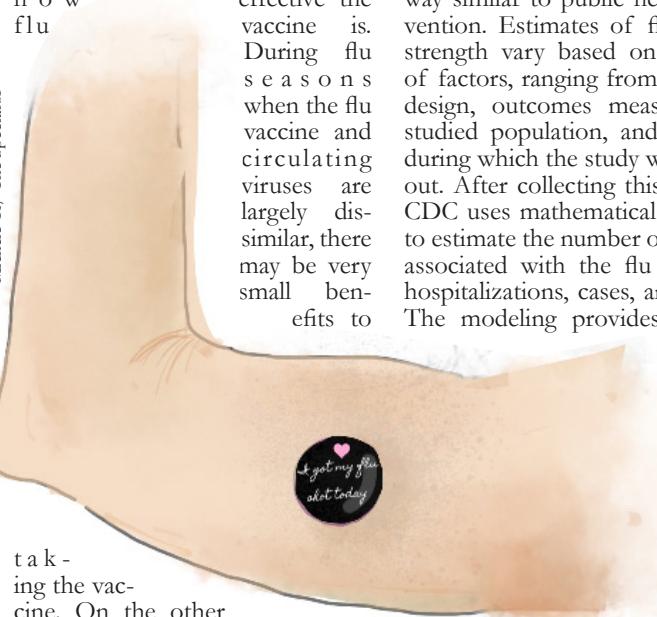
While there is no significant correlation between a vaccine's production methods and its effectiveness, the effectiveness does depend on other factors. One of them is age, as evident during the 2019-2020 flu season. While the flu vaccine was 55 percent effective for children of ages six months to 17 years, it had a significantly lower effectiveness of 5 percent for adults ages 18 to 49. Another factor is the similarity between the flu virus and the vaccine protects against and the virus contracted in the community. However, it is difficult to determine if the similarity of these flu viruses will help foretell how effective the vaccine is.

During flu seasons when the flu vaccine and circulating viruses are largely dissimilar, there may be very small benefits to

into. This part of the process—determining how well a flu vaccine works—is challenging, as most data regarding it depends on statistics received after the flu vaccine is administered. When the flu vaccine is well-adapted to the present flu viruses, scientists can then use such data in future vaccines made in order to prevent forthcoming viral strains in the future. For now, researchers attempt to determine how well the vaccines work in a way similar to public health intervention. Estimates of flu vaccine strength vary based on a variety of factors, ranging from the study design, outcomes measured, the studied population, and the time during which the study was carried out. After collecting this data, the CDC uses mathematical modeling to estimate the number of illnesses associated with the flu regarding hospitalizations, cases, and deaths. The modeling provides a

a safe and healthy future for every American family." While the actual vaccine is being reformed as well, the administration is looking to extend the vaccine's availability to as many American households as possible. The importance of being able to rapidly produce influenza vaccines using scalable technologies in the case of a pandemic has been recognized especially when compared to the recent COVID-19 outbreak. Despite the role of safeguarding the health of American citizens, influenza vaccines are currently produced using time-consuming methods. More efficient, non-egg-based production would allow researchers to select the most relevant strains, but this production is far away from being implemented into the public.

These measures taken by the government demonstrate how administering the flu vaccine is crucial to keeping Americans healthy. While the flu vaccine will always be changing and is often unpredictable, scientists have grown accustomed to researching the virus and its respective strains, working to counteract its effects. In recognizing that developing the perfect flu vaccine is an ongoing process that requires upkeep every year, Americans must realize the importance of receiving the vaccine in order to set up a safeguard they can fall back on in case they're exposed to the flu. There are many ways to receive the vaccine, from a family physician to school nurses to local pharmacies. While influenza statistics do show that the vaccine does not provide strict results on the positive spectrum, the opportunity should be taken as a preventative measure. Recently, while the COVID-19 outbreak is causing many Americans to be in a panic, it's a relief to know that influenza was in fact a pandemic in the early 1900s, with its vaccines being in worldwide circulation today. A COVID-19 vaccine is currently in the works, but its future remains to be seen.



taking the vaccine. On the other hand, when the flu vaccine and circulating viruses do match well, there may be more significant benefits from flu vaccination. But the flu vaccine may still have varying benefits even if there is a good match, as there are still many other factors to consider, like attributes of the vaccinated person, the flu viruses being spread, or what type of flu vaccine is used.

These varying benefits spur scientists to develop new vaccines each year. It is their responsibility to take the aforementioned factors into account when performing their research, and how scientists actually understand the extent to which the flu vaccine performs its responsibility is worth looking

great deal of information regarding the potency of such vaccines and currently adds to the public conversation surrounding appropriate vaccine use. While current flu vaccines provide many with the intended prevention, flu vaccines are always in the works, and at the moment, more effective vaccines are needed. In recent times, the government has been attempting to invest funds and publicly recognize these efforts to create more effective vaccines.

In an executive order issued by the White House in mid-September 2019, President Trump explained a plan to modernize and improve influenza vaccines, stating, "We want

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Science

By JENNA MACKENROTH

One of humanity's most defining traits is the variety in our thought processes: the way that we interpret and react to information and stimuli. For some, information is interpreted as purely linguistic and characterized by an "inner voice" in the head. For others, the thought process involves internal images, color patterns, or other visual representations that may be organized spatially. The diversity in different methods of thinking is groundbreaking: our different methods shape us as unique individuals by dictating how we organize our lives, our personalities, and our perception of the world. Fully grasping the variety of different thought processes would prove useful in improving education, work, and other parts of one's day-to-day life.

The cause of this variety in thought processes is difficult to find, but thankfully, neurology can attribute some of our thought processes to the physical structure of the brain. Neurologists have divided the physical brain into several components, such as the frontal lobe (responsible for thinking, behavior, memory, and movement); temporal lobe (responsible for learning, hearing, and emotions); and occipital lobe (responsible for

Internal Dialogue vs. Abstract Thought

sight). Within these different parts of the brain, the number of potential neural pathways that exist is enormous, hence the diversity of different methods of thinking.

The way our brains react to different stimuli and information is also vast and closely related to a physical neural structure. A Harvard study published in 2017, conducted by Elinor Amit and Evelina Fedorenko, on the effects of different methods of thinking has shown that different types of thinking activate different parts of the brain. One would expect internal dialogue, characterized by internally audible or visual language, to trigger responses in Broca's and Wernicke's areas, which are responsible for linguistic processing and production. Surprisingly, "internal dialogue" activated the areas of the brain associated with visual processing and thinking. Amit and Fedorenko also found that when thinking about ideas or objects that are closely related (emotionally, physically, or temporally) to the subject, subjects tended to use visual thinking, which occurs in the occipital lobe. When instructed, however, to think about objects and ideas that were far away, the subjects used inner speech, which occurs in the temporal lobe.

Psychologists have classified thought processes into two main categories. The first involves internal speech, and the second is comparatively more visual, with thoughts "appearing" in the forms of colors and shapes. Psychologist Lev Vygotsky took these classifications even further in proposing two different kinds of internal linguistic dialogues. The first kind, expanded

dialogue, includes the use of all linguistic conventions such as proper grammar. The second kind, condensed dialogue, involves thinking in "pure meaning." For those who think in "pure meaning," linguistic conventions (such as an inner voice's use of grammatically correct language) may be completely ignored.

One of the best places to see the effects of different thought processes is a place where learning and thinking are universally present: Stuyvesant High School. Of the 240 students participating in a Facebook-conducted survey asking how they thought, 77 percent reported their methods of thinking being dialogue or speech, 21 percent described them being visual, and 2 percent used different strategies. Junior Veronica Fuentes explained how the presence of music during her sleep resulted in music continually playing in her head. The constant activation of neural pathways associated with music and audio stimuli most likely affected this consistent presence by neural adaptation. Sophomore Jasmine Wang characterizes her thought process as a distinct internal voice, which she describes as tending to be bubbly. The voice's mood,

however, can change depending on Wang's mood.

Junior Diego Vasquez's thought process lies at the crossroads of audible and visually abstract methods of thinking. Vasquez has synesthesia, a condition characterized by the intersection of different neural pathways. This leads to the stimulus of one sense triggering the response of another. Vasquez described music "like Jackson Pollock, but three dimensional, more filled with brighter [colors], more melded together and lava lamps, and filled with random fluid or solid interjections."

When comparing Wang's thought process to Vasquez's, they seem completely different from one another. However unrelated these thought processes may seem, they provide insight into the diversity of our psychology and how it affects learning and basic day-to-day function. Because our thought processes are so influential in our daily lives, fully understanding the extent of their variety would prove beneficial to us all by allowing us to appreciate and adapt to them. Instead of maintaining a singular method of working and learning, understanding different thought processes would allow schools and workplaces to fully accommodate all students and employees, as well as their learning styles and methods.



SunJung Bok/The Spectator

Molecular Science: A Hidden Gem

By ARTHUR LIANG

When Stuyvesant students think about science electives for sophomores, what usually comes to mind are Genetics Research with Dr. Maria Nedwidek-Moore and Urban Ecology with Marissa Maggio. The one-section Molecular Science with Gilbert Papagayo is a yearlong elective that is often overlooked.

Papagayo enjoys teaching Molecular Science because it is a class that helps prepare students for future research at labs as opposed to a textbook-based class. The first semester focuses on nucleic acids and the second semester focuses on proteins and carbohydrates. By reading numerous scientific articles concerning research done on these molecules and writing formal lab reports, the class develops scientific literacy, which when combined with exposure to various laboratory techniques, puts the students on course for future success with research in college or in hospital labs. Papagayo embraces the little-known nature of the class, asserting, "If there were two sections, it would dilute both the quality of students and the quality of my teaching."

"Due to the fact that there aren't that many students in the class, the atmosphere is much more relaxed than many of my regular classes, which seem to be buzzing with energy. If this class had been fuller, then I don't think I'd be able to have such a deep understanding of the course as I do now," sophomore Avni Garg said. This year, the class only has 14 students, whereas last year, it was capped at 28 students. Papagayo isn't so concerned with the class's unknown status, emphasizing that this year's enrollment is "an apparition," because other biology teachers know about it and recommend it to their best students. He is more concerned with the strict application deadline, citing a case where he sent the applications of two of his students to Elizabeth Fong, the Assistant Principal of the Biology department who reviews the applications, two days late, resulting in them not getting the class. Papagayo thinks that the application deadline should be fluid.

"I think that because this class

requires an application process, it discourages people to consider it as an option. In addition, the application is just really intimidating because one of the requirements is having at least a 95 in your biology class," sophomore Andrea Khouri explained. "As someone who most certainly did not have over a 95 in Modern Biology and is currently in the class, I find it unnecessary to scare away potential students like that." Papagayo did not comment regarding any planned changes to this requirement.

The class faced a rough patch this fall semester when it was relocated from its normal classroom, 731, to 727, which didn't have the necessary lab equipment. The class had to move back and forth to complete labs, and it was a hassle for Papagayo, who often had to stay after school until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. to prepare for them. According to him, this wasn't so much an issue of another class being prioritized over Molecular Science but rather a miscommunication between him and the administration. This semester, the class was moved from its traditional third period to seventh in order for the class to be back in 731. However, this was accompanied by the loss of a few students whose schedules couldn't accommodate the switch. Some students who continued with the elective had their entire schedule shifted and expressed dissatisfaction with the change.

Papagayo was originally asked to take over this course from biology teacher Anne Manwell, a veteran in the department, after she retired six years ago. He was "thrown into it," he said. Papagayo also noted that he was initially not very well prepared to fill Manwell's role. But nevertheless, he met her requests, received the curriculum (which includes several scientific papers analyzed in class and the current textbook), and got to work orienting himself to teach the elective. Generally, yearlong electives are hard to plan, while semesters electives are easier to refine over the years. Papagayo hasn't made many changes to the original curriculum besides moving units around and adding a unit focused on proteins. The first semester still focuses on the history and nature of nucleic acids. Students learn

about how scientists confirmed that DNA holds genetic information and how DNA replication is a semiconservative process. The second semester aims to inform students about proteins and carbohydrates and familiarize them with concepts like chirality (molecular symmetry) and interpreting line structure (a system used to graphically represent organic molecules). Students also participate in the Protein Databank High School Video Competition. This year's topic is "Molecular Mechanisms of Opioid Action," and students are tasked with making a video that communicates a specific molecular or public health component concerning the opioid cri-

is outdated, having been published in 1990, and its vague explanations are hard to learn from.

Despite his issues with the current textbook, Papagayo thinks that the class is moving at a good pace, keeping in mind that it is an elective and shouldn't be too challenging. This begs juxtaposition with Dr. Ned's Genetic Research class, which is notorious for its challenging assignments and material. In response to this, Mr. Papagayo attested, "It is just my teaching style. I just don't want students to spend five hours on my homework every night. I think that that's not a good use of their time."

Rather, Papagayo focuses on



Courtesy of Arthur Liang

sis. In previous years, Papagayo's students have won the Viewer's Choice Award and even placed second for the Judge's Award.

One significant change Papagayo made to the curriculum, however, involved moving the sugar unit to the end of the year; sugars are typically the most foreign and hardest compound to study because they are difficult to characterize and image. The addition of the protein unit was his idea because proteins were his research interest when he was a graduate student, and he wants to share his passion with his students, hoping it may leave them with a bigger message than just a 100 on the next quiz. Additionally, Papagayo has expressed a strong dislike for the current textbook, "DNA Science: A First Course" (2nd edition) by David Micklos, because it

is restrained by the often triple-digit price tags of lab apparatuses. Students already have to pay \$30 in lab fees every semester. Khouri, when asked if she'd like to change anything about the course, answered, "I would probably change the number of class trips [and] interactive activities we have. Also, we should have more equipment and materials for more advanced labs we could do. I feel like since this is a science elective, it should be a bit more fun."

On the same token, sophomore Julia Nelson said, "I appreciate that this class isn't too stressful as it is an elective, but I wish we were given more guidance with researching and that it was more geared toward current techniques. I would like this class to have more focus on modern techniques, such as automation or producing computerized models."

Papagayo is incredibly passionate about biology, finding many current issues and innovations interesting and sharing it with the class daily. He tries to address student input and assign projects that are topical. For instance, his most recent assignment, though not fully fleshed out yet, involves research on a protein involved in the current coronavirus pandemic.

One thing, however, that still nags at the back of his mind is the fact that he used to have more guest speakers for the class when he first started teaching the class. Unfortunately, these speakers only want to come once or once every few years. It's too inconsistent and difficult to plan, so Papagayo decided to stop asking them to come, though he has seemingly changed his mind. Nonetheless, hearing professionals talk about their own professions is inspiring, especially to a class of biology-minded individuals who all wish to be standing in the speaker's position in the future. It conjures an intellectually motivated atmosphere and really epitomizes the goal of Molecular Science and Stuyvesant's STEM program as a whole: to incite a spark in the doctors, researchers, engineers, and programmers of the future and have them leave Stuyvesant with an even greater hunger for success and innovation in their field.

Arts and Entertainment

MUSIC

By ANSON GUAN

Lil Uzi Vert has a cult following for a reason.

The Philadelphia rapper can channel manic hedonism, tragic heartbreak, and profound joy all in one song with a peerless level of charm, and it's no wonder his fans have been eagerly awaiting a new project since 2017. The road to his newest album, "Eternal Atake," has been an absurdly rocky one. In a saga that started in 2018 with the album's announcement, Uzi has weathered drama with his label, a short-lived retirement from music, and a legal battle with the Heaven's Gate suicide cult. Now in 2020, to the delight of his long-suffering fanbase, the album is finally here. While it's nearly impossible to live up to the weighty expectations placed on it, "Eternal Atake" is an equally heavy undertaking of an album that unites every facet of Uzi's musical personality in a very entertaining, if not fully realized, collection of tracks.

To give you a sense of the sheer scale of "Eternal Atake," the main album with no deluxe tracks consists of eighteen tracks that total up to an hour of new music. Those eighteen tracks are divided into three sections, each corresponding to one of Uzi's imagined personalities. The first section is taken by Baby Pluto, a manifestation of Uzi's aggressive side. Uzi's Pluto effortlessly glides over this section's energetic, bass-heavy beats with a cocky charisma, flexing his success and embracing it the whole way. Overall, this is best section of "Eternal Atake," a relentless tirade of bangers that feature the most technically skilled rapping

Lil Uzi Vert Shoots for the Stars on "Eternal Atake"

of Uzi's career. One particular standout is the track "Baby Pluto," which opens the album with a bang as its anthemic chorus launches you off into space.

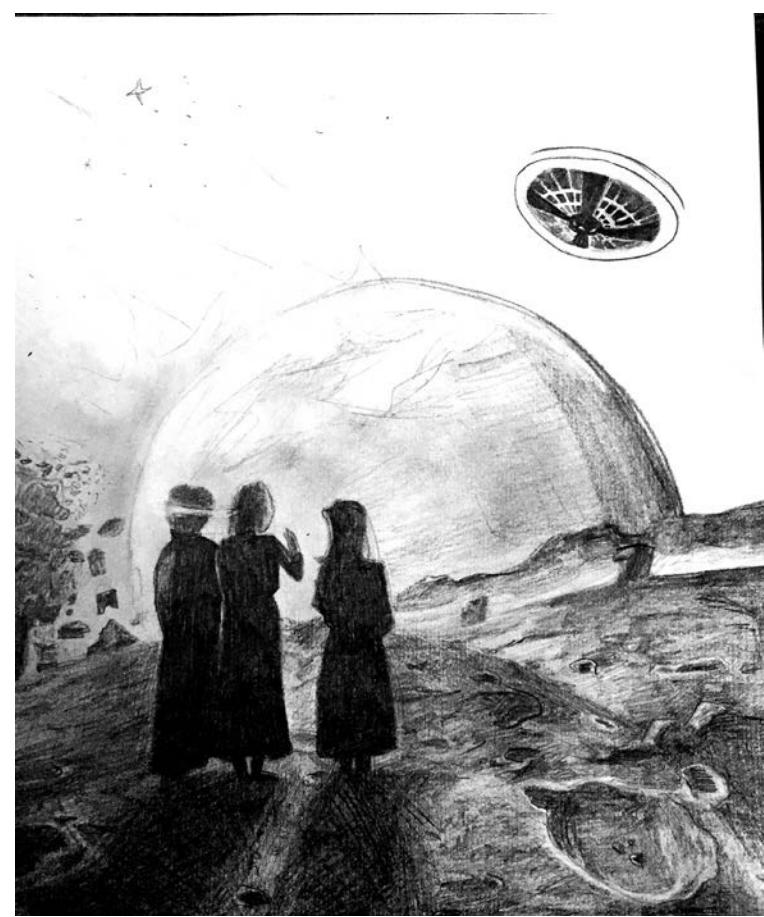
Renji, Uzi's softer melodic side turned up to eleven, takes the next six tracks. Uzi has always stood out compared to other melodic autotuned rappers, and on tracks like these, it's easy to see why. His charisma is undeniable, and even when he croons about heartbreak and lost love, it's hard not to listen with a smile on your face. "Prices" is the clear standout from this section and probably the best track on the album. Uzi comes through with an infectious energy and a killer hook, and combined with a beat that makes amazing use of a Travis Scott sample, everything comes together to create a transcendental experience.

The final six tracks of the album are taken on by Uzi himself and most closely emulate the sound of his previous albums. This section's songs are more of the same hazy melodic sound that Uzi has mastered, but while this is Uzi's section, it differs the most from the others. It is home to the only song with a feature on this album, with R&B singer Syd featuring on "Urgency," as well as the two "bonus" tracks dropped before the release of "Eternal Atake": "Futsal Shuffle 2020" and "That Way." It includes "P2," a reinterpretation of Uzi's 2017 hit "XO Tour Llif3," in which Uzi reconciles with his past while reinventing his most popular song. The interpolation of the classic 2017 track's beat and flows is strangely effective, even if it is essentially the same song. "That Way" also stands as

one of this section's best tracks, with a Backstreet Boys sample guiding Uzi along a dreamy beat.

For all of the album's strengths, however, it suffers from its overambition. Uzi made the bold choice to drop 18 songs with only one feature, and it doesn't always work out. While there are obvious standouts in the tracklist, repetitive lyrics and similar beats make the less memorable songs blend into one another and sound like worse versions of other songs on the project. These songs also tend to overstay their welcome, as if Uzi thinks longer songs will automatically be better. The overambition of "Eternal Awake" also applies to the skits at the end of each track, which tell a loosely connected story about alien abduction that is ultimately pointless and has nothing to do with the actual songs.

Overall, "Eternal Atake" is a fun addition to Uzi's catalog, even if it isn't the groundbreaking project many hyped it up to be. But if you found the album disappointing, you're in luck, as the deluxe version of "Eternal Atake" is essentially two albums for the price of one. Serving as a sequel to Uzi's previous mixtape "LUV vs. the World" (2016), the deluxe tracks on "Eternal Atake" make up "LUV vs. the World 2" (2020). Essentially, the deluxe tracks are their own separate project tacked on to the end of an existing album. While its release is strange and convoluted, the "LUV vs. the World 2" half of "Eternal Atake" more than makes up for that, as it consists of tracks that Uzi's diehard fans have eagerly been waiting for official releases



Anna Ast / The Spectator

of, only heard previously through low-quality leaks and snippets. Honestly, considering "LUV vs. the World 2" as a mere add-on to "Eternal Atake" is a bit of a slight, as there are many points in which its quality surpasses the original album. "Myron" and "Come This Way" showcase the best of Uzi's melodic side, with commanding hooks and smooth flows. Uzi enlists Chief Keef on "Bean (Kobe)" for a bouncy tribute to the late basketball legend, "Strawberry Peels" features Young Thug and Gunna on an earth-shattering beat, and "Moon

Relate" showcases one of Uzi's most passionate vocal performances ever.

In a way, "Eternal Atake" and "LUV vs. the World 2" stand at odds with each other. The former features entirely new songs and a bit more experimentation, while the latter is a collection of long-awaited songs that embody Uzi's classic sound. But their one throughline is their artist. Whether he's Baby Pluto, Renji, or simply Uzi, Lil Uzi Vert's iconoclastic take on hip-hop will continue to propel him to the stars.

THINKPIECE

By ZIFEI ZHAO

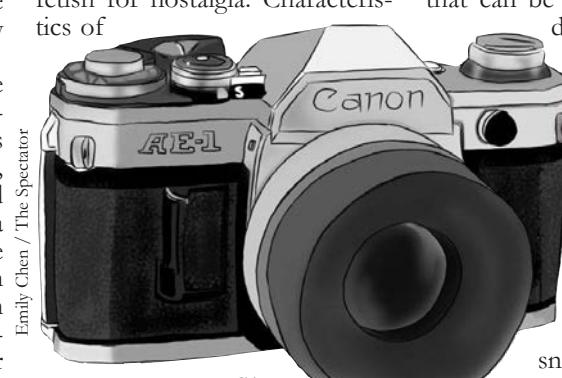
From the disposables sold in trendy stores like Urban Outfitters to the film cameras Instagram photographers use, one thing's for sure: film photography is back.

Film photography, otherwise known as 35mm film photography, is the art of taking photos using strips of plastic called, well, film. When an image is exposed onto the film through the lens, a latent image is imprinted onto the strip. The latent image can then be developed into a negative (an image in which lighter areas appear dark and darker areas appear light) and eventually onto light-sensitive photo paper to create a photograph. This process can be incredibly long and expensive. So why, in a world of digital cameras and smartphones, are we turning

Trendsetters and the Rise of Film Photography

back to the arduous process of film photography?

The answer seems to lie in the same reasoning for revived fashion trends: a seemingly global fetish for nostalgia. Characteristics of



film photography are its grainy resolution, light leaks, and muted colors. This creates a vintage aesthetic both visually appealing and trendy. Apart from

the aesthetics, the process of film acts as a sanctuary for many photographers in a fast-paced world.

Unlike digital photography, there is a set number of photographs that can be taken per roll, thus driving photographers to be more thoughtful with their shots. The photograph itself can't be seen until it is developed, which adds an element of surprise and contrasts with the near-instant gratification of snapping a photo on a smartphone. The development process can be tiresome, but it allows artists to immerse themselves in their art-making. The hard work put into taking and developing the perfect

photo makes the end result that much more gratifying.

Though there are many creative advantages of film photography, there are downsides. As the trend grows, film camera prices rise. Since few can afford or invest in cameras, many are turning to disposable film cameras as cheaper and lower-commitment alternatives. But as is clear in their name, these cameras were made to be used only once. With the current growing emphasis on sustainability, the return to film photography feels hypocritical, and it's frustrating to see influencers and celebrities who advocate for sustainability also promote the use of disposable cameras. The film development process is very wasteful as well, using large amounts of water, chemicals, and plastic to create photos. While a small community

of film photographers may have a negligible effect on the environment, the trend will become increasingly unsustainable as it grows more popular.

In our modern era, film photography can be a creative outlet that serves as a refuge for many artists to embrace the creative process. But this attempt to recreate the past only slows the progress that many have made through the sustainability movement. While film photography is a wonderfully celebrated medium for art, a majority of users seem to only use it to recreate the "trendy vintage aesthetic." Perhaps, instead of using an actual film camera, one can try either filters or editing tools to create that grainy, nostalgic effect. It may not be quite as authentic, but it's a small price to pay for the future of our world.

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Arts and Entertainment

FASHION

By SAMIRA ESHA

"J's on my feet, so get like me" is a lyric from "23" by Juicy J, featuring Miley Cyrus. The song came out in 2013 and has since accumulated more than 800 million views on YouTube, showing how influential Jordans were and still are. Jordans have become popular and highly coveted. Why are they so relevant?

In 1984, the year the first Jordan shoes were released, Nike's brand did not cater to athletes, discouraging basketball player Michael Jordan from working with the company. Jordan made offers to multiple companies to start a line of basketball shoes that were more customizable than the standard white sneakers sold by Adidas and Converse. Unfortunately, due to rising tensions and bad timing, none of these companies wanted to work with him. Eventually, Nike and Jordan teamed up to create the Jordan brand, and Jordan started wearing his shoes on the court during his basketball games. At first, the shoes sparked controversy because they broke the NBA rule that players' shoes had to be mostly white. But once the Air Jordan 1s were finally released to the public, the collaboration sold \$70 million worth of shoes after just one month; an

Emma Donnelly / The Spectator

The Shoes That Will Never Die



instant hit.

Though Jordans lean toward the more expensive side of the sneaker market, the quality and brand name helped the brand to succeed. Despite not being as affordable as the average Nike shoe, Jordans remain popular as they are made of real leather and are of high quality. The retro Air Jordan 1s have a retail price of around \$200 and a resell price of anywhere up to \$2,000. The

high demand for Jordans contributes to its expensive price. Once a shoe drops, the Jordan brand will not restock or release it again, except for the occasional re-releases, making the shoe more desirable. Jordan's career and reputation are also associated with Jordans, further boosting their popularity. The Jordan brand name also gained renown through pop culture, such as rap song lyrics or a celebrity wearing

them on the red carpet.

In 2014 however, Jordan sales started to drop as fashion trends evolved. The early 2000s featured baggy jeans, which matched the chunkier Jordan shoe. As the 2010s progressed, skinny jeans became trendy, and Jordans were left behind. Adidas Stan Smiths and Superstars, two notable shoes, made huge comebacks, replacing the once hyped Jordans. Kanye West stopped working with Nike and moved on to Adidas, further damaging the brand. The Jordans hype was slowly fading away.

The Jordan brand, however, started regaining relevance around 2017. The company started collaborating with other big-name brands such as Off White and Supreme, along with music artists like Travis Scott. These collaborations promoted the sneakers and amped up their prices. As soon as each sneaker collab dropped, they would sell out in minutes, leaving Jordans at the top of the market once again.

The basketball shoes are now at their peak. Hundreds of resell websites like Goat or Stockx sell the shoes at steep prices of \$500 to \$20,000. From celebrities to athletes to the average high school student, everybody is trying to get their hands on a pair of fresh Jordans.

FASHION

By CHRISTINE LIN

Did you know that Bermuda shorts are going to be one of the biggest trends of spring 2020?

I didn't. I mean, are they in the most flattering cut? No. And do they, when created in any non-neutral color, obnoxiously remind whoever's looking at them of the beach? Perhaps. Yet "The runways have spoken" captions an article. And after seeing a series of images of Zendaya and Kylie Jenner wearing them, I couldn't help but want a pair too.

I suppose what I'm trying to say is that we are all, to some extent, influenced by our society's trends and standards. And fashion is no exception to that. Whether you're a fashion aficionado or someone who just read the term "Bermuda shorts" for the first time, we all share the

Slow and Steady: Sustainability in the Fashion Industry

of? How is it made? And the most pressing question of all—is it sustainable?

Sustainable fashion is a movement that has gained momentum over the last couple of decades. It addresses the current state of the textile production system and advocates for a shift toward more ethical and environmentally friendly practices. The issue in sustainability, or rather the lack thereof, lies mainly in the popularity of fast fashion, a common business strategy where major retailers bring runway trends (i.e. leather Bahama shorts) into stores quickly and affordably for the average consumer. This is what brands like Zara, Topshop, Forever 21, H&M, and Hollister do. Customers are now able to wear styles they just saw on their favorite celebrities for a fraction of the price, and that changes

Worth over \$2.4 trillion, the global fashion industry is enormous. From haute couture to tennis shoes, production never stops, and the demand for new products is only increasing. Fast fashion encourages this "buy and throw" practice, in which consumers buy more pieces at lower quality. But this practice doesn't only apply to retail stores. With the growth of technology, predominantly online retailers like FashionNova, Zaful, and AliExpress are becoming more popular now that people can shop internationally and have their purchases delivered straight to their door.

What's often overlooked, however, is the waste produced during this process. Responsible for 10 percent of the world's carbon emissions and the second-largest consumer of the global water supply, the textile industry falls just below oil as one of the largest polluters in the world.

Let's look at the production of a pair of jeans, for example. It takes around 2,000 gallons of water to make them. They require intensive processes, from growing the pesticide heavy cotton to washing and dyeing it to creating that beloved denim texture to sewing the pieces together to then package and ship. Additionally, the water runoff is often extremely toxic and non-reusable, released into rivers and leached into agriculture and drinking supply. Microplastics from the packaging and labels get washed into the oceans, not to mention the jeans themselves, which can take years to even start to biodegrade in landfills. That is, assuming, they aren't made with a blend of polyester—then that's a whole other story.

Polyester, a relatively new development in textiles, is a synthetic fiber often blended with other materials in clothing for its durability, lightweight, and quick-

drying properties. It's cheap and versatile, but made through an energy-intensive process from crude oil; which means that, yes, it's plastic. Polyester fabrics can't biodegrade in landfills and thus make up a large portion of the microplastic fibers polluting our oceans today.

Materials are only half of the issue though. Garment workers—the majority of whom are women and children—are some of the lowest-paid employees in the world. Companies purposely choose factories in third-world countries where land and labor are abundant and cheap. They then employ millions to assemble clothing for long hours and extremely low wages—sometimes even less than what they need to survive. Not only that, but workers are also often put in unsafe conditions, vulnerable to abuse and workplace accidents. These factories are commonly referred to as sweatshops, and their prevalence is only growing with our high demands.

Fortunately, sustainability is gaining more exposure as people are becoming more aware of the unsustainability of the "easy come, easy go" mindset they apply to their wardrobes—in regards to the planet and the manufacturers behind the scenes. Now that's not to say going sustainable is easy. But brands are starting to shift toward a more sustainable production line, and tackling the issue of transparency has been the first step to that.

The 2013 factory fire in Rana Plaza, Bangladesh was a big eye-opener. Due to a lack of inspection and maintenance, workers were in an extremely unsafe environment. When the factory collapsed, over 1,000 people lost their lives and countless others were injured. When the media

Needless to say, the cost of cheap fashion is high, and the shift toward sustainability is slow.

need to have clothes on our backs. We've all walked past the large "BOGO" and "SALE! STARTING FROM \$5" signs plastered on the brightly lit department store windows and thought, "I might as well check it out," not really in the need for anything in particular. Yet we always seem to walk out of said store, new bag in hand, thinking "Wow, that was only \$5.99!" regardless.

Something that doesn't cross many people's minds, however, is where their clothing comes from. Who made it? What is it made

everything. But how are these brands able to do this? How is it possible for them to produce and sell these new pieces so quickly and at such low prices? Do they even make a profit?

What we don't realize is that the cost goes far deeper than what's just on the price tag. In order for a brand to be sustainable, they have to use environmentally friendly practices and employ their workers in an ethical way—easier said than done in an industry that prioritizes expediency over ethics and the environment.

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Polyester, a relatively new development in

Arts and Entertainment

FILM

By IVY HALPERN

Matthew Cherry boldly tweeted, "I'm gonna be nominated for an Oscar one day. Already claiming it" in 2012. This year, "Hair Love," which Cherry wrote and co-directed, won the Academy Award for Best Short Film. This gem of a film introduces something new to the movie industry as it depicts black culture in animation while focusing on the prejudice against black hair.

The film's story revolves around the significance and challenges of hair and is told through little dialogue, impressive animation, and effective background music. It includes both humorous, in which the main character's father attempts to do his daughter's hair, and sorrowful moments, in which the mother becomes bald after battling cancer. Toward the end of the seven-minute film, the father and daughter pick up her mother from the hospital and in

a moving scene, the girl gives her mother a drawing of her hairless and with a crown. The film is beautifully and charmingly drawn to convey this message of empowerment for black people regardless of their hair choices.

The film aims to advocate for black people to be able to wear their hair naturally. The directors and producers of "Hair Love" advocate for the passing of the Crown Act, or "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural hair," an effort to normalize natural black hair by prohibiting discrimination

against texture or style of hair in workplaces and schools. Currently, around 25 states are in the process of making or passing laws similar to the Crown Act, and some have already

passed similar laws.

As part of their efforts to highlight the discrimination against black hair, the producers of "Hair Love" chose to invite DeAndre Arnold to the Academy Awards. Arnold was suspended from his Texas high school for violating dress code with his dreadlocks. He had been wearing his dreadlocks since seventh grade and had no intention of cutting them off, even when threatened with exclusion from graduation. Through "Hair Love," Cherry aims to bring this issue into the public eye.

This advocacy is also clear in the mother's hairstyling video tutorials, the only voicing in the film, when she says, "all it takes is some confidence and willingness to get started." In this scene, she teaches and gives black women the confidence to style their hair as they choose.

"Hair Love" is an everyday

quandary for black women, as seen in a current viral social media video of a black girl named Ariyonna, who calls herself ugly while her mom does her hair. Many people are reposting this, including Michelle Obama, who said, "I want to tell you—and every other beautiful, intelligent, brave black girl—just how precious you are." The overwhelming support for this girl is similar to that of the mother in "Hair Love," combating the stigma and stereotypes associated with black hair with positivity and encouragement.

"Hair Love" embodies what Cherry said in his award speech: "'Hair Love' [was] born out of wanting to see more representation in animation, but also to normalize black hair," he said. He has achieved more than his goals: not only by getting nominated for an Academy Award, but also by bringing this issue to everyone's attention.



Sammi Chen / The Spectator

FASHION

continued from page 23

got a hold of this, accusations for who was responsible for the accident were thrown left and right. What made this such a complicated situation, however, was that brands don't usually own or manage their own production and instead hire independent factories to do so. Textiles are often created, shipped, and assembled in pieces across several factories, with different people in charge of different sectors. Until recently, companies were never pressured to improve their communication with these sectors or be fully transparent with their customers about their resources and practices.

H&M has taken a step in the right direction with its new "con-

sumer-facing transparency layer." Customers can now find out where and how their purchased items were made. Zara has also initiated sustainability reforms

nologies and materials and lowered environmental impact. More and more brands like Levi's, Madewell, and H&M have been implementing recycling programs

It addresses the current state of the textile production system and advocates for a shift toward more ethical and environmentally friendly practices.

with its Join Life production line. The Join Life label informs customers that their clothing was manufactured with new tech-

in an effort to keep resource-heavy textiles like denim or dyed prints out of landfills. Customers can now donate their unwanted

clothing at any of their in-store locations to be sent to factories specializing in recycling to be refurbished.

But at the end of the day, the best way to encourage sustainability is simply to purchase less. We often feel powerless in situations like these, and it can be frustrating to watch as major fast fashion tycoons brush off these issues and introduce line after line of new designs. But as the consumer, we actually have more influence than we think. If we become more mindful of our purchases and invest in good quality pieces rather than the latest seasonal trend, we can limit the amount of waste produced.

Thrift shopping is another more sustainable (and affordable) alternative, as buying and upcycling second hand pieces gives them

another life and keeps another article of clothing out of landfills. There are online thrift stores like Depop, Poshmark, and thredUp, which allow us to not only shop, but also sell second hand all from the comfort of our home. And if we want to shop retail, there are many new brands focused on sustainability and transparency that are available, a few being Reformation, Patagonia, Everlane, and Pact.

Needless to say, the cost of cheap fashion is high, and the shift toward sustainability is slow. The most we can really do is be conscious of our actions, the consequences they have, and try to minimize that indirect impact as much as we can.

I've decided not to get the Bermuda shorts after all. What about you?

MUSIC

By THEO KUBOVY-WEISS

Sequestered in a remote cabin for four winter months in 2007 after having his heart broken by an unknown woman he called "Emma," singer-songwriter Justin Vernon coped with his sadness in isolation. There he wrote, recorded, and produced most of the songs that would ultimately be on the first studio album "For Emma, Forever Ago" (2007) of his band, Bon Iver.

"For Emma, Forever Ago" conveys a unique, haunting melancholy that can only be experienced while completely isolated in a cabin amidst the snowy trees. The album, remarkably simple yet deeply profound, is introspective, the sonic manifestation of gazing out a window on a rainy afternoon. The song "Flume," which follows his relationship with his mother, has a soft, haunting sound driven by a gently strummed guitar. Among many others, it is beautifully sung in Vernon's effeminate, reverberating, almost Chet Baker-esque falsetto and laced with poetic imagery. Such imagery is reflected in "The Wolves (Act I and II)," a song about his overzealousness

The Many Faces of Bon Iver

(and consequent vulnerability) in relationships: "Someday my pain, someday my pain / Will mark you / Harness your blame, harness your blame / And walk through."

Bon Iver's self-titled second album "Bon Iver" (2011) conveys the same deft lyricism and introspection as its predecessor, but emphasizes the variety in the instrumental backing tracks, contrasting and augmenting the sounds of different instruments in the album. This differs from the songs in "For Emma, Forever Ago," which are predominantly driven by an acoustic guitar with an occasional drumbeat. "Bon Iver" focuses on detailed descriptions of nature and moments in Vernon's reminiscent of Walt Whitman's poetry. "Holocene," the single off of the album, includes the lyrics, "Jagged vacance, thick with ice / But I could see for miles, miles, miles / Christmas night, it clutched the light, the hallow bright." This shift away from heartbreak and toward accounts of personal experiences, adventure, and discovery is also represented in the album art: the foggy, raindrop-laden window of "For Emma, Forever Ago" is replaced by an idyllic de-



Semoi Khan / The Spectator

piction of a small, rural town on "Bon Iver."

After their first two albums, which largely adhere to conventions in indie music such as a high pitched falsetto and warm acoustic sounds, Bon Iver took a sharp experimental turn. Their third and fourth albums, "22, A Million" (2016) and "i,i," (2019) respectively, include intricate, innovative production. These albums forsake the typical song structure (verse, chorus, bridge) and have a much looser flow from start to finish. Sonically, Bon Iver distort the vocals and add more extravagant instrumentals than their first two albums. We see a shift toward avant-garde lyrics, with a greater emphasis on philosophical rather than realistic observations. In the song "iMi," Vernon sings "If forgiveness is a chore / What you waiting for? / And we been here before? / And I can't ignore it anymore." This shift also parallels the album art, with both albums having abstract, geometric covers in contrast to the initially realistic album images.

In their nearly 13-year career, Bon Iver has proven that they are able to masterfully convey sophisticated ideas about relationships, sadness, personhood, and emotions in a wide range of musical styles and through shrewdly crafted lyrics. This consistent

Sports

Athlete of the Issue

By AKI YAMAGUCHI

Max Mah
Height: 5'7"
Eye color: Brown
Hair color: Black
Birthday: 03/26/2002

Owen Potter
Height: 5'11"
Eye color: Blue
Hair color: Brown
Birthday: 07/05/2002

1. When did you start playing baseball?

OP: I started when I was three or four just going to the parking lot with my mom. I started playing for a team when I was six. **MM:** I was pretty similar. I started throwing the baseball with my dad around four or five years old. He just taught me how to throw and catch, but I didn't play organized baseball until the seventh grade. I was in China, and then when I moved back for high school, I picked it up again, so it hasn't been that long actually.

2. What were your team goals for this season?

OP: Win the championship. Win our first playoff game because we haven't done that in a while as a Stuyvesant team. We also wanted to develop the younger grades because they are really good—the sophomores and the freshmen. We must develop them and make sure they get better in order for them to lead when they are juniors and seniors. **MM:** To add on, there are four seniors and three who pitch. Developing the younger guys is important. Another thing would be to be a .500 or above team. Last year, we went 7-9, so our coaches were definitely encouraging from the beginning to have the mentality to go for it all—to go out there and win the entire team, win the championship, and then from there, to

have more realistic sub-goals in mind. Like Owen was saying, I want us to win our first playoff game or have a really good playoff seed by being .500 or better. Then, there's individual stuff like having a better swing or knowing what to do in specific situations.

3. Are there any skills you want to improve on, and what position do you play?

OP: I'm a pitcher and I also play first base. A skill I want to improve on is mostly that I want to throw harder while being in control of my game mentally. I also want to improve on not letting small things get to me while I'm on the mound. **MM:** I play second base and I pitch a little bit. My goal as a second baseman is to continue putting in the consistent work and being a little smoother in the field. I want to really develop chemistry with our new shortstop Sam Levine. He's a sophomore and he's really really good, so working on not just fielding the ball but also on double plays and run down plays is important. I also want to pick off moves from second base with the pitcher. Both of those things I mentioned require communication and practice with the pitcher, so that's something we worked on. At the plate, adjust to that mentality, develop a lead-off hitter mindset, and be a little more selective with the pitches. As a pitcher, as Owen said, be more mentally in control and develop mental toughness. Work on those secondary pitches like the change-up and the curve ball.

4. Were there any challenges the team faced this year?

OP: Last year, we had five people pitching and we lost four of them, which was a big loss. One of our biggest challenges concerned who was going to step up and be that number three guy. Max was one of those people, and after Max, who's going to be number four and so on in the bullpen? The other thing is that

Stuyvesant has never had a physically strong team because we are so young; we were especially young this year. Offensively, we were going to have to be a little more unconventional than past years. **MM:** Just to piggyback off Owen, it was definitely a challenge with hitting. Last year, the captains, Jared (Asch '19), Malcolm (Hubbell '19), Cooper (Nissenbaum '19), and Jeremy (Rubin '19), were 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively, so we were going to have to look for a new lineup. Knowing when to bunt in situations is also important. Jonathan Lee, who is a sophomore, is super fast; he can fly and he's on the track team. Overall, we would have had good team chemistry with the younger guys this year, but we will see what happens.

5. How do you deal with schoolwork and baseball?

OP: The number one thing that helped me academically—because I also have football in the fall—is waking up early and getting all my work done in the morning. It's definitely helped me a lot because I often get home from practice at 7:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. and then eat dinner at 8:30 p.m. I'd go to bed at 10:00 p.m. and wake up at 5:00 a.m. and do all my work then. I have to say that that's the biggest way to balance everything, but also I know that if I have a game the next day, I'm not going to stay up late doing homework. Doing homework on the train is a big help, especially the ride home from the pier. **MM:** For me, it's the same thing. I utilize every bit of extra time, from train rides to free periods. There is also a compromise you have to make when it comes to sports, especially because baseball is all year around. You have to do workouts in the fall and winter and then games in the spring. Sometimes, you have to study in advance or decide that you can't give 100 percent to studying because you can't do

it all. I'm just putting my best while also being healthy mentally and physically—it's important to gauge all that.

6. How has captainship changed your outlook on the game?

MM: As a senior this year, I was not expecting to be named a captain, especially since Owen and Franklin were playing football and I knew that they had been on varsity for three years. But then, our coach said that he'd like to name the team's first captain—me. It was crazy and I didn't expect it. I think some things that changed my outlook on the game are learning how to lead by example and learning by struggling. As a captain, you can talk and talk but not deliver to your team. Definitely learn how to lead the team and put 100 percent hustle both on and off the field—even if you're not the best player on the team. I'm definitely not the best guy on the team, but one thing that I always do is that I always have the mindset of putting 100 percent and being ready to work. I think that's something I really wanted to impart on the guys, especially the sophomores.

OP: To add onto what Max said about leading by example, as underclassmen, you have to do annoying tasks like carrying a lot of stuff or getting the foul balls at the pier. When I became a junior, I was happy that I finally would not have to do things like that, but as a captain, I feel like I have to help out even though I don't have to. Even when you don't have anything to do, you still have something to do, especially with a really young team. You have to make sure that no one is slacking off. There's no one else you can turn to if someone is slacking off. Last year, I would turn to Jeremy or Malcolm, but now, there's no one to turn to. **MM:** One more thing I want to talk about is one of the struggles going into our season—how do you feel validated as a leader if you mess up?

Everyone wants to feel needed as a player, but leaders must also be qualified to lead. If I strike out or do something stupid, such as not delivering performance-wise on the field, I would tell myself: "You are a captain, and you are better than that." You always have to pass resilience, even if you mess up and make errors. Things aren't always going to go your way and you have to bounce back and adapt to it. Last thing—there's always some sort of hierarchy between underclassmen and upperclassmen, but it's about treating everyone with respect and being friendly.

7. Proudest memory?

OP: When I first started junior year, I threw my first complete game, which was nice. I had no earned runs. **MM:** My favorite memory is also from last year; it was our game against Francis Lewis. I was still trying to prove myself in the lineup on the team, and I felt like some of the older guys knew that I still had to prove myself. I think I went three for three in that game and it was really tough. We ended up winning that game 5-4. It was the first game where I thought that I was really a contributing member of this team. I just felt really good about myself that game.

Drink of Choice:

>**MM** - Apple cider
>**OP** - Water (because I'm healthy)

Favorite food:

>**MM** - Margarita pizza pie
>**OP** - Chipotle

Motto to live by:

>**MM** - "Life is not a rehearsal, so you better get on with it."
—Tommy Emmanuel
>**OP** - Look good, play good.

Fun fact:

>**MM** - My grandfather also went to Stuyvesant—class of 1958!
>**OP** - I'm good at Irish tap dancing.

Boys' Varsity Baseball

Preview into the Peglegs' Season

By RUDOLPH MERLIN

Team Captain(s):
senior Maximillian Mah,
senior Owen Potter,
senior Franklin Liou,
junior Luca Bielski

The Stuyvesant boys' varsity baseball season was quickly approaching, but for the team, it's not just another season. The Peglegs have lost some of their top senior players from the previous year, players who made the team a threat to the AAA Western Division. But the team isn't down and out—not by a longshot. For the past several weeks, the team has been training and working with former alumni to improve the games they have consistently dominated. The result is what looked to be a talented lineup. Led by senior second baseman Maximillian Mah, senior pitcher and first baseman Owen Potter, third baseman Franklin Liou, and junior catcher Luca Bielski, the Peglegs would have had a chance to go all the way to Yankee Stadium.

The Peglegs would have

been tested early in the year, facing Beacon, ranked third, and Franklin K. Lane Campus, ranked ninth, in their second week. But these were teams that were not unbeatable, and the Peglegs had every ability to do so. The Peglegs would also have been heading east to Queens, where they would face playoff caliber teams from the AAA Eastern Division. Two of those teams, Francis Lewis and Benjamin Cardozo, reached the quarterfinals in the PSAL AAA Championships last season, and they would have been interesting tests for the team. But regardless of division, the Peglegs were going to give everything their all every single game. "We want to be consistent every game," Liou claimed. The Peglegs were hoping to reach the playoffs for the seventh year in a row and finish above .500. These goals certainly looked doable, considering the variety of talent on the team.

Historically, good pitching has been key to the Peglegs' success. With Jared Asch graduating, the ace of the team is up for grabs. Senior and co-captain Owen Potter, though, looked to

claim it. "He's been really committed to his pitching. He's been very disciplined," remarked Mah, who also praised Potter's ability to find the strike zone

and has recently been "hitting his spots" during his time on the mound, according to Franklin Liou. Potter and Paul Liou could be the powerful one-two punch the Peglegs need to propel them to the top of the division standings.

At the plate, the Peglegs were going to be led by their four captains, all of whom produced respectable batting averages last year. Bielski and Mah stood out from the rest, though, as they finished with good averages of .282 and .279, respectively. Their ability to bring runners in would have been key in shutting out their opponents early. The team also has other talents such as junior Jordan Gray and sophomore Ethan Kirschner, who both batted .450 in junior varsity last season.

Considering all of this, the Peglegs were one of the favorites to finish in the top half of the division. "Coach [Carles] told us 10-6 is where this team belongs, and I think that's where we can be," Mah claimed. However, the team is anything but limited by this projection, and this is reflected in the attitude

with consistency. Mah stressed the hours Potter has spent with his personal pitching coach perfecting his form and accuracy. Sophomore Paul Liou, though, could be a long-term helping hand and is a pitcher who shouldn't be messed around with. This sophomore relies on offspeed pitches and changeups,

of senior Franklin Liou. He believes that regardless of how the team performs, it has to treat itself like the number one team in the city. That way, they will be able to play every game with the same championship mentality. "Our record against them doesn't matter. As long as we try and give our best, we will be satisfied," Mah said. This is one piece of the "championship mentality" that formed during spring training and it is something that the Peglegs take very seriously. Furthermore, part of being a champion is learning how to stay cool under pressure, which is something that cost the team last year. "Sometimes, we overcomplicate the game of baseball, and that can get into your head," Mah said. "The last couple games [of last year], we struggled getting on base, and that cost us in the playoffs." Mah stressed the simplicity of baseball: throwing strikes and making contact with the ball when in the batter's box. But most importantly, according to Liou, the Peglegs need to believe, because if they don't, "[the championship] is never going to happen."

Sports

Sports Editorial

Citizens to Be Blocked From Europe

By VERNON HUGHES

Manchester City have been a footballing powerhouse in England ever since the Abu Dhabi United Group, owned by billionaire Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan, purchased the club in 2008. "The Citizens" have won eight of a possible nine trophies in English football since current manager Pep Guardiola led them to victory in the Carabao Cup in 2018. They have set records in the English Premier League for most points in a season, most wins in a season, most goals scored in a season, most consecutive wins, and more. Despite outshining all other teams on the domestic stage, the one competition that has eluded Manchester City is the UEFA Champions League. Now they may be forced to wait even longer to finally win Europe's most prestigious club competition, as they have been dealt a two-year ban from UEFA competitions.

The two-year ban and a €30

million fine have been placed upon Manchester City for breaches to Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations. The case was first brought up by the German newspaper Spiegel International in 2018. They alleged that the Abu Dhabi United Group was giving money to Manchester City's sponsors, which eventually gave it to Manchester City. The club was falsely reporting how much money they were earning from sponsors, as most of the money was actually coming from the club's owners, which does not adhere to FFP rules. Along with being found guilty of the aforementioned charge, Manchester City breached regulations by not cooperating in the case investigation of Club Financial Control Body (CFCB). The club released a statement regarding the ban which said, "Manchester City is disappointed but not surprised by today's announcement by the UEFA Adjudicatory Chamber [...] in December 2018, the UEFA Chief Investigator pub-

licly previewed the outcome and sanction he intended to be delivered to Manchester City, before any investigation had even begun. The subsequent flawed and consistently leaked UEFA process he oversaw has meant that there was little doubt in the result that he would deliver."

Manchester City now faces the possibility of losing some of their finest players and manager, as they may seek to play for another team with a possibility of winning Europe's premier club competition. Though Guardiola has been touted to leave for another team, he has alleviated fears that he would do so through recent comments. Guardiola told Match of the Day, "If they don't sack me, I will be here. I love this club. I like to be here. This is my club, and I will be here, no matter."

Center back Aymeric Laporte shut down rumors of players leaving the club this summer, saying, "We are professionals, a big team with big personalities

in the dressing room, and I think we just think about football, nothing else."

Raheem Sterling, who has been rumored to want to join Real Madrid, has also confirmed his allegiance to Manchester City. His agent, Aidy Ward explained, "[Sterling] is solely focused on Manchester City and will not be distracted by any talk of transfers to any club at the moment." Until this summer, when the transfer window opens, it will not be known whether these quotes are just to halt internal turmoil as the season nears its climax or whether the players will genuinely see out another two years without the Champions League.

Even now, after charged with serious breaches of FFP rules, Manchester City have two alternative ways they could still get their hands on the Champions League trophy. First, the ban does not set in until the 2021/2022 season, so they could still win the competition this year. Currently, they are in

the Round of 16 against Real Madrid, the club with the most triumphs in Champions League history. Though Manchester City won the first leg away against Real Madrid by a margin of two goals to one, the second leg was postponed due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. At the moment, it is unclear whether this year's edition of the Champions League will be continued. Manchester City still have a chance to appeal the ban to the Court of Arbitration of Sport, which they intend to do according to the official statement they released.

Only time will tell if Manchester City will be forced to see through a full two-year ban and pay the hefty €30 million fine placed on them. In the meantime, this ban can only be seen as even more of an incentive to finally bring the Champions League trophy back to Manchester this year if the competition persists.

Sports Debate

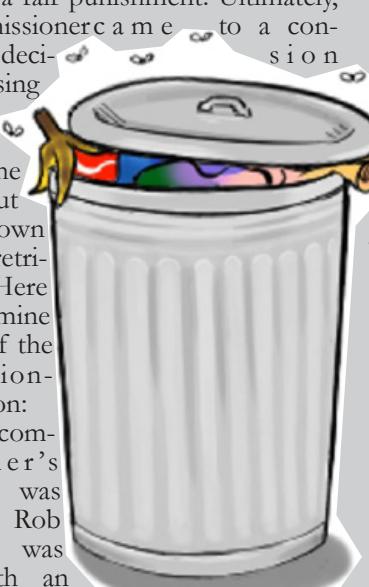
The Astros Cheating Scandal: Why Rob Manfred Made The Hard But Right Decision

By ETHAN KIRSCHNER

Cheating has been a constant phenomenon in sports ever since they were established. In NCAA basketball, yearly investigations into paying players often shakes the foundation of the league. In baseball, the steroid era brought the legacy of many of the game's greatest into question. This offseason, another chapter was added to the seemingly never-ending story of cheating at the highest levels of sports. Though an actually meaningful MLB game has not been played in over four months, there has been plenty of offseason news that will shape the league for years to come. Perhaps the most interesting storyline of this offseason was the investigation into the Houston Astros' sign-stealing. After weeks of investigation, the final report concluded that the Astros had used an application on a mobile device to steal signs during their World Series winning season in 2017. The outcry from the baseball world was strong; many baseball fans called for the permanent ban of those associated with the sign stealing scandal. Rob Manfred, the commissioner of the MLB, was tasked with handing down a fair punishment. Ultimately, the commissioner's decision was justified. Rob Manfred was faced with an

unprecedented situation only paralleled by the 1909 White Sox, who bet against themselves in the World Series. A whole professional team allegedly bought into this corrupt scheme, giving themselves an unfair advantage which arguably led them to a championship. Instead of crippling the Astros organization himself, Manfred let the public shame wear on the Astros. He did enforce several minor punishments including taking away their top two draft picks for the next two years and fining the organization \$5,000,000, a modest amount for a team who brought in \$347,000,000 in their championship-winning 2017 season. However, perhaps nothing is worse than being labeled a cheating fraud by the entire world of baseball. These players had to go home to their families knowing they had lied and were deceitful. In addition, by releasing the contents of the investigation, AJ Hinch, the manager of the Astros, and Jeff Luhow, the general manager of the Astro, were both fired from their respective positions. At the end of the day, it is management's job to keep the players in line on the field; it is under management's watch that this occurred. In addition, the elaborate scheme that the Astros were able to set up—using a phone app to steal signs—would not have been possible without not only the knowledge of management, but perhaps also the help of management.

In addition, the public shaming by both Astros players' peers and fans added to the situation. Some called José Altuve a thief because he had an unfair advantage that allowed him to win the MVP award in 2017. For reference, rookie Aaron Judge hit 53 home runs and deserved the award as well. All in all, though Manfred handed down very little material punishment, it is unfair to the Astros fan base to cripple their franchise. They were not involved in the cheating. By making the investigation and all information on the scandal public, Manfred is allowing the public to deal their punishment.



Delia Qiu / The Spectator

Why Rob Manfred Needs to Step Up to the Plate

By SAM LEVINE

There are many unwritten rules of baseball. Don't steal when winning by seven runs, don't step on the line, and one of the more pertinent ones: don't steal signs. Now, when this happens in games, it often leads to a plunking, and not much more. However, when you bring electronics into this, it's now a whole new story.

The Houston Astros spent their 2017 championship season using cameras in center field and a special app in order to decipher opponents' signs. They would then relay these signs using a trash can: a bang meant an offspeed pitch was coming and no bang meant fastball. This is an absurdly unfair advantage. When batters have to face 96 mph fastballs, it's very difficult to adjust to a 79 mph curveball that looks like it's coming for your head before dropping in for a strike. But when you don't have to adjust—and instead you can just sit on whatever pitch you'd like—it takes away what makes hitting difficult and what makes baseball interesting.

The Astros' punishment was one unlike many punishments before, featuring a year-long suspension of their general manager and manager, a fine of five million dollars, and a loss of their first two draft picks in the next two drafts. This may sound like a lot, but when you put it in perspective with what they gained from this scandal, it really isn't. They won a World Series because of this cheating. In essence, they traded their manager, general manager, a few million dollars, and four draft picks for a World Series title—their first one ever. I can personally guarantee you that if you asked any owner in baseball if they would sacrifice that in exchange for a ring, they would say yes in a heartbeat.

And what about the players? Why don't they get punished? I understand that the MLB made a deal with the Astros players that they would be immune from punishment in exchange for their honest testimonies, but they were the ones participating in this scandal. These players willingly went ahead with these dishonest actions, and they won't get reprimanded for it? Maybe they weren't the ones who started this, but with the Chicago "Black Sox" scandal 100 years ago, Shoeless Joe Jackson didn't want to go along with the cheating, and yet he's banned from the

Hall of Fame. These Astros players participated in the cheating and they won't get touched.

Some people, including the Astros' owner Jim Crane, say that the sign-stealing didn't affect the outcomes of the games; MLB pitchers seem to disagree. Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Alex Wood chimed in, saying, "I would rather face a player [who] was taking steroids than face a player [who] knew every pitch that was coming." Trevor Bauer from the Cincinnati Reds agreed with him shortly after. Barry Bonds won't get into the Hall of Fame because he used steroids, and Alex Rodriguez's reputation is tarnished because of his PED use. The steroids can only do so much; you still have to know how to hit pitches and have a good swing. Players who know what's coming just have to put a swing on a ball. It takes out 50 percent of the difficulty.

Not to mention, José Altuve won the MVP award in 2017, edging out Aaron Judge for the honor. This was already a questionable call to give the award to Altuve—and now knowing that he did it by cheating? That doesn't seem fair to Aaron Judge—does it? Judge was fairly angry at this too, saying, "You cheated and you didn't earn it." Judge likely lost millions of dollars because of this scandal, and Altuve won't be harmed at all.

Aaron Judge isn't the only player personally hurt by this fiasco. Clayton Kershaw, one of the best pitchers of his generation, is brutally known for choking in the playoffs. He got roughed up by the Astros in the 2017 World Series, further contributing to the notion that he can't pitch in big games. As Mike Fiers, the pitcher who blew this whole case open, put it, their cheating is hurting pitchers who go into Houston having no idea what's coming at them. It's ruining their careers.

To make a long story short, the Astros' punishment is nowhere near proportional to what they did, especially in perspective with other scandals from the past. Rob Manfred needs to do something more to reprimand the players who carried out the cheating or at least something more to the organization, because five million dollars, a few draft picks, and a manager are a pretty good sacrifice for a World Series title.

Sports

Boys' Table Tennis

By MAYA BROSNICK

Team Captain(s): Nehemiah Yu and William Ding
Score of Last Game: 2-3
Loss Against Brooklyn Tech
Season record: 8-2

Nerves were running high as the boys' table tennis team, the Goats, took on the Bronx High School of Science in the City Championship semifinals. The matches are structured so that the first team to win three out of the five scheduled matches wins the semifinal and advances to the finals. The first player to win 11 points for four rounds wins the match.

Bronx Science won both the first and second singles matches, while Stuyvesant won first and second doubles matches. Thus, the third singles match was the tiebreaker. The third singles match featured sophomore Daniel Chow and Bronx Science sophomore Shivas Khera. Chow comfortably won the first game 11-7, but lost the second game 7-11. Chow narrowly managed to win the third round 13-11, but then easily won the fourth, sending Stuyvesant to the finals. The Goats faced the Brooklyn Tech Engineers at the City Championship, which wound up playing out in an almost identical fashion to the semifinals. Brooklyn Tech won the first

singles match in three rounds, and the second singles match in four. Stuyvesant once again won the first two doubles matches 3-2 and 3-1. However, Brooklyn Tech won the tie-breaking singles match 3-1, leading to their third consecutive division title. Stuyvesant went from its third place finish last season to second place this season, showing impressive improvement. The only team Stuyvesant lost to throughout the season was Brooklyn Tech, which makes for a compelling rivalry that is sure to keep the Goats motivated to practice ever harder. "Over the summer, many of our players took advantage of free time to train and a good portion of the team still goes to



Courtesy of Edmund Suen

Flushing to practice on Fridays even after the season ended," sophomore Cyrus Cursetjee said.

Along with Cursetjee, the team will be captained by juniors Nehemiah Yu and William Ding

next season. The team will consist of many upperclassmen in the next two seasons, creating the perfect chance for Stuyvesant to begin its own winning streak.

Sports Editorial

By JUSTIN LEE and ERIC KIM

The Golden State Warriors have been the most dominant team in basketball for the past five years, winning three championships and setting numerous records. This season, however, they have been a complete shell of their former selves, currently holding the worst record in the NBA. This fall from grace is the result of three major changes: small forward Kevin Durant's signing with the Brooklyn Nets, shooting guard Klay Thompson's ACL tear, and point guard Steph Curry's broken hand. Losing three All-Stars in one year has led Draymond Green, the one remaining All-Star on the team, to

attempt to prove his worth in his own right. He has done the opposite, averaging only eight points, 6.2 rebounds and 6.2 assists on under 40 percent shooting from the field. Still, the future is surprisingly bright for this former powerhouse.

The Warriors have been struggling immensely without any premier offensive players like Durant or Curry, and their midseason trade of D'Angelo Russell did not help. Their addition of Andrew Wiggins from the Russell trade has been criticized by analysts and casual fans alike; Wiggins has long been an inefficient and selfish player, shooting just 44 percent from the field for his overall career. His assist numbers are equally uninspiring, at just 2.3 assists per

game. Still, he is an athletic, young wing averaging nearly 20 points per game over six seasons in the league. With the Warriors' great coaching staff, it is not improbable that he finally puts it all together and becomes an All-Star in the upcoming seasons.

While the Warriors' 15-50 record this year is nothing but underwhelming, it will certainly help them in the long run. Holding the worst record in the league guarantees a top-three protected draft pick, and the Warriors would be foolish not to pick James Wiseman. Wiseman is perfect for the Warriors' fast-paced offense, as an athletic big man with outside shooting capabilities. Furthermore, he could be the dominant big man

the Warriors never had, even in their championship seasons.

With all of Green's struggles this season, it is easy to write him off as overrated. History has shown, however, that Green thrives when surrounded by scorers, like Curry and Thompson, and he is still capable of running the Warriors offense as their primary or secondary ball handler. He has averaged over six assists for the past five seasons as a power forward, which makes him a premier playmaker at his position. His selflessness and grit, along with his stifling defense, makes him the heart of the Warriors: while he is not the best scorer, he compensates for it in every other category.

In addition to the top caliber

starters, the Warriors have solid backup players on the bench. Eric Paschall, the 41st pick of the 2019 NBA Draft, has been great as a power forward, playing as the primary backup for Green. Kevon Looney has also been a solid player, especially during the 2019 NBA Finals against the Toronto Raptors, showing his grit and rebounding abilities. He, however, has been sidelined for the 2020 NBA season due to his hip injury.

It seems like the Warriors have a bright future ahead of them. With Curry, Thompson, Wiggins, and potentially Wiseman, along with a great supporting cast, fans can expect that next year's team will hopefully rival the pre-Durant Warriors in team strength.

Sports Editorial

Empty Stadiums, Empty Hopes

By MATT MELUCCI

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This meeting brings managers, owners, coaches, and hundreds of news media members together. So far, there has been no discussion of changes for the NFL draft, set for late April in Las Vegas. The XFL has also suspended its games halfway through its first season.

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball canceled all spring training games, which would have continued until the end of March, and postponed the beginning of its regular season, which was scheduled for March 26, by at least two weeks. All teams were given the option to return to their hometowns. Only the Yankees decided to stay put.

Additionally, two cases have been confirmed in the MLB: two minor league players in the Yankees' farm system. Their names have not been announced.

TENNIS

Following the cancellation of the BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells) in California, the Miami Open has been canceled. The Miami Open is one of the top U.S. tennis tournaments. The Fed Cup finals have been postponed, and men's tennis tour events were suspended for six weeks. The French Open has also been postponed to September.

HOCKEY

The NHL stopped its season, with no specification on when it will continue. The Stanley Cup playoffs are scheduled to start in April, but will likely be postponed to a later date.

RUNNING

Numerous marathons around the globe have been pushed or canceled. The New York City Half Marathon was canceled; the Boston Marathon has been pushed to September; the London Marathon, Paris Marathon, and Barcelona Marathon were

pushed to October; and the Rome Marathon has been canceled due to an especially large number of cases in Italy.

OLYMPICS

Though the organizing committee for the Games are discussing postponing the event, the Olympic Games are on track to begin in mid-summer. Greece held the Olympic flame lighting ceremony with no viewers, and the torch relay was suspended after unexpected large crowds of spectators arrived at the event. The summer Olympics have only been cancelled in times of World War, during 1916, 1940, and 1944.

There has been a lot of uncertainty revolving around the sports world with the rapid spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Cancelled tournaments and league matches are disrupting revenue and have already left a huge mark on the economic standing of sports brands. Stadiums and arenas are empty around the world, and event organizers are struggling to keep their players and fans safe and healthy.

Here is a list of sports figures who have tested positive for the coronavirus:

Rudy Gobert, Utah Jazz
Donovan Mitchell, Utah Jazz
Christian Wood, Detroit Pistons
Kevin Durant, Brooklyn Nets
Mikel Arteta, Arsenal Manager
Callum Hudson-Odoi, Chelsea FC
Daniele Rugani, Juventus
German Pezzella, Fiorentina
Patrick Cutrone, Fiorentina
Dusan Vlahovic, Fiorentina
Timo Hubers, Hannover
Hyun-Jun Suk, Troyes
Luca Kilian, Paderborn
Amedeo Baldari, UC Sampdoria
Omar Colley, UC Sampdoria
Albin Ekdal, UC Sampdoria
Manolo Gabbiadini, UC Sampdoria
Antonino La Gumina, UC Sampdoria
Morten Thorsby, UC Sampdoria
Fabio Depaoli, UC Sampdoria
Trey Thompkins, Real Madrid

The Beginning of the End of Spring Sports

By CAROLINE JI

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Despite our inability to hold official practice, hopefully girls will be able to get together with others who live around them and continue training hard," junior and girls' track and field member Julianne Yotov said in an e-mail interview. Additionally, the girls' fencing team attempted to convert its team into a fencing club in order to continue practicing.

Given the amplified precautions the

especially vulnerable and susceptible to infection in doing so. "Safety comes first, and unless they are actively still attending school and riding the subways, they shouldn't feel pressured to go outside," senior and girls' track and field co-captain Ester Suleymanov explained.

Nonetheless, the Stuyvesant community is known for its resilience in times of conflict, and the coronavirus pandemic is no exception. Many athletes are turning to each other for support and comfort when faced with increasing social anxieties. "I think that in a time of such con-

"It's heartbreaking. We never expected our last season to end before it even started." —Wentao Lin, senior and boys' track and field co-captain

city is taking however, especially with public facilities, it will be very difficult for teams to execute these alternatives. "Many team members practice at badminton centers off season, but as far as I know, several of these badminton centers, especially in Brooklyn, have closed temporarily due to the virus," senior and girls' badminton captain Vivien Jiang wrote in an e-mail interview.

Many captains feel members should not feel obligated to attend unofficial practices, especially those who feel es-

fusion and chaos, it is important that we support each other and understand that we will get through this," Yotov said.

Though the future of the PSAL is uncertain, athletes will rely on their passion and dedication to remain optimistic and mentally focused on their goals. As senior and boys' volleyball captain William Zeng wrote, "Our love for our sport drives us to find ways to practice by ourselves to stay mentally and physically prepared in the case that our season resumes."

THE SPECTATOR SPORTS

Girls' Indoor Track

The Greyducks' Quest to Borough Championships

By SACHIN FONSEKA

Team Captain(s):
Ester Suleymanov, Liza Reizis,
and Cheryl Nnadi

Perseverance in the face of adversity is the defining factor in sports that makes or breaks a team. There is no better example than the girls' indoor track and field team, the Greyducks, as the team overcame many trials during its quest to the Manhattan Borough Championships.

The team had high expectations this season, especially after coming off an incredible victory at the Manhattan Borough Championships last indoor season. Much of the previous season's success, however, was partly due to a very strong senior class that has now graduated. As a result, the Greyducks began the season with many gaping holes in the sprint, field, and racewalking events. To combat this deficit, the Greyducks recruited many promising underclassmen. Many team members also tried out new events to add depth and versatility to the team.

One notable moment of perseverance occurred during a practice at McCarren Park, where the team frequently trains. A sudden snow storm struck the girls in the middle of their workout, covering the entire track in snow. This didn't deter the team in the slightest; they surged through the storm to finish the workout despite the slippery and non-ideal conditions. "It showed the huge amount of guts and comradery our team has," senior and co-captain Liza Reizis said.

The Greyducks placed second behind Hunter College High School at the Manhattan Boroughs Championships. Though the members were disappointed by their inability to repeat last season's success, they took it as a moment to learn from their mistakes and reflect on their strengths and weaknesses.

The underclassmen performed extremely well, scoring major points for the Greyducks. Freshman Bella Stenhouse has proved to be a powerful weapon for the Greyducks all season long, as she won the 1500-meter run, 3,000-meter

run, and 4 x 800-meter relay, impressively becoming a triple borough champion. Stenhouse has even qualified for the prestigious New Balance Nationals. "We can't wait to see all the amazing things she will continue to accomplish these next [few] years," Reizis said. Junior Julianne Yotov placed third in the 1500-meter run, second in the 3000-meter run, and won the 4 x 800-meter relay. Additionally, sophomore Zuzi Liu led the team in sprint and field events, as she won the triple jump, placed third in the 55-meter dash, and sixth in the 4 x 200-meter relay.

Many other Greyducks also stepped up to the plate by delivering unexpectedly impressive performances despite not having ample practice. For example, freshman Erica Li placed fourth in racewalking. Freshman Nicole Liu also placed sixth in the 600-meter run.

It was also a great day for the Greyducks' top three relays, as all three scored points for the team. The 4x200-relay, consisting of senior and co-captain Cheryl Nnadi, junior Margaret Woo, junior Caroline Ji, and Zuzi Liu placed sixth.

The 4x400-meter relay, consisting of sophomore Susan Zheng, Ji, junior Jessica Kwok, and senior and co-captain Ester Suleymanov placed third. The 4x800-meter relay, consisting of Kwok, Stenhouse, Yotov, and Suleymanov, won the event, qualifying for the PSAL City Championships.

While the Greyducks still have a long way to go, the team hopes to build on its promising athletes and regain the top spot as Manhattan Borough Champions. According to junior Chloe Terestchenko, "The team hopes to get first at boroughs next year."



Courtesy of Ed Yaker

Freshman Bella Stenhouse, junior Julianne Yotov, and senior Ester Suleymanov lead the 1,500-meter race at the Manhattan Borough Championships as the top three seeds, respectively.

Sports Editorial

Empty Stadiums, Empty Hopes

By MATT MELUCCI

As the coronavirus takes the world by storm, an increasing number of sports institutions are postponing or cancelling events daily. Organizers of major sporting events are cautiously watching the spread of the virus, constantly considering the difficult decision of cancellation due to the consequences of holding massive gatherings. Not only are these events dangerous for fans, but athletes are also getting infected globally.

Sports have long been a means of comfort in times of distress. Fans can always be reassured that they can grab a snack, relax on their couch, and watch their favorite football or basketball team win (or lose, in New York's case). Whether it's pitting LeBron James against Michael Jordan, discussing brackets for March Madness at lunch, or recalling legendary highlights with friends, sports constantly brighten our everyday lives.

Even disregarding how a lack of sports warps the lives of fans who rely on them for entertainment or solace, it's impossible to neglect the huge impact that their absence has on entire industries. Sports provide thousands of jobs: workers at stadiums, vendors, team employees, camera operators running the wire, and businesses that rely on stadiums' attraction of fans will all be devastated from a prolonged pause in the sports world.

Now one might think, it can't be that bad, can it? Here are the postponed or cancelled sports events in major sports so far, along with which specific athletes have been tested positive for the coronavirus.

SOCER

The English Premier League faced great pressure to suspend matches after Mikel Arteta, manager of Arsenal, and 19-year-old Chelsea FC star Callum Hudson-Odoi tested positive for coronavirus. Scotland and the Premier League have recently suspended multiple matches: all games in the top divisions are postponed until April 3. Infected players in the league have led Arsenal, Chelsea, and Everton to quarantine their squad.

Nearly every professional European league has been suspended. Ligue 1, Bundesliga, La Liga, Serie A, and Russian Premier League have all postponed upcoming matches.

Major tournaments have also been affected. UEFA Champions League and Europa League games have been disrupted and suspended indefinitely. Champions League's Round of 16-second-leg fixtures were scheduled for mid-March and have thus been moved until a later date.

As the coronavirus originated in Wuhan, China, most Asian leagues were suspended a few weeks ago. In North America, Major League Soccer and Liga MX have been suspended as well.

Some leagues in South America, Africa, and Australia have not yet been canceled, however. Though these are not the top leagues in the world, there is still soccer for fans to watch.

BASKETBALL

Halfway through the first game of the Big East tournament quarterfinals at Madison Square Garden, the event was canceled. Nearly every college conference tournament followed the same fate. National basketball tournaments were dropped, and all college championships were canceled, including the ACC tournament and NCAA men's and women's basketball tournament, the men's tournament being one of the biggest sporting events all year. The NCAA gained \$1.1 billion in its last fiscal year, most of which sourced from televising major events. The money flowing in from these events, such as the NCAA basketball tournament, funds other sports programs at various campuses throughout the country. Without it, other college sports will not have enough funding to be maintained.

In terms of the NBA, Rudy Gobert from Utah Jazz poked fun at the coronavirus during a press conference by touching reporters' microphones and recording devices.

In an ironic twist, Gobert tested positive for the virus in the following days. A few minutes after Gobert was confirmed to have the virus, commissioner Adam Silver was forced to instill a hiatus in the NBA, one that will last at least 30 days. Since then, Donovan Mitchell, another Jazz player, was the second NBA player tested positive. Kevin Durant and three others on the Brooklyn Nets have tested positive, along with Christian Wood of the Detroit Pistons. Silver also stated that it is possible that the rest of the season would be canceled. Various NBA teams have placed players and staff members under self-quarantine as a precaution.

Outside of the U.S., the Euroleague, the top basketball league in Europe, suspended all of its games until April 11.

FOOTBALL

The coronavirus has not yet had a great impact on the NFL. The annual owners' meeting in Florida was canceled, and its agenda will be covered in their meeting in late May.

The Beginning of the End of Spring Sports

By CAROLINE JI

Mayor Bill de Blasio set a precedent by cancelling all "non-essential or non-instructional activities," including Public School Athletic League (PSAL) teams on Thursday, March 12. For a school that prides itself on 16 spring PSAL sports teams, three non-PSAL sports teams, and nearly 1,600 athletes, this news definitely hit close to home.

Due to the unfortunate timing of the coronavirus pandemic, seniors were robbed of the opportunity to end their high school athletic careers on their own terms. "I was really looking forward to this season, and everyone (especially the seniors) worked so hard to get here, so it's definitely a disappointment," senior and girls' lacrosse captain Emory Walsh said in an e-mail interview.

Seniors who have been members of their respective sports teams for several years feel as though activities that have played an integral part of their daily lives are now being taken away from them, chipping away the little moments of their everyday lives that ultimately will end up characterizing their high school experiences. "As a senior, I feel like we lost something we look forward to after school. It's heartbreaking. We never expected our last season to end before it even started," senior and boys' track and field co-captain Wentao Lin said in an e-mail interview. Seniors who were designated as captains of their teams missed out on the chance to lead their fellow players, a pill that will surely be tough to swallow.

Furthermore, many teams started pre-season training several months before the spring season was proclaimed to start in early March. This makes matters increasingly frustrating as many teams set ambitious goals for the season, yet never had the chance to showcase their talent and assert their dominance within their respective leagues. "This season looked extremely promising for us, as we were going to have our most talented team in years this season. We were hoping to make a deep run in the playoffs after making the quarter-finals last year," senior and boys' tennis captain Sujay Sharma said in an e-mail interview.

Players on non-PSAL teams have been deeply impacted by the canceling of spring sports as well. "We were excited to take care of some unfinished business from last year. We didn't win the city or state championship last year, and we were extremely excited and confident that we could make a strong push for the titles this year," senior and boys' ultimate frisbee member Bernard Wang said in an e-mail interview. Unfortunately, these teams will not be given the chance at the moment to improve upon their standings from previous seasons and will have to patiently wait until next year to begin their journeys to the championships.

The suspension of PSAL teams has also cost many underclassmen the chance to begin their development into finer athletes, which is very damaging to overall team dynamics since depth and versatility play such pivotal roles in molding successful teams. "Many of our athletes are just beginning to make significant progress, but now their growth will have to be stunted due to the lack of practices. Not to mention the new additions to the team who will have to experience their initiations weeks late," senior and boys' track and field co-captain James Chun said. Not only does this take away from the amount of training younger team members get, but players are also not given as much time to adapt to their teammates' different styles and build team chemistry.

In spite of the collective disappointment shared by the majority of PSAL student athletes, many approve of de Blasio's decision to indefinitely suspend the PSAL since it prevents mass congregations of athletes during meets and practices. "As saddening as it is, PSAL made the right decision in cancelling all activities," Chun said. "It only reduces the chances of children being exposed to the disease and becoming potential carriers."

Different teams have responded to the PSAL suspension in varying ways. One common tentative response several teams have been considering is meeting outside of Stuyvesant to practice. "Our coaches have reached out saying that they will provide us with workouts and runs to do on our own."

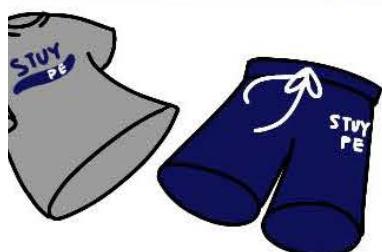
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Disrespectator

Stuy or Die

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| You get your ID photo taken right after the swim test. Skip your next turn. | You get placed into freshman health. You will thank the programming gods in two years. | | You fail your swim gym test. Have fun in the pool every other day. Skip your next turn. | START Receive your acceptance letter! |
|---|--|--|---|---|



| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| You used your phone in the hallway without getting caught! Oh dear sophomore, how you have learned. Move forward one space. | You thought it would be easy? The deans are always watching. Always. (Eagle Simón swoops in and takes your phone.) Move back two spaces. | | Homework quiz! Did you do it? Yes? Liar. Skip your turn. | The programming gods bless you: you have first and tenth periods free. |
|---|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | Don't get too excited: you have drafting right after band. At least you'll get some nice quads! |
|--|--|--|--|---|

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| The escalator from floors two to eight are all functioning. | Your CS project crashes the night before it's due. Go back to the beginning of the semester (four spaces). You need to relearn all of NetLogo. | | You get burned by a Bunsen burner during chemistry lab. Ouch. | You get Russia for the Congress of Vienna. Roll again. |
|---|--|--|---|--|

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| You get a date for JProm. Move forward one space. | You get a senior bar locker! | You get Miller's volleyball class! | Your sad and uncreative self does not think of a senior name, so you just never create one. | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | You're changing for gym in the bathroom, and Hanna walks in. Go back one space. |
|--|--|--|--|---|

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Carol's candy bowl has been empty for a week, and you are craving Milky Ways. | The ID machine plays the birthday song on your birthday for the first time in four years! Move forward two spaces. | You have 20 college applications due tonight and didn't start a single one. Go back three spaces. | | Your teacher is absent! Take an extra turn. |
|---|--|---|--|---|



Senior Year

Disrespectator

How to Get Into the Big Sib Program 101

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Please list five of your most meaningful extracurricular activities inside and outside of Stuy.

1. President, founder, and sole member of Lettuce Eating Club; 4 hours per day, 52 weeks per year
a. Faculty advisor: Ms. Hill

2. Indoor Track; I run from the first to the 10th floor every day to make my drafting class on time
a. Faculty advisor: Mr. Autry

3. Official Photographer of the Eric Fangirl Club
a. Faculty advisors: Mr. Grossman, Mr. Smith, Mr. Contreras, Mr. Wisotsky, Mr. Ferencz

4. Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club; 8 days a week
a. Faculty advisor: Winkel Starr

5. Humor Department, Stuyvesant Spectator

How was your own transition into Stuy?

I actually don't go here; I just walked in during Camp Stuy, and no one stopped me. I think I ended up joining "Zealous Zooplankton."

They were pretty dope. The transition itself went pretty well because no one in Stuy knows about the rice incident that happened in middle school.

Tell us one of your favorite moments with a Big Sib OR tell us what your Big Sibs could've done differently if you weren't that close to any.

It was when they didn't show up.

Why do you think you'd be a good Big Sib?

I mean, the standards can't

be THAT high, right? And I'm also the most perfect human being in existence. If you don't take me, that's a sin in itself, bruh.

Do you have any advice for Little Sibs?

See "Dear Incoming Stuyvesant Class of 2024," page two.

How would you encourage your Little Sibs to get involved in extracurricular activities?

Physically handcuff them to a library bookshelf until The Spectator recruitments come around! Duh!

Write about one embarrassing, funny, or fun moment that happened to you at Stuy.

I got my toe cut off.

Do you have access to a video calling device?

It depends on who's asking. :)

If you were a kitchen appliance, what would you be and why?

I would be the Lazy Licker's Spinning Ice Cream Cone. I'm always positive and helpful whenever possible. And I'm always spinning.

Teachers in Their Own Words

By OLIVER STEWART

"One thing a lot of students don't know about me? My full name is actually Herman Sherman Berman, Jr."

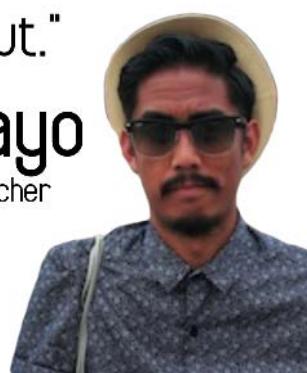
—Dr. Berman
Social Studies teacher



GET TO KNOW
YOUR TEACHER
BY
The Spectator

"My fondest childhood memory? The first time I went into a hatter's shop and tried on all the hats before they kicked us out."

—Mr. Papagayo
Biology & Chemistry teacher



GET TO KNOW
YOUR TEACHER
BY
The Spectator

"Why am I holding a guitar? Because this is the highest resolution picture that Olly could find through google image search."

—Mx. Stuzin
English teacher



GET TO KNOW
YOUR TEACHER
BY
The Spectator

"What got me into computer science? I was so pissed off that I couldn't beat *Frogger* that I decided to write my own easy version."

—Mr. Mykolyk
Computer Science teacher



GET TO KNOW
YOUR TEACHER
BY
The Spectator

"How I unwind after a long day? I find that a hot cup of oolong tea and a good Moby Dick fanfiction really help me put my feet up."

—Mr. Grossman
AP of English



GET TO KNOW
YOUR TEACHER
BY
The Spectator

"The things that make me happiest? My kids, scuba diving, and reruns of *That '70s Show* starring Mila Kunis and Danny Masterson."

—Ms. Thoms
English teacher



GET TO KNOW
YOUR TEACHER
BY
The Spectator

Disrespectator

Students Walk Out As Protest For Not Shutting Down Schools; Virus Spreads Throughout City

By EMILY CHEN
and MATTHEW BARK

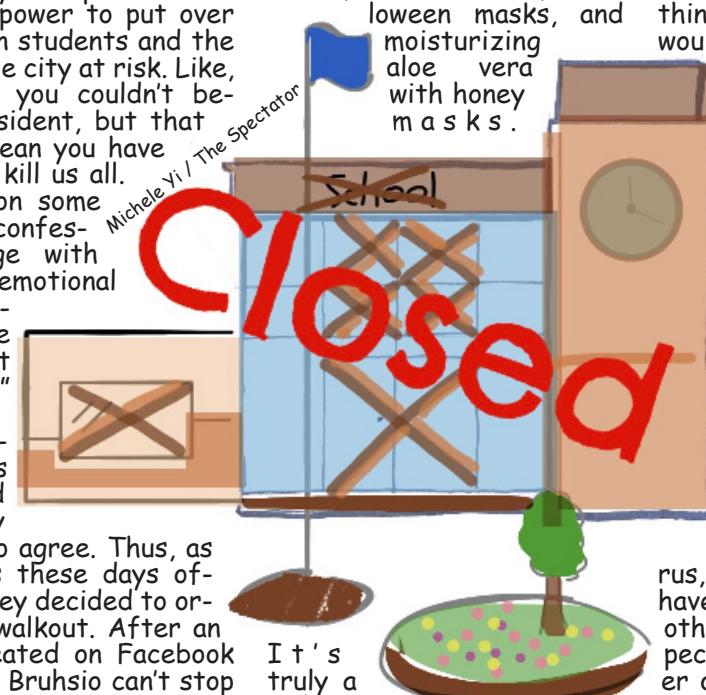
After the coronavirus, more formally known as SARS-CoV-2, successfully invaded New York City in February, the number of cases has grown exponentially. Fury spread even faster than the virus itself throughout public schools after Mayor Bill de Blasio refused to shut down schools up until March 16. After we interviewed countless students across the city, a particularly well-spoken student, who wished to remain anonymous, from none other than Stuyvesant High School put it best: "It's completely irresponsible for a man in power to put over one million students and the rest of the city at risk. Like, I get it, you couldn't become president, but that doesn't mean you have to try to kill us all. Just go on some sort of confessions page with your emotional breakdown like the rest of us," they said.

Students around the city seemed to agree. Thus, as teenagers these days often do, they decided to organize a walkout. After an event created on Facebook titled "de Blasio can't stop us" went viral, over 75,000 people signed up, and unlike the Area 51 raids, everyone actually showed up with posters and makeshift face-masks ready. The event took place in Times Square, where it was eerily deserted, perfect conditions for what was planned. Many students coughed as loudly as possible as a form of expressing their anger with the way the situation was being handled by the government. When I joined them there, I had the pleasure of meeting the organizers of the event, both

of whom were students from Stuyvesant.

"This disease is truly something bigger than us. Like, the seniors haven't even claimed it as a senior tradition yet," Joseph said. Their partner in crime, Violet, agreed, adding, "We may not have hand sanitizer, toilet paper, or proper face masks, but that's not important. What's important is the thought. Everyone is so focused on this one thing and winning this battle that everything else is forgotten about. It's also essential that we promote diversity: we have people wearing surgical masks, construction masks, gas masks, paper masks, cloth masks, Halloween masks, and moisturizing aloe vera with honey masks."

Michele Yi / The Spectator



It's truly a sight to behold." As a finale to the walkout, Joseph and Violet did the smooching thing, and everyone in the crowd followed in order to promote love and positivity in these trying times, of course.

Joseph and Violet have been known to throw successful revolutions like this. Just recently, they overthrew the monarchy for taking their WiFi. Well sort of; it was more just Violet being irresponsible and letting that lizard sneeze on the prince. Maybe the lizard had

the coronavirus. Either way, I also asked them why they chose to organize a walkout as their form of protest, to which Joseph responded, "It worked so well for climate change and gun control that we knew it was absolutely necessary for pushing for the shutdown of public schools. #thisiswhatanactivistlookslike."

However, over the next few days, events took a turn for the unexpected. At around 3:00 a.m. two days later, hospitals around the city were bombarded with phone calls from students requesting to be tested for the virus. The doctor at the hospital I visited explained how they expected something like this to happen. I would give you their name, but I couldn't hear much of what they said through their bubble of protective gear.

"We all knew something like this would happen," the doctor told me. "If de Blasio closed schools like everyone on Twitter was yelling at him to do, we would not be facing such extreme circumstances right now."

Currently, over half of the students who attended the walkout have been confirmed to have the coronavirus, and since they probably have come into contact with other people, more are expected to be confirmed later on today. Around 10,000 of the people affected are considered to have severe cases of the virus, but according to the circulation of coronavirus memes on Instagram, they should be able to recover eventually. One of the student organizers was hospitalized and could not join us for an interview today. However, she left us a message which read, "Yo, I don't know what God put in the water on New Year's, [coughing] but de Blasio just made it worse."

Some students voiced their support for coming

into school during the outbreak. When a poll (or five) was created in each "Dear Incoming" Facebook group regarding the question of whether students were going to attend school the next day, a number answered "yes." When asked for their reasoning, many replied with things like

- "I still have to get my Chipotle gift card from winning SING! assassin, dude."
- "Lol, boomer disease."
- "I HAVEN'T ASKED MY TEACHERS FOR RECS YET."
- "The College Board keeps ripping us off; they planned this whole thing so they could suck out money away."

With the onslaught of the coronavirus, the school staff has been working nonstop, having very little time to eat, sleep, or main-

tain their hygiene. Several well-respected Stuyvesant teachers have written articles begging for New York City schools to close, but as we should know by now, Mayor de Blasio cannot read—he couldn't even discern the difference between quarantines and angry teens. When New York needed the former, it got the latter.

It is truly a tragedy to be written into our AP U.S. History textbooks; such intelligent minds, those who were possibly the most prepared out of all of us to fight this virus, have succumbed to its grip. It seems as though nothing can stop COVID-19: not the last Lunchables at your supermarket or the extra rolls of toilet paper. Every person for themselves. Stay updated and stay safe, everyone.

This is a developing story.

"Please Unblock Me"

By DAVID NACHMAN

With nothing else to do during the school closure because of the coronavirus, an anonymous member of the StuyHacks organization was able to hack into and discover all the unpublished Google forms for Stuyvesant Confessions, a popular page on Facebook. With nothing else to do either, The Spectator decided to comb through all the unpublished confessions to find the most intriguing ones, but quite frankly, there weren't that many to choose from. From the 100th confession about SING! to League-addicted juniors asking why they can't get a girlfriend, most of these stay unpublished for good reason.

However, through the hacked Google forms, The Spectator was able to obtain and compile a list of many confessions from a single Google account (un-

named in order to protect their privacy) whose owner was desperately trying to communicate with their ex, who I can only assume blocked them on every possible social media platform after being sick and tired of getting these messages personally. Though I'm sure this person's former significant other did not enjoy reading these extremely cringeworthy attempts at getting their attention, the Humor department thought its readers would, so we have compiled said messages for your enjoyment.

(All these messages were submitted in chronological order)

1. Isn't it crazy how they're saying that AP Physics is getting removed? Haha, but, the only science I still care about is the chemistry we shared... it's pretty sad how much energy

I put into this relationship, but it still didn't work out... I also wish you would stop failing physics so you'll get that joke, lol. I hope you're doing well.

2. All I'm hearing about rn is how this senior just punched a glass case and a freshman the other day, but all I can think about is how I punched a hole in my wall after you blocked me on everything... I really must have been tripping as hard as that senior to let you go. Stay safe. And also, please unblock me at least on Venmo, haha.

3. Wild how the three to five escalator is finally working again, but our love is still broken... I can't stand how you keep taking steps to get away from me... Anyway, I hope you're doing well and don't throw out the flowers I sent to your homeroom <3.

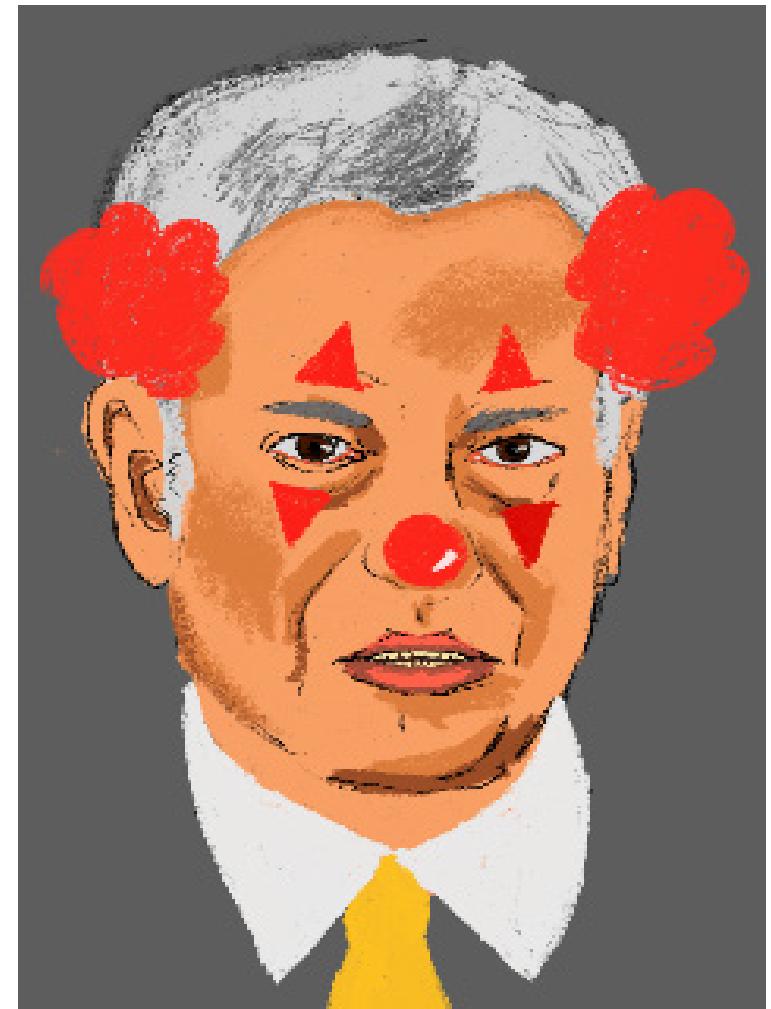
4. Haha, you know, every time I go on Facebook, all I see is people complaining about freshmen leaving garbage on the half-floor, but all I can think about is how you threw away my love and left me on the ground lmao... It's crazy how the janitors are now gonna have to get rid of all this garbage, but I still can't get you to take me out. Anyway, I hope you're doing better than I am cuz I just been feeling like trash ever since you left me. Fr tho, I wish you the best. Lmk if you're ever in Queens.

5. Wild how every day this week, all I hear is the announcements for the Women's Day Run, but the only thing I can think about is how you ran from me... It's crazy how I'm going to run the Mary Cain mile, but I cain't get you back hahaha... Anyway, I hope I can see you there. I really need this

extra credit; otherwise, I'm going to fail health.

6. They're saying tests just got canceled for the next two weeks cause of the virus... but I've just been sick thinking about you. I really couldn't care less cuz the only tests I'm worried about are the ones our love failed... Stay safe; you can still hmu if u need some hand sanitizer, haha.

Unfortunately, for whoever wrote all of these, I can only imagine that this whole "social distancing" thing will only spur on more feelings of loneliness and eventually even more of these atrocious attempts at reconnecting. Hopefully, Stuyvesant Confessions does everyone a favor by continuing to not post any of these and the recipient does themselves a favor by continuing to ignore them.



Aries Ho / The Spectator